

Conservation Partners Legacy Grants - Online Applications

Jamie Gangaware

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Project Summary

Project Name and Contact

Project Name:	Tallgrass Aspen Parkland - Protection 2010 - 001	Project Manager:	Michael Pressman
		Title:	Director of Habitat Protection
Organization Name:	The Nature Conservancy	Phone:	612-331-0706
Organization Type:	Non-Profit	Email:	mpressman@tnc.org
Mailing Address 1:	1101 West River Parkway		
Mailing Address 2:	Suite 200		
City:	Minneapolis		
State:	MN		
Zip Code:	55415-1291		

Project Location Summary

Primary County:	Kittson	Secondary Land
Nearest City:	Lancaster	Ownerships:
Project Site Name:	Tallgrass Aspen Parkland	
Primary Land Ownership:	Private	

Project Activity Summary

Primary Activity:	Acquisition	Primary Habitat Type:	Prairie
Additional Activities:	Enhancement	Additional Habitats:	Fish, Game or Wildlife Habitat
Total Project Sites:	279		
Total Project Acres:	279		

Project Funding Summary

Total Grant Amount	\$208,331
Requested:	
Total Match Amount	\$31,250
Pledged:	
Additional Funding:	
Total Project Cost:	\$239,581
Estimated Project	2014-06-30
Completion Date:	

Summary

Fee acquisition of 279 acres. This property adjoins 370 acres of TNC land and surrounds 40 acres of School Trust land. [REDACTED] are 12,634 acres of WMA land and 1,301 acres of TNC land. [REDACTED]. Not conserving this property would threaten its conservation values with conversion and make management more difficult on the adjacent TNC land and School Trust Lands. The property is primarily composed of 2 major plant communities that are conservation targets in the Tallgrass Aspen Parklands, lake plain wetlands and upland mosaic. It provides habitat for mobile mammals such as elk, bear and wolves. It is also suitable habitat for any parkland species identified in the State Wildlife Action Plan that require sedge meadow, aspen woodland or upland plant communities, including Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Upland Sandpiper, American Bittern, American Woodcock, Marbled Godwit, Ovenbird, and Sharp-tailed Grouse.

Problem Statement

The multi-partner collaborative Tallgrass Aspen Parkland (TAP) Conservation Plan ranked this tract highly given its largely native cover and its adjacency with TNC and School Trust land. Conservation will protect critical conservation targets and make management practices (invasive species control, conservation grazing, and controlled burning) more efficient for 370 acres of adjacent TNC land and an additional 40 acres of School Trust land. TAP comprises 1 of 2 very large blocks of native prairie identified as a Very High priority in TNC's Northern Tallgrass Prairie Ecoregional Plan. It represents the northernmost expression of the transition between tallgrass prairie and forest ecosystems. Tomorrow's Habitat for the Wild and Rare notes: "the vast expanses of natural landscape in this province provide a spectacular setting for viewing sharp-tailed grouse, American elk, moose, greater prairie chickens, marbled godwits, bobolinks, and upland sandpipers. Large state and federal refuges provide homes for wetland wildlife like the sandhill crane, horned grebe, Franklin's gull, American white pelican, yellow rail, Forster's tern, trumpeter swan, and American bittern. Today, well over 60% of this landscape is in agriculture, mostly in the southern half. In the northern half, large areas have recently been cleared for farming. However some remnants of large contiguous patches of native plant communities, including wetlands, remain." The plan goes on to note that "85 Species in Greatest Conservation Need [SGCN] are known or predicted to occur within the Aspen Parklands. These include 30 species that are federal or state endangered, threatened, or of special concern." Two species are unique to that subsection. 32% of all mammal SGCN in the state are known or predicted to occur in the Aspen Parklands. The four key Aspen Parkland habitat types identified in Tomorrow's Habitat are all located on this tract – wet prairie, prairie, grassland, and brush prairie.

