

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](#)

Project Summary

Project Name and Contact

Project Name:	CREP Easement Project	Project Manager:	Daniel Arndt
Organization Name:	Steele SWCD	Title:	District Manager
Organization Type:	Government	Phone:	507-451-6730
Mailing Address 1:	235 Cedardale Dr SE	Email:	dan.arndt@mn.nacdn.net
Mailing Address 2:			
City:	Owatonna		
State:	MN		
Zip Code:	55060		

Project Location Summary

Primary County:	Steele	Secondary Land
Nearest City:		Ownerships:
Project Site Name:	CREP Easement	
Primary Land Ownership:	Private	

Project Activity Summary

Primary Activity:	Enhancement	Primary Habitat Type:	Prairie
Additional Activities:		Additional Habitats:	
Total Project Sites:	6		
Total Project Acres:	158		

Project Funding Summary

Total Grant Amount	\$24,862
Requested:	
Total Match Amount	\$3,963
Pledged:	
Additional Funding:	
Total Project Cost:	\$29,488
Estimated Project	2012-10-31
Completion Date:	

Summary

In cooperation with USDA-FSA, we will assist six landowners on 158 acres of CREP easements with maintenance of diverse native prairie seeding. These easements were established in 2001 to take marginal cropland out of production and reestablish native habitats. Despite our attempts to maintain these as sites as native prairie habitat, invasive trees and shrubs have established on the native prairie and wetlands. This project would control the trees and shrubs. The maintenance activities consist of spot spraying tree and shrub with Element 3/Platoon, followed by a controlled burn and a second herbicide application the following year. We will actively work to provide education on the management of prairies. Management of these easements will preserve the integrity of the native prairie seedings. This will in turn provide numerous benefits to game and nongame species, including nesting and brood rearing pheasants, prairie songbirds and waterfowl.

Problem Statement

These CREP easements were established in 2001 to restore marginal farmland to native habitats. When the easement was established any wetlands were restored and the area was seeded with a

25 specie mix. Two of the easements include riparian land that was seeded with the 25 specie mix to provide a buffer to the stream that runs through the easement. Despite our attempts to manage these sites as native prairie habitat, invasive trees have established on prairie CREP easements, resulting in an altered successional state. Invasive trees have numerous negative effects on wildlife. Invasive trees reduce the quality of habitat for nesting and brood rearing pheasants and waterfowl. It has been shown that migratory species of non-game birds are negatively impacted by invasive trees in prairie habitat. Trees replace prairie plants providing improper habitat for waterfowl, pheasants and prairie songbirds. Trees also provide habitat for avian and ground predators to the resident and migratory birds. In order to maintain these CREP easements as native prairie for migratory species, waterfowl, prairie songbirds and resident pheasants these trees and shrubs need to be removed.

Project Objectives

The main objective is to manage trees and shrubs on 158 acres of CREP easements. This will provide the proper habitat for waterfowl, pheasants and prairie songbirds. It will also decrease the habitat for predators. This will be measured by prairie easements with minimal trees and diverse stands of prairie grasses and forbs. The secondary objective of this project is to provide education on proper management of prairie habitats. This will insure that prairies are properly being managed. This goal will be measured by the increased management of native prairies in Steele County. This project will preserve the integrity of the native prairie seedings. Providing proper habitat for waterfowl, prairie songbirds and pheasants.

Methods

The maintenance activities consist of three phases. First, the trees and brush will be spot sprayed with Element 3 and Platoon. This combination has been determined to be effective to control trees and brush from previous work Steele SWCD has completed and speaking with private vendors and other governmental agencies. These two chemicals are aquatic approved and fairly benign in the environment. This chemical application will take place in July/August 2011. The second phase will occur the following spring with controlled burns to kill the sprouting trees and brush. The third phase will consist of another Element 3/Platoon herbicide application to treat any missed trees and resprouts. Also at this time, the larger trees will be hand treated with Element 4 and crop oil. This three phase control method has been determined by field experience and discussion with private vendors as an effective method for tree and shrub control. The herbicide applications and the controlled burns will be completed by Wildlife Consulting Services. To go along with the physical management, we will also have an educational aspect not formally included in the grant. We will meet with and train the general public, public officials and public employees. Specifically we will target county commissioners, township supervisors and the county highway department. This will be accomplished by one-on-one meetings, at least one field day, newsletters, a fair booth and a page in the 2012 Steele SWCD calendar. The sites in the grant will also give us demonstration examples for the educational use.

