



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2024 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2024-011

Proposal Title: Grant County Public Land Survey System Project

Project Manager Information

Name: Patrick Veraguth

Organization: Grant County

Office Telephone: (320) 762-2964

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Project Basic Information

Project Summary: Remonumenting and Certifying 90 Public Land Survey System in Grant County

Funds Requested: \$200,000

Proposed Project Completion: December 31, 2025

LCCMR Funding Category: Small Projects (H)

Secondary Category: Foundational Natural Resource Data and Information (A)

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

Narrative

Describe the opportunity or problem your proposal seeks to address. Include any relevant background information.

The Public Land Survey (PLS) was performed in Minnesota from 1847 to 1905. Most of these PLS corners were originally wooden posts. The Government Land Office (GLO) originally set these corners and gave the power of maintaining them to the State. The State gave that responsibility to the Counties. St. Louis County estimates that 50% of the PLS corners in the county have been certified with geodetic coordinates determined.

These corners affect every landowner in the state. PLS monuments are necessary to accurately depict land ownership and interest in real property, which has impacts on land transfers, parcel subdivisions, property taxation, hunting and mineral rights and granting of easements. The environmental or land tie to this proposal is clear in that all resources, their use and delineation, require some description related to the corners of the PLSS. With the loss of one ¼ section corner every parcel of land within two sections are affected, the loss of one section corner has the same adverse effect in four sections.

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.

Restore and certify 90 corners of the PLS in Township 130 North, Range 41 West and Township 130 North, Range 42 West of the 5th Principal Meridian. By certifying and collecting highly accurate geodetic coordinates on these monuments, we will preserve their position and also allow them to be utilized in GIS dataset to improve the accuracy of related GIS data.

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?

Grant County Highway Department is reconstructing County State Aid Highway 4. These corners are the framework for a right-of-way map for purchase of right-of-way. There are many lakes in this area that need to be protected and this new road will help protect them in the future. These corners will also aid in the purchase of conservation land and easements.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Records Research

Activity Budget: \$27,000

Activity Description:

PLSS Remonumentation requires extensive research prior to commencing with field work. The surveyor will collect various records and compile them into preliminary corner certificates in order to determine search areas and complete preliminary analysis. . By thoroughly examining the records, the prudent surveyor can be confident that the proper location of the corner has been monumented.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Preliminary Research	August 31, 2024
Preliminary corner certificates	February 28, 2025

Activity 2: Field Search and Monumentation

Activity Budget: \$146,000

Activity Description:

A thorough field search for corner evidence and final monumentation of the PLSS position. The goal is to find the position of the original monument that the GLO surveyor set.

Field reconnaissance of the area using the record research data of the Public Land Survey methods is necessary in order to narrow the search area for exploring the area for evidence. Much reconnaissance can be completed utilizing GIS maps and imagery overlays, but it cannot replace a site visit. Checks to nearby natural feature calls or other known information can often reveal alternate positions to consider in the field.

A retracement survey is made in order to locate existing monuments, occupation lines, possible corner locations and natural feature calls from PLSS field notes and historical corner positions which were identified in the research process. We estimate that we will have to excavate at least half of these corners which adds additional cost.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Verify known corners	November 30, 2024
Initial Search for unknown corners	November 30, 2024
Corner Excavations	August 31, 2025
Final determination and monumentation	October 31, 2025

Activity 3: Corner Certification

Activity Budget: \$27,000

Activity Description:

A Certificate of Location shall be prepared and filed for each PLSS corner recovered and/or monumented according to Minnesota Statutes 381.12. This certificate shall be a complete document relating to the location, monumentation, perpetuation and history of a corner. The certificates will be recorded in the Grant County Recorder's office.

A certificate of survey will be prepared that shows the extent of the project. The survey will be recorded in the county

recorder's office. This survey ensures all stakeholders will be able to see the work completed by searching the public record.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Create preliminary corner certificates	December 31, 2024
Preliminary corner drawing	February 28, 2025
Create final corner certificates and record them	November 30, 2025
Create final Certificate of Survey for all corners	November 30, 2025

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Aaron Weinandt	Grant County	Aaron is the current Grant County Engineer. Grant County recently lost it's County Engineer to the private sector. Aaron is filling in till they get a new County Engineer.	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?

County Surveyors and GIS Professionals have legislation proposed for funding for statewide remonumentation of all the PLSS corners in the state. (House File 1231, Senate File 1659) If this legislation passes, we will be able to move forward with our plan to remonument Minnesota. Proposed legislation is funded through the State's general fund.

Other ENRTF Appropriations Awarded in the Last Six Years

Name	Appropriation	Amount Awarded
Improving Statewide GIS Data by Restoring the Public Land Survey	M.L. 2019, First Special Session, Chp. 4, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 03m	\$135,000

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Patrick Veraguth

Job Title: Douglas and Grant County Surveyor

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

I have been the Douglas and Grant County Surveyor for 9 years and the Winona County Surveyor 20 years before that. I am president elect of the National Association of County Surveyors and past president of the Minnesota Association of County Surveyors and the Minnesota Society of Professional Surveyors. I am also the chair of the Minnesota Geospatial Advisory Council, Parcel and Land Records Committee, Public Land Survey System (PLSS) Legislative Subcommittee. We are look for avenues to remonument the State of Minnesota. I led the last LCCMR PLSS project that we completed in Grant County a few years ago.

Organization: Grant County

Organization Description:

Grant County is a small rural county with a population just over 6000 people. Grant County ran a successful pilot Public Land Survey System program in 2019-2020. They monumented and Certified all 139 corners in Lawrence Township, which is the northwest township in Grant County. Grant County is looking to do this again.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
County Surveyor		Project Manager			25%	0.38		\$31,000
Survey Crew Chief		Data collection and compilation			25%	0.75		\$75,000
Survey Tech		Assist crew Chief in field data collection and office compilation			25%	0.75		\$50,000
Excavator		Excavate for Section Corners			25%	0.01		\$35,000
							Sub Total	\$191,000
Contracts and Services								
							Sub Total	-
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
	Tools and Supplies	Survey Monuments and Signs	90 Permanent markers and signs for each corner					\$9,000
							Sub Total	\$9,000
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	\$200,000

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	Recorder fees	Each Section corner certificate will be recorded	Secured	\$4,140
			Non State Sub Total	\$4,140
			Funds Total	\$4,140

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [5d14f0a7-73b.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

Aerial Photo of corners to be remonumented and certified...

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
Grant County Resolution	514fd202-d63.pdf

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

Does your project include the design, construction, or renovation of a building, trail, campground, or other capital asset costing \$10,000 or more?

Yes

Do you propose using an appropriation from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund to conduct a project that provides children's services, as defined in Minnesota Statutes section 299C.61 Subd.7?

No