

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2011-2012 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

LCCMR ID: 126-E

Project Title: Community Grants to Suppress EAB on Private Lands

Category: E. Aquatic and Terrestrial Invasive Species

Total Project Budget: \$ \$1,000,000

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 2 yrs, July 2011 - June 2013

Other Non-State Funds: \$ 0

Summary:

Slowing the spread of emerald ash borer (EAB) by removing infested ash trees is critical but costly. Homeowners would receive community loans through DNR grants for timely removal and disposal.

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Sponsoring Organization: DNR

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Location

Region: Statewide

Ecological Section: Statewide

County Name: Statewide

City / Township:

_____ Funding Priorities	_____ Multiple Benefits	_____ Outcomes	_____ Knowledge Base
_____ Extent of Impact	_____ Innovation	_____ Scientific/Tech Basis	_____ Urgency
_____ Capacity Readiness	_____ Leverage	_____ Employment	_____ TOTAL _____%

2011-2012 MAIN PROPOSAL

PROJECT TITLE: Community Grants to Suppress EAB on Private Lands

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

Emerald ash borer (EAB) has proven capable of killing ash trees of every species in North America, and has killed 5 percent of the ash resource in Michigan alone – 40 million trees. Since its discovery in 2002, EAB has spread to Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Missouri, Virginia, Kentucky, Wisconsin, and Ontario and Quebec in Canada. EAB has now been found in St. Paul (2009) and Minneapolis (2010). Research has not uncovered any ash resistance to EAB, and Minnesota could lose much of the ash resource – in excess of 900 million ash trees – if EAB becomes established.

“Suppression” is a strategy to prevent EAB establishment and to impede the spread of EAB by timely removal and disposal of EAB infested ash trees before EAB can disperse and infest new areas. This strategy is most effective when known infestations of EAB are limited in scope. However, suppression activities can be costly, and the costs are often beyond a community’s normal budgeted amounts for tree care. For private individuals living in the community, costs for tree removal and disposal are often beyond an individual homeowner’s means. Even if the community can pay for costs for removal and disposal of public trees, without similar actions on private lands, suppression actions taken by a community would be ineffective.

This proposal would provide grants to communities to make loans to private landowners for timely ash removal and disposal. The money would provide the needed resources to slow the spread of EAB throughout and beyond the community. Communities need to begin removal of high risk ash trees (older and declining ash) on all lands by the time EAB is within 10 miles of the community.

This grant proposal is critical because there are no programs or funding to fully and directly address suppression strategies on private lands. Federal funds for EAB response in other states are no longer available for suppression activities. Outdoor Heritage funds granted to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) assist communities to prepare for EAB, but the funds do not directly reach private landowners. Current bonding language also contains provisions for a response to shade tree invasive species, but bonding money can only be used on public trees. Funds would be available for some suppression activities, but without a comprehensive suppression effort on all lands within a community, suppression efforts will fail.

Communities will be encouraged as part of the conditions of the grant to work with biomass industries to utilize the removed ash trees and explore the possibilities of generating income. Additional efforts will be undertaken to develop implementation strategies for the ash material removed in response to the loan program.

The grant program will be modeled after MN ReLeaf grant programs. The grant language will clearly state that this is a loan program, the money will have to be repaid to the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund, and it is the community’s responsibility to repay the loan.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Activity 1: Grants for EAB Response

Budget: \$ 900,000

Grants would be made to communities to provide funding for no-interest loans to private landowners for the removal and disposal of EAB infested ash trees and for the replanting of non-ash tree species on private lands. Replanting would include the cost of the planting stock and the cost to plant the tree(s). Grants would be available to only those landowners receiving loans for removal and disposal. A portion of the grant, perhaps 10%, would be a non-loan to the community to develop entrepreneurial approaches for utilizing the ash wood such as obtaining or accessing debarking equipment and kilns to heat treat firewood.

The portion of the grant involving the loan would be available for ten years. The terms of the grants would clearly state that the community must repay the loan within the 10-year period and all money would go back into the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund.

Communities would determine needs, make applications, oversee the implementation of the programs, manage the loans, and be responsible for loan repayment. DNR would develop the grant procedures and documents, advertise the availability of the grants, administer the grants, provide technical assistance, and follow up during the loan repayment period to ensure loans are repaid.

Propose budget:

- \$ 750,000 – removal and disposal
- \$ 150,000 – tree planting

Target will be to provide grants to 30 Minnesota communities.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Prepare, advertise and mail out grant package	8/11
2. Award grants	9/11
3. Second round of grants awarded	6/12
4. Removal, disposal, & tree planting ends	6/13
5. End of loan period	6//22

Activity 2: Utilization Strategies

Budget: \$100,000

To address the need for better ash wood utilization in order to lower the risk of disseminating EAB and to capture potential revenue to offset the cost of tree removal and disposal, this proposal would try the following:

- a) Work with clusters of communities to develop a common, collection yard where logs could be brought to, sorted for quality and value, and then have wood using industries invited to purchase ash material.
- b) Consult with states such as Michigan and Ohio where EAB has been a longer term issue and adapt any utilization models that they have developed that may be appropriate to for Minnesota.
- c) Work with communities to secure debarking and kilns for producing “safe” ash wood to be more readily available for utilization.
- d) Investigate the utilization of treated ash firewood as a source of safe firewood for state parks

Target: Develop 3 community projects to pilot test utilization ideas.