Project Objectives

Permanent protection of 279 acres of priority conservation land. The property will be open to public hunting during open seasons. It will also be open to other forms of non-motorized public recreation throughout the year. Grant funded restoration activities will focus on invasive species management and prescribed fire. Design, construction, and installation of a welcome sign will include grant recognition. The Nature Conservancy will manage this property as an addition to its Tallgrass Aspen Parklands properties. As such, the Conservancy will provide ongoing management to ensure that the property's conservation values and wildlife habitat are well managed. These management practices can include such things as controlled burns, conservation grazing with local producers, control of invasive species and mechanical treatments to improve habitat for wildlife. All of these practices have been used on the nearby WMAs in the recent past and would be considered complementary to the stated habitat goals in the management plans for Skull Lake and Caribou WMAs. Approximately 70 acres of hay lands will be restored to native vegetation using local ecotypes native to Minnesota. This will be done with non-grant funds. Typically, the Conservancy funds its ongoing management and stewardship of lands in large part through income from a stewardship endowment. This is a pooled fund for all of the Conservancy's properties in Minnesota. At the time of each acquisition, the Conservancy adds a percentage of the appraised value of the property to the endowment. An annual draw of 5% of the corpus provides income for land management needs while ensuring the stability and modest long-term growth of the corpus (to allow for inflation). Included under Match is funding to help meet the legislative and LSOHC goals of ensuring adequate resources for ongoing property management beyond the term of this grant period. This project is two miles north of a TNC acquisition funded under last year's CPL grant. This project will help build on the larger habitat complex in the area which also contains last year's project.

Methods

Fee title acquisition by TNC. Design, construction, and installation of a large entrance sign with appropriate CPL funding acknowledgement. TNC staff will undertake invasive species control and prescribed fire activities.

Project Timeline

Time Frame	Goal
Fall 2010	appraisal
January 2, 2011	grant contract

Jan. - Feb 2011	DNR appraisal review, environmental assessment, title review
Feb 2011	final agreement with landowner
March 30, 2011	Closing
April 2011 - Sept 2011	Design, installation of welcome sign; boundary posting
April 2011 - June 2014	Invasive species management; prescribed fire

For all lands acquired in fee title or permanent conservation easement, provide a description of the selection process used to identify parcels to be acquired.

TNC has developed a protection plan database for TAP. This tract-by-tract analysis of numerous parcels in the TAP landscape ranks properties on four criteria: ecological value, ownership context, fire management, and water management. These results are combined to calculate an overall conservation index. The eastern 160 acres ranked in the 99% rank with only 6 higher-ranked parcels. The western 120 acres ranked in the 98% rank with only 19 higher-ranked parcels.

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
ongoing habitat maintenance and enhancement	TNC	private and/or future public

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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.

TNC acquisition in this area has strong support from local wildlife managers including MN DNR and USFWS area staff.

2. Describe the degree of collaboration for this project.

Although this site will be managed by TNC, we will continue to have ongoing collaboration with MN DNR throughout the area on conservation grazing, invasive species removal, and prescribed fire work. This is even more the case given the adjacency of this property to School Trust lands administered by the DNR.

3. Describe any urgency associated with this project.

[REDACTED] threaten the resources on the tract and could negatively impact management of adjacent TNC and School Trust lands.

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

Habitat restoration and improvement on this tract will be beneficial to the larger surrounding area which includes Skull Lake WMA and Caribou WMA. In addition to the prairie habitat benefits, numerous game and non-game species will benefit from this acquisition. See additional information under question 18 in regards to Species of Greatest Conservation Need.

5. Discuss the habitat benefits resulting from your project.

The property's lake plain wetlands and upland mosaic habitat for mobile mammals such as elk, bear and wolves. It is also suitable habitat for any parkland species identified in the State Wildlife Action Plan that require sedge meadow, aspen woodland or upland plant communities. These include Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Upland Sandpiper, American Bittern, American Woodcock, Marbled Godwit, Ovenbird, and Sharp-tailed Grouse, among others.

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

Protection of this tract and management activities was identified in the collaborative Tallgrass Aspen Parkland Conservation Area Plan. The Tallgrass Aspen Parkland is identified as a priority conservation area in the Northern Tallgrass Prairie Ecoregional Plan. Although MCBS appears to have not conducted surveys on this and neighboring parcels, large areas of Outstanding Biodiversity Significance are located very nearby on properties with similar characteristics. Protection of this property is consistent with the conservation biology principles of expanding on existing habitat to provided larger habitat complexes and landscape connectivity.

