

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2014 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

Project Title:

ENRTF ID: 172-F

Increasing Habitat and Ecosystem Benefits through Forest management

Category: F. Methods to Protect, Restore, and Enhance Land, Water, and Habitat

Total Project Budget: \$ 268,600

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 2 Years, July 2014 - June 2016

Summary:

Conduct and coordinate state forest resource assessments, prepare summary reports and communicate through outreach efforts promoting the business investment opportunities resulting in increased and sustainable environmental, social and economic benefits.

Name: Kent Jacobson

Sponsoring Organization: MN DNR - Div of Forestry

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Location

Region: 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 _____%



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)

2014 Main Proposal

Project Title: Increasing Habitat and Ecosystem Benefits through Forest Management

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I. PROJECT STATEMENT

Minnesota’s forests face a declining capacity to achieve desired future forest conditions due to the economic recession and changes in the market dynamics of forest product based industries. This decline in capacity impacts Minnesota’s opportunity to achieve and maintain desired healthy future forest conditions since timber harvest activity is the primary instrument for economically and efficiently managing the state’s forests on a large scale. Timber harvests create early successional habitats that benefit many wildlife species, regenerate forest cover for long-term water quality needs, and initiate the restoration and maintenance of ecosystems. Additionally, this declining capacity has resulted in the loss of employment and the corresponding economic benefits to communities statewide.

The total acreage managed annually by timber harvests in Minnesota from all timberland ownerships has changed from 207,000 acres in 2005 to an estimated 139,000 acres in 2012. This compares to forest management annual growth and mortality survey data which estimates that the equivalent of 308,000 acres is lost annually to tree mortality. The potential for the increased management of the state’s timber resources has the opportunity to provide long-term sustainable environmental, social and economic benefits.

The DNR’s Division of Forestry recognizes the resource opportunity and need for a leadership role in the efforts to protect, restore, and enhance land, water, and habitat. This project proposal is seeking financial support for the research needed to assess the opportunities for increased forest management and to communicate the identified forest management opportunities that are available in Minnesota. The promotion of Minnesota’s timber resources requires an updating of the resources’ statistical summaries and assembly into enhanced printed, web-based, and other forms for outreach and delivery. The Division of Forestry will heighten its endeavors to coordinate, support, and lead various governmental, civic, and private efforts that are working to promote increased forest management.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Activity 1: Minnesota Forest Resource Assessments

Budget: \$ 92,398.00

Forest management is dependent on the continuous assessment of the forest resource. The basic needs of forest management depend upon the assessment of the forests’ environmental and economic health. These assessments, which will be conducted by the DNR, University of Minnesota, and University of Minnesota Duluth, may include the monitoring of forest growth, mortality, removals, age-class distributions, and research on sustainable habitat requirements including changes with forest cover types and long-term sustainability assessments. Modeling of the forest land base will be conducted to help quantify the amount and spatial location of forest management treatments, or lack of such.

The Division of Forestry has been the state’s central facilitator of forest resource information. The need for an updated assessment of the forest resource is a foundational requirement in the effort to promote investment in Minnesota’s forest-based economies. This information must be summarized in various forms and available on demand and through outreach efforts to promote the forest resources available for management.

Outcome	Completion Date
<i>1. Gather, analyze, and process forest resource supply assessments</i>	<i>December 2014</i>
<i>2. Prepare forest management reports for distribution via printed media, web-based, digital, and other as needed.</i>	<i>March 2015</i>



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Activity 2: Outreach Program Promoting Forest Resource Opportunities

Budget: \$ 176,202.00

The Division of Forestry must provide the statewide leadership efforts to coordinate the outreach promoting the opportunities for increased investments in the forest-based economy. The promotional outreach includes a broad team effort from the state and multi-state level to local community involvement. Of primary importance is the existing industry and supporting their needs to remain competitive, and expand where possible.

