

Spreadsheet

Name and Contact

Project Identifier:	CPL1000120	Street Address 1:	500 Lafayette
Project Name:	Restoration of Wild and Scenic River Private Lands	Street Address 2:	
Organization Name:	Department of Natural Resources - Parks and Trails	City:	Saint Paul
Organization Website:	www.dnr.state.gov	State:	MN
Organization Contact Person:	Jay Krienitz	Zip Code:	55107
Contact Email:	jay.krienitz@state.mn.us		
Contact Phone:	651-259-5643		

Location

Primary County: Goodhue
Nearest City: Cannon Falls
Township:
Project Site Name: WSR Sites 1-5
Project Site Land Ownership: Private
Other Land Ownership:

Project Information

Primary Activity: Restoration
Primary Habitat Type: Fish, Game or Wildlife Habitat
Total Project Acres: 300
Total Project Sites: 5
Total Grant Amount Requested: \$400000
Total Match Amount: \$82500
Total Project Cost: \$482500
Project Completion Date: 06/2012 (MM/YYYY)

Project Summary and Outcomes: The scenic easements program will: a) Begin projects on 2-3 project sites within the first year, b) Assess the needs of other WSR System landowners and provide 20 land management plans in coordination with Great River Greening (GRG) (Subgrantee), c) Implement land restoration projects with GRG and MCC (Subgrantees) on at least 5 project sites, totaling nearly 300 acres, and d) Follow up with monitoring the success of those restoration activities. It is the intention of this project to support and enhance the mission of Minnesota Conservation Corps. All on-site activities will be managed by staff at GRG, providing beneficial training and mentoring to MCC Crews.

Attachments

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

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Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program

Project Site Information

Contact information

Project name:

Organization:

Organization contact person (Project Manager):

Project information

Project site:

Project site land manager or easement holder: Legal :

Private land owner County:

(if applicable):

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 #2, if needed.

Project site:

Project site land manager or easement holder: Legal :

Private land owner County:

(if applicable):

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 :

Private land owner County:

(if applicable):

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
Winter/Spring 2010	Outreach and education for landowners with Scenic Easements on Wild and Scenic Rivers -Cannon and St. Croix Rivers initially.	Spring/Summer 2010	Write 3 land restoration plans in cooperation with Great River Greening.
Summer/Fall 2010	Write 6 land restoration plans in cooperation with Great River Greening and begin land restoration on at least 1-2 project sites in cooperation with Great River Greening and Minnesota Conservation Corps	Fall/Winter 2010/11	Provide outreach and education for landowners along Rum River
Winter/Spring 2011	Write 10-15 land restoration plans in cooperation with Great River Greening on	Summer/Fall 2011	Conduct land restoration activities on 3-4 project sites in cooperation with Great River Greening and Minnesota Conservation Corps
Summer/Fall 2011	Conduct additional restoration activities on project sites depending on additional leveraged or matched funds.	2 seasons after restoration activities	Ongoing monitoring of scenic easement properties as part of normal job duties for scenic easemnets coordinator. This will incorporate tracking of restoration results

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

A pilot project to restore Wild and Scenic River private land resources through cooperative management

Background

The DNR Wild and Scenic River (WSR) Program has an unprecedented opportunity to work with Minnesota citizens to restore some of our most valuable river landscapes through a new long-term strategy. For over 20 years, the WSR scenic easement program has been deeply neglected, and is now beginning to take strides that help it live up to its original potential. It is our intention to develop a program to improve and restore sensitive riparian ecological communities in partnership with willing citizens and nonprofit organizations.

Through the 1973 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the Commissioner of the DNR was directed to acquire scenic easements for the “interest of present and future generations to preserve and protect the outstanding scenic, recreational, ecological, historical, and scientific values of certain Minnesota rivers and their adjacent lands.” These conservation easements were designed to protect the natural, cultural, and ecological values of the river on privately owned lands from willing landowners. Identified as one of the central elements of the Act, scenic easements were meant to conserve river corridors while simultaneously offering financial or tax benefits to landowners. However, this tool has never lived up to its original potential.

