

Conservation Partners Legacy Grants - Online Applications

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Project Summary

Project Name and Contact

Project Name:	Hastings Sand Coulee Restoration	Project Manager:	Karen Schik
Organization Name:	Friends of the Mississippi River (FMR)	Title:	Restoration Ecologist & Project Manager
Organization Type:	Non-Profit	Phone:	651-222-2193
Mailing Address 1:	360 North Robert Street, Suite 400	Email:	kschik@fmr.org
Mailing Address 2:			
City:	Saint Paul		
State:	MN		
Zip Code:	55101		

Project Location Summary

Primary County:	Dakota	Secondary Land Ownerships:	Local
Nearest City:	Hastings		
Project Site Name:	Hastings Sand Coulee		
Primary Land Ownership:	State		

Project Activity Summary

Primary Activity:	Restoration	Primary Habitat Type:	Prairie
Additional Activities:	Enhancement	Additional Habitats:	Fish, Game or Wildlife Habitat
Total Project Sites:	2		
Total Project Acres:	182		

Project Funding Summary

Total Grant Amount Requested:	\$94,374
Total Match Amount Pledged:	\$13,218
Additional Funding:	\$21,455
Total Project Cost:	\$129,047
Estimated Project Completion Date:	2014-06-30

: Addition funding/in-kind support from FMR will be used for project management, volunteer events, etc. Additional funding/in-kind support from the DNR (not being used for match) will be to write a management plan and purchase project supplies.

Summary

FMR will conduct restoration and enhancement activities at an important natural area that includes the Hastings Sand Coulee SNA (160 ac) and a city-owned property (25 ac). The coulee contains natural communities of outstanding biodiversity significance, with 14 rare plant and animal species. Ecological restoration has already taken place at this site. This project expands the prairie restoration to new areas, and addresses non-native invasive species control at the native prairie remnants. Natural resource management plans have been completed for most of the coulee and one will be developed for the remaining areas prior to implementing the proposed treatments. A primary activity will be to convert 42 acres of non-native dominated grassland to native prairie,

removing 20 acres of woody plants for biofuels. After locally harvested seed is broadcast, 3 years of follow-up tasks continue-mowing, spot-herbicide, burning. Other areas of the coulee will be managed for exotic invasive plants.

Problem Statement

Due to multiple factors including land use changes, habitat fragmentation, non-native species invasions, altered hydrological regimes and fire suppression, remnant prairie habitat has become exceedingly rare, as have many of the plants and animals that depend on it. Populations of numerous prairie bird species have declined significantly throughout their range primarily due to habitat loss. Lacking the natural processes that formed and maintained them historically, prairies will continue to degrade unless actions are taken to sustain them. The Hastings Sand Coulee SNA, established because it contains diverse natural communities with rare species, is in need of such action. The Sand Coulee (a multi-ownership area covering over 200 acres designated as outstanding biodiversity significance by the DNR) contains the largest native prairie remnant in Dakota County. The dry sand-gravel prairie is home to 14 rare plant and animal species. Fire suppression and invasive species, however, have altered the composition of the prairie and associated oak forest, while agriculture altered adjacent lands. Spotted knapweed, cow vetch, crown vetch, and leafy spurge are becoming established within existing prairie areas. Common buckthorn and Tartarian honeysuckle have become established in associated oak forests of the coulee, while red cedar and native deciduous trees have encroached on the prairie. In partnership with the DNR and the City of Hastings, FMR has done extensive site evaluation and natural resource management planning for most of the coulee. We have conducted management and restoration activities over the past 9 years to address the concerns mentioned above-including 10 acres of tree removal, reconstruction of 12 acres of prairie, invasive species control, and longterm monitoring and adaptive management. The proposed project would maintain on-going invasive species control and expand the prairie with a 38-acre reconstruction, including 10 ac of pine tree removal.

Project Objectives

1. Develop natural resource management plan for portion of the site. Most of the coulee area has completed management plans, but the 80 acres to the north of the city property does not. The DNR will complete that plan as part of their in-kind contribution. The plan will document existing conditions, plant species, and rare species. The framework for the restoration activities are in place, but a detailed plan will better inform the processes and assessment of results. 2. Increase native prairie habitat. The Hastings Sand Coulee SNA unit consists of remnant prairie to the east and large areas of non-native grass and planted trees to the west. Converting the non-native areas to prairie will increase habitat for native prairie bird species, many of which are declining, and will help buffer the native prairie remnant from invasive species. The increased habitat also contributes to landscape corridors for migration of plants and animals. Specific results will be conversion of 42 acres of non-native dominated grassland to native dominated prairie species. Prairie species generally require 3-5 years to become established, so full results may not be realized during the time period of this grant, but there should be clear evidence of native species establishment. Included in the prairie reconstruction will be removal of 20 acres of trees and shrubs, which will be used for biofuels. 3. Improve the native biological diversity of the existing prairie and associated oak forest. This objective is important for retaining the biological significance of the site, the diversity of plants and animals supported by it. Measurable results include exotic brush removal from 16 acres of oak forest and exotic herbaceous plants controlled throughout 55 acres. Results of the management activities will be regularly assessed and evaluated for success. The abundance of the non-native species will be recorded and tracked, including photographs and estimates of coverage. 4. Educate and engage the local community in stewardship of this important area. Native prairie historically covered about 1/3 of the state of MN. Remnants such as the Sand Coulee are part of the natural heritage of the state. Introducing people to these areas and sharing their unique qualities is critical to their long-term appreciation and protection. Already FMR has had success; by informing local residents of the importance of site, destructive ATV activity has been significantly curtailed.

