



# Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2027 Request for Proposal

## General Information

**Proposal ID:** 2027-371

**Proposal Title:** SNA Habitat Enhancement, Public Engagement, and Biodiversity Protection

## Project Manager Information

**Name:** Judy Elbert

**Organization:** MN DNR - Ecological and Water Resources Division

**Office Telephone:** (651) 391-3168

**Email:** judy.elbert@state.mn.us

## Project Basic Information

**Project Summary:** Scientific and Natural Area (SNA) habitat enhancement (~2,400 acres), increased public involvement, and strategic acquisition (~200 acres) will conserve Minnesota's most unique and rare resources for everyone's benefit.

**ENRTF Funds Requested:** \$5,950,000

**Proposed Project Completion:** June 30, 2031

**LCCMR Funding Category:** Land (F)

## Project Location

**What is the best scale for describing where your work will take place?**

Statewide

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

Statewide

**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.**

Minnesota's Scientific & Natural Areas (SNAs) are established to protect and perpetuate natural features possessing exceptional scientific or educational value, in an undisturbed natural condition. SNA designation represents the highest form of ecological protection of public land in the state, and as such, these are the sites that meet the highest standards of quality: ratings by the Minnesota Biological Survey (MBS) of high to outstanding biodiversity significance; key habitat for rare, threatened, and endangered species; and containing Minnesota's flagship geologic features.

Ensuring that this natural heritage is not lost, however, is an ongoing challenge: the SNA Program strives to ensure protection of at least a representative sample of five high-quality occurrences of every native plant community (NPC) in each of the state's ecological subsections, as well as three viable populations of every animal and plant species native to Minnesota. These land-acquisition goals have not yet been attained, and more protection work is necessary. Moreover, we are seeing the continued acceleration of impacts to native ecosystems from development, agricultural conversion, fragmentation, invasive species, and climate change, while visitors arriving in record numbers also present management challenges on the landscape. Under these conditions, natural area protection and stewardship are increasingly urgent and necessary.

### **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.**

Safeguarding Minnesota's natural heritage for future generations requires both the designation of currently unprotected high-priority lands and the attentive stewardship of acres already under SNA protection. The SNA Program must continue to proactively seek out, acquire, and protect the "gaps" in the protected area system of high-quality natural lands. It must simultaneously increase the land management and stewardship capacity of its committed staff, partners, and volunteer base with every new acre protected. This stewardship work revitalizes the native plant communities and habitats protected on SNAs through scientifically-supported management tactics such as prescribed disturbance, invasive species treatment or removal, and other actions to reduce or reverse pressures that lead to environmental degradation (often human-exacerbated). The SNA Program continues to meet these challenges with innovative solutions, effectiveness monitoring, partnering with the broader conservation community and enhancing Minnesotans' awareness, appreciation, and support for protected public natural spaces.

### **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?**

This proposal advances Minnesota's SNAs through three main activity areas: Habitat enhancement and site improvement activities will be implemented on ~2,400 acres of SNA lands experiencing the greatest impacts (from e.g. terrestrial invasive species, lack of natural disturbance regimes, etc.). Outreach and community science efforts will enhance public participation and nature-based recreation through ~65 SNA events, sustaining a network of ~130 SNA volunteer stewards and growing the new NAVigator volunteer initiative. Finally, around 120 acres will be strategically acquired from willing sellers and designated as SNAs to protect at-risk native plant communities and wildlife habitat of state significance.

## Activities and Milestones

### Activity 1: Native Habitat Restoration, Enhancements, and Improvements

**Activity Budget:** \$3,712,944

**Activity Description:**

Restoration, enhancement, and site improvement activities will be completed on about 2,400 acres of high-quality native plant communities (e.g., wetlands, forest, prairie) as guided by ecological data and monitoring. Management plans will be completed/updated for 11 or more SNAs. Around 35 SNAs will be monitored to improve management and track rare species populations, vulnerable native plant communities, and other important protected features. This information will be shared annually with other land managers to promote improved rare species management practices. SNA staff will provide technical guidance and on-site verification for ~7 projects implemented by partners on SNAs. Restoration and improvement activities will be carried out by DNR staff, Conservation Corps of Minnesota and Iowa (CCMI), contractors, and/or volunteers, and will be tracked in the Adaptive Management Spatial Database (AMSD). Activities include seed collection; site preparation, planting, and aftercare; invasive species early detection, control, and removal; site clean-up and reclamation, access improvement, boundary confirmation, signing, interpretive kiosks, and fencing (as needed for management purposes); and prescribed burns (or alternative prescribed disturbance – such as prescribed haying, mowing or grazing - where fire is limited). This may include work to bring acquired parcels up to DNR’s minimum standards for SNA.

