



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2022 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2022-260

Proposal Title: Watershed and Forest Restoration: What a Match!

Project Manager Information

Name: Lindberg Ekola

Organization: Board of Water and Soil Resources

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Project Basic Information

Project Summary: This project builds capacity in soil water conservation districts and Mille Lacs Band with BWSR and DNR to accelerate tree planting for water quality and carbon sequestration by private landowners.

Funds Requested: \$3,728,000

Proposed Project Completion: June 30 2025

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?

Region(s): Central

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

Region(s): Central

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 lost 15 million acres of forests since pre-European settlement. Over 95 percent of this historic forestland loss happened on private lands. One of the best ways to protect water quality while sequestering carbon is the protection and reforestation of today's open lands, private tracts that once were forested.

Combined resources invested in the state have supported up to 6,000 acres of tree planting per year on private lands. At this level, it would take over 160 years to reach the 1-million-acre goal of reforestation. We have a huge implementation capacity gap (6,000 ac vs 50,000 ac).

Clearly, it will take a dramatic upswing in equipment, manpower, nursery growing stock, and the requisite funding – combined with collaborative efforts of landowners and service providers – to make a measurable difference in protecting water quality while exponentially increasing carbon sequestration. Reforestation of open lands brings added benefits – habitat, source water protection, outdoor recreation – all while supporting forest industry and jobs. It will take an “all hands-on deck” approach over time through incremental ramping up of capacities by all partners to meet the tandem challenges of protecting water quality and restoring forestlands.

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.

This project brings the collaborative horsepower of private, local, tribal and state partners in private forest management with water quality protection highlighted in 1W1P and landscape stewardship plans (LSPs). Building from this platform, we will strategically coordinate and implement tree planting capacities and services to private landowners in three major watersheds with significant losses in forestland cover. In this way, the project will fund the restoration and protection of water quality, dramatically increase private forest management, while increasing carbon sequestration on private lands.

This proposal will purchase conservation easements guided by the LSP and 1W1P priorities, but typically those parcels one property back from the highest RAQ (riparian-adjacency-quality) scores (less likely to be funded by CWL or LSOHC). Tree planting projects will be administered through DNR Forestry's PFM Cost Share Program. SWCD staff will lead landowner outreach and coordinate technical assistance. Tree planting will be provided at 75% cost share rate. The project will rebalance the mix of trees planted toward species that have competitive advantages in anticipated climate conditions. We will use science-based silvicultural goals and strategies established in the Minnesota Forest Resources Council landscape plans based on research by DNR, U of MN, NRRRI, and US FS

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?

This project will provide technical assistance to 600 landowners over the 3-year timeframe. It will increase collaborative capacity of 14 SWCDs and the Mille Lacs Band to implement tree planting resulting in:

- 300 forest stewardship plans, 390 tree planting practice plans, and 780 tree planting verification checks.
- 1,800 acres of conservation easements.
- 27,000 acres of land enrolled in Sustainable Forest Incentives Act (SFIA) Program.
- 15 tree planters, site prep equipment purchased.
- 1,875,000 seedlings planted.
- 3,125 acres of open lands reforested.
- 7,437 metric tons pounds of carbon sequestered per year over a 20-year timeframe.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Implementation – Accelerated Tree Planting Cost Share Program

Activity Budget: \$1,180,000

Activity Description:

This pilot project is the first of a five-step strategy towards reaching the 1-million-acre reforestation goal initially recommended by Minnesota Climate Change Advisory Group (MCCAG) in 2009 and now, TNC and others. It brings together 14 SWCDs and the Mille Lacs Band with BWSR and DNR Forestry’s Private Forest Management (PFM) Program to significantly expand the capacity of tree planting to private landowners in three priority watersheds – Rum, Long Prairie and Redeye. These watersheds are in the transitional zone of the state, where the most significant losses of historic forestland cover occurred. Each of these watersheds has a landscape stewardship plan and a 1W1P in place or now under development. We will focus work on private parcels that have lower agricultural production ratings in priority watersheds as identified in these plans. Local forestry technical teams (LFTs) for each watershed who convene to coordinate the implementation of the landscape stewardship plans will oversee the delivery of this project. The LFTs consist of service providers – soil and water conservation districts, consulting foresters, Mille Lacs Band, BWSR, and DNR. The partners will work together on the project coordination tasks outlined in Activity 3 provided below.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Coordinate tree seedling stocking needs for the 3-year project with prospective private and public nurseries.	October 31 2022
Purchase 15 tree planters and site prep equipment (district and tribal use)	March 31 2023
Plant 1,875,000 seedlings to reforest 3,125 acres of land.	June 30 2025
Sequester an estimated 7,437 metric tons of carbon per year over a 20-year timeframe.	June 30 2025

