



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2026 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2026-484

Proposal Title: Roseau Lake Rehabilitation - Phase 4

Project Manager Information

Name: Tracy Halstengard

Organization: Roseau River Watershed District

Office Telephone: (218) 463-0313

Email: tracy@roseauriverwd.com

Project Basic Information

Project Summary: This multi-purpose project will partially restore a drained lake and provide water level management capability to substantially improve wildlife habitat conditions and provide flood damage reduction benefits.

ENRTF Funds Requested: \$3,400,000

Proposed Project Completion: June 30, 2029

LCCMR Funding Category: Fish and Wildlife (D)

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.

Roseau Lake was drained in the early 1900s when the Roseau River was channelized and dredged and associated ditch systems were constructed to increase agricultural production in the watershed. Prior to drainage, Roseau Lake provided excellent fish and waterfowl habitat. After drainage, much of the lake basin was farmed for many years and produced crops in drier times, but production was low and unreliable in wetter years. Over time, there has been recognition by local landowners that farming the lake bed would always be tenuous and large portions of the lake basin became part of the Roseau Lake Wildlife Management Area in the 1960s. Interest in a partial restoration of the lake has grown in recent year because the DNR, the watershed district, local governments, and citizens recognize that there are opportunities to develop a multipurpose project with significant wildlife habitat and flood damage reduction benefits.

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.

Fish and wildlife habitat benefits will be achieved by constructing a system of levees and water control structures to provide capacity to actively manage water levels in the lake basin. This infrastructure will allow wildlife managers to manage lake levels throughout the year to achieve wildlife management objectives. Specifically, timely water level management in spring and fall will create conditions to provide suitable forage in abundance for migratory waterfowl and shorebirds. In addition, better management of water levels in the basin during the growing season will enhance the relative value of surrounding grass cover for nesting and provide brood-rearing cover for waterfowl and other waterbirds. Benefits to aquatic invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles, and aquatic mammals will accrue whenever water is present. Fish habitat on the river will improve as a result of stream restoration features of the project that improve water quality, hydrologic conditions and the habitat corridor along the Roseau River.

At the same time, this infrastructure will provide water managers the ability to manipulate the timing of flood flows in the area to optimize the water storage capacity of the lake bed to achieve flood damage reduction objectives.

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?

A key objective of the project is to rehabilitate a portion of the drained lake to provide migratory habitat, including both foraging and resting opportunities, for waterfowl and shorebirds in spring and in fall. Up to 6,000 acres of spring migration habitat and 3,600 acres of fall migration habitat are expected upon completion of this project. Additionally, 1,800 acres of brood-rearing and foraging habitat will be available to nesting waterfowl between migration periods. Funding of Phase 4 of this project will further the project, which has already begun, toward completion.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: East Inlet Ditch Construction

Activity Budget: \$1,260,000

Activity Description:

The principal inlet for the project is proposed to be a 1.1-mile long principal inlet channel that passes under 370th Ave. and connects the Roseau River directly to the main pool storage area. The proposed channel is 100 feet wide, has a bottom elevation of 1026.0', and has a minimal grade. It is designed to convey large volumes of water over a range of river stages and operational parameters to maximize flood reduction benefits. The inlet channel is larger than the Roseau River because its function is to convey large floodplain flows at higher stages, which exceed the river channel capacity at lower stages. The inlet weirs are sized so Roseau Lake will fill within three to four days if the weirs are overtopped when water elevations exceed 1034'. The inlet channel will pass under 370th Ave, a township road (i.e., between Section 20 and 21 of T163N R40W), in order to pass water into the lake basin. Final engineering is needed to begin construction of this portion of the project.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
East Inlet Ditch construction	December 31, 2026
Project completion	December 31, 2028
Project operation	March 31, 2029

Activity 2: 360th Ave Road Raise

Activity Budget: \$2,140,000

Activity Description:

The township road, 360th Ave., will serve as the eastern embankment for the project. 360th Ave. will be improved such that the road is flooded less frequently than when compared to existing conditions. The road raise of 360th Ave. will be to an elevation of 1036.0' with equalizer box culverts installed to the north of the inlet ditch to convey flow through the raised road, which will have 4:1 side slopes. At this slope, the east side of the road raise will carry construction into the adjacent (existing) road ditch. The road ditch will need to move over and be reconstructed. The project will match the existing ditch invert elevation and have a western side slope of 3:1. The ditch bottom will be approximately 12'-14' wide and will neither improve nor impede current drainage. The inlet channel will pass under 370th Ave., so culverts will be placed under this roadway. Final engineering is needed to complete this portion of the project.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
360th Ave. Road Raise construction	March 31, 2027
Project construction complete	December 31, 2028
Project operation	March 31, 2029

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Section of Wildlife	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	Land manager	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?