Minnesota DNR is currently responsible for managing 135 WSR permanent conservation easements (scenic easements) in partnership with over 300 individual landowners on our Wild and Scenic River System. The scenic easements program is responsible for the administration of the second-largest number of conservation easements held by the DNR. This system includes over 500 river miles of our most important habitat for fish, wildlife, and outstanding recreational opportunities. The scenic easements are the ideal vehicle for protecting and restoring these riparian corridors and their flyways.

The Minnesota Wild and Scenic River System contain Minnesota's premiere recreational waterways, spanning from the southwestern prairielands to the forested stretches of the north and the bluff country of the southeast. Identified as "Green Corridors," and containing sites of MCBS outstanding and high levels of biodiversity, these watersheds are all “Key Rivers” within the Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan. Protecting and restoring shorelands improves water quality, wildlife habitat, and ecosystem health on rivers.

The Minnesota Wildlife Action Plan (MWAP) supports this, “In addition to purely aquatic species (e.g., fish and mussels) that benefit from good streams, many other species in greatest conservation need rely on a combination of upland and stream habitats to complete their life cycles. Both wetlands and sandy uplands are necessary for the Blanding’s turtle ██████████ to complete its life cycle. Fluvial outwash plains provide nesting habitat for Blanding’s turtles, gopher snakes, hognose snakes, map turtles, tiger beetles, jumping spiders and more. Fox snakes live in forested riparian habitats. The wood turtle hibernates in rivers, nests on undisturbed sandy banks, but spends much of its time in nearby upland forests. Many birds are also attracted to the river corridor; the diversity of species depends on the plant diversity, age classes and width of the corridor. Research has shown that older, larger trees are important habitat for nesting herons, egrets, eagles, and a variety of declining songbirds such as the wood thrush.”

This system presently consists of over 1000 miles of river shoreline, traversing numerous MWAP subsection habitats in Minnesota within the Upper Mississippi River Basin. These are some of the most important headwaters for a world-renowned river. These waters all eventually flow through the Twin Cities Metro Area, and direct migratory birds and wildlife into our most populated cities in Minnesota. Thousands of citizens who live on our WSR shorelines could be affected and inspired by this valuable program effort, by renewing citizens’ interest in shoreline stewardship and partnering with the DNR.

Fostering sustainable partnerships between the DNR and wild and scenic river easement landowners is at the core of this program's success. Unfortunately, very few relationships have been built since the beginning years of Minnesota’s

scenic easements program. With little information stored about land conditions at the time of acquisition, few staff to maintain relationships with landowners, and insufficient resources to conduct annual site visits, the scenic easements program has had significant challenges in recent decades.

Rebuilding this program is critical to protecting Minnesota's investment into our Wild and Scenic River System. In 2008, the DNR hired its first permanent program staff to begin an effort to reach out to scenic easement landowners and assess current property conditions. With some key initial contacts, renewed relationships with landowners along the Cannon and Saint Croix Rivers, and a greater understanding of how to manage and work with scenic easements, the DNR has developed a clear direction for this program. Utilizing the scenic easements as a tool, the DNR will work to restore habitat, improve water quality, and re-establish native plant communities on these vital rivers. This work will build local credibility for and knowledge about scenic easement protection. This funding proposal aims to build capacity for this program, and will provide a key element for long-term sustainability of scenic easements.

Statement of Need

Inspired by a new understanding of how to protect and restore scenic easements, the DNR knows the tools that it needs to reach the intent of the 1973 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Scenic easements are some of our oldest conservation easements in Minnesota statute, and were written to be protective, yet simple. To date, existing scenic easement documents contain virtually no provisions for vegetative management or restoration options.

These watersheds continue to be stressed even with wild and scenic river designation, highlighting the need to properly implement the tools the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act provided. The Lower Cannon River and the Lower Saint Croix River are listed as impaired under Section 303(d) of the Federal Clean Water Act. This program proposal will begin efforts on those river reaches.