Outcome	Completion Date
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1. Consult with MI and OH to develop utilization model(s)	12/11
2. Develop 3 concentration yards	3/12
3. Develop marketing approach for ash wood in concentration yards	3/12

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

Partners: The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA), USFS, State and Private Forestry, MNSTAC and USDA APHIS, PPQ will be partners in developing the grant details, assist in an outreach effort to inform communities, and help provide technical expertise in the identification of suspect ash as well as the proper disposal of the trees.

Team: Alan Jones, Project Manager; Val Cervenka, and Susan Burks, MNDNR Forestry.

B. Timeline Requirements

There will be 2 grant periods, 2011 and 2012. All work would be completed by June 30, 2012. Loan period will run for 10 years and the last loan would be repaid by June 30, 2022.

C. Long-Term Strategy and Future Funding Needs

This project is a component of a larger strategy to mitigate EAB impacts to MN tree resources. Population monitoring, timely suppression activities when population occurrences are limited, use of insecticides to protect community trees, reducing the size and amount of ash (phloem reduction strategies) in the rural forests, and continual outreach and training of first responders will also be components of a comprehensive EAB mitigation strategy.

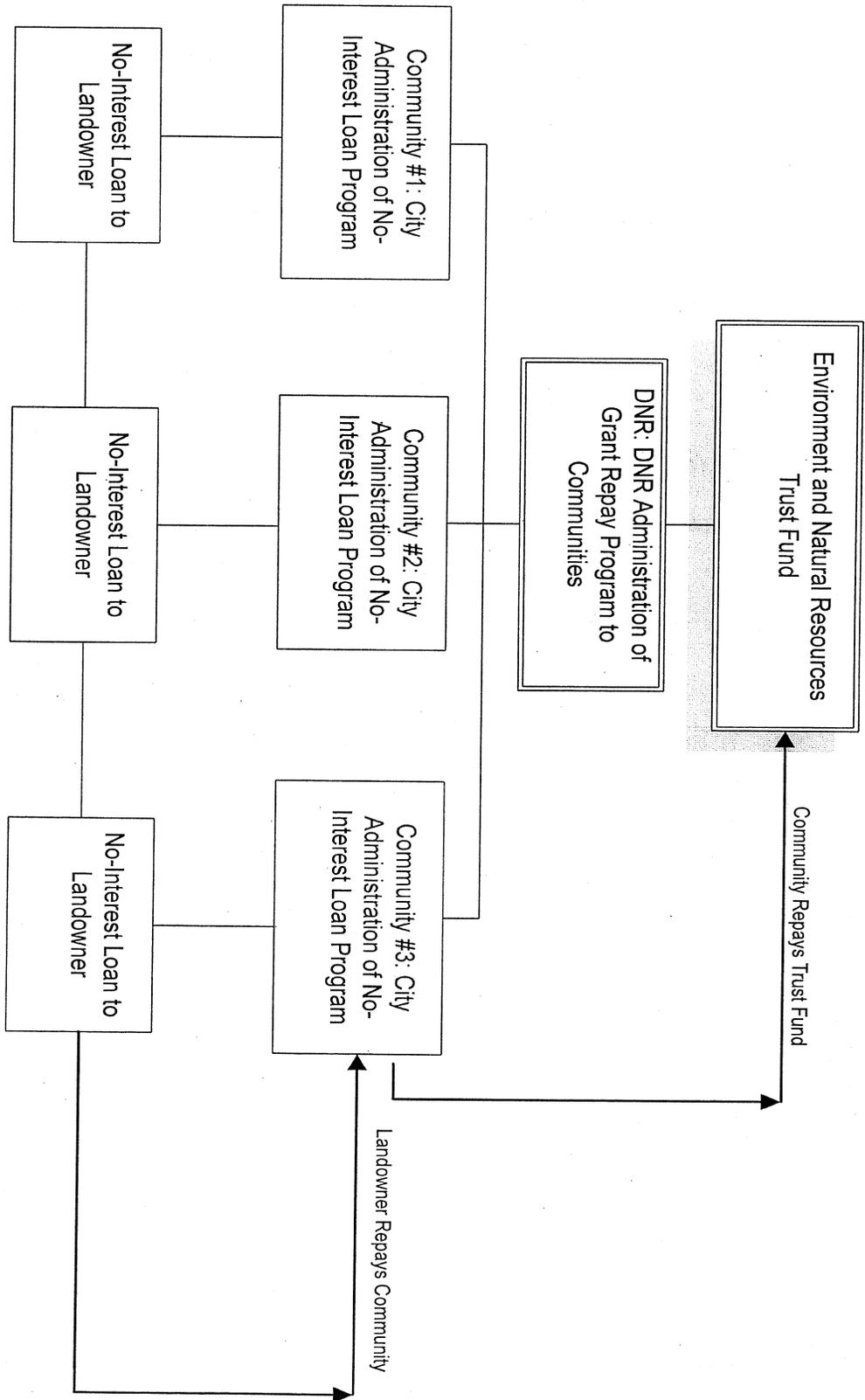
2011-2012 Detailed Project Budget

IV. TOTAL TRUST FUND REQUEST BUDGET 2 years

BUDGET ITEM <i>(See list of Eligible & Non-Eligible Costs, p. 13)</i>	AMOUNT
Personnel: This project will not provide any salary dollars. Staff time to develop and administer grants will be part of the in-kind contribution.	\$ -
Contracts: Grants in the form of contracts will be made to municipalities with EAB infestations or close to a known EAB infestation.	\$ 1,000,000
Equipment/Tools/Supplies: All equipment, tools, and supplies will be provided by the DNR Division of Forestry.	\$ -
Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements): No acquisition involved.	\$ -
Travel: All travel costs will be addressed by the DNR Division of Forestry.	\$ -
Additional Budget Items: <i>In this column, list any additional budget items that do not fit above categories. List by item(s) or item type(s) and explain how number was reached. One row per type/category.</i>	\$ -
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST	\$ 1,000,000

V. OTHER FUNDS

SOURCE OF FUNDS	AMOUNT	Status
Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period: None.	\$ -	<i>Indicate: Secured or Pending</i>
Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:	Shared services costs: \$12,600	<i>Indicate: Secured or Pending</i>
In-kind Services During Project Period: Staff time to prepare and administer the grants.	Staff time to prepare and administer the grants: \$25,000	
Remaining \$ from Current ENRTF Appropriation (if applicable): Not applicable.	\$ -	<i>Indicate: Unspent? Not Legally Obligated? Other?</i>
Funding History: <i>Indicate funding secured prior to July 1, 2011 for activities directly relevant to this specific funding request.</i> None.	\$ -	



EAB Funding Summary			
Funding Source	MN Recipient	Purpose	Restrictions
