



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2024 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2024-118

Proposal Title: Public Land Survey Monument Restoration T 140 R29

Project Manager Information

Name: Daniel McAninch

Organization: Cass County Highway Department

Office Telephone: (763) 244-9064

Email: daniel.mcaninch@co.cass.mn.us

Project Basic Information

Project Summary: Restoration and maintenance of the Public Land Survey(PLS) monuments in Woodrow Township, T 140 N, R 29 W, Cass County Minnesota.

Funds Requested: \$160,000

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 and In the Future

Narrative

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

The original Public Land Survey (PLS) was performed in the 1850's and 1860's in Cass County by the General Land Office of the United States. The GLO survey records were passed down to the State of Minnesota and the County along with responsibility for maintenance of the monuments. This may go down as one of the earliest unfunded mandates by the federal government. Because of the lack of a well funded system of maintenance this vital infrastructure is in serious need of restoration and maintenance. Approximately 30% of monuments have been reestablished and have recorded Certificates of Location along with recorded geodetic coordinates. It is the goal of this grant request to begin to make restorative progress before additional loss of corner monuments and evidence occurs.

All land title and parcel boundaries relate directly or indirectly to the PLS monuments that are set in the ground. As such the scientific management of natural resources depends on the PLS monument system along with transportation systems, taxation, and protection of shoreland resources through the administration of the shoreland and land use ordinances.

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 the PLS corner monuments in Woodrow Township, T 140 N, R 29 W with accurate GPS coordinates so the physical location can be easily restored in the future. The marking of these corners will let landowners see where the section lines are, enable private surveyors to cost effectively survey land and delineate lines for natural resource management activities. The coordinate data collected can be utilized as the foundation for creating more accurate parcel maps used for land management, taxation and land use permitting.

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 United States Forest Service, Minnesota DNR, Cass County Land Department, Cass County Environmental Services, Mississippi Headwaters Board and watershed districts are all potential beneficiaries of a fully monumented PLS system and subsequent improved parcel mapping. Knowing where the land boundaries are is an important aspect to the large-scale management of natural resources, land use, and transportation impacts. All these agencies rely heavily on accurate mapping which can be generated as a benefitting byproduct of this project.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Historical Survey Records Research

Activity Budget: \$40,000

Activity Description:

To assure that all historical record survey evidence is considered, the surveyor will compile records from available sources and list key records on a preliminary statement of evidence. This research will allow the surveyor to make preliminary conclusions about what the field crew should be searching for in terms of record monuments or evidence. The surveyor will prepare a draft Statement of Evidence compiling the chronological history of record evidence pertaining to each corner. Those drafts will be reviewed by the County Surveyor.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Preliminary Records Research	October 31, 2024
Completion of Preliminary Statement of Evidence	February 28, 2025

Activity 2: Field Evidence/Monument Search and Final Monumentation

Activity Budget: \$80,000

Activity Description:

The contract surveying company will conduct field reconnaissance for all known historic corners and collect all necessary field feature calls and occupational evidence to allow for analysis and determination of narrow corner search areas. The goal in all cases will be to determine the location of the original GLO corner so as to preserve long standing title lines. A thorough analysis of all field and record evidence will be made and narrowed searches made prior to final corner determinations. Any complex determinations will be discussed with the County Surveyor before final decisions are made.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Verify Known Corner Monuments	February 28, 2025
Search for unknown corners, locate feature calls and evidence	December 31, 2025
Final Corner Determination, Monumentation, Field Ties	March 31, 2026

Activity 3: Corner Documentation

Activity Budget: \$40,000

Activity Description:

A Certificate of Location of Government Corner shall be prepared and filed for each uncertified 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 reviewed by the County Surveyor and recorded in the Cass County Recorder's Office. A Certificate of Survey showing the location of all PLS corners and the dimensions of all sections will be created and also recorded in the land records.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Preliminary Corner Certificates submitted to County Surveyor for review	May 31, 2026
Final CLOGC's recorded at the Cass County Recorder's Office	June 30, 2026
Certificate of Survey of entire township recorded with the County Recorder	June 30, 2026

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?

Section corner monuments will be set or found and marked up with signed witness trees for easy field identification by landowners, foresters and resource managers. Section corner certificates will be recorded in the County land records documenting the evidence and location of PLS corner monuments which assures common public use and preservation of the monuments. A complete monumentation map will be created and recorded in land records for use by agencies and surveyors. Future parcel mapping can be improved to act as an aid in resource management and land use management.

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Daniel McAninch

Job Title: Cass County Surveyor

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

Licensed Land Surveyor with 35 years of surveying experience in all aspects of land surveying and land development surveying. Daniel managed two similar PLSS remonumentation projects while working for Crow Wing County as the Survey Coordinator. That involved creation of an RFP, scoring of proposals, contract management and closeout. Daniel has bid and managed numerous survey projects throughout his career while working in the private sector giving him a familiarity with the survey contracting process.

Organization: Cass County Highway Department

Organization Description:

The Cass County Surveyor's Office is located within the Cass County Highway Department. It is a statutory position/office appointed under M.S. 389.011. Primary duties of the office consist of restoration and maintenance of the Public Land Survey system of monumentation, preparation of County Highway Right of Way Plats, surveying of county land, review of subdivision plats and acting as a consultant to County staff and landowners on surveying and mapping issues.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
							Sub Total	-
Contracts and Services								
To be Determined by RFP	Professional or Technical Service Contract	All listed Activities except QA which will be by the County Surveyor and staff				0.6		\$155,000
							Sub Total	\$155,000
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
	Tools and Supplies	corner monuments, bearing tree tags, bearing tree paint and signage	uniform stable monuments, witness tags so corners are easily found, signs as needed to make corners ease to find					\$5,000
							Sub Total	\$5,000
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	\$160,000

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
---------------	---------------------	-------------	--

Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	Amount
State				
			State Sub Total	-
Non-State				
In-Kind	County Payroll (general tax levy)	Contract Coordination, site visits, document review, contract management	Secured	\$20,000
			Non State Sub Total	\$20,000
			Funds Total	\$20,000

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [46ebd3cb-041.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

A PLS monument status map of Woodrow Township with approximately 150 total corners indicating what information has been recorded for that corner's established and/or certified position...

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
Cass County Board Resolution	8b4f9f45-866.pdf

Optional Attachments

Support Letter, Photos, Media, Other

Title	File
Board Action Request Form	ba8ffad6-717.docx

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, Cass County Highway Department

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