During site visits in spring 2009, scenic easement landowners on the Cannon and Saint Croix Rivers pleaded with the DNR to help them improve and restore WSR shorelands. There are many landowners who want to restore native vegetation, remove invasive species, prevent erosion, and improve habitat, if "only they had assistance." If this application for funding is successful, the DNR will be able to show on-the-ground support for land restoration assistance in these key areas.

Improved understanding of ecological systems, sensitive riparian landscapes, and the threat to our water resources, points to a more comprehensive approach to management of conservation easements on Minnesota's wild and scenic rivers. Active land management provisions are more common in conservation easements today, yet are absent from the WSR scenic easement documents thus far. This makes it difficult for the landowner to know what management options are available to them. As the easement holder, the DNR has the ability and authority under current scenic easement language to conduct management activities on these land interests in partnership with the landowner. Offering this kind of management assistance to landowners rebuilds those critical relationships and trust, and demonstrates a comprehensive management strategy for scenic easements, which will support the long-term viability of this program. This will also influence the evolution of how wild and scenic river easements can be written in the future.

Working to restore and enhance WSR scenic easements through restoration assistance is a new way of protecting our wild and scenic watersheds, offering a new breath of life into this long neglected program.

The 2002 Cooperative Management Plan for the Lower St. Croix National Scenic Riverway directs WSR managers to "renegotiate scenic easements where needed to include provisions for natural and cultural resource protection and modifications of vegetation management practices" (page 55). It is evident that scenic easement management needs to change to meet emerging issues and to clarify the original intent of the act. Signed by the 2002 MN and WI DNR Commissioners and the National Park Service Superintendent, this directive has gone unfulfilled.

The L-SOHC Partnership Grant would be our first step into this new and essential way of doing business, bringing the DNR into a place where it can be effective at not only protecting, but at restoring and enhancing our Wild and Scenic River System. The scenic easement program needs to design and recommend land restoration projects for these lands

in cooperation with the landowner

Promoting land restoration and habitat improvement programs on scenic easements demonstrates DNR's commitment to partnerships for conservation management. This will prove active "integrated public and private land management" and a spirit of cooperation with critical stewards of river resources. This is a key strategic direction in the 2009-2013 DNR "Strategic Conservation Agenda."

Proposed Activities

Though restoration assistance will be promoted throughout the entire WSR System, this project will initially focus on the Cannon and Lower Saint Croix Rivers. According to a 2008 USDA National Resources Conservation Service Rapid Watershed Assessment, "the main resource concerns in the Cannon River watershed relate directly to agricultural practices and increased development in the region, resulting in fragmentation and increased sediment and pollutant loadings (mercury, fecal coliform, phosphorus, excess nutrients) to surface waters." One third of total project work on the Cannon River would be aimed at complete reconstruction of agricultural fields into native woodland. The largest site contains 50 acres of floodplain that will be converted, greatly assisting in the improvement of water quality on this impaired river. Additionally, the scenic easement program will likely add new easements in the future, helping to offset increased development pressure. Restoration of habitat will provide improved ecosystem stability for the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] he threatened [REDACTED]. The Cannon River is where the scenic easement program is most poised to begin on-the-ground projects (ie. shovel ready).

This program will actively engage landowners in restoration activities, supporting and fostering a value for stewardship where it is most important, along our protected shorelines. These efforts will compliment those of the Cannon River Watershed Partnership, local county programs, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and local citizen initiatives. Where possible, dollars will be leveraged with other funding initiatives to increase acres protected and capacity of programs (potential Clean Water Legacy projects). Where possible, volunteer services will be solicited at the landowners request to bring more attention and interest to project work. Landowners on the Cannon and St. Croix Rivers have offered verbal and written support for this program.