Methods

1. A natural resource management plan be completed by the DNR will include site assessment, species inventory, historic conditions, and restoration details. 2. Contractors hired by FMR will convert non-native grassland to prairie. The first step will be removal of 20 acre of trees/shrubs,

which will be used for biofuels. The stumps will then be ground up to create an even seedbed. The remaining 31 acres of grassland will be treated with herbicide to eliminate non-native species, followed by a burn and another herbicide prior to seeding. Seed will be provided by the DNR, mechanically harvested from nearby sites. Seed will be broadcast to obtain a more natural appearance than drilling, and will be fall broadcast as that most closely replicates the natural process and allows natural stratification. Species diversity will be supplemented by hand-collecting seed at volunteer events. 3. The primary method for improving native species diversity is to reduce the coverage of non-native invasive species and restore processes that support growth of the natives. Professional contractors will be hired to remove exotic brush from 16 acres of oak forest-cutting stems, treating stumps with glyphosate herbicide, stacking and burning brush. Resprouted stumps will also be treated. This method has been very effective in reducing exotic brush at other parts of the site. The invasives do recur, however, so it is critical to return to the site every few years to address newly established plants. Contractors will also be hired to control exotic herbaceous plants on 60 acres via spot treatment with herbicide and prescribed burning. This method has been quite effective at reducing exotics at other parts of the site. Continued control is needed to ensure long term results and to address new populations that emerge. Community volunteers will help with hand removal of some species. Hand removal of cow vetch and spotted knapweed in targeted areas, such as among native prairie plants, is the best way to reduce exotics with minimal impact on the natives. Using volunteers for this task provides an opportunity for community involvement. 4. Volunteers will be recruited for 3 invasive removal events and 3 seed collection events over 3 years. FMR has a very successful record of engaging volunteers at this site. Events include educational information about site history and prairie ecology.

Project Timeline

Time Frame	Goal
Jan-May 2011	Prepare mgmt plan
Jan-Dec 2011	Prairie reconstruction
Fall/winter 2011 & 2012	Exotic brush control
2011-2013	Prairie remnant mgmt
2012-2014	Prairie installation mgmt

Identify short and long term maintenance and management work required to sustain this project and source(s) of funding

Work needed	Who is responsible	Funding source
Maintain prairie remnant	DNR/FMR	state funds, FMR match
Maintain installed prairie	DNR/FMR	state funds, FMR match
Maintain woodland	DNR/FMR	state funds, FMR match
Monitor & evaluate	DNR/FMR	state funds, FMR match

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Answer each of the following questions in 1000 characters or less; descriptions/definitions are available in the [Criteria and Scoring Table](#).

1. Describe the local support for this project.

Friends of the Mississippi River has been conducting habitat protection, restoration and enhancement activities in the Sand Coulee area for 8 years. We have enjoyed a high level of support for our work from the Hastings Senior High School, Dakota County, the City of Hastings and local landowners. During the many stewardship events that FMR has organized over these many years we have benefited from the involvement of hundreds of local community volunteers as well as elected officials from Hastings and the Representative from this area, Denny McNamara.

2. Describe the degree of collaboration for this project.

Since beginning the protection, restoration and enhancement activities in the Sand Coulee we have formed a fairly strong partnership that includes a field biology class at the Hastings Senior High School, the City of Hastings, the Dakota County Farmland and Natural Area Program, the Department of Natural Resources' Scientific and Natural Areas Program, and private landowners in the Coulee. For the specific restoration and enhancement project in this proposal we will be working with staff from the City of Hastings and the SNA Program at the DNR. DNR staff will collaborate closely with FMR's Ecologist Karen Schik on the proposed activities.

3. Describe any urgency associated with this project.

The fact that less than 1% of the original prairie remains in Minnesota makes the protection, restoration, and enhancement of the remaining prairies all important, if we are to maintain diverse examples of this endangered natural community. At this specific project site, exotic and native invasive plant species are altering the natural conditions and processes, thereby threatening the long-term viability of this, the largest native prairie remaining in Dakota County. By addressing the management issues now, we can both help ensure the long-term health of the prairie and the rare species that live there, while possibly preventing more expensive management treatments in the future.

4. Discuss if there are multiple benefits resulting from your project, identifying those species, habitats, etc.

First and foremost this project will improve and increase the habitat for the 14 rare species that been found on site to date. It will also help to improve the natural community as a whole by reducing invasive species and increasing the size of the prairie. There could be water quality benefits as well, as there is an intermittent tributary to the Vermillion River flowing through the Sand Coulee. By increasing the extent and density of the deep-rooted prairie plants there will be less erosion and therefore less sediment flowing into the Vermillion River. There will be social and educational benefits as well. Being in public ownership, this site is open to the public to experience a rare natural community. Joe Beattie's field biology classes often use the site for educational purposes and have been involved in restoring portions of the city's Sand Coulee property.

5. Discuss the habitat benefits resulting from your project.

By removing or greatly reducing the invasive plant species at the site, the project will greatly improve the conditions for the native prairie plants and animals to live and thrive there. There have been 14 species of rare plants and animals documented for the Sand Coulee. The activities associated with this proposal will improve and expand the habitat for these species.

6. Describe how your project is consistent with sound conservation science.

The FMR and DNR Ecologists and land managers have extensive training and experience conducting the restoration and enhancement activities proposed for this project. The proposed activities are based on extensive field experience and scientific literature reviews on best management practices and actions.

7. Indicate if your project is adjacent to protected lands, describing those lands (ownership, public access, etc.)

The project site is in public ownership. The SNA portion is owned by the State of Minnesota. A portion of the project site is owned by the City of Hastings. Both properties are open to the public.

