

Conservation Partners Legacy Grants - Online Applications

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Project Summary

Project Name and Contact

Project Name:	Mesic Maple-Basswood Forest Protection Project	Project Manager:	Judy Schulte
		Title:	District Technician
Organization Name:	Redwood SWCD	Phone:	507-637-2427
Organization Type:	Government	Email:	judy.schulte@racgroup.net
Mailing Address 1:	1241 E Bridge Street Ste C		
Mailing Address 2:			
City:	Redwood Falls		
State:	MN		
Zip Code:	56283		

Project Location Summary

Primary County:	Redwood	Secondary Land Ownerships:	
Nearest City:			
Project Site Name:	John Hogan etal. site		
Primary Land Ownership:	Private		

Project Activity Summary

Primary Activity:	Acquisition	Primary Habitat Type:	Forest
Additional Activities:		Additional Habitats:	Prairie and Fish, Game or Wildlife Habitat
Total Project Sites:	1		
Total Project Acres:	87		

Project Funding Summary

Total Grant Amount Requested:	\$225,805
Total Match Amount Pledged:	\$39,848
Additional Funding:	
Total Project Cost:	\$265,653
Estimated Project Completion Date:	2012-07-16

Summary

The 87 acres of deciduous hardwood forest proposed for permanent protection lie 1/2 mile east of the Lower Sioux Agency along the Minnesota River Valley. The offered lands include a combination of intact plant communities as well as significant archeological resources. The dominant communities include Southern Mesic Maple-Basswood Forest (MHs39) which is noted on the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Natural Heritage Database and Southern Floodplain Forest (FFs68). The MN County Biological Survey identifies this MHs39 forest as the only known in Redwood County. The site is adjacent to the Lower Sioux Agency Historic Site and contains several Native American burial mounds and relics from the 1862 US-Dakota War. With increasing fragmentation pressure, the Redwood Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), three local landowners, and the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) are submitting a grant request for a perpetual Re-Invest in Minnesota (RIM) easement.

Problem Statement

A pre-project site description can simply be done by taking a trip along the valley gradient, starting with the bluff that is oak covered with remnant native prairie transitioning to a mesic temperate deciduous forest valley slope and bottomland floodplain forest with two small crop fields enrolled into the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Forest fragmentation from rural subdivision, mining, and invasive species have been identified as the primary threat of loss to this old growth high conservation value forest. Even though US Census Bureau 2025 projections show a slight decrease in county population, rural subdivisions continue to expand making tracts like this highly desirable. In fact, published land values from the University of Minnesota reveal the economic impacts of expanding low density subdivision of rural Minnesota, for example Redwood county land values from 1998-2008 increased 115%, over the same time period counties along the Minnesota River moving closer to the Twin Cities showed a 267% (Blue Earth) and 692% (Scott) increase, reflecting "other" uses as the primary price driver. In the publication, *Tomorrow's Habitat for the Wild and Rare*, Minnesota River Prairie subsection depicts prairie remnants and floodplain forests as rare and subject to agricultural practices, including over-intensive grazing. Mineral extraction has been a historic activity along the valley, a small remnant gravel pit (age unknown) reclaimed by native vegetation can still be seen on site. In recent years, exploration companies have contacted the landowners interested in gravel, kaoline and silver deposits found onsite. The focus of the landowners is conservation and these surface disturbance activities would irretrievably change the landscape. A conservation easement would allow Redwood SWCD and other land managers the ability to assist the landowners with the development of a conservation plan of action for long range manage and enhancement of the site.

