

CPL Applications

(Total to date: 129)

Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Application

CPL1000058

Spreadsheet

Name and Contact

Project Identifier:	CPL1000058	Street Address 1:	236 15th Ave SW
Project Name:	Agassiz Lowlands Environmental Learning Area Restoration	Street Address 2:	PO Box 310
Organization Name:	Lake of the Woods School, IDS 390	City:	Baudette
Organization Website:	lakeofthewoodsschool.org	State:	MN
Organization Contact Person:	Jenny Moorman	Zip Code:	56623
Contact Email:	jmoorman@blw.k12.mn.us		
Contact Phone:	218 634 2510		

Location

Primary County:	Lake of the Woods
Nearest City:	Baudette
Township:	Spooner
Project Site Name:	Agassiz Lowlands Environmental Learning Area
Project Site Land Ownership:	Other
Other Land Ownership:	School District

Project Information

Primary Activity:	Restoration
Primary Habitat Type:	Wetland
Total Project Acres:	120
Total Project Sites:	1
Total Grant Amount Requested:	\$131000
Total Match Amount:	\$14556
Total Project Cost:	\$145556
Project Completion Date:	06/2012 (MM/YYYY)

Project Summary and Outcomes: The Lake of the Woods School owns a 120-acre tract of land adjacent to the school. This tract of land was recently accepted into the state's DNR School Forest Program as the Agassiz Lowlands Environmental Learning Area. The School Forest Committee has been actively planning to restore and enhance two degraded wetlands within the 120 acre tract to promote suitable habitat for rare species such as Wilson's phalarope, the short-eared owl, sharp-tailed grouse and the elusive yellow rail. The restoration and enhancement of the 120-acre tract will provide critical habitat which will benefit some of northern forested region's endangered avian species.

Attachments

- [Project Site Information Form](#)
- [Project Budget and Match Description](#)
- [Partner Commitment Letter](#)
- Financial Documentation
- Conservation Easement
- [Supplementary Attachment #1](#)
- [Supplementary Attachment #2](#)

[Back](#)

Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program

Project Site Information

Contact information

Project name: Agassiz Lowlands Environmental Learning Area Wetland Habitat Restoration

Organization: Lake of the Woods School, ISD #390, School Forest Committee

Organization contact person (Project Manager): Jenny Moorman

Project information

Project site: Agassiz Lowlands Environmental Learning Area School Forest

Project site land manager or easement holder: Legal : T160N R31W S4 QNW
Reed McFarlane, Lake of the Woods School, ISD #390

Private land owner (if applicable): County: Lake of the Woods

Activity (may choose more than one): Enhancement Restoration Acquisition

Predominant Habitat (choose one): Forest Prairie Wetland Fish, Game and Wildlife Habitat

Activity quantity: 120 Acres Miles Feet Structures Wetlands

Project Site #2, if needed.

Project site:

Project site land manager or easement holder: Legal : T R S Q

Private land owner (if applicable): County:

Activity (may choose more than one): Enhancement Restoration Acquisition

Predominant Habitat (choose one): Forest Prairie Wetland Fish, Game and Wildlife Habitat

Activity quantity: Acres Miles Feet Structures Wetlands

Project Site #3, if needed. Use Additional Project Sites form if needed.

Project site:

Project site land manager or easement holder: Legal : T R S Q

Private land owner (if applicable): County:

Activity (may choose more than one): Enhancement Restoration Acquisition

Predominant Habitat (choose one): Forest Prairie Wetland Fish, Game and Wildlife Habitat

Activity quantity: Acres Miles Feet Structures Wetlands

Project timeline:

Time frame	Goal	Time frame	Goal
2010 Winter	Topographic survey results reviewed	2012 Spring/Summer	Interpretive signage placed
2010 Spring	Excavation, soil replenishment for wetland restoration, site survey for contouring	2012 Spring/Summer	Hold final public meeting
2010 Spring	Flag firebreak for brushing and hold initial public meeting		
2010 Summer	Debris piles marked and removed		
2010 Summer	Firebreak established		
2011 Spring	Seeding and plug installation of native wetland species		
2011, 2012 Spring	Prescribed burns for woody vegetation removal and management		
2011, 2012 Summer	Weed monitoring and management in newly planted areas		
2012 Spring/Summer	Observation blinds erected		