Project Timeline

Time Frame	Goal
August 2011	Complete chemical treatment of trees and brush
Spring 2012	Complete controlled burns
July/August 2012	Follow up chemical treatment of trees and brush
Fall 2012	Close out grant

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 grass and forb stand	Landowner	Landowner

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Project Information

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.

This project is supported locally by the landowners, UDSA-FSA and the Steele County Minnesota Pheasants Chapter. There is no opposition to this project.

2. Describe the degree of collaboration for this project.

The Steele County SWCD is working in coordination with the landowners and USDA-FSA to complete this project. The landowners are committed to improving their easement to enhance the habitat quality. The USDA-FSA is providing support for this project by providing partial funding to complete the enhancement.

3. Describe any urgency associated with this project.

It is important to manage these CREP easements before the problem becomes too difficult to manage. These easements are at a stage where they are still manageable with management provided by herbicide application and controlled burns.

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

Tree removal on native prairie seedings will improve the overall habitat of the area. It will decrease the competition for prairie plants allowing for increased diversity and an improved stand of prairie grasses and forbs. Tree removal will also improve the habitat for nesting and brood rearing pheasants and waterfowl.

5. Discuss the habitat benefits resulting from your project.

Tree removal will improve the habitat for nesting and brood rearing pheasants and waterfowl.

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

The method of spot spraying trees and brush with Element 3/Platoon, followed by a controlled burn and a second herbicide application has been determined to be an effective method to control trees. This method was determined by field experience and discussion with private vendors as an effective method for tree and shrub control. These two chemicals are aquatic approved and fairly benign in the environment. Special precautions will be taken to apply the herbicide to the trees without harming the surrounding vegetation.

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

None of the project sites are adjacent to protected lands.

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

All of the project costs have been identified and are included in this proposal for tree removal maintenance on the identified CREP easements. The match is provided by the USDA-FSA, as shown in their letter of commitment. This grant is consistent with the CPL Grant Program guidelines for match contributions.

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

There is currently no funding for CREP easement holders to complete tree and brush maintenance. This funding would provide new funding for the maintenance activities.

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

The work will be conducted on CREP easements which are not required to be open for hunting per Minnesota Statue. However, many of the landowners elect to open their

land for hunting.

11. Describe the sustainability of your project.

This project will be a part of the continually maintenance needed native prairie seedings. The life expectancy of this work will be about five years. At that time the easement holder will perform the needed maintenance to maintain a quality state of vegetation for wildlife. These control activities will reduce the number of trees making it manageable for the landowners with minimal time commitment.

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

NA

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

The budget was determined based on herbicide application cost of \$120 per acre and controlled burns cost of \$70 per acre. These costs were determined by a competitive bid process. It was determined that these costs are consistent with industry standards.

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 Steele SWCD has been assisting landowners with management of their permanent conservation easements since the beginning of the RIM program in 1986. Currently 40 RIM, RIM/WRP, CREP and WRP easements exist in the County. We have assisted landowners with securing grants from the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Conservation Corps Minnesota to complete controlled burns. Recently we have been successful in securing a \$15,000 grant from the Board of Water and Soil Resources on behalf of the landowners to control invasive trees and brush on several RIM Reserve easements.

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

This project would provide enhancement to native prairie seedings by removing trees and brush to enhance wildlife habitat. The degradation of habitat is identified as a concern in 'Tomorrow's Habitat for the Wild and Rare'. Invasive species are also a concern for prairies. This project would support this concern by enhancing native prairies and removing invasive trees and shrubs.

