



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2023 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2023-006

Proposal Title: Minnesota Bee and Beneficial Species Habitat Enhancement II

Project Manager Information

Name: Sabin Adams

Organization: Pheasants Forever Inc

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Project Basic Information

Project Summary: This proposal seeks to enhance grassland habitats to benefit pollinators and other species on permanently protected lands. Research on enhanced sites will be conducted by the UofM.

Funds Requested: \$948,000

Proposed Project Completion: June 30, 2026

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.

Grassland habitat loss and fragmentation continue to be the major factor in the decline of monarchs, pollinators & grassland wildlife. In Minnesota, 99% of the original prairie has been converted. And while we have restored hundreds of thousands of acres of grasslands over the last three decades, our early restorations rarely considered or appreciated the needs of pollinators, the value of milkweed species to the monarch, or the vegetative structural & species diversity required by many species of grassland dependent wildlife now in decline. Landowners as well as local, state and federal governments have invested significantly to protect grasslands and wetlands on private lands for the sake of water quality, wildlife, and quality of life in Minnesota. By completing restoration and enhancement activities on these lands that increase species diversity of pollinators and grassland wildlife, we will maximize the public benefits of these prior investments. Furthermore the current understanding of grassland enhancement best management practices that increase diversity is somewhat limited. It is not currently known, for example, which methods provide the best increase in diversity to a low diversity stand of native grasses. The UofM will conduct research on some of the enhanced sites to get a better understanding of which enhancement practices best increase diversity.

What is your proposed solution to the problem or opportunity discussed above? Introduce us to the work you are seeking funding to do. You will be asked to expand on this proposed solution in Activities & Milestones.

This phase two proposal contributes to the recovery of monarch butterflies and native pollinators by enhancing 850-acres of permanently protected habitat in priority Minnesota landscapes. Enhancements will be designed to provide high-diversity native plantings for the benefit of native pollinators, especially the monarch butterfly. Further, we propose to monitor these enhancements in collaboration with the University of Minnesota in an effort to evaluate enhancements, inform practitioners of best practices and provide a path to future habitat enhancements for native pollinators across Minnesota's farmland region. Projects will be solicited, scored, and selected to maximize benefits to monarchs, pollinators and other grassland wildlife.

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 proposal seeks to increase the quantity and quality of diverse native grassland habitats for the benefit of pollinators and other wildlife. Additionally by monitoring these site post enhancement, a better understanding of best practices as well as pollinator usage can be attained.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Conduct project outreach, select projects for funding.

Activity Budget: \$30,000

Activity Description:

Pheasants Forever staff will engage with SWCDs and USFWS to assist in the development of quality pollinator habitat enhancement project proposals on RIM and USFWS easement lands. Additionally PF will reach out to public land managers at various government agencies (Local, State and Federal) to gauge interest and provide opportunity to enhance habitat. An RFP for each project with information including, acreage, cost, match and overall score will be submitted for all projects. All eligible projects will be considered and compared based on score and funds available ensuring that the highest quality projects are funded.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Distribute RFP, including pollinator project requirements, eligibility, scoring, and information about project.	January 31, 2024
Review submitted projects. Award projects based on scoring and available funding.	March 31, 2024
If funds remain: Distribute RFP, including pollinator project requirements, eligibility, scoring, and information about project.	January 31, 2025
If funds remain: Review submitted projects. Award projects based on scoring and available funding.	March 31, 2025

Activity 2: Enhance habitat for pollinators and other wildlife.

Activity Budget: \$674,000

Activity Description:

Pheasants Forever's field staff will work with landowners/managers to complete all necessary activities to enhance project sites. This could include assisting private landowners to do the work themselves and/or hiring a private contractor. Or, private landowners could enlist Pheasants Forever to hire a contractor utilizing their procurement policy. Estimated average cost to enhance low quality site to high quality pollinator habitat is \$1000/acre. Best management practices required by each agency holding protection of project sites will be utilized to enhance project sites. i.e. BWSR's Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines will be used for work on RIM easements. Additionally some sites selected in cooperation with the owner/manager, will have certain variables manipulated by the U of M research staff to monitor the effects on pollinator species as well as establishment practices.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Work with each projects owner/manager to complete enhancement work.	June 30, 2026

Activity 3: Assess, monitor, and report results of enhancement activities.

Activity Budget: \$244,000

Activity Description:

Conduct an assessment of enhancement activities with the University of Minnesota. Assess enhancements for pollinator and plant responses under the direction of Dr. Daniel P. Cariveau.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
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Assess plant establishment and insect responses to enhancement activities via graduate student over final three years of project	June 30, 2026
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Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Dan Cariveau	University of Minnesota	The University of Minnesota will be doing research on the grassland restoration projects that Pheasants Forever completes.	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 work be funded?