Activity 2: Targeted Watershed Protection – BWSR RIM Program and DNR’s SFIA Program

Activity Budget: \$1,800,000

Activity Description:

The three pilot watersheds selected for this project are within the Upper Mississippi Basin. All three have: 1) lost significant amounts of forestland cover and forest habitat, 2) generally have greater amounts of marginal, less productive agricultural lands, often with sandier or wetter soils, and 3) are tributaries to the Twin Cities drinking water supply.

The local forestry technical team (LFTs) in each watershed will provide information resources and technical assistance to landowners. The LFTs will assist landowners with navigating options to protect their working forestlands through conservation easements as administered by BWSR through its RIM Program or on lands enrolled in the Sustainable Forestry Incentives Act (SFIA) as administered by DNR. Tracts targeted for conservation easements will be selected based on the degree they implement the moderate to high RAQ scores in the landscape stewardship plans. The selection process for conservation easements will be managed by the local forestry technical teams and support the implementation of the goals in the landscape stewardship plans and comprehensive local water plans (1W1Ps).

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Purchase 600 acres of conservation easements in Rum River watershed.	June 30 2025
Purchase 600 acres of conservation easements in the Redeye River watershed.	June 30 2025
Purchase 600 acres of conservation easements in the Long Prairie River watershed	June 30 2025

Activity 3: Project Coordination – Strategic Landowner Outreach and Technical Assistance, Watershed Coordination, Training and Evaluation

Activity Budget: \$748,000

Activity Description:

For decades, soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs), have served as the primary local agency delivering conservation programs to private landowners and farmers including tree seedling sales programs. They have strong working relationships with private landowners as well as with consulting foresters, conservation service vendors, environmental organizations, and state and federal agencies.

This project will bring critical funding resources to ramp up current capacity for tree planting and private forest management services offered by the 14 SWCDs and the Mille Lacs Band in conjunction with DNR Forestry. Local forestry technical teams established by the landscape stewardship plans and 1W1Ps will lead the local coordination of the three watershed projects. These plans will provide guidance on setting priorities for strategic landowner outreach and service delivery. Consulting foresters and vendors will be contracted by SWCDs to implement this work.

Methods and approaches developed through this project will become a source for expanded delivery of tree planting capacity in other watersheds throughout the state in partnership with BWSR, DNR, NRCS, and environmental organizations. Results of this project will be shared via current training programs including DNR workshops, BWSR Academy, youth mentoring, and agency websites.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
PFM/Tree Planting Capacity Assessments – 14 districts, approximately 30 – 35 consulting foresters and vendors.	September 30 2022
Service Provider training sessions – 6 plan writer / vendor workshops.	October 31 2023
Youth mentoring – 6 workshops in area high schools or technical colleges to promote conservation careers	March 31 2024
Local forestry technical teams to coordinate service delivery to landowners – convene 36 team meetings.	June 30 2025
Technical assistance – 600 landowners, 300 forest stew plans, 390 practice plans, 780 planting verification checks	June 30 2025
Reporting – 3 progress reports, 1 final report. 14 district evaluations and project recommendations	June 30 2025