Project Objectives

According to the Native Plant Communities and Rare Species of the Minnesota River Valley Communities, Mesic Maple-Basswood Forest stands such as this one were once a major component of the Minnesota River hardwood forests complex, today however most of these forests remain as small fragments. Associated with the forest habitat are numerous springs and small perennial streams. Without the protection of this site, possible outcomes include the loss of significant locally rare and important habitats, increased risk of water quality degradation, and loss of significant cultural resources. The expected results of this project are to conserve and manage the diversity of habitats and species that already exist on site for future generations. Managing for healthy forest systems along with maintaining rare ecological features will provide a source of resiliency from a variety of threats today and into the future. From a landscape perspective, conserving the site will help protect and ensure the long term habitat connectivity for several miles, from approximately the Lower Sioux State Historical Lands to Cedar Mountain Scenic and Natural Area (SNA) along county highway 11 with a variety of conservation easements connecting the dots in between. Conservation easements such as RIM build the protective resource network while maintaining private ownership and local support. Except for limited firewood cutting and logging of dead red elm in the late 1970's, the forest remains the same as it was in pre-settlement, a mature forest with dense canopy, sub-canopy and shrub layer. The diversity of plant communities on site has the potential to provide habitat for a wide array of wildlife species from common species like wood thrush, pileated and downy woodpeckers, flycatchers and numerous migratory warblers, wild turkeys, and whitetail deer as well as habitat for the state listed Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN), semi-open mixed oak/grassland for loggerhead shrikes and five lined skinks. Other current benefits that would continue include the soil, sediment and phosphorus saved by the 16.3 acre CRP fields. Through the use of the RUSLE II and the BWSR Filterstrip Erosion Calculator, it is calculated that the CRP fields alone save 19.92 tons of sediment, 38.78 tons of soil and 25.39 pounds of phosphorus every year from polluting the Minnesota River improving habitat for Minnesota aquatic populations.

Methods

There are several action items that need to take place in order to accomplish the goals of this grant. Managed at the state level, RIM has been around since 1986 providing a track record of landowner assurances and is a very secure long term vehicle for Conservation Easements such as this one. The landowners are familiar with RIM and have previously enrolled wetland and floodplain areas. If approved, the Redwood SWCD has chosen to work with BWSR, utilizing their RIM program. Therefore, following acceptance of the grant we would immediately start working with BWSR and the landowners to start processing easement paperwork. A baseline document report outlining

important conservation values protected by the easement and relative conditions of the property along with a conservation plan of action will be developed by Redwood SWCD. Once all the necessary documents are completed, the easement is recorded and the landowner has received payment, the easement is then maintained in the Redwood SWCD office and administered through BWSR. The Redwood SWCD will be responsible for landowner relationships and completing annual site reviews (easement monitoring) for the first five years and conduct spot checks every three years after that to ensure that conservation plan of action objectives are being met. Redwood SWCD will work with the landowners, update other land managers on the site and look to them for technical assistance on future projects and objectives. Redwood SWCD will respond to landowner requests for approvals of any significant reserved or permitted rights.

Project Timeline

Time Frame	Goal
December 2010	Start processing easement paperwork
June 2011	Conservation Plan of Action developed
December 2011	Final Easement should be recorded at Redwood County Courthouse
January 2012	Final payments received by landowners
July 2012	Annual spotchecks begin

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.

These lands were selected based on the unique habitat and historical significance found on site along with urgency that the site could be converted to other uses diminishing or destroying these rare forest ecosystems. Since 90% of the land in Redwood County is agricultural and forested areas are subject to a variety of threats including fragmentation from development, invasive species, and loss of wildlife habitat, the Redwood SWCD feels it is essential that this site be permanently protected.

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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.

Local support for the permanent protection of this wildlife site includes the support of three landowners and the Redwood SWCD.

2. Describe the degree of collaboration for this project.

There has been and will continue to be collaboration between the three different landowners, Redwood SWCD, BWSR, DNR, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Minnesota Historical Society. The landowners are familiar with the RIM program having previously approved easements. With technical guidance from all of the previously mentioned organization we hope to maximize the site for its full wildlife habitat, water quality and historical benefits.

3. Describe any urgency associated with this project.

This project is urgent due to the ongoing threat of land conversion and fragmentation from development, mining and housing development being the primary causes. Both of these activities would damage the integrity of the site and possibly adjacent protected areas. This grant would also place a perpetual easement on existing CRP contracts so it could not digress back into production therefore maintaining a riparian buffer to the Minnesota River into perpetuity.

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

Project benefits include preservation of unique habitats, cultural resources, water quality, corridor habitat maintenance, and diverse wildlife species. DNR's Long Range Duck Recovery Plan states, larger trees particularly basswood are important for cavity nesters and should be encouraged with old growth and extended rotation management. The Long Range for Turkeys developed by the DNR promotes habitat management and preservation of native woody cover, oak savannah, and streamside corridors.

5. Discuss the habitat benefits resulting from your project.

Significant habitat diversity is currently present, therefore the main goal will be to preserve and manage for habitat and species diversity long term. An overview of habitat diversity along the valley gradient starts with the drier ridge tops dominated by oak interspersed with remnant prairie understory, transitioning to mature maple-basswood complex on the valley slope consisting of a well developed forest canopy, sub-canopy and shrub layer, leading to the lowland deciduous forest.

