



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2023 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2023-052

Proposal Title: Sportsmen's and Women's Training and Development Learning Center

Project Manager Information

Name: Ray Sogard

Organization: Minnesota Forest Zone Trappers Association

Office Telephone: (218) 969-3425

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Project Basic Information

Project Summary: The Minnesota Forest Zone Trappers Association (MFZTA) is requesting a \$7,500,000 grant to acquire additional property and develop a Sportsmen's & Sportswomen's Outdoor Training and Development Center.

Funds Requested: \$7,500,000

Proposed Project Completion: December 31, 2025

LCCMR Funding Category: Land Acquisition, Habitat, and Recreation (G)

Project Location

What is the best scale for describing where your work will take place?

Region(s): NE

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.

The Minnesota Forest Zone Trappers Association (MFZTA) is requesting an \$7,500,000 grant to acquire additional property and construct a Sportsmen's & Sportswomen's Training and Developmental Learning Center (SSTDC) located on a 38+ acre parcel owned by the MFZTA in Hibbing (Adjacent land is needed to add to land already owned).

The SSTDC meets LCCMR's constitutional aim of protecting, conserving, preserving, and enhancing Minnesota's air, water, land, fish, wildlife, and other natural resources all in one location. The center will educate and train people from around the State of Minnesota, increasing their knowledge of the outdoors and teaching them skills that will help them cultivate a sustainable lifestyle and maintain a healthy and biodiverse natural environment through hunting, fishing, and other outdoor activities.

The center would include 24 RV and 24 primitive camp sites, bog walk trails, hunting & trapping training facility, educational areas, parking space, equipment/maintenance building, restroom/shower facilities and seating bleachers. Educational activities will include trapping and hunting, environmental/wetlands training, drafting training manuals and providing workshops to designed to get more people involved in outdoor activities, especially youth.

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.

The MFTZA is a non-profit 501C3 Corporation operating under the laws of Minnesota. They encompass over seven counties throughout northeastern Minnesota. The primary purpose of the MFTZA will be to achieve the best possible, highest quality outdoor experience. Their work to date to develop this project include meetings with regional, state and federal government officials, educating the general public, holding outdoor programs, regulation enforcement training, support wildlife research and developing relationships with wildlife officials and promoting good sportsmanship and ethic outdoor practices. The MFZTA offers multi-day conventions, annual workshops and numerous training sessions throughout the year that focus on education and environmental stewardship.

The MFTZA has developed satellite programs in which they partner with Delta Waterfowl, MN Deer Hunters Association, Pheasants Forever, Grouse Society, MN Darkhouse and Angling Association, Ducks Unlimited, NRA, National Turkey Association and others to promote outdoor activities throughout the region.

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 ultimate goal will be to own and operate the premier outdoor training and educational facility in the country. The center will educate and train people from around the State of Minnesota, increasing their knowledge of the outdoors and teaching them skills that will help them cultivate a sustainable lifestyle and maintain a healthy and biodiverse natural environment through hunting, fishing, and other outdoor activities.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Activity 1 Title: Project Engineering and Architectural Design

Activity Budget: \$1,342,000

Activity Description:

Activities include site evaluation, ADA requirements, permitting, wetlands delineation, engineering design for site and infrastructure, architectural design for all structures, construction administration, project observation and project administration.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Engineer/Architectural Firm selected through a competitive process	August 31, 2023
All permits secured and wetland delineation identified	March 31, 2024
Site and building design - Engineering and Architectural plans and specifications completed	May 31, 2024
Project construction and construction administration start	June 30, 2024
Construction administration completed and work approved by the association.	December 31, 2025

Activity 2: Facility Construction

Activity Budget: \$6,000,000

Activity Description:

Construction of the facility and necessary amenities. Amenities include main building, RV and primitive campsites, access road, parking, outdoor classrooms, bog walk, shooting/archery range, restroom building, training pond, caretaker office, site preparation, site grading, fencing, gates, bleachers, infrastructure (water, sewer, electrical), signage and landscaping. The main building will be 150X250 feet and will include exhibit space, activities/meeting room, commercial kitchen, mechanical room, restrooms, storage, four season areas, showers and needed equipment.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Competitive bid to select General Contractor to construct all buildings and amenities	April 30, 2024
General Contractor selected and project bid awarded to construct the project	May 31, 2024
Construction of the facility begins	June 30, 2024
Facility completed and approved by the association	December 31, 2025
Facility is open to the public	December 31, 2025

Activity 3: Land Acquisition

Activity Budget: \$158,000

Activity Description:

Purchase 15 acres from a private owner (See section 8)