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Gary Michael	DNR Forestry	Serve as primary contact for DNR Forestry for the overall project development and coordination with the Private Forest Management (PFM) Program and support staff to the project.	No
Darren Newville	East Otter SWCD	Serve as the lead district for the Redeye River watershed project. Support the LFT Coordinator position. Provide technical assistance for landowners. Serve on the LFTs on ongoing basis to coordinate this project. Administer the tree planting program in their county.	Yes
Deja Anton	Todd SWCD	Serve as the lead district for the Long Prairie River watershed project. Support the LFT Coordinator position. Provide technical assistance for landowners. Serve on the LFTs on ongoing basis to coordinate this project. Administer the tree planting program in their county.	Yes
Susan Shaw	Mille Lacs SWCD	Serve as the lead district for the Rum River watershed project. Support the LFT Coordinator position. Provide technical assistance for landowners. Serve on the LFTs on ongoing basis to coordinate this project. Administer the tree planting program in their county.	Yes
Katie Draper	Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe	Serve as the primary contact for the project. Provide technical assistance for landowners. Serve on the LFT on ongoing basis to coordinate this project. Administer the tree planting program and implement tree planting practices on tribal lands.	Yes
Steve Hughes	Aitkin SWCD	Provide technical assistance for landowners. Serve on the LFTs on ongoing basis to coordinate this project. Administer the tree planting program in their county.	Yes
Chris Lord	Anoka SWCD	Provide technical assistance for landowners. Serve on the LFTs on ongoing basis to coordinate this project. Administer the tree planting program in their county.	Yes
Peter Mead	Becker SWCD	Provide technical assistance for landowners. Serve on the LFTs on ongoing basis to coordinate this project. Administer the tree planting program in their county.	Yes
Gerry Maciej	Benton SWCD	Provide technical assistance for landowners. Serve on the LFTs on ongoing basis to coordinate this project. Administer the tree planting program in their county.	Yes
Melissa Barrick	Crow Wing SWCD	Provide technical assistance for landowners. Serve on the LFTs on ongoing basis to coordinate this project. Administer the tree planting program in their county.	Yes
Jerry Hagenmiller	Douglas SWCD	Provide technical assistance for landowners. Serve on the LFTs on ongoing basis to coordinate this project. Administer the tree planting program in their county.	Yes
Tiffany Determan	Isanti SWCD	Provide technical assistance for landowners. Serve on the LFTs on ongoing basis to coordinate this project. Administer the tree planting program in their county.	Yes
Deanna Pomije	Kanabec SWCD	Provide technical assistance for landowners. Serve on the LFTs on ongoing basis to coordinate this project. Administer the tree planting program in their county.	Yes
Shannon Weinstein	Morrison SWCD	Provide technical assistance for landowners. Serve on the LFTs on ongoing basis to coordinate this project. Administer the tree planting program in their county.	Yes
Francine Larson	Sherburne SWCD	Provide technical assistance for landowners. Serve on the LFTs on ongoing basis to coordinate this project. Administer the tree planting program in their county.	Yes
Anne Oldakowski	Wadena SWCD	Provide technical assistance for landowners. Serve on the LFTs on ongoing basis to coordinate this project. Administer the tree planting program in their county.	Yes
Leann Buck	Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts	Provide leadership and a common voice for Minnesota's soil and water conservation districts to maintain a positive, results-oriented relationship with rule making agencies, partners and legislators; expanding education opportunities for the districts so they may carry out effective conservation programs. Promote the tree planting initiative and workshop events.	No

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

4/7/2021

additional work is needed, how will this be funded?

This proposal directly supports LCCMR’s mission to invest in Minnesota’s natural resources, “especially those that may be substantially impaired or destroyed” – the historic loss of forestlands. LCCMR funding will serve as the foundation for partner investments into this initiative. This project is the first of five-forest based carbon sequestration projects being integrated to help the state tackle this enormous challenge. The others include:

1. FY 2022 DNR Forestry Biennial Budget Change Item: Accelerated Tree Planting to Capture Carbon.
2. FSA / NRCS CREP Forestry Project.
3. TNC / AFF Tree Farm Project.
4. Carbon markets

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Lindberg Ekola

Job Title: Forest Stewardship Planning Coordinator

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

Over 30 years of grant management experience including as: 1) a grantee representative – proposal development, grant contracting and budget administration, project coordination implementation; 2) a grantor representative – prepare RFPs and evaluation criteria, coordinate proposal review and selection process, and 3) as a non-profit board member. Project management experience at the local and state levels including comprehensive local water planning and implementation, land use planning and implementation, forest resource planning and forest landscape management. Experience in developing and maintaining complex natural resource and watershed projects involving multiple partners, funding sources and a range of outcomes. Capacity to work with technical documents and specifications as well as financial and fiscal management of projects.