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

Vegetation mapping from Public Lands Survey records (1854-1867) interpreted by Francis Marschner show little change in the extent and type of hardwood forest located on this site. In a county that is 90% agriculture this is rare. The benefits provided by habitats like this are reflected in the numerous local, state and federal plans outlining the importance of protection, management and restoration. Permanently protecting this site would fall in-step with current conservation science measures.

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

Within a ½ mile of this project site are several Re-invest in Minnesota easements totaling 327.8 acres. Recently, the landowner also enrolled another 95.3 acres, immediately adjacent to the site, into CRP. Therefore, with the addition of the 87.4 acre grant site, an exceptional 510.5 acre wildlife corridor would be created.

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

Since this project costs over \$265,652 it was necessary to provide a 15% local match totaling \$39,848. The local match is being provided through \$6,000 of in-kind contributions of labor by the Redwood SWCD office and \$33,847.82 being deducted from the cash value of the land therefore being provided by the landowners, securing full funding for the project.

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 grant is only the 2nd opportunity given to Redwood County to permanently protect its rare habitat and SGCN. Funding received through this grant would supplement existing funds because currently no funds are available for protecting existing wildlife sites such as these. The grant will not impact our budget because all funds received will go to the landowners and to BWSR for the easement administration. All the work completed by the Redwood SWCD has been donated as in-kind.

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

The land will remain private with public access at the discretion of the landowners. Like many landowners, a level of access is currently granted annually for hunting, fishing, gathering mushrooms, etc. to neighbors and local community.

11. Describe the sustainability of your project.

Since relatively little disturbance has occurred to the tract, the forest system remains relatively resilient and self sustaining as noted by a historical look at vegetation by the Minnesota County Biological Survey. However, baseline habitats will be identified in a plan of operation and subject to periodic management outlined in a jointly developed plan. Field verified spot checks will be completed every year for the first five years and every three years after that.

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

There is no need for large scale re-installation of native vegetation at this time. The long term goal would be to protect the existing site and prevent habitat loss from land disturbance activities as well as system changes from invasive species. Acting as a riparian buffer to the river, the 16.3 acres of CRP are seeded to 7 native warm season grasses and 12 native forb species. These locations will be maintained as forest openings requiring periodic maintenance from woody species encroachment.

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

This grant budget is exceptionally cost effective because the landowners are covering the 15% match needed and the Redwood SWCD is donating its administrative and technical resources. After the local match and BWSR fees are deducted, the landowners will receive an average of \$2,313.50 per acre to place land into a RIM easement. This is 14% less than what other landowners in Redwood County are receiving to place land into similar RIM programs such as the Riparian Buffer Program.

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.

Over the past 5 years, the Redwood SWCD has handled over 1 million dollars in grant funding with the bare minimum kept for district resources. The district has acquired and maintains 450 perpetual RIM easements that convert cropland into desirable native species to decrease erosion, restore wetlands and improve water quality. In 2010, the Redwood SWCD acquired 64 RIM easements with the Riparian Buffer Program, exceeding expected outcomes and making it the top performer in the state.

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

The Prairie Pothole Joint Venture Plan identifies habitat goals and targets strategies which includes improving floodplain forest health. According to the State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP), the Minnesota River Valley once had a continuous band of floodplain forest that extended upstream as far as Lac Qui Parle. It also states that today flood plain forests are rare. This project would preserve forest connectivity, wildlife habitat

and water quality helping to meet desirable landscape levels.

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

According to the SWAP for the Minnesota River Prairie subsection, 21-50 SGCN have been validated in Sherman Township where the project is located. The action plan also states that 90% of the SGCN in this subsection have problems due to habitat degradation and 87% of the SGCN have problems with habitat loss. With only 2% of the land cover remaining in forest, placing a perpetual easement on the project site will insure habitat and support these local species plans.

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

The Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan's 1st Habitat Recommendation is to protect priority land habitats and the 2nd Recommendation is to protect critical shorelands of streams and lakes. This project meets both of those recommendation by preserving a key habitat area identified not only by the Minnesota County Biological Survey but numerous local, state and federal plans along with insuring the continued protection of the Minnesota River bank with a restored grassland CRP fields.