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

This project supports numerous species plans, by enhancing habitat for wildlife. One of the strategies of the 'Long-Range Plan for the Ring-Necked Pheasant in Minnesota' is to protect, maintain and improve reproductive and winter habitat for pheasants. This project would improve habitat for pheasants. One of the strategies of the 'Long-Range Duck Recovery Plan' is to provide habitat for waterfowl. Again this project would provide the habitat needed for waterfowl.

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

This project would provide enhancement to native prairie seedings by removing trees and brush to enhance wildlife habitat. The Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan is concerned about habitat degradation of landscapes including prairies. This project is consistent with those goals by enhancing prairies.

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

The State Wildlife Action Plan includes management of invasive trees as a priority, 'Use mowing, cutting woody vegetation, prescribed fire, or careful use of herbicides to prevent the invasion of grasslands by trees and shrubs', to support species in greatest conservation need. This project will manage invasive trees on upland permanent wetland and riparian lands through use of herbicide and controlled burns.

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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:	Tim Fredbo	Phone:	651-296-0880
Organization:	Board of Water and Soil Resources	Email:	tim.fredbo@state.mn.us
Title:	Easement Specialist		

Site Information

Land Ownership:	Private	Acres:	76
Site Name(s):	[REDACTED]	Click here to	View Site Map
Activity:	Enhancement		
Habitat:	Prairie		

Site Information

Land Ownership:	Private	Acres:	35
Site Name(s):	[REDACTED]	Click here to	View Site Map
Activity:	Enhancement		
Habitat:	Prairie		

Site Information

Land Ownership:	Private	Acres:	4
Site Name(s):	[REDACTED]	Click here to	View Site Map
Activity:	Enhancement		
Habitat:	Prairie		

Site Information

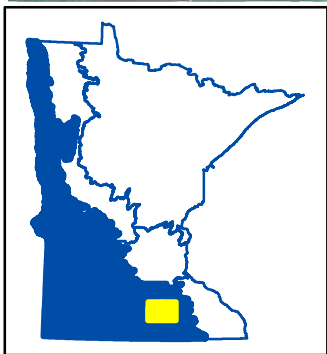
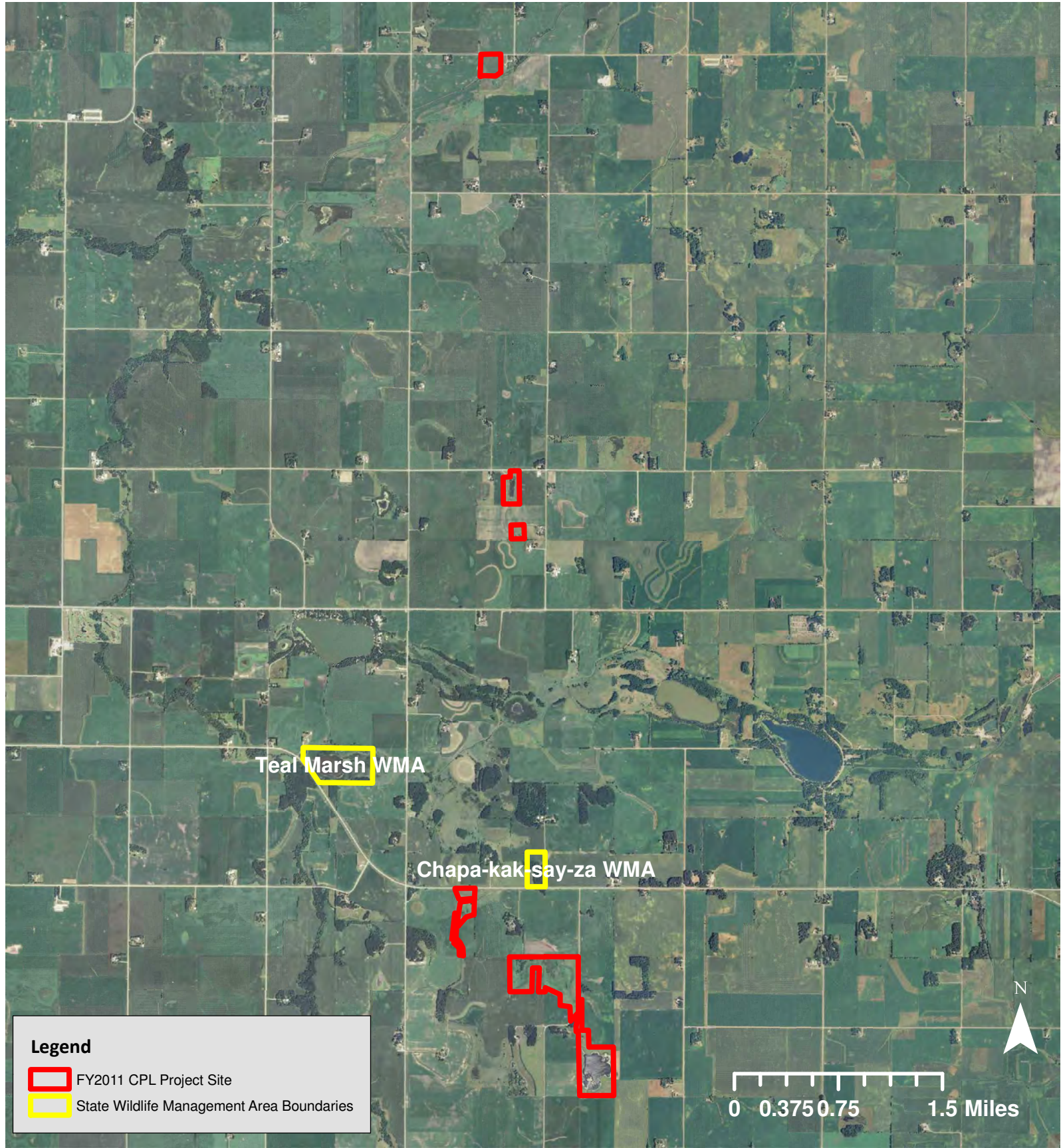
Land Ownership:	Private	Acres:	11
Site Name(s):	[REDACTED]	Click here to	View Site Map
Activity:	Enhancement		
Habitat:	Prairie		