Masters of Community and Regional Planning, Bachelor of Architecture, and Bachelor of Science of Architecture degrees from North Dakota State University. Experienced with Minnesota's conservation delivery system that includes federal, tribal, state, local units of government, non-governmental and environmental organizations, forest industry, tourism and recreation organizations on a wide array of projects partnering with private landowners. Lindberg was a primary author of the USDA Forest Service publication, “Landscape Stewardship Guide” (2011).

Organization: Board of Water and Soil Resources

Organization Description:

The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) consists of 20 members. Members can be citizens, state agency staff, or local government representatives that deliver BWSR programs. The board is the state's administrative agency for 90 soil and water conservation districts, 46 watershed districts, 23 metropolitan watershed management organizations, and 80 county water managers. The board sets a policy agenda designed to enhance conservation delivery through local government partners. Board members, including the board chair, are appointed by the governor to staggered four-year terms.

Because 78 percent of the state's land is held in private ownership, BWSR's focus on private lands is critical to attaining the state's goals for clean water, clean air, and abundant fish and wildlife. These working lands - Minnesota's farms, forests, and urban areas - contribute greatly to the production of environmental goods and benefits including cleaner air and water, fish and wildlife habitat, and preservation of open spaces.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
BWSR Forest Stewardship Coordinator		Project coordination with watershed partners and DNR			20%	1.5		\$180,000
BWSR Easement Section staff		Process conservation easements			20%	0.6	X	\$75,000
BWSR Forest Stewardship Coordinator		Reporting – 3 progress reports, 1 final report. 14 district evaluations and project recommendations.			20%	0.15		\$15,000
							Sub Total	\$270,000
Contracts and Services								
Lead SWCD from each watershed - East Otter Tail, Mille Lacs and Todd SWCDs	Sub award	Watershed project coordination. 3 LFT Coordinators (SWCD staff). Team meetings – 3 years, convene 4 local forestry team meetings in each watershed per year. Review/refine priorities in the landscape stewardship plans. Guide strategic landowner outreach, workload planning and conservation easement selection process.				1.35		\$90,000
Lead SWCD from each watershed- East Otter Tail, Mille Lacs and Todd SWCDs	Sub award	Capacity Assessments. Survey and assess tree planting and PFM service delivery capacities in each watershed. Develop service provider directories for landowners for each watershed.				0.21		\$25,000
Lead SWCD from each watershed- East Otter Tail, Mille Lacs and Todd SWCDs	Sub award	Service Provider Training. Convene 6 PFM plan writer workshops – focus on getting the right trees, planted on the right sites, through the best practices.				0.05		\$6,000

Lead SWCD from each watershed- East Otter Tail, Mille Lacs and Todd SWCDs	Sub award	Strategic Landowner Outreach. Use the minor watershed prioritization methods in landscape stewardship plans to target priority open land/reforestation parcels. Apply US Forest Service landowner outreach tools and methods (Tools for Engaging Landowners Effectively).				0.45		\$24,000
Lead SWCD from each watershed- East Otter Tail, Mille Lacs and Todd SWCDs	Sub award	Youth Mentoring. Convene 6 workshops in high schools or technical colleges to promote tree planting jobs, benefits of sustainable forestry and work/career opportunities, recruit for MCC.				0.2		\$8,000
Lead SWCD from each watershed- East Otter Tail, Mille Lacs and Todd SWCDs	Sub award	Seedling Stock. Coordinate seedling tree planting stock needs for the 3-year project with prospective private and public nurseries.				0.75		\$30,000
14 partnering SWCDs and Mille Lacs Band	Sub award	Technical Assistance for Landowners. SWCDs, consulting foresters – develop forest stewardship plans, practice plans, planting verification, promote and administer the SFIA and conservation easement programs – 600 landowners (200 in each watershed), 300 forest stew plans, 390 practice plans, 780 tree planting verification checks.				9		\$325,000
							Sub Total	\$508,000
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
	Equipment	15 mechanical tree planters (\$7,500 each) and site prep, seeding spraying equipment (\$2,500 each district)t	Equipment needed to ramp up planting of tree seedlings in each partnering district and Mille Lacs Band.					\$150,000
							Sub Total	\$150,000
Capital Expenditures								