8. Discuss if there is full funding secured for this project and the sources of funding.

FMR is providing the non-state match for this grant. We have secured approximately 1/2 of the committed match at the time that the proposal is being submitted.

9. Discuss if CPL Grant funds will supplement or supplant existing funding. Discuss how these CPL funds will impact your organization's current budget.

The CPL grant will supplement existing funding. Without the grant, FMR will not be undertaking the restoration and enhancement activities being proposed for the site. If awarded, these funds will increase the organizational budget to allow FMR to undertake the activities presented in this proposal. FMR currently does not have funding, other than the committed match, to do this project.

10. Describe public access at project site for hunting and fishing, identifying all open seasons.

A portion of the site is a WMA. However, it has become surrounded on three sides with residential housing. Therefore the DNR has determined that the site no longer functions well for public hunting and is in the process of transferring management responsibilities from the Fish and Wildlife Division to the Scientific and Natural Area Program. As a result, the site is not open for hunting.

11. Describe the sustainability of your project.

As a strong partner in the project, the SNA Program will assume the long-term management of the site. FMR is committed to the site and will continue to assist the DNR in restoring and enhancing the site.

12. Discuss use of native vegetation (if applicable).

The SNA program has strict requirements on the use of locally and sustainably harvested seed for restoration activities within their units. FMR has experience in working within and following these requirements and will do so both on the SNA property and the City of Hastings' property.

13. Discuss your budget and why it is cost effective.

There are a couple of reasons why our budget is cost effective. By addressing these management issues now, we are helping to prevent more extensive and more expensive intervention in the future. In addition, we will be utilizing volunteer labor that will allow us to accomplish more and stretch the funds that are available for the project. FMR has extensive experience conducting the proposed activities. This experience has provided us with ability to not only predict costs in a more accurate way but also to conduct the activities in the most effective and efficient manner.

14. Describe your organization's ability to successfully complete this work, including experience in the area of interest and ability to successfully implement the proposed project. Include descriptions of your most recent grant experience and if the expected outcomes were achieved.

FMR has successfully restored and enhanced nearly 1000 acres of natural areas in the twin cities metro area. We have assisted the DNR in restoration and enhancement activities within three Scientific and Natural Areas and we enjoy the confidence and trust of the SNA staff including Peggy Booth, the program's manager. We have a strong partnership with the DNR's program. We have chosen the Sand Coulee prairie as a focus area for our efforts and are committed to successfully completing this project, and many more like it, in the future.

15. Discuss how your project supports landscape level plans. Use additional sources for information if needed or available.

There are a number of landscape level plans that identify the Sand Coulee as an important natural area. These plans include the Metro Conservation Corridors, the Mississippi River Greenway Strategic Plan, the Dakota County Farmland and Natural Areas. This project helps to protect and maintain a prairie that these plans have identified as important and worthy of protection, not only for its own inherent values but also for the site's role with identified greenway corridors.

16. Discuss how your project supports species plans. Use additional sources for information if needed or available.

FMR and DNR staff have identified and mapped many of the 14 rare plant and animal species known to live in the Sand Coulee. By generally improving the prairie community, our actions will strengthen the ability of these rare species to continue to exist and thrive within the Sand Coulee. By understanding what these species are and where they are found, we can ensure that they are taken into consideration when specific actions are taken.

17. Discuss how your project conforms to the Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan.

The project does help the state to achieve its Scientific and Natural Areas Program Long Range System Plan. A goal of the DNR's Strategic Conservation Agenda is to conserve and enhance Minnesota's natural lands and habitats. This project supports several tenets of this goal; 1. Remaining natural ecosystems are conserved; 2. Degraded habitats are restored; 3. Natural resources thrive in the context of human influences; and 4. Urban and developing areas support a diversity of plant and animal communities and offer diverse recreational opportunities.

18. Discuss how your project conforms to the State Wildlife Action Plan (if applicable).

There are three overarching goals identified in the statewide wildlife Action Plan. This project directly addresses two of them: a) stabilize and increase populations of SGCN, and b) enhance people's appreciation and enjoyment of SGCN. The project site is located within the Oak Savanna subsection of the Eastern Broadleaf Forest Province. This project employs priority conservation actions for the native prairie habitats in within the subsection. Our project will utilize each of the actions recommended: manage invasive species; use prescribed fire and other practices to maintain prairie; manage grasslands adjacent to native prairie to enhance SGCN habitat; encourage prairie restoration activities; and provide technical assistance and protection opportunities to interested individuals and organizations. We will also address the goal of enhancing people's appreciation and enjoyment of SGCN, by inviting citizens to participate and learn about this project and the Sand Coulee area.

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Site Information

*you may group your project sites together as long as land ownership, activity and habitat information is the same for the land manager

Land Manager

Name:	Ellen Fuge	Phone:	651-259-5773
Organization:	MN DNR	Email:	ellen.fuge@state.mn.us
Title:	Region 3 SNA Mgmt Supervisor		

