

**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

**Email:** dan.shaw@state.mn.us

## **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. Ineli gible** | **% Bene fits** | **# FTE** | **Class ified 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](https://lccmrprojectmgmt.leg.mn/media/map/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