Animal Plant Health Information Service (Federal)	Agriculture	Survey & outreach	Funds support agency activities, not communities
State & Private Forestry (Federal)	Agriculture & DNR	Outreach, special studies, survey	Funds support agency activities, not communities
Outdoor Heritage	Agriculture ⇒ grants to communities	Response to documented infestations (suppression activities) and plan and prepare for EAB.	Responding to documented infestations are only on lands under a community's "jurisdiction, ownership and management." No direct funds for private lands.
Capital Bonding	DNR ⇒ grants to communities	Tree removals & replacement	Public trees only; cannot be used on private lands or on boulevard trees where boulevard is by easement.
LCCMR	DNR ⇒ grants to communities ⇒ loans to private landowners	Tree removals & replacement on private lands directly affected or imminently threatened by EAB	Communities must repay the loans

Project Manager Qualifications

Project Manager: Alan Jones is the Silviculture, Lands & Roads Supervisor for the DNR Division of Forestry. His program responsibilities include supervision of state forest land regeneration, ecological classification program, forest health program, the state forest roads program, and the lands program. He has been the supervisor of these programs since 2002. Previous to that, he was Area Forest Supervisor in Alexandria, the Cultural and Aesthetics Program Coordinator, and the NW Regional Forest Health Specialist. Alan has a BS degree in forest management and a MS degree in plant pathology, from Colorado State University.

Team Member: Valeria Cervenka is the Forest Health Program Coordinator for the DNR Division of Forestry. She coordinates the forest health program activities of three regional forest health specialists. She is serving as the division lead for emerald ash borer preparation and responses. She coordinates EAB outreach activities for the division, and is active in the EAB First Detector Training. Val has a BS degree in entomology and horticulture and a MS degree in entomology from the University of Minnesota.

Team Member: Susan Burks is the Invasive Species Program Coordinator for the DNR Division of Forestry. She leads the division's effort to monitor and control terrestrial invasive plant species on state forestry lands. She led the team that developed division invasive species guidelines. Susan chaired the task force that outlined initial MNDNR policy regarding firewood on MNDNR administered lands and currently serves as chair of the agency firewood committee. She serves as the division's gypsy moth coordinator and serves as one of the DNR's representatives on the interagency Gypsy Moth Program Advisory Committee. Before coming to Minnesota, Susan was the forest health program coordinator in Missouri. She has a BS degree in from the University of Colorado and a MS degree in plant pathology from Colorado State University.

Organization Description

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources works with citizens to conserve and manage the state's natural resources, to provide outdoor recreation opportunities, and provide for commercial uses of natural resources in a way that creates a sustainable quality of life. This mission requires sharing stewardship with citizens and partners, working together to address often-competing interests.