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

[REDACTED] Within 5 miles of the property are 12,634 acres of WMA land and 1,301 acres of TNC land. Both the TNC and School Trust lands adjoining the property are open to public use, including hunting. TNC land will provide legal and physical access to this tract.

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

Private funding has been secured to meet TNC's match obligations under this proposal.

9. Discuss if CPL Grant funds will supplement or supplant existing funding. Discuss

how these CPL funds will impact your organization's current budget.

This proposal supplements existing efforts by The Nature Conservancy, MN Department of Natural Resources and other partners to conserve valuable wildlife habitat in the Tallgrass Aspen Parklands. Potential funding for this critical acquisition is complementary and additive to existing efforts to protect land. As a result, CPL funding for this project will provide a direct increase in total land protected in the area. It will not supplant existing funding sources.

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

This tract will be open for all public hunting seasons. While this property is not adjacent to a public road or trail, access can be gained across the adjacent TNC land which is also open to the public for all hunting seasons.

11. Describe the sustainability of your project.

The property will be protected for future generations. Habitat will be subject to ongoing management by TNC staff. Included under Additional Budget Items is \$31,250 to meet the legislative and LSOHC goals of ensuring adequate resources for ongoing property management. The Nature Conservancy will contribute this amount as our 15% grant match. These private match funds will be placed in a pooled endowment to help pay for ongoing management of the property. A 5% annual draw on the corpus (\$1,562 per year) will significantly help cover ongoing management costs. This calculation assumes prescribed fire every 4 years and weed treatment annually. By using it as an endowment, the annual draw will not diminish the corpus (which will grow modestly to account for inflation), allowing for long-term management needs.

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

Any seeding done will be with native vegetation, using a high diversity mixture of local ecotype seed. TNC's landholdings in the area provide us with a good source of high diversity, local ecotype seed.

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

The budget assumes a purchase price as informed by a recent appraisal on a similar, nearby property. Acquisition costs are based on experience. Staff time estimates are based on reasonable expectations of needed work, including initial signage enhancement efforts.

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.

The Nature Conservancy has a long track record of acquiring and managing conservation lands in Minnesota and of managing public grants. TNC currently owns and manages 70,302 acres in Minnesota. The Conservancy has the appropriate systems and departments in place to capably manage government funds. The Conservancy is subject annually to the federal A-133 audit and is deemed a low-risk recipient.

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

The Tallgrass Aspen Parklands comprises 1 of 2 very large blocks of native prairie identified as a Very High priority in TNC's Northern Tallgrass Prairie Ecoregional Plan. The collaborative Tallgrass Aspen Parkland (TAP) Conservation Plan ranked this tract highly given its largely native cover and its adjacency with TNC and School Trust land. Protection will conserve critical conservation targets and make management practices (invasive species control, conservation grazing, and controlled burning) more efficient for [REDACTED]. The project also supports goals established in the following plans: Forest Resources Council, Northern Landscape Region Minnesota Wetlands Conservation Plan

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

This acquisition supports protection of numerous Species in Greatest Conservation Need as well as guilds of concern. Species specific plan goals supported by this project, include among others: Duck Plan – supports goals of creating wetland/grassland

complexes A Vision for Wildlife and Its Use – supports prairie/grassland goals See also comments on question 18 below regarding Species of Greatest Conservation Need.

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

Minnesota's Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan lists "Protect priority land habitats" as the top objective under the Critical Land Protection strategic area. The plan recommends "Focus protection on critical lands the SCPP has identified by township (p.66)." Statewide habitat assessment maps in that plan support this area of Kittson County as among the top terrestrial habitat priorities in Minnesota (e.g. see especially page 53 as well as pp. 39-40, and 44). The plan goes on to recommend restoration of "ecoregion-appropriate, landscape-scale complexes of habitat centered on concentrations of existing remnant habitats with a broader goal of developing/maintaining conservation corridors between existing and restored habitats (p.66)." Further in the report, the plan recommends "Prioritization for acquisition, protection, and restoration of the natural resource base that supports outdoor recreation should focus on large, contiguous land areas.... (p.76)."