							Sub Total	-
Acquisitions and Stewardship								
	Conservation Easement Acquisition	Acres: 1,800 Parcels: 20						\$1,800,000
							Sub Total	\$1,800,000
Travel In Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Travel Outside Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Printing and Publication								
							Sub Total	-
Other Expenses								
		DNR PFM Cost Share Program	Allocation to support the tree planting cost share practices with private landowners. Landowners will pay for 25% of the costs of tree planting.					\$1,000,000
							Sub Total	\$1,000,000
							Grand Total	\$3,728,000

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
Personnel - BWSR Easement Section staff		Process conservation easements	Classified : The existing Easement staff team will process the conservation easements for this project over the 3-year life

Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	Amount
State				
Cash	DNR Forestry - General Fund allocation	DNR Forestry is committing \$30,000 of in-kind labor to the project to assist landowner with cost share projects	Secured	\$30,000
Cash	Sustainable Forest Incentives Act (SFIA) Program payments to enrolled landowners	SFIA payment per year = \$383,850/yr. At 3 years = \$1,151,550. At 8 years = \$3,070,800. At 20 and 50 years TBD.	Secured	\$1,151,550
			State Sub Total	\$1,181,550
Non-State				
Cash	Private landowners participating in the project	Forest stewardship plans. Landowner costs for preparing forest stewardship plan (27,000 acres - rate is \$300/plan plus \$7/acre = \$279,000)	Pending	\$279,000
Cash	Private landowners participating in the project	Tree Planting. Landowner match of 25% of the cost share for tree planting of \$1,000,000.	Pending	\$250,000
			Non State Sub Total	\$529,000
			Funds Total	\$1,710,550

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	-			

Conservation Easement 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.

Each local forestry technical team will review priorities developed through the watershed assessment / riparian-adjacency-quality (RAQ) scoring methodology as documented in the landscape stewardship plans to rank and prioritize parcels. The teams will coordinate the delivery of technical/financial assistance to landowners as guided by this watershed methodology to guide landowner outreach campaigns followed by the preparing of forest stewardship plans and forestland protection options as decided by the landowner. This project will typically focus on those parcels one property back from the highest RAQ (riparian-adjacency-quality) scores (less likely to be funded by CWL or LSOHC).

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.

Redeye River Landscape Stewardship Plan (LSP)

Redeye River One Watershed One Plan (1W1P)

Rum River Landscape Stewardship Plan (LSP)

Rum River One Watershed One Plan (1W1P) – in progress

Long Prairie Landscape Stewardship Plan (LSP) – in progress

Long Prairie River One Watershed One Plan (1W1P) – in progress

3. For any conservation easement acquired, 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 RIM Conservation Plan identifies practice areas and maximum cost-share available for practice installation and includes an Operation & Maintenance Plan. The easements secured under this project will be managed as part of the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) RIM Reserve Program that has over 8,200 easements currently in place. Easements are monitored annually for each of the first 5 years and then every 3rd year after that. BWSR, in cooperation with Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD), implement a stewardship process to track, monitor quality and assure compliance with easement terms. Under the terms of the Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) Easement Program, landowners are required to maintain compliance with the easement. A conservation plan is developed with the landowner and maintained as part of each easement. Basic easement compliance costs are borne by the landowner, periodic enhancements may be cost shared from a variety of sources.

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.

Private ownership of the property continues after a RIM easement is acquired.

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.

N/A

6. Provide a statement addressing how conservation easements will address specific water quality protection activities, such as keeping water on the landscape, reducing nutrient and contaminant loading, protecting groundwater, and not permitting artificial hydrological modifications.

DNR Fisheries research of over 1,300 lakes revealed that phosphorus concentrations in lakes are directly related to land use disturbance in a watershed. Fisheries staff has determined that protecting forestland cover and perennial vegetation in a watershed to 75% is a critical metric for good water quality. The primary risk to good water quality and the greatest opportunity for protection is on private lands. Conservation easements and lands enrolled in SFIA are the two primary ways to retain privately owned lands as working forests so that they are not converted into other land uses

that significantly increase stormwater runoff which negatively impacts water resources. Through the development of the landscape stewardship plans (LSPs), we are able to assess and document the watershed protection levels at the major watershed, subwatershed and minor watershed levels. Through the purchase of conservation easements and expanding as well as retaining the amount of forestland cover, this project directly protects the water resources within these three watersheds as well as those further downstream.