Project description and benefits (box will expand as typed into, not to be longer than 2 pages):

The Lake of the Woods School owns a 120-acre tract of land adjacent to the building site. This tract of land was recently accepted into the state's DNR School Forest Program as the Agassiz Lowlands Environmental Learning Area. The Lake of the Woods School Forest Committee has been actively planning to restore and enhance two degraded wetlands to promote suitable habitat for rare species such as Wilson's phalarope, the short-eared owl, sharp-tailed grouse and the elusive yellow rail.

The Lake of the Woods School Forest Committee members are working with the local Soil and Water Conservation District personnel and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff to develop a comprehensive restoration and management plan for Agassiz Lowlands Environmental Learning Area (ALELA). Actions for restoration and enhancement will be implemented under the technical guidance of these two agencies.

Restoration of the northern portion will entail grading to restore hydrology, replacing topsoil, seeding with native vegetation and creating a suitable habitat for the yellow rail and Wilson's phalarope. This habitat will include a seasonally flooded wetland adjacent to a sedge meadow. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff will provide topographic survey results from a recent survey of the site. Final site plans and restoration specifications will be completed by early 2010. Due to the highly degraded area on the north end, a successful wetland restoration will take several years to establish. The seeding will take place in 2011, but many of the plant species will take two to three years to begin to establish.

Enhancement of the southern portion, once a farmed wetland, will create suitable habitat for sharp-tailed grouse. Prescribed burning and the development of firebreaks will be used to remove woody vegetation which has encroached on the wet meadow. Habitat enhancements to the southern portion of the site will see more immediate benefits. Removal of woody vegetation will provide suitable sharp-tailed grouse habitat, and the fringe species will be able to utilize the sedge meadow and edges created.

The restoration and enhancement of the 120-acre tract will provide critical habitat which will benefit some of northern forested region's endangered avian species.

- **North restoration**

Upon receiving notification of grant funding, the school will let out bids for contracted excavation work. SWCD staff will oversee excavation and construction for the wetland restoration during the summer of 2010, and site surveys will be completed to verify proper contouring. Installation of culverts for hydrological control points will be completed during the construction phase.

Seeding will be completed during the spring of 2011. USFWS staff will assist with the contract process for seeding. First year-establishment weed management will be conducted by SWCD staff in the spring and summer of 2012. Wetland monitoring plots will be established during the spring, and the sites will be monitored for aggressive weed establishment, such as Canada thistle or reed canary grass.

- **South enhancement**

The Lake of the Woods Soil and Water Conservation District staff and school personnel will flag a firebreak for brushing during the summer of 2010. At this time, all debris piles slated for removal and disposal will be marked. Contracts for debris disposal will be let out for bids.

The firebreak will be established during the fall of 2010. Two consecutive prescribed burns will be conducted during the spring of 2011 and 2012, when weather conditions allow. USFWS staff will provide the technical oversight for the burns. The Minnesota Conservation Corps will be hired to assist with conducting the burn.

As part of the public promotion for this restoration and enhancement project, an educational component, such as wildlife observation blinds and interpretive signage have been added to this project. The school personnel will work with USFWS staff to develop and install signs. Also, two public meetings will be held throughout the project time period to inform and educate local stakeholders.

Please provide the answers to the following questions. Boxes will expand as typed into.

1. For lands acquired in fee title that will be turned over to a public agency for long-term management:

- a. Provide a description of the work necessary to bring the land up to agency standards and an estimate of the associated cost.

N/A

- b. What short- and long-term work is required to manage the land you acquire?

N/A

2. For enhancement/ restoration projects on public lands:

- a. Who is/will be the long-term manager for the project site?