**Activity Milestones:**

Description	Approximate Completion Date
~1000 acres of invasive species treatment and/or woody vegetation removal	June 30, 2031
~1,400 acres of prescribed burns or alternative prescribed disturbance	June 30, 2031
~9 SNA interpretive kiosks installed AND development work completed on ~40 SNA sites	June 30, 2031
Adaptive Management Plans completed or revised for 11+ SNAs	June 30, 2031
Monitoring (adaptive management, ecological, and conservation easement) carried out on ~35 SNA sites	June 30, 2031
Ecological and/or technical guidance for ~7 partnership projects	June 30, 2031
Send LCCMR photos showing installed ENRTF acknowledgment signage	June 30, 2031
~5 acres of restoration or interseeding (e.g., post disturbance)	June 30, 2031

### Activity 2: Public Engagement, Outreach and Community Science in Natural Areas

**Activity Budget:** \$861,700

**Activity Description:**

Science-based information and the chance to "get involved" in nature conservation will drive Minnesotans' engagement in volunteer stewardship events, community science, monitoring, and education activities related to SNAs. Sustain a network of ~130 SNA volunteer site stewards and advance the NAVigator (roving volunteer) initiative created through previous ENRTF appropriations. Organize and execute about 65 events across the state focusing on community involvement in monitoring, bio-blitzes, volunteer workdays, and recreation-educational events (guided nature hikes, etc.). These engagement opportunities will be largely in-person but may also be via enhanced virtual platforms. For example, Chronolog will continue as a citizen-science based photo monitoring initiative that shares citizen taken time-lapse photos of various SNAs statewide with the public. New and refined electronic/social media communications tools, interpretive information, and mapping aids may be developed and disseminated to advance the public’s understanding of Minnesota’s wild places and biodiversity science, and to enhance appropriate nature-based recreational use of SNAs. Additionally, Natural Area Registry agreements will be maintained, and additional sites may be established on sites of high biodiversity significance to promote conservation of natural areas owned by others.

**Activity Milestones:**

Description	Approximate Completion Date
~65 volunteer & community science events held (stewardship work days & educational events, including online events)	June 30, 2031
SNA website, social media, maps, and other interpretive information maintained and regularly updated	June 30, 2031
Network of 130+ volunteer SNA site stewards and NAVigators (roving habitat enhancement volunteers)	June 30, 2031
Chronolog photo stations installed and maintained at 5+ SNAs	June 30, 2031

**Activity 3: Strategic Acquisition of Sites with Biodiversity Significance**

**Activity Budget:** \$1,375,356

**Activity Description:**

MN DNR will acquire ~200 acres of minimally disturbed lands of high biodiversity significance as mapped and recommended by the Minnesota Biological Survey (MBS) and designate as state Scientific & Natural Areas to protect and buffer the state's rare features and most important at-risk native plant communities (NPCs) providing the greatest capacity for multiple conservation benefits. Proactive landowner contacts will target SNA Strategic Land Protection Plan (SLPP) priority areas, including those identified in the Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan and State Wildlife Action Plan. Candidate sites must be recommended for SNA designation through an Ecological Evaluation report and rank-evaluated (quantitatively) with priority to sites identified by MBS as NPCs of outstanding or high biodiversity significance, with habitat for rare, endangered, and threatened species as well as Species in Greatest Conservation Need (SCGN). Acquisition will be of fee-title from willing sellers. Any new data from MBS and other scientific sources will be incorporated into periodic updates of the SLPP's gap analysis, along with climate change risk/resilience assessment factors, to refine strategic prioritization of SNA acquisition work.