Site Information

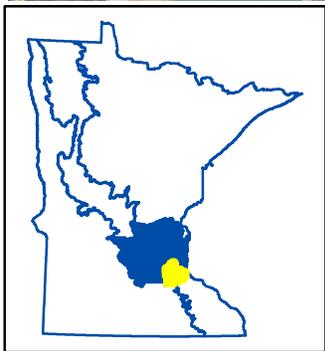
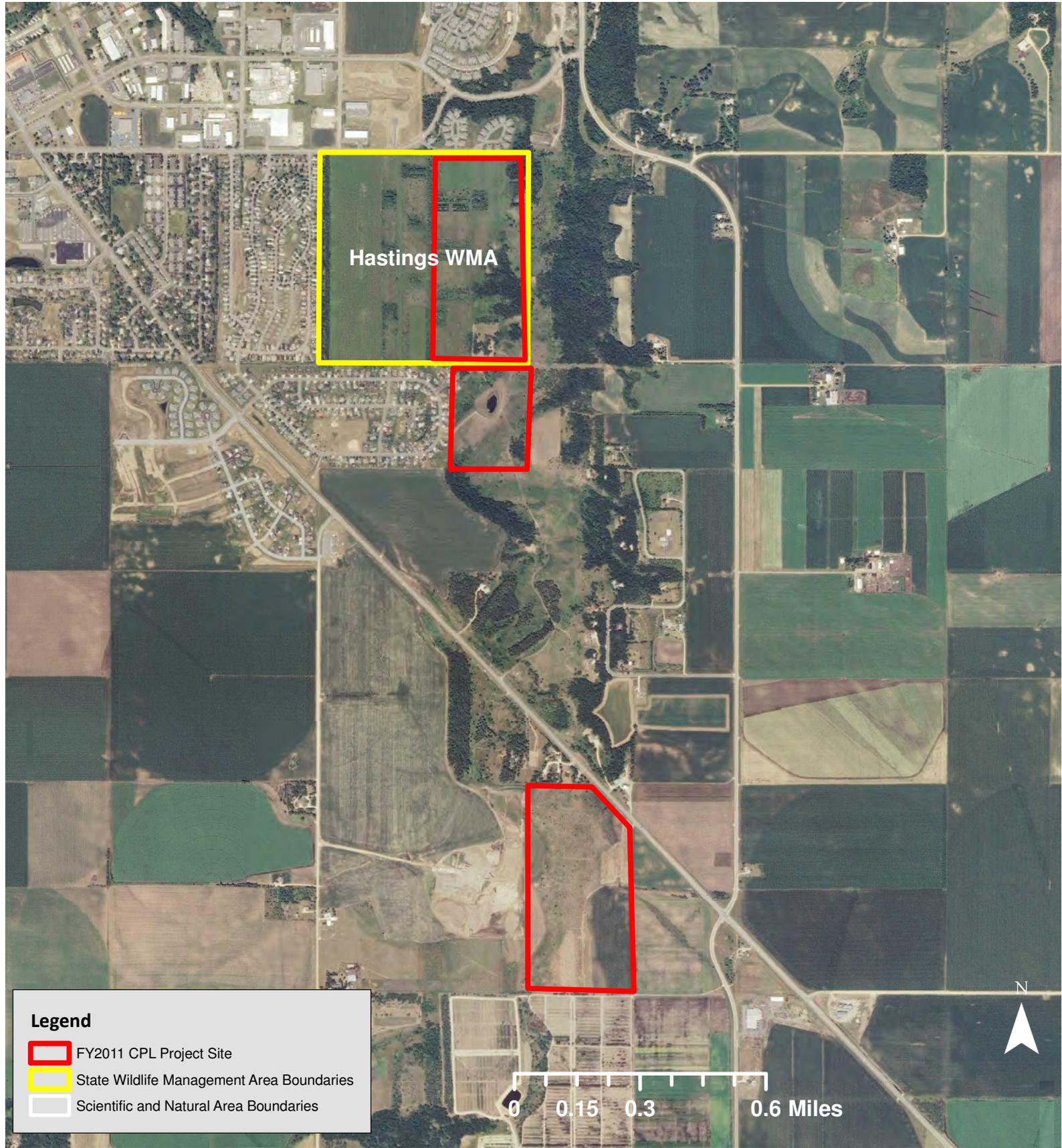
Land Ownership:	State	Acres:	160
Site Name(s):	Hastings WMA & Hastings Sand Coulee SNAs	Click here to View Site Map	
Activity:	Restoration		
Habitat:	Prairie		

Land Manager

Name:	Barry Bernstein	Phone:	651-480-6176
Organization:	City of Hastings	Email:	bbernstein@ci.hastings.mn.us
Title:	Parks & Recreation Director		

Site Information

Land Ownership:	Local	Acres:	25
Site Name(s):	Hastings Area Prairie	Click here to View Site Map	
Activity:	Restoration		
Habitat:	Prairie		



CPL FY11-104
Hastings Sand Coulee Restoration
Friends of the Mississippi River
Dakota County
LSOHC Metro Urbanizing Area
Planning Section



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Budget Information

Organization's Fiscal Contact Information

Name:	Tom Lewanski	Street Address 1:	360 N Robert St, Ste. 400
Title:	Conservation Director	Street Address 2:	
Email:	tlewanski@fmr.org	City:	Saint Paul
Phone:	651-222-2193	State:	MN
		Zip Code:	55101

Budget Subtotals

Budget Item	Grant	Match	Total		
Personnel	\$14,730	\$6,918	\$21,648		
Contracts	\$79,020	\$6,300	\$85,320		
Fee Acquisition with PILT					
Fee Acquisition without PILT					
Easement Acquisition					
Easement Stewardship				In-kind Total	Cash Total
Travel (in-state)	\$624		\$624	\$6,918	\$6,300
Professional Services					
DNR Land Acquisition Cost					
Equipment/Tools/Supplies					
Additional Budget Items					
Total:	\$94,374	\$13,218	\$107,592		