The School Forest Committee will serve as the long term manager for this site. The committee consists of school staff and administrators, SWCD staff, and local DNR Forestry staff.

- b. What short- and long-term maintenance work is required to sustain the habitat work you will do?

School maintenance staff will periodically mow the firebreak on the south wetland enhancement. Prescribed burns will be applied as needed to suppress the growth of woody vegetation. If assistance is needed to conduct the burns, the local volunteer fire departments and DNR staff will be asked to incorporate this site into their spring training regimen.

The wetland restoration will be self-maintaining once it establishes successfully. Monitoring for noxious weeds will be conducted by the high school science classes. The school maintenance staff will work with the County Weed Inspector to treat problematic areas as necessary.

The School Forest Committee members and other volunteer organizations have committed to long-term maintenance of this project.

- c. Who will complete this maintenance work, and how will it be funded?

See commentary in letter b (above).

The School Forest Committee directs the Board of Education to facilitate any necessary maintenance work by the District. Maintenance funding will be provided from timber

sales on the three School Forest sites owned by the Lake of the Woods School District. Funds from the grant will be used to purchase a pull behind flail mower for the maintenance of firebreaks and woody stem suppression (as needed).

Additionally, local volunteers and students will partake in maintenance efforts.

d. Will the CPL funds supplant any existing funds?

No, this funding will provide the impetus for the project.

As required by 2009 MN Session Law, Chapter 172 subd. 10 (8), "any agency or entity receiving an appropriation must, for any project funded in whole or in part with funds from the appropriation, give consideration to and **make timely written contact with the Minnesota Conservation Corps** for consideration of possible use of their services to contract for restoration and enhancement services". Contact MCC at cplg@conservationcorps.org, or email a copy of this form to the same address. For more information on costs, crew capabilities, etc., visit MCC's website at <http://www.conservationcorps.org/useacrew.html>.

Signature:

I certify that I have read the Conservation Partners Legacy Grants Program **Request for Proposal, Program Manual** and other program documents, and have discussed this project with the appropriate public land manager, or private landowner and easement holder. I am authorized to apply for and manage these grant and match funds, and the project work by the organization or agency listed below. I have made timely written notification to MCC regarding my restoration or enhancement project.

Signature: Jenny Moorman <i>Jenny Moorman</i>	Organization/ Agency: Lake of the Woods School
Title: School Forest Coordinator	Date: 11/02/09

Please save this document to your computer or electronic storage device and attach this document as specified on the online submittal form when ready to apply. Contact CPL Grant Staff with any questions.

Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Project Budget and Match Worksheet, Application Requirement

Project name:	Agassiz Lowlands Environmental Learning Area Wetland Restoration
Organization:	Lake of the Woods School, ISD #390, School Forest Committee
Organization contact person (Project Manager):	Jenny Moorman

Please complete all sections and be as detailed as possible for all descriptions under the Details sections. Limit entries in large tables to numbers only, **round to the nearest dollar**. Do not edit table categories, only enter values or text into the table. The tables will adjust to accommodate additional text in each box. If all categories are not needed, please leave those fields blank.

BUDGET: amounts being requested **Note: FY refers to State Fiscal Year: July 1- June 30, with the year reflecting the year that June falls in. For example: if today were September 3rd, 2009 it would be FY2010; December 3rd 2010= FY2011; May 2012= FY2012

Budget Item	Fiscal Year 2010	Fiscal Year 2011	Fiscal Year 2012	Total
Personnel	\$1,100.00	\$2,200.00	\$1,100.00	\$4,400.00
Contracts	\$15,000.00	\$31,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$53,000.00
Grant Administration	\$1,100.00	\$2,200.00	\$1,100.00	\$4,400.00
Administration/ Environmental Compliance	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00		\$3,000.00
Fee Acquisition				
Easement Acquisition				
Easement Stewardship				
Equipment/Tools/Supplies		\$55,000.00		\$55,000.00
Travel				
Additional Budget items			\$11,500.00	\$11,500.00
Total	\$18,700.00	\$91,900.00	\$20,700.00	\$131,300.00

DETAILS: detail the amounts listed in the above table.