Enhancement of grassland habitats will yield pollinator habitat results after the completion of the project. Further enhancement of these acres provides an opportunity to plan for future management activities to keep maintain quality habitat. These management activities will be implemented and funded by the owners of the properties and/or the government agencies that hold conservation easements. By working with easement landowners, this project will increase the awareness and ability to work with government and NGO partners to make their easement as productive as possible for conserving our natural resources. Results of research provided by the UofM will be available.

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Sabin Adams

Job Title: MN PF Project Manager

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

Sabin Adams currently manages many state OHF and CPL grants as well as Federal NAWCA grants. Additionally Sabin was the manager of the previous phase of this LCCMR grant.

Organization: Pheasants Forever Inc

Organization Description:

Pheasants Forever's mission is to conserve pheasants, quail, and other wildlife through habitat improvements, public access, education, and conservation advocacy.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
Pheasants Forever Field Staff		Work with land owners/managers to complete enhancement projects.			22%	0.99		\$70,000
Pheasants Forever Grant Administration		Complete necessary budgeting, reporting and overall coordination of grant requirements.			22%	0.3		\$30,000
							Sub Total	\$100,000
Contracts and Services								
TBD Private Contractors or Landowner Reimbursement	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Field work such as plowing, disking, spraying, seeding, mowing and other necessary practices to enhance grassland pollinator habitat will be completed. Private contractors may be hired by PF or LO. LO reimbursement rates will be set to match rates provided by USDA and/or BWSR.				-		\$600,000
University of Minnesota	Sub award	The University of Minnesota will be monitoring enhancement projects to determine usage by pollinator species and the variables associated with the enhancement process. \$216,500 for grad student, field technicians, and faculty support. \$1,500 for supplies. \$26,000 for travel.				0		\$244,000
							Sub Total	\$844,000
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
							Sub Total	-
Capital Expenditures								
							Sub Total	-
Acquisitions and Stewardship								

							Sub Total	-
Travel In Minnesota								
	Miles/ Meals/ Lodging	Travel budget includes reimbursement for estimated mileage to projects throughout the proposal area.	PF Field staff will travel to an estimated 30 project locations to assist development of enhancement plan.					\$4,000
							Sub Total	\$4,000
Travel Outside Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Printing and Publication								
							Sub Total	-
Other Expenses								
							Sub Total	-
							Grand Total	\$948,000

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				
			State Sub Total	-
Non-State				
Cash	Pheasants Forever, Federal, County, City	Partners will be engaged at many levels to provide additional value to these efforts.	Potential	\$100,000
			Non State Sub Total	\$100,000
			Funds Total	\$100,000

Acquisition and Restoration

Parcel List

Name	County	Site Significance	Activity	Acres	Miles	Estimated Cost	Type of Landowner	Easement or Title Holder	Status of Work
TBD	Statewide	Permanently protected conservation lands will have grassland habitats enhanced to provide benefits to pollinators and other wildlife.	Restoration	850	-	\$600,000	Private	BWSR, USFWS, MN DNR, County, City.	In Progress
Totals				850	0	\$600,000			

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 restoration activities will be completed on lands protected by conservation easements, typically RIM or USFWS or on lands in public ownership typically WMA's and WPA's.

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.

Pheasants Forever will work with land owner/managers to complete restoration and management plans in accordance with state statute. These plans will likely be housed by both Pheasants Forever and the agency that owns the land or easement on the land. Long term implementation of these plans will be the responsibility of the owner/manager of the property.

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.

These restoration efforts will follow BWSRs "Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines" as well as best practices established by MN DNR and USFWS to ensure ecological integrity and pollinator enhancement.

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.

Long-term maintenance and management of these site will be the responsibility of the owner/land manager. We hope to use this opportunity to work with the owners/managers to develop a management plan. Additionally one of our ranking criteria will be the implementation of a management plan. Therefore proposal that will manage the investment into the future are more likely to be funded.

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

We will notify the Conservation Corps of Minnesota if we are funded and make them aware of the restoration activities we are completing.

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.

Evaluation will be completed on parcel where activities were implemented both initially after activity completion and three years later.

Attachments

Required Attachments

Map

File: [98d74a72-018.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Map

Map depicts the counties of Minnesota the proposal prioritizes as well as the USFWS and BWSR easements where the majority of these projects will be completed....

Financial Capacity

File: [188415ca-712.pdf](#)

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
PF CEO approval letter	93e3e726-a86.pdf

Administrative Use

Does your project include restoration or acquisition of land rights?

Yes: Restoration,

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?

Yes

Does the organization have a fiscal agent for this project?

No



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)

2023 Attachment

Proposal ID: 2023-006

Project Title: Minnesota Bee and Beneficial Species Habitat Enhancement II

The MN Bee & Beneficial Species Habitat Enhancement II Partnership will enhance 850-acres of permanently protected wildlife habitat to for the benefit native pollinators. Potential project sites include RIM and USFWS conservation easements in the 63-county project area within the farmland region of Minnesota.