The outreach program will include the process to identify the required budgets, legislation, policy, strategies, and other needs to retain, enhance, or expand Minnesota’s forest-based economy. Promoting the opportunities for increased forest management from public and private timberlands, the value of forest certification, green building market growth, industrial and residential heating and renewable energy opportunities, and Minnesota’s productive economic infrastructure are all possible.

Outcome	Completion Date
<i>1. Survey, assess and consult with the existing industry infrastructure on needs and opportunities to sustain and expand.</i>	<i>March 2015</i>
<i>2. Conduct outreach efforts with economic development agencies and organizations on emerging forest product markets.</i>	<i>October 2015</i>
<i>3. Support/sponsor/attend trade shows and associations, resource consultants, research and development, and other activities seeking a forest resource base for market development.</i>	<i>June 2016</i>

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

1. DNR Division of Forestry’s state land management, forest certification, and cooperative forest management programs, and resource assessment unit.
 2. University of Minnesota, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resources Sciences, Department of Forest Resources and the Interagency Information Cooperative administered by that unit.
 3. University of Minnesota Duluth, Natural Resources Research Institute
- Partners providing support but not receiving funds from the ENRTF:
4. Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development
 5. USDA Forest Service, Northern Research Station, Forest Products Laboratory, State and Private Forestry
 6. Minnesota Forestry Association (private forest land owners group)
 7. Minnesota County Land Departments via Minnesota Association of County Land Commissioners
 8. Regional Forestry Affairs Committees and Economic Development Authorities

B. Timeline Requirements

Activities 1 and 2 can begin concurrently but the outputs of Activity 1 are required to provide the base assessment of the opportunities for increased and sustainable forest management from all timberland ownerships. Activity 1 should be completed within the first nine months and Activity 2 will use ENRTF for support funding over the two years.

C. Long-Term Strategy and Future Funding Needs

The magnitude of the long-term positive impacts to the environmental, social and economic needs of the state of Minnesota through increased and sustainable forest management activities cannot be understated. This grant will address the urgency in providing support for the assessments and outreach while the DNR’s Division of Forestry invests in sustaining such efforts.

2014 Detailed Project Budget

Project Title: Increasing Habitat and Ecosystem Benefits through Forest Management

