



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2023 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2023-100

Proposal Title: Planting for the Future

Project Manager Information

Name: Shannon Wettstein

Organization: Morrison Soil and Water Conservation District

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Project Basic Information

Project Summary: This project integrates specific cultural customs among American Indian groups with environmental education on native prairie plants.

Funds Requested: \$82,000

Proposed Project Completion: October 31, 2026

LCCMR Funding Category: Small Projects (H)

Secondary Category: Environmental Education (C)

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.

The historical use of culturally significant plants is of interest to many Tribal peoples and to the general public. The Bug-O-Nay Ge-Shig School of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe requested access to Camp Ripely to harvest sage as a component of their cultural curriculum in 2019. Tribal school field trips have occurred for several years before this dialogue to expand the event. This proposal seeks to expand the sage harvest event to include additional public schools and schools within the Anishinaabe Tribes and will include traditional grassland plantings, cultural activities lead by the Mille Lacs Tribal Preservation Officer and the Mille Lacs Indian Museum and Trading Post. The event will be hosted by leadership staff from Camp Ripely Training Center and include support from the Minnesota National Guard's office of Diversity and Inclusion. The event seeks to enhance hands-on learning opportunities about Minnesota's native prairies and many cultural customs that exist on several species of plants.

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 event will include a field trip for high school students engaged with plantings of native prairie plants that are intended to increase understanding of Anishinaabe traditional culture and the use of sacred plants; as well as engage in land management techniques that are used to maintain and preserve Minnesota's native prairie's. Camp Ripely has several sites that are managed for native prairies. These sites will serve as the additional planting enhancements sites and sage harvesting sites. All sage that is harvested from the locations will be taken by the Tribal schools for ceremonial use throughout the year. In addition, students will be integrated with natural resource professionals as well as soldiers within the Minnesota National Guard. This integration teaches Minnesota National Guard Soldiers about diverse cultures and students see first hand that diversity and inclusion is respected within the National Guard.

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?

Enhancing Minnesota native prairie's while learning about ecological management and conservation and cultural customs related to native plants.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Event Coordination

Activity Budget: \$25,000

Activity Description:

Event coordination will include working with area schools to promote the event and secure attendance. Budget for this activity includes transportation and meals for students attending events.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
School confirmations	September 30, 2023

Activity 2: Prairie enhancement activities

Activity Budget: \$15,000

Activity Description:

Plugs of several species of prairie plants will be acquired to plant during the event.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Plants acquired	September 30, 2023

Activity 3: Planting for the Future Event

Activity Budget: \$1,000

Activity Description:

Event will include implementation of the coordinated activities

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Event Implementaiton	October 31, 2023

Activity 4: Event Coordination Year 2

Activity Budget: \$25,000

Activity Description:

Event coordination will include working with area schools to promote the event and secure attendance. Budget for this activity includes transportation and meals for students attending events.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Event facilitation details completed	September 30, 2024

Activity 5: Prairie enhancement activities year 2

Activity Budget: \$15,000

Activity Description:

Plugs of several species of prairie plants will be acquired to plant during the event.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Plants acquired	September 30, 2024

Activity 6: Planting for the Future event Year 2

Activity Budget: \$1,000

Activity Description:

Event will include implementation of the coordinated activities

Activity Milestones:

Description	Completion Date
Event Implementation	October 31, 2024

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Camp Ripley Training Center	Minnesota Department of Military Affairs	Host	No
Mille Lacs Indian Museum and Trading Post	Minnesota Historical Society Museum	Event Coordination and Support	Yes
Mille Lacs Tribal and Historical Preservation Office	Government entity	Event coordination	No
Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig	Tribal School	Participant	Yes
Nay-Ah-Shing School	Tribal School	Participant	Yes
Mille Lacs-Kathio State Park	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Coordination and activity lead	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 additional work is needed, how will this work be funded?

Project partnerships and additional collaborators will seek to sustain the educational events after project completion.

Other ENRTF Appropriations Awarded in the Last Six Years

Name	Appropriation	Amount Awarded
Morrison County Performance Drainage and Hydrology Management II	M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 6, Sec. 2, Subd. 03j	\$197,000
Oak Wilt Suppression At The Northern Edge II	M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 6, Sec. 2, Subd. 06c	\$423,000

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Shannon Wettstein

Job Title: District Manager

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

Project manager is the district manager for the Morrison SWCD, which provides many programs and services that help protect the landscape of Morrison County. One of many programs is the Clean Water festival, which facilitates environmental education programming to every 5th grade class in Morrison County.

Organization: Morrison Soil and Water Conservation District

Organization Description:

Morrison Soil and Water Conservation District

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
SWCD Staff member		Coordinate event and acquisition of prairie plants			0%	0.2		\$22,000
							Sub Total	\$22,000
Contracts and Services								
Mille Lacs Indian Museum and Trading Post	Sub award	entity will be providing coordination services and presentations during the day of the event				48		\$10,000
							Sub Total	\$10,000
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
	Tools and Supplies	Prairie Plants	A planting will occur as a component of the event					\$30,000
							Sub Total	\$30,000
Capital Expenditures								
							Sub Total	-
Acquisitions and Stewardship								
							Sub Total	-
Travel In Minnesota								
	Miles/ Meals/ Lodging	Coordination with 4 Tribal schools	Transportation and meals for student attending the event					\$20,000
							Sub Total	\$20,000

Travel Outside Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Printing and Publication								
							Sub Total	-
Other Expenses								
							Sub Total	-
							Grand Total	\$82,000

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				
In-Kind	National Guard Bureau	Planning capacity, outreach and marketing	Secured	\$25,000
In-Kind	National Guard Bureau	Public Affairs	Secured	\$5,000
In-Kind	Site Preparations	Preparing sites for prairie plantings	Secured	\$10,000
			Non State Sub Total	\$40,000
			Funds Total	\$40,000

Acquisition and Restoration

Parcel List

Name	County	Site Significance	Activity	Acres	Miles	Estimated Cost	Type of Landowner	Easement or Title Holder	Status of Work
Camp Ripley	Morrison	Native prairie	Restoration	25	-	\$30,000	Public		Has Not Begun
Totals				25	0	\$30,000			

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 occur on State owned land

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.

Management plans are kept within Camp Ripley's integrated Natural Resource Management Plan and available to the public

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.

BWSR guidelines will be used in selection of vegetation to be planted and all site preparation activities.

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 needs will be managed by Camp Ripley environmental office

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

NA

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.

SWCD staff and Camp Ripely environmental staff will conduct evaluations of prairie sites and coordinate adjustments to management as needed.

Attachments

Required Attachments

Map

File: [9bb76f28-830.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Map

The attachment is a flyer developed for the Planting for the Future event....

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
Board Resolution letter	c4b0d601-892.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?

No

Does the organization have a fiscal agent for this project?

No