Phases 1 and 2 of the Project have been completed, and funding for Phase 3 of the Project has been secured. Additional funding is needed to complete Phases 4-6, which will complete the overall project. Project partners expect to pursue other state and federal grants and funding from the Red River Watershed Management Board to complete the project. Upon completion of the project, the project will continue to be operated as a Wildlife Management Area and operating funds will come from normal DNR budgets, along with Roseau River Watershed District operating budgets for maintenance.

Other ENRTF Appropriations Awarded in the Last Six Years

Name	Appropriation	Amount Awarded
Peatland Restoration in the Lost River State Forest	M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 5, Sec. 2, Subd. 08h	\$135,000

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Tracy Halstensgard

Job Title: Administrator

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

Administrator Halstensgard has been in this position for 12 years, employed by the RRWD for 24 years. In that time she has managed eight major projects through construction. The costs of these projects range from \$200,000 - \$20+million. This included managing project funding / grant management, managing project development and design, and the permitting processes.

Organization: Roseau River Watershed District

Organization Description:

The mission statement of the Roseau River Watershed District is to manage the waters and related resources within the District in a reasonable and orderly manner which will improve the general welfare and public health of the residents of the District.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
							Sub Total	-
Contracts and Services								
TBD	Service Contract	Construction contract to be awarded to construct both the East Inlet Ditch to Roseau lake and to raise 360th Ave. to act as the eastern embankment				10		\$3,400,000
							Sub Total	\$3,400,000
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	\$3,400,000

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	local levy funds	construction match	Secured	\$1,000,000
			Non State Sub Total	\$1,000,000
			Funds Total	\$1,000,000

Total Project Cost: \$4,400,000

This amount accurately reflects total project cost?

Yes

Acquisition and Restoration

Parcel List

Name	County	Site Significance	Activity	Acres	Miles	Estimated Cost	Type of Landowner	Easement or Title Holder	Status of Work
Roseau Lake Wildlife Management Area - 1	Roseau	Wetland - this parcel will be used to construct the east inlet ditch to the Roseau Lake Rehabilitation Project	Restoration	11.75	-	\$1,531,000	Public		Has Not Begun
Roseau Lake Wildlife Management Area - 2	Roseau	Wetland - Road raise of 360th Ave. to act as the eastern embankment for the Roseau Lake Rehabilitation Project	Restoration	38	-	\$2,640,000	Public		Has Not Begun
Roseau River Watershed District	Roseau	Wetland - this parcel will be used to construct the East Inlet Ditch to the Roseau Lake Rehabilitation project	Restoration	1.75	-	\$229,000	Public		Has Not Begun
Totals				51.5	0	\$4,400,000			

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.

The majority of the lands within the project area are located on the existing Roseau Lake Wildlife Management Area, while a portion of the project area is owned by the Roseau River Watershed District. All of these lands are protected in perpetuity and are open for public recreation. Private land easements have been secured, where necessary, to facilitate construction of the embankments and exterior ditches. These easements are held by the Roseau River Watershed District.

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.

The rehabilitation of Roseau Lake is a cooperative project between the Roseau River Watershed District (RRWD) and the MN DNR, Section of Wildlife. Upon completion of this project, we hope to restore partial hydrology to a drained lake basin in Roseau County to provide both wildlife habitat for waterfowl and other wetland dependent wildlife as well as flood damage reduction benefits to a largely agricultural landscape that suffers frequent flood damages.

Rehabilitation of the lake will be comprised of a principal inlet channel and inlet structure, drainage structures, a main outlet structure, embankments and exterior ditches, restoration of Pine Creek flowing into the northwest corner of the lake, weirs, restoration of the Roseau River cutoff channel (to restore river hydrology), and a road raise of a township road to decrease flood damages.