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

This project will help the DNR achieve goals of natural lands conservation, water resources and watershed conservation and healthy fish and wildlife populations including SWAP priority actions for SGCN. The Minnesota Forest Resource Assessment recognizes the urgent window of opportunity to conserve healthy working forests for the ecological, social and economic benefits they provide. The project would address the threat of fragmentation, protect water quality and enhance rare ecological features

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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:

Tabor Hoek

Phone:

507-537-7260

Organization:

BWSR

Email:

tabor.hoek@state.mn.us

Title:

**Private Lands
Coordinator**

Site Information

Land Ownership:

Private

Acres:

87

Site Name(s):

[REDACTED] site

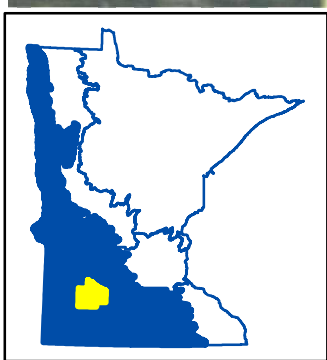
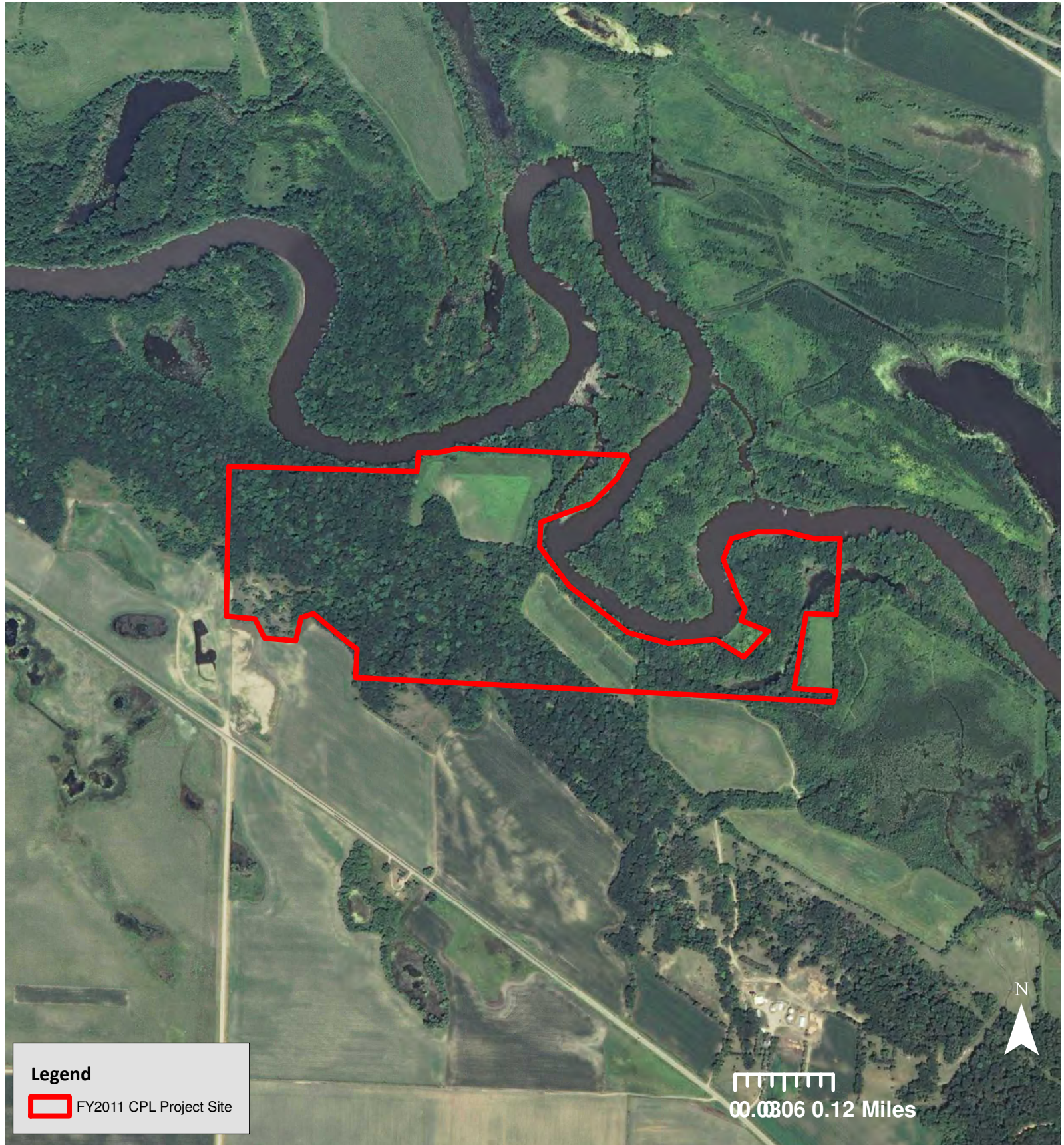
Click here to [View Site Map](#)