Personnel Details:

Name	Title	Amount
Jenny Moorman	School Forest Coordinator	\$4,400.00

Contract Details:

Contractor Name	Contracted Work	Amount
To be determined	Excavation, spread topsoil, contouring of wetland restoration; Garbage/debris cleanup and removal offsite.	\$35,000.00
To be determined, MCC crew	Weed management activities, prescribed	\$6,000.00

	burning.	
To be determined	Brush shearing and woody stem removal.	\$1,500.00
Soil and Water Conservation District	Overall project oversight, including surveying assistance, vegetative monitoring, on-the-ground assistance for shearing and GPS work, environmental education and promotion component, maps and GIS capabilities.	\$10,500.00

Grant Administration:

Administrative Activity	Description/ Amount	Amount
Coordinating contractor bids	Initiating contacts with contractors, tracking insurance requirements, ensuring compliance with school policy	\$1,100.00
Submitting invoices for budget items	Executing contracts, submitting invoices, tracking all expenses of the grant over the 2 year period	\$2,200.00
Grant tracking and coordination	Giving presentations to School Forest Committee and School Board.	\$200.00
Final report	Presenting final report to School Forest Committee and School Board. Send report as approved to DNR staff.	\$900.00

Administration/ Environmental Compliance

Activity	Description	Amount
Technical Evaluation Panel Meetings	Preparation of necessary maps, soils information, and background paperwork to ensure environmental compliance. Present project components for wetland restoration at series of meetings. Work with agencies to ensure compliance with rules and regulations. Brief school officials at regularly scheduled meetings.	\$2,000.00
Project followup	Provide followup information to regulatory agencies as part of wetland restoration monitoring.	\$1,000.00

Fee Acquisition/ Easement Acquisition/ Easement Stewardship Details:

N/A

Equipment/Tools/Supplies Details:

Item	Use	Amount
Culverts	Installation of culverts for water level control and site access for maintenance purposes.	\$2,000.00

Erosion control, mulch	Stabilizing berms and preventing erosion on highly erodible locations as established in project plan. Aid in seeding establishment.	\$5,000.00
Topsoil (delivered)	Will be used to reestablish topsoil as part of the restoration process of the highly degraded wetland. The 10 acre area is currently void of any topsoil, and is incapable of growing suitable vegetation. Actual quantity needed may be much less, depending on final restoration plan.	\$40,000.00
Flail mower	Will be used for long term maintenance of firebreaks and suppression of woody vegetation. May be used for some weed management if necessary.	\$8,000.00

Travel Details:

Miles	Purpose	Amount
N/A	N/A	\$0.00

Additional Budget Items Details:

<p>Interpretive signs (\$10,000) - will be installed at two separate locations and will describe the projects taking place.</p> <p>Observation blinds (\$1,500) - three observation blinds will be installed to monitor avian activity on the project sites. These blinds will provide a valuable educational component by providing access to viewing wildlife in a controlled environment.</p> <p>Administration/Environmental Compliance fees may be significantly less, depending on requirements. These fees may be waived as part of SWCD in-kind contribution.</p>
--

MATCH: Required 10% of total project funds, to be fulfilled by end of Fiscal Year 2012. Use provided rate sheet to determine unit rate and total value of in-kind services to be used as matching funds if applicable.

Source	Description	Units	Unit Rate	Total Value
Lake of the Woods School	School Forest program funding.			\$14,556.00
*School Forest Committee	Committee meets monthly and provides oversight for any and all activities conducted in the School Forest. This committee will report project activities directly to the School Board. The committee members will also volunteer time to work on individual projects within the School Forest.	162	15	(\$2,430.00)