Site Information

Land Ownership:	Private	Acres:	13
Site Name(s):	[REDACTED]	Click here to	View Site Map
Activity:	Enhancement		
Habitat:	Prairie		

Site Information

Land Ownership:	Private	Acres:	18
Site Name(s):	[REDACTED]	Click here to	View Site Map
Activity:	Enhancement		
Habitat:	Prairie		



CPL FY11-069
CREP Easement Project
Steele SWCD
Steele County
LSOHC Prairie Planning Section



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Budget Information

Organization's Fiscal Contact Information

Name:	Daniel Arndt	Street Address 1:	235 Cedardale Dr SE
Title:	District Manager	Street Address 2:	
Email:	dan.arndt@mn.nacdn.net	City:	Owatonna
Phone:	507-451-6730	State:	MN
		Zip Code:	55060

Budget Subtotals

Budget Item	Grant	Match	Total		
Personnel	\$606		\$606		
Contracts	\$24,256	\$3,963	\$28,219		
Fee Acquisition with PILT					
Fee Acquisition without PILT					
Easement Acquisition					
Easement Stewardship				In-kind Total	Cash Total
Travel (in-state)				\$0	\$3,963
Professional Services					
DNR Land Acquisition Cost					
Equipment/Tools/Supplies					
Additional Budget Items					
Total:	\$24,862	\$3,963	\$28,825		

Details

Personnel

Name	Title / work to be completed	Amount	Grant/Match	In-kind/Cash
Daniel Arndt	Manager/grant administration	\$606	Grant	
Totals	Grant: \$606 Match: \$0	Total: \$606		

Contracts

Contractor Name	Contracted Work	Amount	Grant/Match	In-kind/Cash
Wildlife Consulting Services	Tree/ brush removal, burning	\$24,256	Grant	
Wildlife Consulting Services	Tree/ brush removal, burning	\$3,963	Match	Cash
Totals	Grant: \$24,256 Match: \$3,963	Total: \$28,219		

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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:

Name the elements found:

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

Assist contractors with the identification _____ plants so that they can avoid any impacts. This project will have no direct impact to the _____ but will reduce sedimentation and improve water quality.

