



# Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

## 2024 Request for Proposal

### General Information

**Proposal ID:** 2024-065

**Proposal Title:** Roseau County Re-Monumenting of Jadis & Spruce Township

### Project Manager Information

**Name:** Liz Lund

**Organization:** Roseau County

**Office Telephone:** (218) 463-1861

**Email:** liz.lund@co.roseau.mn.us

### Project Basic Information

**Project Summary:** Restore and certify monuments of the Public Land Survey System. Collect geodetic coordinate values in order to improve foundational Geographic Information System (GIS) data.

**Funds Requested:** \$156,000

**Proposed Project Completion:** June 30, 2026

**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): NW

**What is the best scale to describe the area impacted by your work?**

Region(s): NW

**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 for the sale of land and gave the power of maintaining them to the State. The State gave that responsibility to the Counties. It is estimated that approximately only 16% of the PLS corners in Jadis and Spruce Townships in Roseau County have been certified with geodetic coordinates determined.

These corners affect every land owner in the county. 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, 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 Public Land Survey System (PLSS). If one  $\frac{1}{4}$  corner is lost, every parcel of land within two sections are affected. If one section corner is lost, every parcel of land within four sections are affected. This project will help protect all land rights now and into the future.

### **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.**

To find and/or establish and certify all the government corners of the PLS in Jadis and Spruce Townships of Roseau County (Township 162 North, Range 40 West and Township 162 North, Range 39 West of the 5th Principal Meridian). By certifying and collecting highly accurate geodetic coordinates on these monuments, we will preserve their position. Accurate corners are the framework for accurate GIS data. We will then integrate this data into the GIS to improve the accuracy of the GIS data. This information will in turn provide better, more accurate data that will assist in the decision making of many agencies both public and private.

### **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 Roseau County Courthouse, bankers, realtors, MN DNR, consultants and local land owners all rely on corner positions and also utilize the present GIS dataset. By re-monumenting and certifying corners, monuments will be preserved, the accuracy of the GIS dataset will increase, decision making will improve and the public will be better served. This will in turn help protect the wide variety of public lands in Roseau County for years to come (See Organization Description Section for more information on Roseau County's Public Lands).

## Activities and Milestones

### Activity 1: Records Research

**Activity Budget:** \$33,000

**Activity Description:**

PLSS remonumentation requires extensive research prior to commencing with field work. The surveyor will collect various records and compile them into corner worksheets 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	September 30, 2024
Preliminary Corner Worksheets Completed	November 30, 2024

### Activity 2: Field Search and Monumentation

**Activity Budget:** \$70,000

**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, old certificate of survey corners, old recorded plats and natural feature calls from PLSS field notes and historical corner positions which were identified in the research process.

**Activity Milestones:**

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Verify known corners	December 31, 2024
Initial search for unknown corners	June 30, 2025
Final determination and monumentation	September 30, 2025

### Activity 3: Corner Certification and Certificate of Survey

**Activity Budget:** \$38,000

**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 Roseau 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	October 31, 2025
Create Preliminary Certificates of Survey	October 31, 2025
Final Corner Certificates recorded at the Roseau County Recorder’s office	December 31, 2025
Final Certificate of Survey filed at the Roseau County Recorder’s office	December 31, 2025

**Activity 4: Project Management and GIS Integration**

**Activity Budget:** \$15,000

**Activity Description:**

The Roseau County Assessor will oversee and manage the project in the best interests of the county constituents. The Contracted County Surveyor will implement the project. The County Assessor and County Surveyor will collaborate to ensure that the project is completed correctly and within project parameters.