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

MN's SWAP notes that "the vast expanses of natural landscape in this province provide a spectacular setting for viewing sharp-tailed grouse, American elk, moose, greater prairie chickens, marbled godwits, bobolinks, and upland sandpipers. Large state and federal refuges provide homes for wetland wildlife like the sandhill crane, horned grebe, Franklin's gull, American white pelican, yellow rail, Forster's tern, trumpeter swan, and American bittern. 85 Species in Greatest Conservation Need [SGCN] are known or predicted to occur within the Aspen Parklands. These include 30 species that are federal or state endangered, threatened, or of special concern." Two species are unique to that subsection. 32% of all mammal SGCN in the state are known or predicted to occur in the Aspen Parklands. The 4 key Aspen Parkland habitat types identified in Tomorrow's Habitat are all located on this tract – wet prairie, prairie, grassland, and brush prairie.

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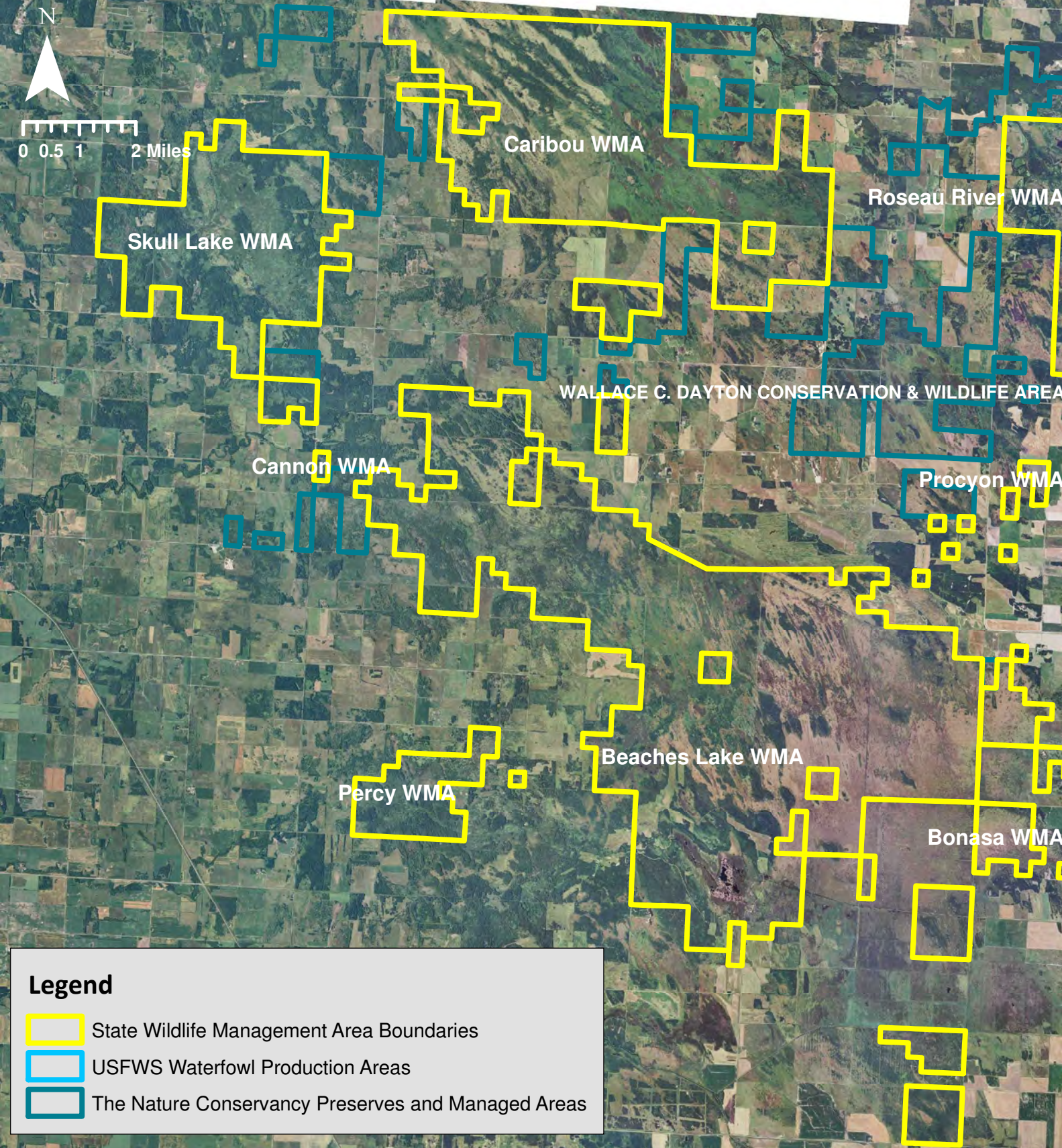
*you may group your project sites together as long as land ownership, activity and habitat information is the same for the land manager