Details

Personnel

Name	Title / work to be completed	Amount	Grant/Match	In-kind/Cash
Karen Schik	Ecologist/Project Manager	\$13,020	Grant	
Tom Lewanski	Director/ Grant admin, ovrsgt	\$1,710	Grant	
Karen Schik	Ecologist -vol event coord	\$2,232	Match	In-kind
Tom Lewanski	Conse Dir-vol event coord	\$912	Match	In-kind
Karen Solas	Stew Coord-vol event coord	\$1,344	Match	In-kind
Sue Rich	Vol Coord-vol recruitment	\$2,430	Match	In-kind
Totals	Grant: \$14,730 Match: \$6,918	Total: \$21,648		

Contracts

Contractor Name	Contracted Work	Amount	Grant/Match	In-kind/Cash
To be competitively bid	Site prep, restoration, mngmt	\$79,020	Grant	
To be competitively bid	Site prep, restoration, mngmt	\$6,300	Match	Cash
Totals	Grant: \$79,020 Match: \$6,300	Total: \$85,320		

Travel (in-state)

Use	Purpose	Amount	Grant/Match	In-kind/Cash
Mileage	Travel to project site	\$624	Grant	
Totals	Grant: \$624 Match: \$0	Total: \$624		

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Project Review and Approval

A Project Review and Approval Form must be completed by each Land Manager named within the Site Info tab and Land Managers only need to complete one form for all sites they manage. Submitting this form fulfills the following requirements:

- Provides the results of the Natural Heritage Database Review,
- Allows for technical review of the project by the Land Manager, and
- Verifies that the public agency approves the work to be done (or acquisition) on land they manage.

You, as the applicant, are responsible for meeting with the Land Manager and receiving a completed Project Review and Approval Form. This form must contain an original signature from the Land Manager and you must upload it below as a PDF.

Each project will require at least one Project Review and Approval form. You may attach up to 4 forms on this page, but if you need more room you may attach up to three more on the "Additional Info" tab. If your project is working under 3 Land Managers, you must receive and submit a form from each manager.

No late Project Review and Approval Forms will be accepted. Applications lacking any necessary approval forms will be deemed incomplete and not considered for funding.

Answer the following questions, then attach the form(s)

Yes **Natural Heritage elements were found within my project site(s):**

Name the site(s) and their associated Land Managers:

Hastings Sand Coulee SNA, Ellen Fuge

Name the elements found:

Aristida tuberculosa, Asclepias amplexicaulis, Besseyia bullii, Coluber constrictor, Cristatella jamesii, Dry barrens Prairie (southern) Dry Sand Gravel Oak Savanna and Prairie, Elaphe vulpine, Gymnocladus dioica, Hesperia lionardus pawnee, Leche tenuifolia, Oenothera rhombipetala, Orobanche fasciculata, Panax quinquefolius, Pituouphis catenifer, Trillium nivale

Discuss any interaction or impact to these elements and the recommended mitigation / avoidance measures you will take within your project to protect these elements:

Management activities will be carried out in a way that will minimize disturbances to rare features. Woody invasives will be cut and removed during winter, the dormant season for most native plants and herps/insects. Winter's frozen ground prevents soil compaction and other disturbances, a consideration on steep slopes. Any activities carried out during the growing season will be done with consideration for any impacts to resources and rare features.

Project Review and Approval Forms

[Uploaded Form 1](#)

[Uploaded Form 2](#)

CPL Project Review and Approval Form

REVIEWER INFORMATION:

Land manager/ easement holder name:	Scientific and Natural Resources Prog
Agency:	MN DNR
Title:	Ellen Fuge, Reg 3 SNA Mgmt Supervisor
Phone:	651-259-5773
Email:	ellen.fuge@state.mn.us

PROJECT INFORMATION:

Project Name:	Hastings SNA, Hastings Sand Coulee SNA & City of Hasting coulee
Contact Person:	Tom Lewanski
Organization:	Friends of the Mississippi River
Email:	tlewanski@fmr.org

Please check the appropriate boxes:
 I have read the application and discussed this proposed project with the above listed Organization Contact Person.

For work on easements, the private landowner has been contacted and has given support and approval for this project.

I have performed a Natural Heritage Database review and found:

- this project to have no features within one mile.
- this project to have features within one mile, but project is not likely to adversely affect those features. I have listed the features below and recommended the following minimization strategy:

[Redacted text block containing details of features and minimization strategies]

Management activities will be carried out in a way that will minimize disturbances to rare features. For example, woody invasives will be cut and removed during winter, the dormant season for most native plants and hibernation season for herps and insects. Winter offers additional protection for intensive removal activities, because the frozen ground prevents soil compaction and other disturbances. This is especially a consideration if working on steep slopes. Any activities carried out during the growing season will be done with consideration for any impacts to resources and rare features. The proposed activities will benefit the rare features by removing competition from woody and invasive species, and invigorating growth with prescribed burns.

CPL Project Review and Approval Form

this project is likely to adversely affect Natural Heritage features. I feel that this project is important and should be forwarded to DNR Ecological Resources staff for further review.

I do not have access to the Natural Features database and will forward this completed form to DNR by Friday, August 27th 2010 to [CPL Staff at LSCPLGrants.DNR@state.mn.us](mailto:CPLStaff@LSCPLGrants.DNR.state.mn.us) to complete the Natural Heritage Review.

I have discussed what role my office will be expected to have in this project and find that the project, as described will require:

- minimal or no involvement from my office for completion.
- a commitment of involvement by staff that is reasonable and can be accomplished with current staffing levels and workload.
- an amount of staff involvement that cannot be committed during the project time period with current staffing levels. Unless additional staffing can be committed from other offices, Divisions or appropriate partners, I feel this project cannot be completed within the project timeline to our desired standards.