The scenic easements program will:

- a) Offer support and begin projects for over 20 landowners on 2 project sites within the first year,
- b) Assess the needs of other Wild and Scenic River System landowners and provide at least 20 land management plans in coordination with Great River Greening (Subgrantee),
- c) Implement land restoration and improvement activities with Great River Greening and Minnesota Conservation Corps (Subgrantees) on at least 5 project sites, totaling nearly 300 acres, and
- d) Follow up with monitoring the success of those restoration activities.

The Minnesota Conservation Corps (MCC) trains the "next generation" of natural resource professionals, and it is the intention of this project to both support and enhance that mission. All on-site restoration activities and events will be managed by professional staff at Great River Greening and the scenic easements coordinator, providing beneficial training and mentoring to MCC Crews.

Methodology and Results

1. The scenic easements program coordinator will work with landowners who have identified specific project needs for restoration and enhancement, finalize land management plans, create work schedules, and coordinate on-the-ground activities.

- a) Land management recommendation documents for each project area

The scenic easements program coordinator will create targeted recommendations for each land parcel in cooperation with Great River Greening, a proven partner in land restoration management. These recommendations will be compiled and provided to MCC who will carry out the land restoration activities under the supervision of Great River Greening ecologists and the DNR scenic easement program coordinator.

b) Land restoration and improvement activities

The scenic easements program coordinator and Great River Greening will work with MCC to carry out land restoration activities to complete the primary goals of this project. All restoration projects will focus on habitat improvement and restoration or reconstruction of native Minnesota plant communities. The scenic easement program works closely with MCC, and they have proven to be a reliable and efficient partner on projects. In turn, the Scenic Easements Program has been a valuable partner to MCC, providing and promoting: leadership development, experiential education, outdoor skills, career advice, project training, technical trainings, and more. Landowners will provide grant match through dollars, in-kind services, or a combination of the two. Great River Greening will provide volunteer organizing for landowners to help meet match requirements at the request of the landowner and in coordination with DNR scenic easements program. In those cases, MCC will assist with on-site volunteer coordination.

c) Monitoring success of restoration activities

The scenic easements program coordinator will work with Great River Greening and MCC to monitor and write reports for land restoration follow-up projects. MCC has proven to be efficient and effective at field inventory methods. The scenic easement program coordinator provides trainings in the use of GPS and GIS tools, supports their field work skills, and directs crews on writing field reports.

2. The scenic easements program will promote this assistance opportunity to easement landowners where we have conducted field baseline inventory for the scenic easements program. New outreach activities around restoration projects will likely engage 40 new landowners in stewardship activities and restoration management. Additional restoration projects will occur as funding allows.

a) Landowner outreach

The scenic easements program coordinator will work with DNR staff, the MCC Water Recreation Specialist, and others to create outreach and education tools including: targeted letters/questionnaires, web pages, newsletters, and flyers. The scenic easements program coordinator will visit one-on-one with landowners and over the telephone to educate and assess land management needs of landowners who have not yet been exposed to this opportunity. This information will be recorded in the scenic easement landowner contact management database and be of value to the program into the future.

b) Land management recommendation documents for each project area

The scenic easements program coordinator will create targeted recommendations for each land parcel in cooperation with Great River Greening. These recommendations will be compiled and provided to MCC who will carry out the land restoration activities under the supervision of Great River Greening ecologists and DNR scenic easement program coordinator.

c) Land restoration and improvement activities

The Scenic Easement Program and Great River Greening will work with MCC to carry out land restoration projects. See above.

d) Monitoring success of restoration activities

The Scenic Easements Program will work with Great River Greening and MCC to monitor and write reports for land restoration follow-up projects.

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.

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

2. For enhancement/ restoration projects on public lands:

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

DNR Parks and Trails Scenic Easements Coordinator (Jay Krienitz)

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

Short term work will require site visits 2 seasons after restoration activities take place. Consultation with original restoration plans, and inspection of on-the-ground conditions will inform any future needs.

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

DNR Parks and Trails Scenic Easements Coordinator through normal job duties.