Land Manager




Name:	Russ Reisz	Phone:	218-436-3455
Organization:	The Nature Conservancy	Email:	rreisz@tnc.org
Title:	Land Steward		

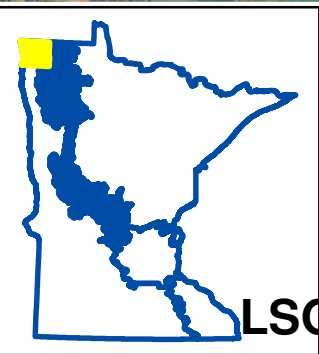
Site Information

Land Ownership:	Private	Acres:	279
Site Name(s):	Tallgrass Aspen Parkland	Click here to View Site Map	
Activity:	Acquisition		
Habitat:	Prairie		



Legend

-  State Wildlife Management Area Boundaries
-  USFWS Waterfowl Production Areas
-  The Nature Conservancy Preserves and Managed Areas



**CPL FY11-062
Tallgrass Aspen Parkland
Protection 2010 - 001
The Nature Conservancy
Kittson County,**

LSOHC Forest/ Prairie Transition Planning Section



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Organization's Fiscal Contact Information

Name:	Amy Short	Street Address 1:	1101 West River Parkway
Title:	Grants Administrator	Street Address 2:	Suite 200
Email:	ashort@tnc.org	City:	Minneapolis
Phone:	612-331-0774	State:	MN
		Zip Code:	55415-1291

Budget Subtotals

Budget Item	Grant	Match	Total		
Personnel	\$4,579	\$0	\$4,579		
Contracts	\$250	\$0	\$250		
Fee Acquisition with PILT	\$0	\$0			
Fee Acquisition without PILT	██████████	██████████	██████████		
Easement Acquisition	\$0	\$0			
Easement Stewardship	\$0	\$0		In-kind Total	Cash Total
Travel (in-state)	██████████	██████████	██████████	\$0	\$31,250
Professional Services	██████████	██████████	██████████		
DNR Land Acquisition Cost	\$0	\$0			
Equipment/Tools/Supplies	\$2,500	\$0	\$2,500		
Additional Budget Items	\$0	██████████	██████████		
Total:	\$208,331	\$31,250	\$239,581		

Details

Personnel

Name	Title / work to be completed	Amount	Grant/Match	In-kind/Cash
Michael Pressman	acquisition	\$450	Grant	
Russ Reisz	Enhancement	\$250	Grant	
Jon Eerkes	acquisition, enhancement	\$629	Grant	
Seasonal Crews	enhancement	\$2,300	Grant	
Sandi Edmunds	acquisition	\$250	Grant	
Nancy Yong	acquisition	\$700	Grant	
Totals	Grant: \$4,579 Match: \$0	Total: \$4,579		

Contracts

Contractor Name	Contracted Work	Amount	Grant/Match	In-kind/Cash
EDR	environmental review	\$250	Grant	
Totals	Grant: \$250 Match: \$0	Total: \$250		