Project Review and Approval Forms

Uploaded Form 1

CPL Project Review and Approval Form

REVIEWER INFORMATION:

Land manager/ easement holder name:

Agency:

Title:

Phone:

Email:

PROJECT INFORMATION:

Project Name:

Contact Person:

Organization:

Email:

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:

☐ 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: _____ Phone: _____

☒ 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: 9-15-10

Comments:

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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](#)

[Uploaded Document 3](#)

[Uploaded Document 4](#)

[Uploaded Document 5](#)

[Uploaded Document 6](#)

[Uploaded Document 7](#)



September 9, 2010

Steele County SWCD
235 Cedardale Drive SE
Owatonna, MN 55060

Re: Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) is responsible for administering the USDA's Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). One of the requirements for CRP participants is to maintain the quality of the approved cover. A tool that we provide to the landowners of CRP and CREP is to assist in paying for mid-contract management. FSA requires most contract holders to perform mid-contract management to better maintain their CRP cover. Our office can provide cost-share assistance for various forms of maintenance such as: mowing, burning, or interseeding of the approved cover.

Our agency will reimburse the landowner up to 50% of the cost of the activity, up to certain limits. For prescribed burns, the limit of cost-share assistance is 50% not to exceed \$15 per acre if the landowner completes the burn on their own or up to \$30 per acre if they hire a vendor. If the landowner chooses to mow or cut the cover, our office will reimburse 50% of the cost not to exceed \$10 per acre.

Our office issues the cost-share payment after the mid-contract management practice is completed and the landowner submits the required bills.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our office at 507-451-1054 ext 2.

Sincerely,

David Charles
Steele County Executive Director

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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:

Daniel Arndt

Organization / Agency:

Steele SWCD

Title:

Manager

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
69	Steele SWCD	CREP Easement Maintenance Project	Prairie	Don't CREP land managers sign contract to maintain land? This should be mid-contract maintenance. Is this setting precedence for this maintenance? May be ok on site-by-site basis-- tell us why this site would stand out. Lots of small sites. Work is needed, but how should it be funded? Don't use Maintenance in the title! Landowner commitment is not showing in budget. FSA is not reflected in budget either. How much are contractors getting per acre?	\$25,525	85	Lots of little tracts	Y	M	4	Landowners not obligated to maintain these habitats with the CREP easement. This work is important and funding needs to be figured out, but this is bundled wrong. Not the right funding for this kind of work.

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.

Steele
SWCD_69_CREP
Maintenance

	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	5.00	3.00	4.00	3.00	3.00	5.00	1.00	4.00	1.00	2.00	3.00	5.00	5.00	3.00
	2.00	3.00	8.00	1.00	8.00	8.00	7.00	1.00	7.00	6.00	1.00	2.00	5.00	5.00	8.00
	6.00	5.00	3.00	4.00	4.00	5.00	5.00	1.00	6.00	2.00	2.00	3.00	4.00	3.00	7.00
	5.00	5.00	3.00	5.00	7.00	8.00	8.00	1.00	7.00	4.00	1.00	4.00	6.00	6.00	8.00
	5.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	2.00	5.00	6.00	1.00	6.00	1.00	1.00	3.00	5.00	4.00	9.00
	4.00	5.00	5.00	3.00	4.00	4.00	5.00	1.00	4.00	4.00	1.00	1.00	7.00	3.00	2.00
AVERAGES	4.00	4.00	3.83	3.00	4.67	5.50	6.00	1.00	5.67	3.00	1.33	2.67	5.33	4.33	6.17
TOTAL SCORE	84.50														

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

3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00
6.00	6.00	6.00	5.00
8.00	8.00	4.00	7.00
8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00
6.00	6.00	5.00	5.00
6.33	6.33	5.50	5.83