- d. Will the CPL funds supplant any existing funds?

No

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: Jay Krienitz and Stan Linnell, Supervisor	Organization/ Agency: Department of Natural Resource
Title: Scenic Easements Coordinator	Date: 11/03/09

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:	Ecological Restoration of Wild and Scenic River Private Lands
Organization:	Department of Natural Resources -Division of Parks and Trails
Organization contact person (Project Manager):	Jay Krienitz

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				
Contracts	\$10,500.00	\$257,500.00	\$132,000.00	\$400,000.00
Grant Administration				
Administration/ Environmental Compliance				
Fee Acquisition				
Easement Acquisition				
Easement Stewardship				
Equipment/Tools/Supplies				
Travel				
Additional Budget items				
Total				

DETAILS: detail the amounts listed in the above table.

Personnel Details:

Name	Title	Amount

Contract Details:

Contractor Name	Contracted Work	Amount
Great River Greening	Under supervision of scenic easements coordinator: Write 20 Land Restoration Plans, provide on-site project management and training for MCC crews, complete 5 restoration projects, provide	\$226,000.00

	recommenations for monitoring and evaluation. GRG provides project management including equipment, supplies, staffing, etc. GRG will assist with volunteer organizing if applicable.	
Minnesota Conservation Corps	MCC Provides primary labor force for projects. MCC assists with any on-site volunteer organizing. MCC receives training and corpsmember development from GRG and scenic easements coordinator.	\$174,000.00

Grant Administration:

Administrative Activity	Description/ Amount	Amount

Administration/ Environmental Compliance

Activity	Description	Amount

Fee Acquisition/ Easement Acquisition/ Easement Stewardship Details:

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Equipment/Tools/Supplies Details:

Item	Use	Amount

Travel Details:

Miles	Purpose	Amount

Additional Budget Items Details:

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
Scenic easement landowners	Scenic easement landowners will provide cash or in-kind contributions for each project. Volunteer and in-kind contributions will be encouraged to promote buy-in and stewardship development	Restoration project cost	25%	\$82,500.00
Scenic easement landowners or volunteers	General labor for services (will change based on match rates for CPLGP). Units and rate could change based on the nature of in-kind services.	6346	13.00	\$82,500.00

Matching description/ comments: if needed

Scenic easement landowners will provide either cash or (provide or allow) in-kind contributions for each project. Volunteer and in-kind contributions will be encouraged to promote buy-in and stewardship development. Each project has an estimated cost and a landowner contribution requirement. The landowner will choose whether to match with cash or in-kind work. Great River Greening can provide assistance to find and organize volunteer labor for project work.

Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program

Project Site Information

Contact information

Project name:

Ecological Restoration of Wild and Scenic River Private Lands

Organization:

Department of Natural Resources

Organization contact person (Project Manager):

Jay Krienitz

Project information

Project site:

WSR Site 4

Project site land manager or easement holder:

DNR-Parks and Trails Division

 Legal :

T112

R17

S11/2

Q

Private land owner County:

Goodhue

(if applicable):

Loren Manderfield, Bruce A. Henning, Romual Saddeh
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Activity (may choose more than one): Enhancement Restoration Acquisition

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

Activity quantity:

70

 Acres Miles Feet Structures Wetlands

Project Site #2, if needed.

Project site:

WSR Site 5

Project site land manager or easement holder:

DNR-Parks and Trails Division

 Legal :

T27N

R20W

S22

QGL5

Private land owner County:

Washington

(if applicable):

Ellen and Joseph Skow, Steven and Patricia Swanson
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Activity (may choose more than one): Enhancement Restoration Acquisition

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

Activity quantity:

35

 Acres Miles Feet Structures Wetlands

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

Project site:

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Project site land manager or easement holder:

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 Legal :

T

R

S

Q

Private land owner County:

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(if applicable):

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

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

Activity quantity:

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 Acres Miles Feet Structures Wetlands