Upon completion of the project, up to an estimated 6,000 acres of flooded wetland habitat will be available in the early spring months, immediately after spring runoff, for migrating waterfowl and other water birds. Beginning approximately May 1 each year, the lake will be drained down to approximately 1,800 ac to provide shallow emergent marsh habitat for nesting and brood rearing waterfowl and other water birds, while the peripheries will provide habitat for other wetland and upland species. Beginning around September 1 each year, additional water will be let into the lake, providing up to approximately 4,000 acres of habitat for migrating waterfowl as well as improved access to the lake basin for hunting and other recreational activities. Following the normal waterfowl season and prior to freeze-up, the lake will once again be drained down as far as possible to discourage over-wintering of undesirable fish and vegetative species that are otherwise incompatible with shallow marsh management, and to maximize spring flood storage.

Long-term plans have been agreed upon by the RRWD and MNDNR and a signed Operations and Maintenance Plan will be filed and kept with each partner.

MNDNR staff will conduct biological surveys each year to determine whether the project is meeting long-term project goals. Surveys will include, but will not be limited to: migratory bird surveys, waterfowl brood counts, invasive species surveys, and shallow lake surveys. Any changes to operational plans to better meet project goals must first be agreed upon, in writing, by all project partners.

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.

All disturbed soils will be replanted with a native vegetation mix according to the Board of Soil and Water Resources "Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines." In some cases, wheat, annual rye, or oats will be used as a temporary cover to prevent further erosion.

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.

The long term management of the Roseau Lake Rehabilitation Project will be mostly funded by the MN DNR Wildlife operating budget, with funds coming primarily from license fees. In some instances, other state and federal grants may be used for maintenance of the project. The Roseau River Watershed District may also supply funds for maintenance of structures and embankments that are necessary to provide flood damage reduction benefits.

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

This project involves earth moving and construction using heavy equipment. While initial restoration of the project cannot be completed by Conservation Corps of Minnesota (CCM), future management, including but not limited to invasive species control, may be contracted to CCM.

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.

Upon completion of each phase of the project, partner representatives will meet to inspect each completed portion of the project to ensure that construction is satisfactory and according to plan. Following that, representatives from each partner will meet annually to inspect all project features, with specific emphasis on embankments and structures. Following each inspection, representatives from each partner will discuss any improvements that are needed to maintain the project. Furthermore, MNDNR staff will conduct surveys of wildlife use and vegetation composition of various areas annually. Adaptive management strategies may be updated following surveys. Changes to operation must be agreed upon by all partners before implementation.

Attachments

Required Attachments

Map

File: [60fd9c1f-d2a.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Map

Figures showing the project location, project components, proposed lake levels after operation, and construction phases of the Roseau Lake Rehabilitation Project....

Financial Capacity

Title	File
2023 Audit Report	2f70cfad-e4d.pdf

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
letter from the Board	92433c45-f1c.docx

Supplemental Attachments

Capital Project Questionnaire, Budget Supplements, Support Letter, Photos, Media, Other

Title	File
Questionnaire_signed	425a92f3-15e.pdf

Administrative Use

Does your project include restoration or acquisition of land rights?

Yes: Restoration,

Do you understand that travel expenses are only approved if they follow the "Commissioner's Plan" promulgated by the Commissioner of Management of Budget or, for University of Minnesota projects, the University of Minnesota plan?

N/A

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

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 pre-design, design, construction, or renovation of a building, trail, campground, or other fixed capital asset costing \$10,000 or more or large-scale stream or wetland restoration?

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 as "the provision of care, treatment, education, training, instruction, or recreation to children")?

No

Provide the name(s) and organization(s) of additional individuals assisting in the completion of this proposal:

Nick Brown, MN DNR

Do you understand that a named service contract does not constitute a funder-designated subrecipient or approval of a sole-source contract? In other words, a service contract entity is only approved if it has been selected according to the contracting rules identified in state law and policy for organizations that receive ENRTF funds through direct appropriations, or in the DNR's reimbursement manual for non-state organizations. These rules may include competitive bidding and prevailing wage requirements

Yes, I understand