I have discussed permits and applications that the applicant may be responsible for using the Working on DNR Lands and Working on Public Lands, or Working on Private Lands documents.

CPL Project Review and Approval Form

For Acquisitions Only:

- This project is for an acquisition to be transferred to a public agency by applicant:
- I have discussed any required Initial Development (facilities, habitat, etc.) work that is required before the transfer with the applicant.
 - I have discussed all applicable costs of those developments and what party is responsible for those costs.

Complete the following cost tables (required work to bring to agency standards).

Habitat Development	# Acres	Cost/ Acre	Total	Funding Source	Applicant is responsible for:
Prairie Grassland					Choose
Forest/ Woody Cover					Choose
Wetland					Choose
Totals					

Facility Development	Cost	Funding Source	Applicant is responsible for:
Boundary Survey			Choose
Posting/ Fencing			Choose
Wood Routed Sign			Choose
Access Roads and Trails			Choose
User Facilities, Access, Parking Lots			Choose
Well Sealing/ Site Clean-up			Choose
Total			

Upon final review of this project:

- I find this project to be consistent with sound conservation science. This work will benefit area fish, game and wildlife by restoring, enhancing or protecting forests, wetlands, prairies and habitat and is consistent with the management or stewardship plan for this land. (APPROVAL)
- I find that this project does not follow the management or stewardship plan for this land and does not fit within the long range goals for this land at this time on the local level. (DECLINE)
- I find that this project should be sent up to a higher level within the agency for further review and decision. I have forwarded the Project Planning Form and this Review and Approval Form for further review to:

Name:	Ellen Fuge	Phone:	651-259-5773
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By checking this box and signing my name below I certify that I have met with the above applicant and discussed the proposed project and have provided feedback to the applicant. I understand I must provide this document as a PDF with my original signature on it to the applicant to submit a complete application.

Name: Ellen L. Fuge

Date: Sept. 2, 2010

Comments: This project continues a body of work on Hastings Sand Coulee SNA carried out by FMR that has improved the condition of the remnant natural community and increased the natural habitat through native vegetation reconstructions. Continuation and expansion of these efforts is highly desirable. Initiating the enhancement of the natural communities at Hasting SNA has not been possible with DNR staff and resources alone. The partnership with FMR is anticipated to greatly improve the condition of this natural area by reducing the encroaching buckthorn population.

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Additional Information

List any additional details about your project here. Include your organization's history or charter to receive private contributions for local conservation or habitat projects. This is not required.

Supplemental Documents

If you / your project does not need to upload any of these documents, you may leave these upload boxes empty.

Upload additional information here, limited to Partner Commitment Letters, Letters of Support, Easement information, etc. You may email easement information only if it exceeds size limit while trying to submit the application; all other supporting documentation must be uploaded. Reference CPL Application # and name when emailing (provided upon application submission) or your email will be returned. Send emails to LSCPLGrants.DNR@state.mn.us

[Uploaded Document 1](#)

[Uploaded Document 2](#)

Financial Information Required for Non-Profit applicants requesting over \$25,000

990 Form or EZ990

[Form 990 / EZ990](#)

Audited Financials, unaudited financials as a second choice

[Financials](#)

Does your organization have a Conflict of Interest Policy?

Yes - Upload Conflict of Interest Policy here:

[Conflict of Interest Policy](#)

List key staff or members here that will be participating with this project:

Tom Lewanski, Conservation Director Karen Schik, Ecologist & Project Manager Karen Solas, Stewardship Coordinator Sue Rich, Volunteer Coordinator (Please see attached key staff document.)

List your organization's Board of Directors with affiliations:

Please see attached document.



Friends of the Mississippi River

360 N Robert Street, Suite 400 • Saint Paul, MN 55101 • 651/222-2193 • Fax 651/222-6005

Board of Directors

<i>Chair</i> Stewart Crosby	ASLA, Sr. Landscape Architect, SRF Consulting Group, Inc.
<i>Vice-Chair</i> Michelle Beeman	Director, Environmental & Natural Resources, Dakota County
<i>Treasurer</i> Perry McGowan	CPA, LarsonAllen, LLP
<i>Secretary</i> Candace Campbell	Vice President, Sustainability Programs, Avant Energy Services
Dr. John Anfinson	Historian, National Park Service – Mississippi National River & Recreation Area
George Dunn	Attorney, Tilton and Dunn
Peter Gove	Vice-President, St. Jude Medical [Retired]
Forrest Flint	Vice-President of Dental Plan, HealthPartners
Diane Herman	Principal, Cincinnatus, Inc.
Chris Higgins	Director, Padilla Speer Beardsley, Inc.
Damaria Moore	Educators Financial Services
Lynn Moratzka	Director, Dakota County Office of Planning [Retired]
Hokan Miller	Dispatcher, Upper River Services
Steve Novak	Division Manager, Government Services, Anoka County
Edward Oliver	Oliver Financial, Member, Great Lakes Commission
Terra Penny	CPA, Assistant Controller, University of St. Thomas
Faye Sleeper	Co-Director, Water Resources Center - University of Minnesota
Sarah Strommen	Central Region Conservation Director, Minnesota Land Trust

Deanna Wiener

Realtor/Broker, Cardinal Realty

Friends of the Mississippi River Key Project Staff

Tom Lewanski, Conservation Director: 651-222-2193 Ext. 12

Tom has worked in the environmental field for over 20 years. A skilled naturalist, he taught environmental education at the Carpenter Nature Center for ten years. As Conservation Director, Tom has been responsible for coordinating outreach to landowners, local units of government and state and federal agencies to accomplish FMR's goals. Tom holds a Bachelor of Science in Outdoor Education, a Masters degree in Public Administration and in 2004 completed his doctorate, also in Public Administration. Tom has served as FMR's Conservation Director since 1998.