Activity:

Acquisition

Habitat:

Forest



CPL FY11-095
Mesic Maple-Basswood
Forest Protection Project
Redwood SWCD
Redwood County
LSOHC Prairie Planning Section



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Budget Information

Organization's Fiscal Contact Information

Name:	Marilyn Bernhardson	Street Address 1:	1241 E Bridge Street
Title:	District Administrator		Ste C
Email:	marilyn.bernhardson@racgroup.net	Street Address 2:	
Phone:	507-637-2427	City:	Redwood Falls
		State:	MN
		Zip Code:	56283

Budget Subtotals

Budget Item	Grant	Match	Total		
Personnel	\$17,284	\$6,000	\$23,284		
Contracts	\$2,000		\$2,000		
Fee Acquisition with PILT					
Fee Acquisition without PILT					
Easement Acquisition	\$202,200	\$33,848	\$236,048		
Easement Stewardship	\$4,321		\$4,321	In-kind Total	Cash Total
Travel (in-state)				\$6,000	\$33,848
Professional Services					
DNR Land Acquisition Cost					
Equipment/Tools/Supplies					
Additional Budget Items					
Total:	\$225,805	\$39,848	\$265,653		

Details

Personnel

Name	Title / work to be completed	Amount	Grant/Match	In-kind/Cash
BWSR	Easement Processing	\$17,284	Grant	
Redwood SWCD	Grant Admin/Computer Use	\$2,040	Match	In-kind
Redwood SWCD	Admin. Oversight Services	\$2,400	Match	In-kind
Redwood SWCD	Technical Assistance	\$1,560	Match	In-kind
Totals	Grant: \$17,284 Match: \$6,000	Total: \$23,284		

Contracts

Contractor Name	Contracted Work	Amount	Grant/Match	In-kind/Cash
Redwood SWCD	Easement stewardship	\$2,000	Grant	
Totals	Grant: \$2,000 Match: \$0	Total: \$2,000		

Easement Acquisition

Parcel Name	Parcel Purchase Price	Amount	Grant/Match	In-kind/Cash
John Hogan etal. Site	236048	\$202,200	Grant	
John Hogan etal. Site	236048	\$33,848	Match	Cash
Totals	Grant: \$202,200 Match: \$33,848	Total: \$236,048		

Easement Stewardship

Activity	Description	Amount	Grant/Match	In-kind/Cash
Easement Maintenance	Easement Admin/Tech Services	\$4,321	Grant	
Totals	Grant: \$4,321 Match: \$0	Total: \$4,321		

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Application Submission

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:

The John Hogan, etal. site, is included in the Mesic Maple-Basswood Forest Protection Project which is located in Sherman Township Section 9. The Main Land Manager is Tabor Hoek, BWSR Private Lands Coordinator with other Land Managers including Jeff Zajac, DNR Area Wildlife Manager and Scott Anfinson, State Archeologist.

Name the elements found:

Southern Mesic Maple-Basswood Forest (MHs39ab): Minnesota County Biological Survey
Bald Eagle Nesting Area

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

No impact to these natural heritage elements will occur. This project will place a perpetual easement on the property to secure the protection of these elements. No construction or work will be done. Due to the Native American Burial Mounds identified on site by the Minnesota Historical Society, we also included a project review and approval form from State Archeologist, Scott Anfinson. This conservation easement will help aid in the protection of these burial mounds.

