



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2022 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2022-186

Proposal Title: Noxious Weed Grants for Local Governments / Tribal Nations

Project Manager Information

Name: Mark Abrahamson

Organization: Minnesota Department of Agriculture

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Project Basic Information

Project Summary: A continuation of M.L. 2019, First Special Session, Chp. 4, Art. 2, Subd. 6c Noxious Weed Detection and Eradication to provide critical funding to local governments and Tribal Nations for noxious weed prevention and management.

Funds Requested: \$1,000,000

Proposed Project Completion: June 30 2025

LCCMR Funding Category: Aquatic and Terrestrial Invasive Species (D)

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.

Historically, counties and municipalities were given the responsibility to enforce the Noxious Weed Law as an unfunded mandate. Many municipalities are reluctant to levy taxes to fund even modest weed management programs, and over the years Minnesota has seen the impact caused by increasing infestations of noxious weeds, such as Canada thistle and wild parsnip. Municipalities struggle even more as grassroots organizations with limited means of either enforcing the weed law or implementing a weed management program. In addition, tribal nations have been underrepresented in statewide noxious weed and invasive plant management programs.

The MDA has received appropriations for the Noxious Weed and Invasive Plant grant since 2018. However, beginning in FY20, the legislature removed the appropriation from general funds and directed MDA and LCCMR to work together to distribute \$1 million dollars from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund to facilitate noxious weed grants to local units of governments and tribal governments. This grant program has been highly appreciated by local units of government and tribes throughout the state. It has provided much needed resources to combat existing noxious weeds and address newly emerging invasive plants before they establish and become larger problems.

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 funding from LCCMR will support grants to counties, cities, townships, and tribal nations. As a continuation of the Noxious Weed Detection and Eradication project established by MDA and funded by LCCMR, grant funds to local government and tribal officials will ensure more consistent weed management across the state, protecting resources and lessening the overall costs to taxpayers when invasive plants are not properly addressed in a timely fashion due to lack of resources.

The grants fill gaps in local governments' weed control programs and allow them the opportunity to seek much needed funds to address issues on-the-ground where weed management matters. Past weed grants have shown that with enough resources, rural and urban communities can organize, pool resources, and direct resources to priority areas where management has greater success. The noxious weed management return on the investment of these grants has been very high.

In addition to work with local governments, the MDA seeks to address gaps in state-tribal relations regarding support for noxious and invasive weed management on tribal lands. Tribal nations put high value on the integrity of their natural resources and invasive plants pose a significant threat to them. The grant program will prioritize tribal nations.

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 grant program will build on previous years' grant cycles. Grant RFPs will be developed and approved according to the Office of Grants Management protocol. Priority will be given to grant proposals that focus on noxious weed species identified as priorities by the Tactical Invasive Plant Management Plan Development project recently completed by MDA and funded through LCCMR. By targeting isolated infestations of noxious weeds, local governments can keep these infestations from further spreading. This helps protect Minnesota's natural resources and species biodiversity, including pollinator habitat.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Grants for Local Management of Noxious Weeds

Activity Budget: \$800,000

Activity Description:

The grant program will enable local governments and tribal nations to identify, control and remove priority infestations of noxious weeds. Prioritization will be informed by the completed ENRTF project Tactical Invasive Plant Management Plan Development. Focusing on priority infestations will yield the highest economic and environmental returns. State and local partnerships are a key factor for successful noxious weed management and the grant program will help maintain and foster those partnerships.

As described, this activity will leverage previous work supported by ENRTF to fund local weed control efforts using the Office of Grants Management protocol. There will be two grant cycles between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2025. RFPs will be developed and released, funds will be disbursed, and final reports will be submitted to the grant administrator.

Data from local projects will be managed in ISMTrack which will allow the MDA and partners to assess the impact of management and inform future decisions.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Grant Cycle #1 RFP released	December 31 2022
Grant cycle #1 awards disbursed	December 31 2023
Grant cycle #2 RFP released	December 31 2023
Grant cycle #1 final reports due	February 28 2024
Grant cycle #2 awards disbursed	December 31 2024
Grant cycle #2 final reports due	February 28 2025
Grantee's management activities completed in ISMTrack	June 30 2025

Activity 2: Rapid response to emerging invasive plant threats

Activity Budget: \$200,000

Activity Description:

Activity 2 will supplement local grant projects by providing the capability for immediate response to urgent noxious weed issues by Conservation Corps Minnesota and Iowa (CCMI). This is the model that we have relied on for rapid response to new infestations of Palmer amaranth and is a key factor in why Palmer has not gained a foothold in Minnesota as it has in neighboring states. CCMI crews will initiate control on newly found infestations while a local response is organized as well as bridge any gaps in control efforts as needed. CCMI crews are trained and have experience with identification and management tactics which will help to strengthen local efforts and improve the likelihood of long-term success.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
CCMI crew leaders and field specialists are trained to use ISMTrack as needed throughout project.	May 31 2025
Management activities including target species and acres treated are recorded in ISMTrack throughout project	June 30 2025

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?