**Activity Milestones:**

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Acquisition and designation as SNA of ~200 acres of high-quality habitat & native plant communities	June 30, 2031
Proactive contact with 10+ landowners in strategic target areas	June 30, 2031
Submit financial information for LCCMR review at least 10 days before closing	June 30, 2031
Record Notice of Funding Restriction (NOFR)	June 30, 2031
Site development (posting, parking, etc.) of acquired parcels, including signage with ENRTF logo	June 30, 2031
Submit initial land acquisition report upon acquisition	June 30, 2031
Submit transaction cost reporting within 60 days following acquisition	June 30, 2031
Submit annual land acquisition report by Dec. 1 every subsequent year	June 30, 2031
If applicable, site open to the public (SNA designation must be completed 6/30/33).	June 30, 2031

## Dissemination

**Describe your plans for dissemination, presentation, documentation, or sharing of data, results, samples, physical collections, and other products and how they will follow ENRTF Acknowledgement Requirements and Guidelines.**

Information about the work funded by this appropriation and its value to Minnesotans will be disseminated and publicized in a variety of ways: on the SNA webpage on the DNR website (mndnr.gov/snas), through the SNA Facebook page, via the SNA Program e-newsletter "Nature Notes" distributed through GovDelivery.com to subscribers, on the DNR Instagram channel, on the SNA Events Calendar (viewable online and distributed to subscribers via GovDelivery), and potentially through Tweets on the DNR Twitter channel. The DNR website will be updated whenever site development work enhances the public's access to these lands, and occasional announcements of enhancement-related activities will be posted on the SNA/DNR Facebook and other social media channels.

The Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) will be acknowledged through use of the trust fund logo or attribution language on project print and electronic media, publications, signage, and other communications per the ENRTF Acknowledgement Guidelines.

## 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?**

Acquiring lands that harbor plant communities not yet protected is central to the state's long-term strategy for averting biodiversity loss in Minnesota. There are around 193,000 acres in the MN DNR's system of 170 SNAs, which must be managed and protected in perpetuity by the agency, including new lands acquired under this proposal. The support of the people of Minnesota, and key funding (like ENRTF of \$4-6M per annum, among others) are critical to long-term success and sustainability. All restoration, enhancement, and site development results are tracked in DNR databases including the Adaptive Management Spatial Database.

## Other ENRTF Appropriations Awarded in the Last Six Years

Name	Appropriation	Amount Awarded
DNR Scientific and Natural Areas	M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 5, Sec. 2, Subd. 09a	\$3,000,000
SNA Acquisition, Restoration, Citizen-Science and Outreach	M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 6, Sec. 2, Subd. 09j	\$3,336,000
SNA Habitat Restoration and Public Engagement	M.L. 2022, , Chp. 94, Art. , Sec. 2, Subd. 09h	\$5,000,000
SNA Stewardship, Outreach, and Biodiversity Protection	M.L. 2023, , Chp. 60, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 09a	\$1,919,000
Scientific and Natural Area (SNA) Biodiversity Protection	M.L. 2024, , Chp. 83, Art. , Sec. 2, Subd. 09d	\$957,000
Scientific and Natural Area (SNA) Biodiversity Protection	M.L. 2025, First Special Session, Chp. 1, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 09g	\$1,104,000

## Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

**Project Manager Name:** Judy Elbert

**Job Title:** Statewide Scientific and Natural Area Unit Supervisor

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

The Scientific and Natural Areas Program mission is to “preserve and perpetuate the ecological diversity of Minnesota’s natural heritage, including landforms, fossil remains, plant and animal communities, rare and endangered species, or other biotic features and geological formations, for scientific study and public edification as components of a healthy environment”. As the Scientific and Natural Area Unit Supervisor, Judy is responsible for coordinating and administrating efforts designed to protect, manage, monitor, interpret, promote research on, and acquire state lands of high biodiversity significance and sensitive or vulnerable resources.

Judy has been involved with the implementation and management of numerous previous LCCMR & LSOHC projects, all of which were aimed at the protection and management of Minnesota’s most unique and rare remnant native plant communities.