Project Review and Approval Forms

[Uploaded Form 1](#)

[Uploaded Form 2](#)

[Uploaded Form 3](#)

CPL Project Review and Approval Form

REVIEWER INFORMATION:

Land manager/ easement holder name: Tabor Hoek

Agency: BWSR

Title: Private Land Coordinator

Phone: 507-537-7260

Email: tabor.hoek@state.mn.us

PROJECT INFORMATION:

Project Name: Redwood County Mesic
Maple-Basswood Forest
Protection Project

Contact Person: Judy Schulte

Organization: Redwood SWCD

Email: judy.schulte@racgroup.net

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:

Review completed by Jeff Zaiac, DNR Area Wildlife Manager

[REDACTED]

☐ 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: <u>Tabor Horke</u>	Phone: <u>502-537-7260</u>
--------------------------	----------------------------

☒ 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: Tabor Horke

Date: 9-16-10

Comments:

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:

<div style="background-color: black; width: 100%; height: 50px;"></div>

- ☐ 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](mailto:CPLStaff@DNR.state.mn.us) 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:
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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:

Comments:

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:

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☐ 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: Scott Anfinson, State Archaeologist	Phone: 612-725-2411
-------------------------------------------	---------------------

☒ 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: _____

Comments: There are five ancient burial mound sites on the uplands above the river valley. The current condition of these mounds is unknown. The easement is unlikely to affect the mounds, but any land disturbing activities should be coordinated with the State Archaeologist.

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](#)

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.

According to Scott Anfinson, State Archeologist, Native American burial mounds found on site will benefit greatly from a permanent RIM easement. His office will be contacted with any future projects in order to insure no adverse affects occur. This project site will also act as a buffer to the Bald Eagle nesting identified on the DNR Natural Heritage Database within ¼ mile of the site. The Redwood SWCD established in January of 1953, after state legislature passed the Minnesota Soil Conservation District Law, is governed by 5 locally elected supervisors. The Redwood SWCD has a long history of conservation excellence and prides itself on the conservation stewardship instilled in landowners of Redwood County for the past 57 years.

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](#)

**Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program
Staff Questions
FY 11 Applications**

Redwood SWCD, Mesic Maple-Basswood Forest Protection Project.

Please find the attached budget sheet from your application for reference and an Excel version of the budget page to make edits.

1. Please break up the Easement Stewardship entry on budget to Easement Acquisition costs (BWSR's charge) and the cost of the Easement Stewardship, placing each into their proper budget categories. Stewardship is a requirement of this program and must be specifically accounted for.

See Attached Budget Worksheet

2. Describe BWSR's easement cost and what is included.
 - a. BWSR personnel costs for easement processing include:
 - i. Processing easement application to insure accuracy of all information
 - ii. Confirm ownership
 - iii. Draft and develop legal description of sites
 - iv. Develop and process agreements
 - v. Review title insurance
 - vi. Develop and process final easement document
 - b. BWSR contract costs with Redwood SWCD includes:
 - i. Completing Easement application
 - ii. Providing legal documents/deeds found at local level
 - iii. Work with landowners to get signatures on agreement and easement
 - iv. Collect abstracts and take to the attorney office for updating
 - v. Provide all information needed from landowners in order for BWSR to process easement
 - c. BWSR Easement Stewardship cost includes:
 - i. Annual spot checks every year for the first five years and every three years after that
 - ii. Technical assistance for future enhancement projects
 - iii. All other future updates

September 13th, 2010

Redwood SWCD

1241 East Bridge Street, Ste. C

Redwood Falls, MN 56283

Dear Judy Schulte,

I, [REDACTED], will donate \$11,282.61 in order to contribute to the 15% local match needed for the Conservation Partner Legacy Grant in which my land will be placed into a perpetual Re-Invest in Minnesota (RIM) easement. This donation will be made through a reduction in cash value to my property and will cover 28.3% of the \$39,847.82 dollars needed for the 15% match.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Private Landowner
Redwood County Mesic Maple-Basswood Forest Protection Project

September 13th, 2010

Redwood SWCD

1241 East Bridge Street, Ste. C

Redwood Falls, MN 56283

Dear Judy Schulte,

I, [REDACTED], will donate \$11,282.61 in order to contribute to the 15% local match needed for the Conservation Partner Legacy Grant in which my land will be placed into a perpetual Re-Invest in Minnesota (RIM) easement. This donation will be made through a reduction in cash value to my property and will cover 28.3% of the \$39,847.82 dollars needed for the 15% match.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Private Landowner
Mesic Maple-Basswood Forest Protection Site