7. Describe the long-term monitoring and enforcement program for conservation easements acquired on parcels by your organization, including explanations of the process used for calculating conservation easement monitoring and enforcement costs, the process used for annual inspection and reporting on monitoring and enforcement activities, and the process used to ensure perpetual funding and implementation of monitoring and enforcement activities.

Once a RIM easement is acquired, BWSR is responsible for monitoring and enforcement into perpetuity. The BWSR partners with local SWCDs to carry-out oversight, monitoring and inspection of its conservation easements. Easements are inspected for the first five consecutive years beginning in the year after the easement is recorded. Thereafter, on-site inspections are performed every three years and compliance checks are performed in the other two years. SWCDs report to BWSR on each site inspection conducted and partners' staff document findings. A non-compliance procedure is implemented when potential violations or problems are identified.

Perpetual monitoring and enforcement costs have been calculated at \$6,500 per easement. These calculations were derived using the elements described in MS 103B.103. BWSR uses local SWCD staff for monitoring and landowner relations which results in considerable cost savings.

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 reforested through this project will be on permanently protected lands with easements or lands enrolled in the Sustainable Forest Incentives Act (SFIA). On SFIA lands, priority preference will be given to parcels that are enrolled in 20-year and 50-year covenant options and landowners are committed to sustainable forest management including timber harvests and/or enrolling in carbon markets. Forest management activities on lands in this program will be required to manage their woodlands as guided in their approved forest stewardship plans and the MFRC site level guidelines.

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.

Landowners will be required to prepare forest stewardship plans, these documents will provide landowners with long-term management guidance for managing their woodlands. Tree planting projects will be administered through DNR Forestry's PFM Cost Share Program. Forest stewardship plans and practice plans for this project will be retained by the landowners as well as each applicable SWCD and the DNR. Silvicultural recommendations will be developed and presented by DNR Forestry at the service provider trainings and reviewed at the local forestry technical team meetings. Tree planting standards and requirements for site preparation, installation and management as well as documentation of the reforestation projects will be provided by DNR and maintained by the SWCDs.

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.

In combination with the current BWSR Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines, this project will also use the forest vegetation guidance developed in the Minnesota Forest Resources Council (MFRC) landscape plans. The project will promote a mix of tree species like long-lived conifers and other species that are identified as having a competitive advantage in anticipated climate conditions as guided by the DNR NPC Field Guides and the US Forest Services Northern Institute for Applied Climate Science (NIACS) documents.

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 success of the tree planting projects will be a key ranking criteria used as part of the subsequent contracts with vendors for this project. Landowners will be required to take a key role in maintain and protecting the tree plantings in the more future. DNR and SWCD staff will continue working with landowners to provide technical guidance on pre-commercial and commercial thinnings of forest stands as a part of the forest stewardship plan process in the future.

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

The grants with partners on the project for tree planting 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.

As a requirement of the grant program, 780 tree planting verification checks will be completed for the tree planting projects. The checks will be completed by SWCDs with landowners after practice establishment (growth year 1) and two years later (growth year 3) as a follow-up. This will ensure practice plan goals are met and document project success. (BWSR has routine inspection requirements for conservation projects funded with state dollars). These evaluations will also play a key role in determining if any specific maintenance activities are needed for projects.

Attachments

Required Attachments

Map

File: [e5e9f376-331.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Map

The attached is a factsheet that describes the Watershed & Forest Restoration LCCMR project. This proposal directly supports LCCMR's core mission to invest in projects that protect, conserve, preserve, and enhance Minnesota's natural resources, especially those that may be substantially impaired or destroyed – the historic loss of forestland cover. It matches up watershed protection with forest restoration. The attachment provides 6 power point slides to put these tandem challenges into cont...

Administrative Use

Does your project include restoration or acquisition of land rights?

Yes: Restoration, Conservation Easement Acquisition,

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?

