

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund**

# 2021 Request for Proposal

## **General Information**

**Proposal ID:** 2021-434

**Proposal Title:** Crow Wing County Community Natural Area Acquisition

## **Project Manager Information**

**Name:** Ryan Simonson

**Organization:** Crow Wing County

**Office Telephone:** (218) 824-1355

**Email:** ryan.simonson@crowwing.us

## **Project Basic Information**

**Project Summary:** Acquire private land surrounding a historic fire tower to protect and provide a buffer to the tower itself while creating interpretive walking trails on the newly acquired property.

**Funds Requested:** $405,000

**Proposed Project Completion:** 2021-11-30

**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?** Region(s): Central

**What is the best scale to describe the area impacted by your work?** Region(s): Central, NE, NW,

**When will the work impact occur?** During the Project

## **Narrative**

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

The main opportunity/problem here is the chance that someone may develop the land surrounding the fire tower with an incompatible use. Some of the land is zoned commercial. We would prefer to see the land surrounding the historic fire tower be preserved which will also provide a buffer to the fire tower.

**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 proposed solution is for the County to acquire this property to ensure it stays protected in public ownership.

**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?**

With the addition of 69 surrounding acres of forested land this would become a larger complex to support educational, historic and recreational uses for the community. The timing of the county acquisition and the willingness of neighboring landowners to support this proposal, make this an important window of opportunity to develop on an excellent public asset.

## **Activities and Milestones**

### **Activity 1: Acquire adjacent land**

**Activity Budget:** $404,998

**Activity Description:**An appraisal of the approved parcels will be conducted and negotiations with the two private land owners will be conducted. The property will then be transferred to Crow Wing county and within 60 days of the transaction the county will provide a report to the LCCMR.

**Activity Milestones:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Description** | **Completion Date** |
| Appraise parcels | 2020-05-31 |
| Report provided to LCCMR | 2021-11-30 |
| Purchase parcels | 2021-11-30 |

### **Activity 2: Forest management**

**Activity Budget:** $1

**Activity Description:**Crow Wing county will conduct a selective timber harvest on newly acquired lands surrounding the Pequot Lakes fire tower for forest management as well as invasive species control if identified.

**Activity Milestones:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Description** | **Completion Date** |
| Timber harvest | 2021-09-30 |

### **Activity 3: Develop public use amenities**

**Activity Budget:** $1

**Activity Description:**Create interpretive walking trails and install a kiosk near the fire tower with information on the history of the site and post appropriate signage along trails.

**Activity Milestones:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Description** | **Completion Date** |
| Post signage | 2021-10-31 |
| Create trails | 2021-10-31 |

## **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 is a fee title acquisition and minimal work will be required after the project is complete. We will create interpretive walking trails on the property. We will also manage the timber resource on the property. Creating trails costs money, and managing the timber brings in revenue. We ask that we be allowed to retain any revenue from timber management to help offset the cost of trail development.

## **Project Manager and Organization Qualifications**

**Project Manager Name:** Ryan Simonson

**Job Title:** Environmental Services Supervisor

**Provide description of the project manager’s qualifications to manage the proposed project.**Crow Wing County is certified under the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, which is a third-party certification agency that performs rigorous audits each year to ensure sustainable forest management is being practiced on the 105,000 acres of public lands managed by the County. Crow Wing County is the sponsor of over 1,000 miles of designated trail systems, including 790 miles of snowmobile trails, 177 miles of multi-use off highway vehicle trails, 32 miles of cross-country ski trails, and 31 miles of non-motorized hunter/hiking trails. Crow Wing County also manages 117 acres of designated park facilities, including 2 islands on the Whitefish Chain of Lakes which include several campsites and miles of hiking trails through old growth forests, the Milford Mine Park which is a memorial located on the site of Minnesota’s worst mining disaster that occurred on February 5, 1924, the South Long Lake Community Park which includes a fishing pier and picnic area, and of course the recently acquired Pequot Lakes Fire Tower which the County plans to make improvements and open for public use in the near future. Over the past decade, Crow Wing County has made recreation a top priority, and has proven its ability to develop and manage multiple park and trail systems.