Grants provided through this program will be used by local and tribal governments to establish long-term processes that will increase their awareness and knowledge of the noxious weeds and invasive plants impacting them, develop strategies to prevent new infestations from establishing and implement rapid response measures for identified problem species. The MDA will also be evaluating any possibilities to find funding sources that would allow this grant program to operate in the future so that funds for on-the-ground weed management for our local and tribal partners are available long-term.

Other ENRTF Appropriations Awarded in the Last Six Years

Name	Appropriation	Amount Awarded
Biosurveillance and Biocontrol of Emerald Ash Borer - Phase 2	M.L. 2014, Chp. 226, Sec. 2, Subd. 04d	\$447,000
Mountain Pine Beetle Invasive Threat to Minnesota's Pines	M.L. 2014, Chp. 226, Sec. 2, Subd. 04e2	\$75,000
Brown Marmorated Stink Bug Monitoring and Biocontrol Evaluation	M.L. 2014, Chp. 226, Sec. 2, Subd. 04f2	\$99,000
Elimination of Target Invasive Plant Species - Phase II	M.L. 2016, Chp. 186, Sec. 2, Subd. 06e1	\$511,000
Emerald Ash Borer Biocontrol - Phase III	M.L. 2017, Chp. 96, Sec. 2, Subd. 06b	\$729,000
Tactical Invasive Plant Management Plan Development	M.L. 2017, Chp. 96, Sec. 2, Subd. 06e	\$296,000
Palmer Amaranth Detection and Eradication Continuation	M.L. 2018, Chp. 214, Art. 4, Sec. 2, Subd. 06b	\$431,000
Noxious Weed Detection and Eradication	M.L. 2019, First Special Session, Chp. 4, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 06c	\$1,000,000

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Mark Abrahamson

Job Title: Plant Protection Division Director

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

The Project Manager is also the PM for Noxious Weed Detection and Eradication (M.L. 2019, First Special Session, Chp. 4, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 6c) which has granted \$650,000 to local governments for noxious weed control and assisted these projects through state led management efforts for selected weeds like Palmer amaranth. Additionally, the Plant Protection Division also granted an additional \$600,000 to local governments for noxious weed control prior to beginning the Noxious Weed Detection and Eradication project. The Project Manager has successfully managed several other projects through LCCMR in the past: Improving Emerald Ash Borer Detection Efficacy for Control (M.L. 2013, Chp. 52, Sec. 2, Subd. 06cA), Brown Marmorated Stink Bug Monitoring and Biocontrol Evaluation (M.L. 2014, Chp.226, Sec. 2, Subd. 04f-2), Mountain Pine Beetle Invasive Threat to Minnesota's Pines (M.L. 2014, Chp. 226, Sec. 2, Subd. 04e-2). In addition, the Plant Protection Division has successfully managed many other LCCMR projects pertaining to noxious weeds.

Organization: Minnesota Department of Agriculture

Organization Description:

The mission of the MDA is to enhance all Minnesotans' quality of life by equitably ensuring the integrity of our food supply, the health of our environment, and the strength and resilience of our agricultural economy.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
							Sub Total	-
Contracts and Services								
Local Governments/Tribal Nations	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Local Governments and Tribal Nations will be implementing noxious weed control projects with the money granted to them				-		\$800,000
Conservation Corps Minnesota and Iowa (CCMI)	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Conservation Corps crews will conduct noxious weed management work on high priority infestations. CCMI is uniquely positioned to conduct this work, hence the single source contract.				6		\$200,000
							Sub Total	\$1,000,000
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								
							Sub Total	-
							Grand Total	\$1,000,000

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
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Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	Amount
State				
In-Kind	Minnesota Session Laws - 2019, 1st Special Session, Chapter 1--S.F.No.1, Article 1 Agricultural Appropriations, Section 2 (e) \$450,000 the first year and \$450,000 the second year are additional funding for the noxious weed and invasive plant program. The base amount for this appropriation in fiscal year 2022 and later is \$225,000.	MDA staff administer the grant program using funds appropriated to the Department for Noxious Weeds at 0.5 FTE each year of the project	Secured	\$150,000
In-Kind	Minnesota Session Laws - 2019, 1st Special Session, Chapter 1--S.F.No.1, Article 1 Agricultural Appropriations, Section 2 (e) \$450,000 the first year and \$450,000 the second year are additional funding for the noxious weed and invasive plant program. The base amount for this appropriation in fiscal year 2022 and later is \$225,000.	MDA staff contract and work directly with Conservation Corps Minnesota and Iowa to direct crew work on noxious weed issues. This work is estimated at 0.25 FTE during each year of the project	Secured	\$75,000
			State Sub Total	\$225,000
Non-State				
			Non State Sub Total	-
			Funds Total	\$225,000

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [dfd60903-c8e.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

The graphic displays three figures. The first is a map showing prioritized areas for noxious weed management. The second is a graph showing the amount of grant funds available each year and the amount requested. The third figure shows increasing acres of weeds managed each year....