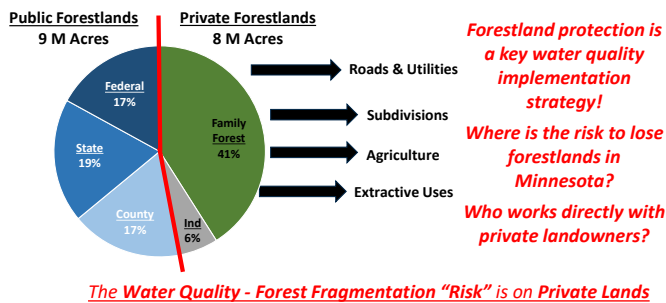
No

Watershed & Forest Restoration: What a Match!

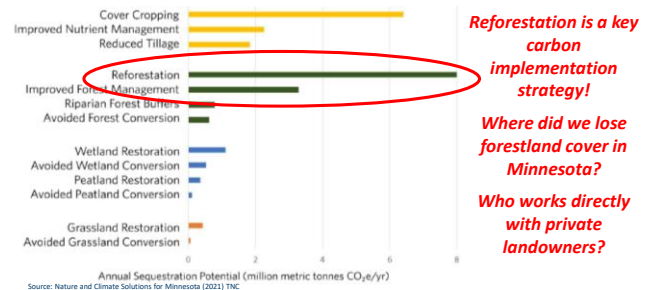
Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund – 2022 Proposal



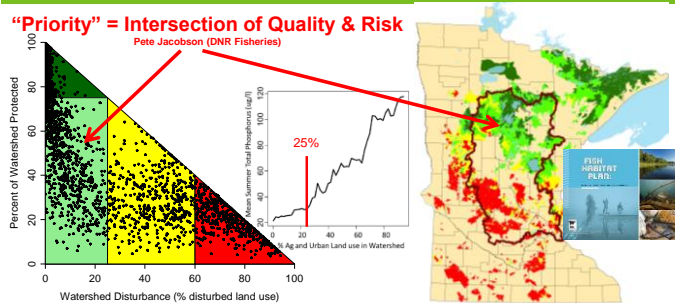
Why Watershed Protection?



Why Reforestation?

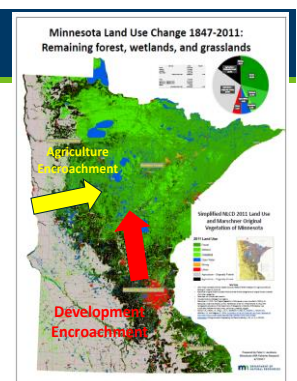


Is there a tipping point for watershed disturbance?



Context – Minnesota's Forests

- Gov. Walz Executive Order 19-37**
- Create Climate Change Subcabinet
 - Promote / implement strategies.
 - Private forestry - big part of solution.
 - We have a job to do!
- Questions to consider:**
- Where did we lose forestland cover?
 - What are the impacts?
 - Where can we make the most impact?
- How can we deliver at landscape scales?**



Reforestation for Carbon: Do the Math!

Reforestation of 1 million acres is a BIG job!

Minnesota total area	54 M acres
Presettlement forest cover	32 M acres
Current forestland cover	<u>17 M acres</u>
Forestland cover loss	15 M acres
Amount lost on private lands (est)	14.5 M acres
Proposed Reforestation	
• Current rate – 6,000 acres/year	166 years
• 1 M acres at 50,000 acres/year	20 years



We need an "All Hands on Deck" strategy!

5 Step Strategy – Tree Planting for Carbon Sequest

Multiple funding sources needed to reach the 1 M acre goal.

- 2022 LCCMR: Restore Minnesota's Forestlands – expand SWCD and consulting forester capacity, landowner outreach, easements.
- FY 2022/23 DNR Forestry Biennial Budget Change Item – nursery upgrades, cost share, DNR capacity.
- NRCS CREP Forestry – expand long term federal support.
- TNC Tree Planting Project – research species migration, Amazon \$.
- Carbon markets for family forests – 5-8 years development.

Investing in tree planting brings multiple benefits – water quality, wildlife, & more...

LCCMR funding jump starts it. Let's grow this together!

Activity 1: Implementation – Accelerated Tree Planting Cost Share Program	\$1,180,000
Activity 2: Targeted Watershed Protection – BWSR RIM Program and DNR's SFIA Program	\$1,800,000
Activity 3: Project Coordination – Strategic Landowner Outreach and Technical Assistance	\$ 748,000
Requested LCCMR funding (matched with private landowner, local and state funds – \$1,710,550)	\$3,728,000

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