**Activity Milestones:**

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Preliminary corner worksheets completed	November 30, 2024
Process established to integrate geodetic coordinates into GIS basemap and to troubleshoot corresponding changes inmap.	December 31, 2025
Final Corner Certificates and Certificates of Survey completed and recorded or filed	December 31, 2025
Integrate final Certificate data into GIS basemap	June 30, 2026

## Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Sue Grafstrom	Roseau County	Grant Preparer	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?**

Once certified and recorded, the corner positions will be added to the Roseau County GIS database and other foundational data will be able to be updated. Any funding needed for long term maintenance of the corners will be provided by Roseau County. We see this as a pilot project. In the future, Roseau County intends to request additional funds through the LCCMR to restore PLS corners in other areas of the county.

Proposed legislation for funding a statewide remonumentation effort of all the PLSS corners could aid tremendously in Roseau County remonumentation if passed (House File 1231, Senate File 1659).

## Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

**Project Manager Name:** Liz Lund

**Job Title:** Roseau County Assessor

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

I have been the Roseau County Assessor for 8 years. During this time, my office has completed the task of converting all of our assessment records from handwritten field books into a Computer Assisted Mass Appraisal system. We have also transitioned from local assessors to in house staff appraisers. These two elements have significantly increased the successful accomplishment of a fair and equitable annual assessment. During this process, the need for more accurate data within the Roseau County GIS has become much more evident.

In the last year, we as a county have been exploring ways to improve the county's GIS. In Spring of 2023 we will be converting to a mobile friendly version of the GIS which will open the door for even more GIS usage (and the need for accurate data stepping to the forefront in another aspect). The foundational cornerstone to an accurate GIS is certified PLS Corners with corresponding geodetic coordinates.

We have recently launched a multi-department initiative to get the County's GIS data to a higher level of accuracy and ease of use. I have been guiding this initiative on the County's end and seeking creative solutions for GIS improvement. The remonumentation project data would integrate in as an essential foundational GIS data layer.

**Organization:** Roseau County

**Organization Description:**

Roseau County is a rural Minnesota county located in the Northwestern portion of the state along the Canadian border. It is a large county in terms of land area ranking 11th of all 87 Minnesota Counties (1,671 Square Miles) but rural in nature, ranking 55th in the state in terms of population with just over 15,000. Over one quarter of all the land in Roseau County (300,000 acres) is owned or managed by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Roseau County is 1 of only 7 counties in the state with Consolidated Conservation (Con-Con) lands. In addition to being home to Beltrami Island State Forest and Hayes Lake State Park, Roseau County has just under 20 miles of shoreline along Lake of the Woods located in the County.



## Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
<b>Personnel</b>								
Roseau County Assessor		Project Manager			50%	0.5		\$15,000
County Surveyor		Project Researcher and Remonumentation			0%	0.8		\$96,000
Survey Crew Chief		Project Support and Drafting			50%	0.8		\$37,500
							<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$148,500</b>
<b>Contracts and Services</b>								
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-
<b>Equipment, Tools, and Supplies</b>								
	Tools and Supplies	Survey monuments and supplies	These supplies will be used to mark the 128 + monuments that are missing or broken.					\$1,500
	Equipment	Pick up use and gas \$50 per hour x 2 hours x 60 days	County Vehicle Hourly Use Rate for driving to and from survey and monumentation sites					\$6,000
							<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$7,500</b>
<b>Capital Expenditures</b>								
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-
<b>Acquisitions and Stewardship</b>								
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-
<b>Travel In Minnesota</b>								

							<b>Sub Total</b>	-
<b>Travel Outside Minnesota</b>								
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-
<b>Printing and Publication</b>								
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-
<b>Other Expenses</b>								
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-
							<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$156,000</b>



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				
			Non State Sub Total	-
			Funds Total	-

## Attachments

### Required Attachments

#### *Visual Component*

File: [055d5670-6f2.pdf](#)

#### *Alternate Text for Visual Component*

Jadis and Spruce Township Map Showing Certified Corners That Need Maintenance or Verification...

#### *Board Resolution or Letter*

Title	File
Roseau County Board Resolution to Apply for 2024 ENTRF Funds	<a href="#">9ea37e96-a18.pdf</a>

## 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?**

Yes, Roseau County

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

No

**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