Judy has served as the SNA Unit Supervisor since December of 2022. Other related experiences include:

- Statewide SNA Prairie Biologist (March 2015-Nov 2022)
- Acting SNA Unit Supervisor (May 2018-May 2019), while continuing to cover Prairie Biologist duties.
- Southern Region Prairie Specialist, MN DNR (2011-2015)
- District Technician, Redwood Soil & Water Conservation District (2009-2011)
- CRP & GRP Program Technician, USDA Redwood County Farm Service Agency (2007-2009)

Education: Graduated from South Dakota State University in 2007 with a Bachelor of Science in Park Management & Horticulture.

Judy will provide overall management to this proposed LCCMR project. She has effectively demonstrated her capacity to manage programs and budgets, maintain accurate records, and direct staff. Judy has experience and has demonstrated the ability to collaborate with a wide range of internal and external stakeholders in addressing complicated and contentious natural resource protection and management issues. She is organizationally driven and has the knowledge and background to get the work done on the ground.

**Organization:** MN DNR - Ecological and Water Resources Division

**Organization Description:**

The mission of the Minnesota DNR is to work with citizens to conserve and manage the state’s natural resources, to provide outdoor recreation opportunities, and to provide for the commercial uses of natural resources in a way that creates a sustainable quality of life. To carry out the MN DNR's Division of Ecological and Water Resources' commitment to healthy lands and waters, its Scientific & Natural Areas Program is charged under MS 86A.05 to protect and perpetuate in an undisturbed natural state those natural features that possess exceptional scientific or education value; and under MS 84.96 and 84.961 to acquire Native Prairie Bank easements and work with landowners in conserving native prairie.

## Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
<b>Personnel</b>								
Laborers, Seasonals, & Student Workers		On-the-ground project implementation			20%	2.32	X	\$175,000
Field Specialists & Technicians		On-the-ground project implementation and tracking			25%	26.04	X	\$2,280,000
Coordinators & Consultants		Coordinate acquisition, enhancement, outreach, and budget implementation, contract execution, partner coordination, strategic plan update / climate risk assessment.			25%	2.76	X	\$320,000
Habitat Crew Leaders/Supervisors		Day-to-day field operations planning, organization, implementation and supervision.			25%	2.56	X	\$320,000
							<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$3,095,000</b>
<b>Contracts and Services</b>								
TBD & Conservation Corps of MN & IA (CCMI)	Service Contract	Enhancement of forest, prairie, & outcrop sites; invasives removal & treatment; prescribed disturbance; site development; adaptive management planning & monitoring; contracted volunteer events; outreach materials production; CCMI field crews.				8.8		\$775,000
State of Minnesota	Acquisition services	Professional Services for Acquisition: DNR Lands and Minerals (and if necessary, Attorney General's Office) costs associated with completing an acquisition.				0.48		\$120,000
State of Minnesota	Internal services or fees (uncommon)	MNIT contract to create a new Adaptive Management Spatial Database (AMSD) that will significantly improve SNAs ability to track field activities/outcomes spatially.				1.04		\$130,000
Chronolog	Service Contract	A citizen-science based photo monitoring initiative that will share time-lapse photos taken on various SNAs statewide with the public. Cost includes photo station, photo processing, mapping, and public sharing.				0.12		\$10,000
							<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$1,035,000</b>

Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
	Tools and Supplies	Materials & Supplies	Activity 1: Parts, tools, repair costs, and supplies for restoration, invasives treatment, prescribed burning, etc. (this is largely for SNA tools, such as chain saws, pump cans, drip torches, fire racks, pulaskis, other handtools, backpack sprayers, portable pumps & hose, personal protective equipment, etc, & supplies such as herbicides, spreading oils, flagging, stakes, etc.); signs (entry, boundary, interpretive & rules signs), posts/hardware, fencing, gravel, & other site development tools & supplies.					\$81,000
	Tools and Supplies	Materials & Supplies	Activity 2: Supplies for citizen science, volunteer events & site steward work (including safety items, hand tools, training materials, temporary signs, stamps, envelopes, etc.).					\$15,000
	Equipment	Non-Capital Equipment	Activity 1: Larger, non-capital equipment for invasive and prescribed fire implementation (UTV water pumps, walk behind brush mowers, etc.)					\$15,000
	Equipment	Virtual Fence Collar Subscription	Activity 1: Virtual Fencing is a new tool being used to implement prescribed grazing without the labor-intensive effort of installing temporary or permanent fence. When the collars are in active use, they require a subscription service in order to manage the grazing locations and track the cows to make sure objectives are being met.	X				\$4,000
							<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$115,000</b>
<b>Capital Equipment</b>								