Karen Schik, Restoration Ecologist: 651-222-2193 Ext. 15

Karen has a diverse background with over 20 years of experience in the environmental field. She received a Bachelor of Science in Biology and a Masters of Science in Conservation Biology from the University of Minnesota. She is skilled in all phases of native plant community restoration, from conducting ecological assessment of disturbed or native habitat, including detailed plant, bird and animal surveys; to developing detailed natural resource management plans; and finally, to planning and conducting habitat restoration projects. Her experience includes prairie, savanna, woodland, wetland, streambank, and lakeshore projects, ranging in size from a few hundred square feet to several hundred acres. Her background also includes environmental education and classroom sciences instruction. Karen joined FMR's staff in May 2000.

Karen Solas, Stewardship Coordinator

Karen will coordinate stewardship activities and measure benchmarks and evaluation criteria. Karen was hired in February of 2007. After graduating from college with an Anthropology and French degree, Karen spent four years coordinating and directing programs at Nacel Open Door, a non-profit cultural exchange organization based in St. Paul. She then decided to take her career in a new direction and began working toward a Masters degree in Natural Resources Science and Management at the University of Minnesota, where she focused on issues of land management, sustainable rural development, and recreation resources. Upon completing her coursework, she took a position at Applied Ecological Services as a field crew member doing ecological restoration. She also worked with Ecological Strategies as a field research assistant in the tallgrass prairies of the upper Midwest. Her education and experiences led her to look for a way to work with both ecology and people, specifically to increase awareness of the wonderful natural resources in the Twin Cities.

Sue Rich, Volunteer Coordinator

Sue will recruit and communicate with volunteers. She is a longtime friend of and activist for the environment. She has extensive experience managing projects, intern and volunteer programs, databases and communications, having worked as editor and manager of several community newspapers, teen mentor and as non-profit volunteer/consultant. In the other half of her professional life, Sue is a freelance writer, and enjoys balancing an interactive, community-oriented job with her writing and journalism work. Sue joined FMR's staff in June of 2006.

CPL Project Review and Approval Form

REVIEWER INFORMATION:

Land manager/ easement holder name:	Barry Bernstein
Agency:	City of Hastings
Title:	Parks & Recreation Director
Phone:	651-480-6176
Email:	bbernstein@ci.hastings.mn.us

PROJECT INFORMATION:

Project Name:	Hastings Area Prairie and Forest Restoration Project
Contact Person:	Tom Lewanski
Organization:	Friends of the Mississippi River
Email:	tlewanski@fmr.org

Please check the appropriate boxes:

I have read the application and discussed this proposed project with the above listed Organization Contact Person.

For work on easements, the private landowner has been contacted and has given support and approval for this project.

I have performed a Natural Heritage Database review and found:

this project to have no features within one mile.

this project to have features within one mile, but project is not likely to adversely affect those features. I have listed the features below and recommended the following minimization strategy:

The portion of the city's property that is included in this proposal is bordered by DNR-SNA property. The SNA staff have reviewed the project and the Natural Heritage Database. I am comfortable that the DNR's review will include the city's portion of the project.

this project is likely to adversely affect Natural Heritage features. I feel that this project is important and should be forwarded to DNR Ecological Resources staff for further review.

I do not have access to the Natural Features database and will forward this completed form to DNR by Friday, August 27th 2010 to CPL Staff at LSCPLGrants.DNR@state.mn.us to complete the Natural Heritage Review.

I have discussed what role my office will be expected to have in this project and find that the project, as described will require:

minimal or no involvement from my office for completion.

a commitment of involvement by staff that is reasonable and can be accomplished with current staffing levels and workload.

an amount of staff involvement that cannot be committed during the project time period with current staffing levels. Unless additional staffing can be committed from other offices, Divisions or appropriate partners, I feel this project cannot be completed within the project timeline to our desired standards.

I have discussed permits and applications that the applicant may be responsible for using the Working on DNR Lands and Working on Public Lands, or Working on Private Lands documents.

CPL Project Review and Approval Form

For Acquisitions Only:

- This project is for an acquisition to be transferred to a public agency by applicant:
- I have discussed any required Initial Development (facilities, habitat, etc.) work that is required before the transfer with the applicant.
 - I have discussed all applicable costs of those developments and what party is responsible for those costs.

Complete the following cost tables (required work to bring to agency standards).

Habitat Development	# Acres	Cost/ Acre	Total	Funding Source	Applicant is responsible for:
Prairie Grassland					Choose
Forest/ Woody Cover					Choose
Wetland					Choose
Totals					

Facility Development	Cost	Funding Source	Applicant is responsible for:
Boundary Survey			Choose
Posting/ Fencing			Choose
Wood Routed Sign			Choose
Access Roads and Trails			Choose
User Facilities, Access, Parking Lots			Choose
Well Sealing/ Site Clean-up			Choose
Total			

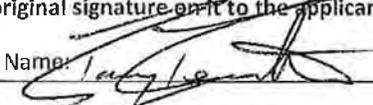
Upon final review of this project:

- I find this project to be consistent with sound conservation science. This work will benefit area fish, game and wildlife by restoring, enhancing or protecting forests, wetlands, prairies and habitat and is consistent with the management or stewardship plan for this land. (APPROVAL)
- I find that this project does not follow the management or stewardship plan for this land and does not fit within the long range goals for this land at this time on the local level. (DECLINE)
- I find that this project should be sent up to a higher level within the agency for further review and decision. I have forwarded the Project Planning Form and this Review and Approval Form for further review to:

Name: Barry Bernstein	Phone: 651-480-6176
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By checking this box and signing my name below I certify that I have met with the above applicant and discussed the proposed project and have provided feedback to the applicant. I understand I must provide this document as a PDF with my original signature on it to the applicant to submit a complete application.