Fee Acquisition without PILT

Parcel Name	Parcel Purchase Price	Amount	Grant/Match	In-kind/Cash
Tallgrass Aspen Parklands	inclusive of closing costs	██████████		
Totals		Total: \$		

Travel (in-state)

Use	Purpose	Amount	Grant/Match	In-kind/Cash
Mileage/meals	acquisition and enhancement			
Totals	Grant:			

Professional Services

Professional Name	Description of Services	Amount	Grant/Match	In-kind/Cash
appraiser	appraisal			
Totals				

Equipment/Tools/Supplies

Item	Purpose	Amount	Grant/Match	In-kind/Cash
Entrance sign, boundary signs	signage	\$2,500	Grant	
Totals	Grant: \$2,500 Match: \$0	Total: \$2,500		

Additional Budget Items

Item	Description	Amount	Grant/Match	In-kind/Cash
Stewardship Endowment	TNC match			
Totals				

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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:

Tallgrass Aspen Parklans - Russ Reisz

Name the elements found:

None on the site. [REDACTED] It appears the property and surrounding properties have not been evaluated by MCBS.

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

This project will benefit Natural Heritage Database features within one mile by protecting habitat important to those features.

Project Review and Approval Forms

Uploaded Form 1

CPL Project Review and Approval Form

REVIEWER INFORMATION:

Land manager/ easement holder name:	Russ Reisz
Agency:	The Nature Conservancy
Title:	Land Steward
Phone:	218-436-3455
Email:	rreisz@tnc.org

PROJECT INFORMATION:

Project Name:	Tallgrass Aspen Parklands Acquisition - 2010 - 001
Contact Person:	Michael Pressman
Organization:	The Nature Conservancy
Email:	mpressman@tnc.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:

██████████. It appears the property and surrounding properties have not been evaluated by MCBS. This project will benefit Natural Heritage Database features within one mile by protecting habitat important to those features.

- 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			

↳ N/A TNC will meet its obligations thru this grant and afterwards

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: Russ Reisz	Phone: 218-436-3455
------------------	---------------------

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: KW Key

Date: 13 September 2010

Comments:

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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.

Founded in 1951, The Nature Conservancy has protected more than 119 million acres of land and 5,000 miles of rivers worldwide — and we operate more than 100 marine conservation projects globally. We currently own and manage more than 70,000 acres in Minnesota. In coordination with our public and private partners, The Nature Conservancy has helped protect more than 575,000 acres to date in Minnesota.

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

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:

Michael Pressman, Russ Reisz, Jon Eerkes, Sandi Edmunds, Seasonal Crews, Nancy Young or other similar staff as may be substituted by TNC.

List your organization's Board of Directors with affiliations:

DNR has a copy of the Conservancy's Board of Directors on file.

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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:

Michael Pressman

Organization / Agency:

The Nature Conservancy

Title:

**Director of Habitat
Protection**

Date:

2010-09-15

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
62	The Nature Conservancy	Tallgrass Aspen Parkland - Protection 2010 - 001	Prairie	Acquisition without PILT, open to hunting, low cost/acre--good!	\$208,331	155	A+	Y	H	4	Great project

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.

	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
	8.00	7.00	7.00	2.00	7.00	7.00	5.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	8.00	5.00	8.00	9.00
	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	10.00	9.00	8.00	10.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00
	10.00	6.00	9.00	10.00	8.00	9.00	9.00	10.00	9.00	9.00	10.00	9.00	8.00	9.00	9.00
	8.00	6.00	7.00	8.00	8.00	9.00	8.00	9.00	7.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	9.00	7.00	7.00
	8.00	6.00	7.00	9.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	9.00	9.00	7.00	10.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00
AVERAGES	8.40	6.60	7.60	7.40	7.80	8.20	7.60	9.40	8.60	8.20	9.40	8.40	7.80	8.20	8.40
TOTAL SCORE	155.40														

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
9.00	9.00	8.00	9.00
7.00	6.00	7.00	7.00
10.00	9.00	9.00	9.00
7.00	9.00	8.00	8.00
9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00
8.40	8.40	8.20	8.40