							<b>Sub Total</b>	-
<b>Acquisitions and Stewardship</b>								
	Fee Title Acquisition	Acres: 200 Parcels: 5						\$1,000,000
							<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$1,000,000</b>
<b>Travel In Minnesota</b>								
	Miles/ Meals/ Lodging	DNR fleet charges (for operation of trucks, cars, & special fieldwork equipment) & in-state travel costs (as per state contracts)	Travel expenses needed to complete direct project work					\$321,306
							<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$321,306</b>
<b>Travel Outside Minnesota</b>								
							<b>Sub Total</b>	-
<b>Printing and Publication</b>								
	Printing	Printing of interpretive signs, brochures, maps, pocket cards; materials for educational, community science, & volunteer events; State Register publication (required to designate acquired parcels)	To achieve improved public awareness and management efficiency of SNAs, enhance outreach & community science experiences, and transparently disclose additions of new SNA parcels.					\$15,000
							<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>
<b>Other Expenses</b>								
		DNR's Direct and Necessary Costs	Pay for activities that are directly related to and necessary for accomplishing appropriated projects. Direct and necessary costs cover HR (~\$81,695), Safety (~\$10,713), Financial (~\$51,177), Communication (~\$2,086), IT (~\$221,480), and Planning Support (~\$1,543).					\$368,694
							<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$368,694</b>

							<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$5,950,000</b>
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## Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
<b>Personnel</b> - Laborers, Seasonals, & Student Workers		On-the-ground project implementation	<b>Classified</b> : Consistent with approved work plans for previous ENRTF appropriations for the SNA program, this funding will be used to pay project-associated costs for classified and unclassified staff paid almost exclusively with special project funds. These positions would not exist, but for special project funding received through the ENRTF and other funds. Each year these positions are assigned work based on the particular combination of soft funding available to address priority SNA Program activities.
<b>Personnel</b> - Field Specialists & Technicians		On-the-ground project implementation and tracking	<b>Classified</b> : Consistent with approved work plans for previous ENRTF appropriations for the SNA program, this funding will be used to pay project-associated costs for classified and unclassified staff paid almost exclusively with special project funds. These positions would not exist, but for special project funding received through the ENRTF and other funds. Each year these positions are assigned work based on the particular combination of soft funding available to address priority SNA Program activities.
<b>Personnel</b> - Coordinators & Consultants		Coordinate acquisition, enhancement, outreach, and budget implementation, contract execution, partner coordination, strategic plan update / climate risk assessment.	<b>Classified</b> : Consistent with approved work plans for previous ENRTF appropriations for the SNA program, this funding will be used to pay project-associated costs for classified and unclassified staff paid almost exclusively with special project funds. These positions would not exist, but for special project funding received through the ENRTF and other funds. Each year these positions are assigned work based on the particular combination of soft funding available to address priority SNA Program activities.
<b>Personnel</b> - Habitat Crew Leaders/Supervisors		Day-to-day field operations planning, organization, implementation and supervision.	<b>Classified</b> : Consistent with approved work plans for previous ENRTF appropriations for the SNA program, this funding will be used to pay project-associated costs for classified and unclassified staff paid almost exclusively with special project funds. These positions would not exist, but for special project funding received through the ENRTF and other funds. Each year these positions are assigned work based on the particular combination of soft funding available to address priority SNA Program activities.
<b>Equipment, Tools, and Supplies</b>		Virtual Fence Collar Subscription	Virtual fencing collars require a subscription service that would only be paid for the months needed to graze for the specific prescribed grazing effort associated to this proposal (~\$2/month per collar).

Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	Amount
State				
			State Sub Total	-
Non-State				
			Non State Sub Total	-
			Funds Total	-

**Total Project Cost: \$5,950,000**

**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
Clear Lake SNA (addition)	Sherburne	Dry oak river terrace forest	Fee Title	5	-	\$100,000	Private	DNR-SNA	Has Not Begun
Elk River Sportsmen's Club	Sherburne	Savanna habitat adjacent to other conservation lands	Fee Title	100	-	\$500,000	Private	DNR-SNA	Has Not Begun
Felton Prairie (additions)	Clay	Dry prairie adjacent to large prairie holdings	Fee Title	200	-	\$800,000	Private	DNR-SNA	Has Not Begun
Hastings Sand Coulee (addition)	Dakota	Dry prairie with wooded buffer	Fee Title	20	-	\$100,000	Private	DNR-SNA	Has Not Begun
Little Mantrap SNA addition	Becker	Mosaic of forest, wetland, and ponds	Fee Title	40	-	\$160,000	Public	DNR-SNA	Has Not Begun
North Fork Zumbro Woods SNA addition	Goodhue	Contains incredibly high-quality habitat and is one of the few remaining populations of the state- and federally-endangered Dwarf trout lily. This property would join two disjunct SNA parcels together and extend protections to the largest portion of the Dwarf Trout Lily population that is present on-site.	Fee Title	35	-	\$165,000	Private	DNR-SNA	Negotiations In Progress
Rosedale Fen	Mahnomen	Calcareous fen, wetland, forest	Fee Title	160	-	\$400,000	Private	DNR-SNA	Has Not Begun
TBD-Existing SNA	Statewide	Restoration or Interseeding at existing SNA to restore/improve areas that need more native species diversity.	Restoration	5	-	\$20,000	Public	DNR-SNA	Has Not Begun
<b>Totals</b>				<b>565</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$2,245,000</b>			

## Fee Acquisition

### **1. Describe the selection process for identifying and including proposed parcels on the parcel list, including an explanation of the criteria and decision-making process used to rank and prioritize parcels.**

To be acquired and designated as SNA, the site must be recommended for SNA designation in an Ecological Evaluation report, which serves as the site's baseline assessment for fee acquisitions. All such sites are predominantly MBS-mapped native plant communities and contain habitat for rare species and Species of Greatest Conservation Need. In addition, SNA staff use the "SNA Candidate Site Evaluation Guide" (initially developed through the ENRTF-funded SNA strategic planning process) which incorporates criteria to rank which sites are currently pursued. Criteria include diversity and quality of the native habitat, occurrence of rare species, occurrence of native plant communities under-represented in SNA system, parcel size, proximity to biodiversity hotspots (particularly MBS-mapped areas of outstanding and high biodiversity significance) and other conservation lands (including SNA Strategic Land Protection Plan's Conservation Opportunity Areas and Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan's Core Areas), potential for long-term management, and additional factors (e.g. landowner readiness, urgency, and/or willingness to donate; degree of vulnerability to imminent degradation; and partnership opportunities).

### **2. List all adopted state, regional, or local natural resource plans in which the lands included in the parcel list are identified for the acquisition purposes you propose. Include the URL to the plan if one is available.**

- SNA Strategic Land Protection Plan – <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/snap/plan.html>
- Minnesota's State Wildlife Action Plan – <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/mnwap/index.html>
- Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan – [www.dnr.state.mn.us/prairieplan](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/prairieplan)

### **3. For any parcels acquired in fee title, a restoration and management plan must be prepared. Summarize the components and expected outcomes of restoration and management plans for parcels acquired by your organization, how these plans are kept on file by your organization, and overall strategies for long-term plan implementation, including how long-term maintenance and management needs of the parcel will be financed into the future.**

Each parcel acquired as a new SNA in fee will have an Adaptive Management Plan (AMP) or, if acquired as an addition to an existing SNA, that SNA's Management Plan would be amended to add the new parcel. The AMPs include goals, ecological description, priority features with indicators, and management recommendations. The intended outcome of management of SNAs is that 1) all the lands be native plant communities or restored to plant communities that would have been native to the site, 2) these plant communities are sustained over time, and 3) visitors are accommodated safely (unless visitor access is restricted by designation order). The goals for an SNA's management are based upon soils, topography, geology, and other factors necessary to sustain the plant community. Each plan includes an implementation timetable that summarizes ongoing management needs and a statement on funding. Long-term management costs (e.g. invasive species treatments, prescribed fire, and monitoring/evaluation) will be covered by a combination funding sources, including but not limited to ENRTF, Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF), federal grants, and other funds as appropriated. Each AMP is kept in a DNR internal shared electronic filing system accessible to all SNA staff.