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Property purchased	September 30, 2023

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
MFZTA Board of Directors	MN Forest Zone Trappers Association	This group will oversee the project.	No
State and Federal Agencies	State and Federal Agencies	State and Federal agencies will coordinate wetland delineation, permitting and environmental requirements	No
State and Regional Outdoor and Environmental Groups	State and Regional Outdoor and Environmental Groups	State and Regional Outdoor and Environmental Groups will assist in programming the events at the facility and will be critical in marketing this facility and its public relations.	No
Consulting Engineers, Landscape Architects, Planners, Financial Advisors	Consulting Engineers, Landscape Architects, Planners, Financial Advisors	Consulting Engineers, Landscape Architects, Planners, Financial Advisors will consult with the association to assist with the design, financing, planning and public meetings	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?

The ultimate goal will be to own and operate the premier outdoor training and educational facility in the country. MFZTA will be responsible for the ongoing funding and operation of the facility.

Other ENRTF Appropriations Awarded in the Last Six Years

Name	Appropriation	Amount Awarded
Sportsmen's Training And Developmental Learning Center	M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 5, Sec. 2, Subd. 09u	\$85,000

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Ray Sogard

Job Title: President

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

Ray Sogard is president of the Minnesota Forest Zone Trappers Association. Ray has years of experience in managing projects and working with grant and loan funding. The overall manager of this project will be the board of the association. The association will be assisted by the City of Hibbing as they are serving as the fiscal agent of the project. Ray will be working closely with the city council, mayor and administrative staff. Ray will be coordinating the work that is being done by the engineers, architects and the general contractor.

Organization: Minnesota Forest Zone Trappers Association

Organization Description:

The MFZTA is a 501 (c) (3) organization. They are governed by a board that consists of a president, secretary, 3 directors

and an at large member. They were incorporated in May 2011. They are eligible to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers and gifts under 170 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Since their inception the MFZTA have hosted and organized numerous activities including conventions, workshops, training and numerous other activities throughout the State of Minnesota. They partner on a regular basis with a variety of outdoor and environmental groups as listed in the main proposal section of this proposal.

A copies of their IRS corporation information, audited financial statements and a list of board members are attached and included in this proposal.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
							Sub Total	-
Contracts and Services								
Engineer/Architect hired through a competitive process	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Project design and construction administration of the facility and amenities				6		\$1,342,000
General Contractor hired through a competitive bidding process	Professional or Technical Service Contract	General Contractor Will Be Responsible Of All Project/Facility Construction				12		\$6,000,000
Land Owner	Acquisition costs	Selling the Property to the association				0		\$158,000
							Sub Total	\$7,500,000
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	\$7,500,000

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	IRRRB	Construction	Pending	\$500,000
			Non State Sub Total	\$500,000
			Funds Total	\$500,000

Acquisition and Restoration

Parcel List

Name	County	Site Significance	Activity	Acres	Miles	Estimated Cost	Type of Landowner	Easement or Title Holder	Status of Work
Trappers Acres	St. Louis	The site is adjacent to our current property and will be used for our training/educational facility. It is comprised of a combination of high and low land.	Fee Title	15	2	\$158,000	Private	MN Forest Zone Trappers Association, Inc	Negotiations In Progress
				-	-	-			
				-	-	-			
Totals				15	2	\$158,000			

Fee 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.

This property/parcel was identified by the Board of Directors as it is adjacent to our existing property and will be used for our new facility.

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.

The property is located in the City of Hibbing and is zoned as recreational/education.

3. For any parcels acquired in fee title, 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 components of plan will include a training center, kitchen, educational classrooms, RV and tent campsites, shooting range, ponds and a variety of bog and upland trails.

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.

The county board approval will be obtained upon purchase.

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.

Written approval from the DNR Commissioner will be obtained 10 business days prior to any final acquisition transaction.

Attachments

Required Attachments

Map

File: [b61e81ed-af8.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Map

Site view of project site....

Financial Capacity

File: [ee601b97-feb.pdf](#)

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
Resolution	ab074e4d-8e5.docx

Administrative Use

Does your project include restoration or acquisition of land rights?

Yes: Fee Acquisition,

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

Yes

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

Yes

Do you wish to request reinvestment of any revenues into your project instead of returning revenue to the ENRTF? If so, describe here:

Yes, The associating will be reinvesting any revenues back into the project to cover operation and maintenance

Does your project include original, hypothesis-driven research?

No

Does the organization have a fiscal agent for this project?

Yes, City of Hibbing



CONCEPT SITE LAYOUT



Scale 1 : 100



