

**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

**Office Telephone:** (651) 201-6505

**Email:** mark.abrahamson@state.mn.us

## **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 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. Ineli gible** | **% Bene fits** | **# FTE** | **Class ified 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** |

### **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](https://lccmrprojectmgmt.leg.mn/media/map/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