*School Grounds Management	Assistance with bids, coordinating contractors and providing project oversight.	100	30	(\$3,000.00)
*County Public Works Dept.	Mowing firebreaks.	12	152	(\$1,824.00)
*County Land and Water Planning	Assistance with weed identification, providing GIS services and project planning and assistance.	40	13	(\$520.00)
*Master Gardeners	Assistance with plant selection, planting and coordinating student volunteers	40	13	(\$520.00)
*US Fish and Wildlife Service	Assistance with wetland restoration (project planning, meeting with school officials). Contribution of seasonal project funds for purchase of native seed and materials needed for the wetland restoration.			(\$3,000.00)
*Student Volunteers	Students will assist with seeding of wetland restoration. Students will also assist with establishing plots to monitor wetland plant species and avian species in the restorations.	100	13	(\$1,300.00)

Matching description/ comments: if needed

The Lake of the Woods School is committed to providing the 10 % match necessary for this project, and cash funds are available for this purpose.
All match funds marked with an * are partners and in-kind matches that have indicated their support. It is the intent of the applicant to utilize these partners to provide almost all of the 10% match, therefore, making it unnecessary to use any cash reserves.
Pending funds from the USFWS will be set aside for the project after January 2010.



LAKE OF THE WOODS
School

**CONSERVATION PARTNERS LEGACY GRANT PROGRAM
PARTNER COMMITMENT LETTER**

What is the name of the project that you are contributing to, and who is the applicant?

The name of the project is the Agassiz Lowlands Environmental Learning Area School Forest Wetlands Restoration Project. The applicant is LOTW School K-12, ISD 390, School Forest Committee.

What is the name of your organization (private landowners use "Private Landowner")?

The name of the organization is the Lake of the Woods School.

When will you make the contribution?

The contribution can be made on demand of project needs. The Lake of the Woods School Board has designated funds committed to their school forest program and maintains an undesignated/unreserved fund balance that far exceeds the 10% match requirement.

What is the value of your contribution and how did you determine the value?

Does the contribution have a non-state origin?

The value of the contribution is \$15,000 and is determined by a Lake of the Woods School Board Designated Fund for the school forest program. This contribution has a non-state origin.

If this is based on a fund-raising event or other future action, if that future action fails, will you still provide the contribution amount?

At this point of the project's development, there has been no need to discuss fund-raising or other future action to raise cash to provide the Lake of the Woods School's contribution to the project.

Signature:

Printed Name, Title, and Affiliation:

Steven R. Wymore, Superintendent, Lake of the Woods School

Date Signed: *November 1, 2009*

WWW.LAKEOFTHEWOODSSCHOOL.ORG



LAKE OF THE WOODS COUNTY

Lake of the Woods County Commissioner
206 8th Ave SE, Suite 260
Baudette, MN 56623

October 13, 2009

School Forest Committee
Baudette, MN 56623

To whom it may concern,

The Lake of the Woods County Board of Commissioners would like to express its support for the Agassiz Lowlands Environmental Learning Area (ALELA) and the School Forest Program at Lake of the Woods K-12 School.

One major component of ALELA is the restoration and enhancement of a wetland complex. This is significant for our area because Lake of the Woods County is approximately 13% upland, and the rest, over 700,000 acres, is designated as wetland. Wetlands are one of our biggest hurdles in terms of land management and development, yet they are the backbone of some of our greatest assets, our fishing and hunting tourism. This restoration project will provide a platform to educate visitors on both the challenges and benefits of wetlands.

The ALELA and School Forest Program will also offer a chance for students at the Lake of the Woods K-12 School to participate in experiential learning opportunities by creating an onsite outdoor learning area. This will benefit the community by helping to build a positive relationship with the land at a young age. The trail series and natural history displays to be developed will showcase the resources of the region. It will also utilize the resources of the area to teach users, both young and old, about the importance of the protecting and preserving the environment.

ALELA will also benefit the community by providing outdoor recreational facilities. The self-guided nature trails will be a draw to visitors of the area. As they explore the ALELA, they will learn about history, ecology and the environment.

The County Board extends its support to the ALELA and the School Forest Program to help ensure its continued success.

On behalf of Lake of the Woods County Commissioners,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patty Beckel".

Patty Beckel
Chair