Name: _____



Date: 8/8/10

Comments:

Conservation Partners Legacy Grants - Online Applications

Jamie Gangaware

Admin

[List Applications](#)

[Summary Spreadsheet](#)

[Log Out](#)

Project Summary

Project Info

Site Info

Budget Info

Review & Approval

Additional Info

Application Submission

Final Application Submission

This completes your CPL Grant Application. Please take the time to revisit the previous sections and make sure you have entered everything completely and correctly. Once you hit the submit button below, you will not be able to return to this application to make changes.

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 certify 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 certify this organization to have the financial capability to compete this project and that it will comply with all applicable laws and regulations.

I certify that all of the information contained in the application is correct as of the time of the submission. If anything should change, I will contact CPL Grant Staff immediately to make corrections.

I certify that if funded I will give consideration to and make timely written contact to Minnesota Conservation Corps or its successor for consideration of possible use of their services to contract for restoration and enhancement services. I will provide CPL staff a copy of that written contact within 10 days after the execution of my grant, should I be awarded.

I certify that I am aware at least one Project Review and Approval form is required for every application and I must submit all completed forms by uploading them into this application. I have attached one form as necessary for each different Land Manager within my project.

I am aware that by typing my name in the box below, I am applying my signature to this online document.

Signature:

Tom Lewanski

Organization / Agency:

**Friends of the
Mississippi River**

Title:

Conservation Director

Date:

2010-09-16

Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program
 FY2011 Round 1 Technical Review Comments and Scoring, Regional and Divisional Directors Comments

Proj ID	Organization Name	Project Name	Habitat	Technical Review Committee Scoring Comments	Amount Request	Score	Regional Comments	Meets Region Plan?	Rank	Region	Division Director's Comments
104	Friends of the Mississippi River (FMR)	Hastings Sand Coulee Restoration	Prairie	How many acres actually being worked on, vs total site-- increases cost/acre(over \$2000?). Is it due to hand work? What about the rest of the site? Confused about total acres being worked on, and where within site. What about the land being sold off (western half)--to private landowner, what restrictions, likely development, will the work be done on that land? Lots development going on around tract, will buffer to SNA be lost with sale? Will SNA still function as a SNA with that loss? Good CBS sites in area.	\$94,374	108	Good track record for restoration work done by FMR. Will add to the restoration work already completed for SNA. FMR has already developed a group of local stewards who have adopted the SNA. Rank #4/ 12	Y	M	3	Good area, nice project. Long history with this group of good work. SNA is important to the area, lots of rare features, plants, animals. All agree with this one being funded.

Final Ranking Comments, Tech Review Committee

Admin costs for all RIM--is it actual or percent? Seems high compared to others. Partially fund admin costs? (Staff had confirmed these costs with applicants and this is their request.)

1st cut: anything below 99 is gone

2nd cut: Anything below 115 gone. That's 60% score--tough to fund things getting less than 50% of the total points.

3rd cut: Anything below 120 is gone. Not totally sold on the Renville - Frank and MPCS prairie shrubland apps.

4th cut: Moved Friends of Miss River up to being funded

5th cut: If dipping lower than recommended projects, look at MPCS--is small club; and Hennepin Co--environment education focus. Pretty even applications when considering outcomes, MPCS scores higher due to criteria.

Expansion of local native seed shouldn't be funded at all.

Bottom three no funding for sure.

Friends of
Mississippi
River_104_Hastings

	1)Amount of Habitat	2)Local Support	3)Degree of Collaboration	4)Urgency	5)Multiple Benefits	6)Habitat Benefits	7)Sound Conservation Science	8)Adjacent to Protected Lands	9)Full Funding of Project	10)Supplants Existing Funding	11)Public Access for Hunting and Fishing	12)Sustainability	13)Use of Native Plant Materials	14)Budget and Cost Effectiveness	15)Capacity to Successfully Complete Work
	2.00	2.00	2.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	4.00	1.00	6.00	5.00	1.00	4.00	6.00	1.00	4.00
	3.00	4.00	6.00	3.00	2.00	4.00	4.00	2.00	4.00	6.00	2.00	5.00	7.00	3.00	7.00
	8.00	9.00	8.00	8.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	5.00	6.00	9.00	1.00	8.00	9.00	5.00	6.00
	5.00	5.00	6.00	5.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	5.00	5.00	1.00	8.00	10.00	7.00	8.00
	5.00	3.00	5.00	1.00	4.00	7.00	7.00	1.00	6.00	9.00	1.00	5.00	9.00	2.00	9.00
	5.00	7.00	6.00	4.00	5.00	5.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	1.00	7.00	9.00	3.00	7.00
AVERAGES	4.67	5.00	5.50	3.67	4.50	5.33	6.17	4.00	5.67	6.83	1.17	6.17	8.33	3.50	6.83
TOTAL SCORE	107.50														

16)Supports Existing Landscape Level Plans	17)Supports Species Plans	18)Conforms to Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan	19)Conforms to State Wildlife Action Plan
5.00	5.00	6.00	6.00
7.00	6.00	7.00	7.00
6.00	8.00	8.00	8.00
10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00
6.00	7.00	8.00	9.00
7.00	7.33	7.83	8.00