**Organization:** Crow Wing County

**Organization Description:**Crow Wing County is located in central Minnesota. Their vision; to be Minnesota’s favorite place. Crow Wing County will achieve its vision by undertaking this mission: To be a leader among Minnesota Counties in providing best in class professional natural resource management that support local economies, protects water and wildlife resources and provides diverse recreational opportunities. (See Crow Wing County Forest Resources Plan).

## **Budget Summary**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Category / Name** | **Subcategory or Type** | **Description** | **Purpose** | **Gen. Ineli gible** | **% Bene fits** | **# FTE** | **Class ified Staff?** | **$ Amount** |
| **Personnel** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **Sub Total** | **-** |
| **Contracts and Services** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **Sub Total** | **-** |
| **Equipment, Tools, and Supplies** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **Sub Total** | **-** |
| **Capital Expenditures** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **Sub Total** | **-** |
| **Acquisitions and Stewardship** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Fee Title Acquisition | Acres: 69 Parcels: 3 |  |  |  |  |  | $405,000 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **Sub Total** | **$405,000** |
| **Travel In Minnesota** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **Sub Total** | **-** |
| **Travel Outside Minnesota** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **Sub Total** | **-** |
| **Printing and Publication** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **Sub Total** | **-** |
| **Other Expenses** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **Sub Total** | **-** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **Grand Total** | **$405,000** |

### **Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Category/Name** | **Subcategory or Type** | **Description** | **Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request** |

### **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** |
| Parcel #: 290113100A00009 | Crow Wing | Forest habitat | Fee Title | 18 | - | $110,000 | Private | Crow Wing County | Negotiations in Progress |
| Parcel #: 290113400A00009 | Crow Wing | Forest habitat | Fee Title | 10 | - | $130,000 | Private | Crow Wing County | Negotiations in Progress |
| Parcel #: 290114200000009 | Crow Wing | Forest habitat | Fee Title | 41 | - | $155,000 | Private | Crow Wing County | Negotiations in Progress |
| **Totals** |  |  |  | **69** | **0** | **$395,000** |  |  |  |

### **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.**The three parcels on the list are adjacent to a historic fire tower that is owned by the county and listed on the national register of historic places. These three parcels are vacant private land and the hope is to protect them from development.

**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.**Crow Wing County Forest Resources Plan  
  
https://www.crowwing.us/DocumentCenter/View/8899/Crow-Wing-Forest-Plan-2015-FINAL?bidId=

**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.**The acquired parcels will be managed the same as the other 105,000 acres of county managed tax forfeited lands, in accordance with the County Forest Resources Plan and the Minnesota Site Level Forest Management Guidelines developed by the MN Forest Resources Council.

**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 County Board has approved acquiring this parcel.

**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.**Written approval from the DNR Commissioner will be obtained 10 business days prior to any final acquisition transaction.

## **Attachments**

### **Required Attachments**

#### ***Map***

File: [ffd23679-d30.pdf](https://lccmrprojectmgmt.leg.mn/media/map/ffd23679-d30.pdf)

#### ***Alternate Text for Map***

The county owned fire tower property is outlined in white, and the 3 private parcels to be acquired are numbered 1, 2, and 3.

#### ***Board Resolution or Letter***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Title** | **File** |
| County Board Letter of Support | [8e674b51-b01.pdf](https://lccmrprojectmgmt.leg.mn/media/attachments/8e674b51-b01.pdf) |

## **Administrative Use**

**Does your project include restoration or acquisition of land rights?**   
 Yes: Fee Acquisition,

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

• Potential revenue generated or net income from the sale of products or assets developed or acquired with ENRTF funding

**Does your project include research?**   
 No

**Does the organization have a fiscal agent for this project?**   
 No