### **4. For each parcel to be conveyed to a State of Minnesota entity (e.g., DNR) after purchase, provide a statement confirming that county board approval will be obtained.**

The DNR follows Minnesota Statute 84.033, which requires that any land acquired for designation as SNA must have county board approval as prescribed under MS 97A.145.

### **5. If applicable (see M.S. 116P.17), provide a statement confirming that written approval from the DNR Commissioner will be obtained 10 business days prior to any final acquisition transaction.**

As part of the DNR acquisition process, all SNA acquisitions are required to have approval of the Ecological and Water Resources Division Director and land conveyances are accepted by the Director or Assistant Director of the Division of Lands and Minerals, all of whom have delegated authority to approve this for the Commissioner.

## 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/enhancement-related activities done with this appropriation are on lands designated (or acquired and soon to be designated) as SNA.

**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.**

Each restoration/enhancement project will be based upon an ecological restoration and management plan and/or project plan with goals for reconstructing plant communities that are native to the site based upon soils, topography, geology, and other factors necessary to sustain the plant community. Each plan includes an implementation timetable, which summarizes ongoing management needs. All restoration and management plans and project plans are kept in a DNR internal shared electronic filing system accessible to all SNA staff.

**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.**

The SNA Program follows or exceeds the recommendations found in the BWSR “Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines”. SNA restorations typically follow the current BWSR Guidelines, including Project Guidance, Plant Community Restoration, Temporary Cover and Forest/Woodlands. The SNA Program follows the general direction of the BWSR Guidelines for “Recommended Steps for Obtaining Plant Materials,” and has additional and more restrictive requirements for restoration material sources. Specifically, SNA restorations use seeds of a local ecotype, collected from onsite or from within the narrowest distance threshold possible in the range defined by DNR/EWR policy and as scientifically recommended for the preservation of native seed genetic diversity. Restoration and management of DNR lands are governed by DNR Operational Order #124 on “Plant Material Standards for Native Plant Community Restoration” and #130 on “Pollinator Habitat” (which include BMPs).

**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 management costs (e.g. invasive species treatments, prescribed fire/disturbance, and monitoring/evaluation) will be covered by a combination of funding sources, including but not limited to ENRTF, Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF), federal grants, and other funds as appropriated.

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

DNR has a standing general contract with CCMI under which the SNA Program often executes project- or activity-specific agreements. For restoration and site improvement projects, CCMI has been and will continue to be used when appropriate for seed hand-harvest, invasive species treatment, prescribed burning, and will be considered on restoration projects for post-planting weed control.

**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.**

Plant community reconstruction and rehabilitation projects will be evaluated and a report submitted to the LCCMR assessing how well the native plants have been established and non-natives controlled. Each evaluation report will include a summary of management plan outcomes, activities completed through the project, map of the project area, statement of ongoing management needs and funding, and summary of the evaluation.

## Attachments

### Required Attachments

#### *Map*

File: [2f4c4896-cef.pdf](#)

#### *Alternate Text for Map*

Minnesota's SNAs protect and perpetuate in an undisturbed natural condition the state's natural heritage features of exceptional scientific or educational value. This map depicts parcel locations included on the proposal's parcel list for protection through fee-title acquisition (star markers), and already-designated SNAs where restoration and enhancement activities will take place....

## Administrative Use

**Does your project include restoration or acquisition of land rights?**

Yes: Restoration, Fee Acquisition,

**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?**

Yes, I understand the Commissioner's Plan applies.

**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?**

No

**Is the purpose of the acquisition for construction of a building(s), trail, campground, or other fixed capital asset costing \$10,000 or more or large-scale stream or wetland restoration, either now or in the future?**

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

Yes

**Do you certify that background checks are performed for background check crimes, as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 299C.61, Subd. 2, on all employees, contractors, and volunteers who have or may have access to a child to whom children's services are provided by your organization?**

Yes

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

DNR Division of Ecological and Water Resources

**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