September 13th, 2010

Redwood SWCD

1241 East Bridge Street, Ste. C

Redwood Falls, MN 56283

Dear Judy Schulte,

I, [REDACTED] will donate \$11,282.60 in order to contribute to the 15% local match needed for the Conservation Partner Legacy Grant in which my land will be placed into a perpetual Re-Invest in Minnesota (RIM) easement. This donation will be made through a reduction in cash value to my property and will cover 28.3% of the \$39,847.82 dollars needed for the 15% match.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Private Landowner
Mesic Maple-Basswood Forest Protection Site

Conservation Partners Legacy Grants - Online Applications


Jamie Gangaware

Admin

[List Applications](#)


[Summary Spreadsheet](#)

[Log Out](#)


 Project Summary

 Project Info

 Site Info

 Budget Info

 Review & Approval

 Additional Info

 Application Submission

Final Application Submission

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

I certify that I have read the Conservation Partners Legacy Grants Program Request for Proposal, Program Manual and other program documents, and have discussed this project with the appropriate public land manager, or private landowner and easement holder.

I certify I am authorized to apply for and manage these grant and match funds, and the project work by the organization or agency listed below. I certify this organization to have the financial capability to compete this project and that it will comply with all applicable laws and regulations.

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

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

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

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

Signature:

Judy Schulte

Organization / Agency:

Redwood SWCD

Title:

District Technician

Date:

2010-09-16

Proj ID	Organization Name	Project Name	Technical Review Committee Scoring Comments	Amtount Requested	Score	Technical Review Committee Final Rank Comments	Regional Comments	Meets Regional Plan?	Rank	Region	Division Director's Comments
95	Redwood SWCD	Mesic Maple-Basswood Forest Protection Project	Clarifying BWSR easement, staff, acquisition costs, also SWCD. Also type of plan--easement, stewardship, forest. No public access--still private. If burial mounds, why no tribal input? How does it fit with habitat idea? Habitat seems to be third on the list for doing work for this site. They will need more forest mgmt than just fuel wood cutting. Is this the right source of funds? Well written and interesting proposal. Is \$3,000/acre a lot for a cons easement, with no public access, no forest mgmt?	\$225,805	112	Is an acquisition, providing permanent protection. Remaining in private ownership, no public access. Is preserving. Hunting/fishing could be allowed. Has significant species and habitat benefits. Still wondering why no tribal involvement--otherwise good partnership. Could this be accomplished in another way? What is commitment to land mgmt--appears not much in past? Is there really an urgency--limited development potential due to bluffs and backwaters--	Need more info to give a good ranking	Y	L	4	Is comprehensive conservation plan, understand ECS types. Island, very small project. Bluffland protection is a big priority in this area. Ok to fund but with reservations.

unbuildable?

General ranking comments- all habitat projects	All are good projects, meet goals of program. All should move forward.	All could have had better partnerships--go to NGOs for \$\$ and support.	County projects--tree planting: is it supplanting? Are these over and above regular funding?	Land purchases have more urgency than plantings.	No fluff in the costs for any of these.	If need to cut, spread \$\$ out among all applicants.
------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------

Redwood SWCD_101_Mesic Maple Basswood Forest

	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
	2.00	9.00	9.00	7.00	8.00	8.00	9.00	8.00	8.00	9.00	1.00	8.00	10.00	7.00
	5.00	7.00	6.00	4.00	5.00	7.00	10.00	4.00	9.00	5.00	1.00	7.00	10.00	9.00
	6.00	7.00	8.00	6.00	6.00	8.00	8.00	6.00	8.00	5.00	5.00	6.00	9.00	8.00
	9.00	7.00	7.00	8.00	5.00	6.00	9.00	2.00	8.00	8.00	1.00	4.00	9.00	9.00
	1.00	6.00	6.00	2.00	6.00	6.00	7.00	7.00	6.00	5.00	1.00	4.00	8.00	8.00
AVERAGES	4.60	7.20	7.20	5.40	6.00	7.00	8.60	5.40	7.80	6.40	1.80	5.80	9.20	8.20
TOTAL SCORE	128.80													

15)Capacity to Successfully Complete Work	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	8.00	9.00	9.00	9.00
7.00	8.00	7.00	8.00	5.00
7.00	7.00	7.00	8.00	7.00
9.00	8.00	9.00	7.00	7.00
9.00	8.00	6.00	7.00	6.00
8.20	7.80	7.60	7.80	6.80