Administrative Use

Does your project include restoration or acquisition of land rights?

No

Does your project have potential for royalties, copyrights, patents, or sale of products and assets?

No

Do you understand and acknowledge IP and revenue-return and sharing requirements in 116P.10?

N/A

Do you wish to request reinvestment of any revenues into your project instead of returning revenue to the ENRTF?

N/A

Does your project include original, hypothesis-driven research?

No

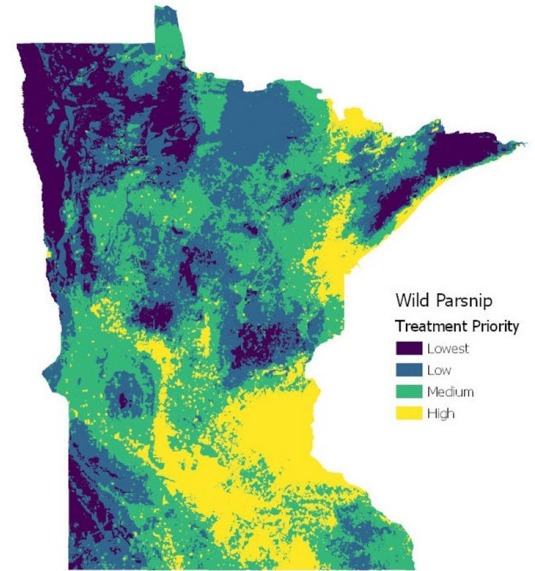
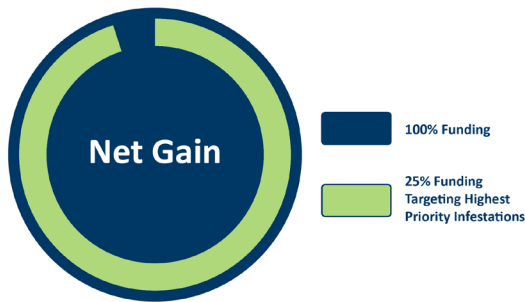
Does the organization have a fiscal agent for this project?

No

Noxious Weed Grants For Local Governments and Tribal Nations

Importance of focusing control efforts on highest priority noxious weed infestations

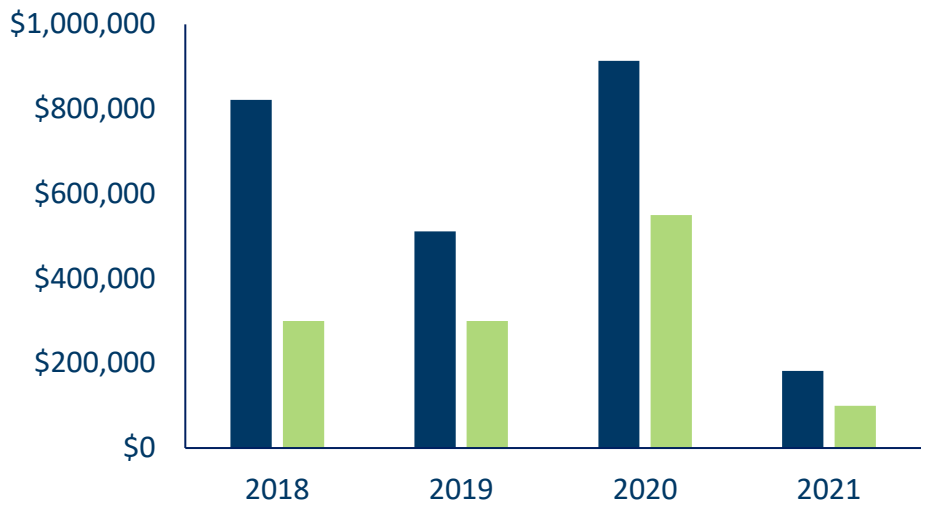
ENRTF project Tactical Invasive Plant Management Plan Development included an economic analysis of infestation control at 10,000 locations. If only 25% of funds needed to control all infestations were available, focused control on highest priority infestations would yield net gains almost as high as with 100% of funds.



Grants Awarded

Each year noxious weed management funding requests greatly exceed available grant funds.

- Noxious Weed Grant Total Ask (\$)
- Noxious Weed Grant Total Awards (\$)



Acres Managed

Since 2016, grant funds have supported noxious weed management on over 13,000 acres.