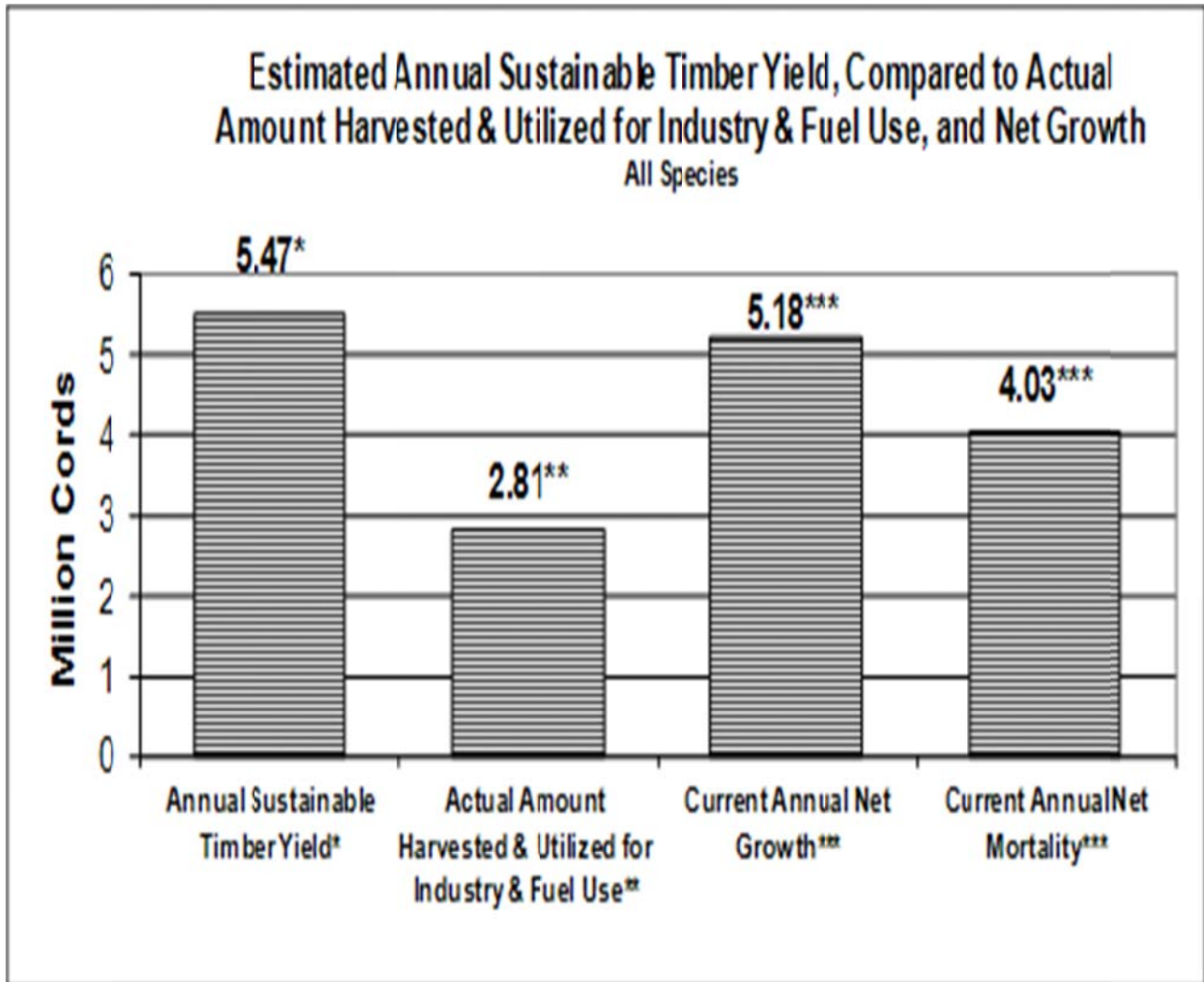
IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET - 2 years

<u>BUDGET ITEM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Personnel:	\$ 30,000
Timber Business Program Consultant	
Biomass Coordinator	
Contracts:	
Resource Assessment	\$ 84,000
Contract for Professional Services, writing and media development	\$ 57,000
University of Minnesota Duluth - NRRRI - new product development support	\$ 10,000
University of Minnesota - forest management environmental benefits	\$ 10,000
Equipment/Tools/Supplies:	N/A
Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements):	N/A
Travel:	\$ 18,000
In-state conference attendance fees and support	
Out-state national events (green energy, new age fuels, engineered wood, etc.)	
Additional Budget Items:	\$ 41,000
Print media, web-site, outreach campaign	
Hosting conference, attending trade shows	
Professional Services: Direct and Necessary Services required to support this appropriation.	\$ 18,600
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =	\$ 268,600

V. OTHER FUNDS

<u>SOURCE OF FUNDS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>Status</u>
Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:	N/A	
Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:		
Division of Forestry staff (economist, biomass consultant, PFM program foresters)	\$ 50,000	<i>secured</i>
Project support from general fund (FY15 secured)	\$ 25,000	<i>secured</i>
Project support from general fund (FY16 pending)	\$ 25,000	<i>pending</i>
In-kind Services During Project Period:	N/A	
Remaining \$ from Current ENRTF Appropriation (if applicable):	N/A	
Funding History:	\$ -	

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Source:

Minnesota. Department of Natural Resources. (2013). *Minnesota's Forest Resources 2012*. St. Paul, MN: State of Minnesota.

PROJECT TITLE: Increasing Habitat and Ecosystem Benefits through Forest Management

Project Manager Qualifications

Project Manager: Kent Jacobson

Affiliation: Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry

Telephone Number: 218-372-3082

Title: Timber Business Program Consultant

Kent Jacobson has worked in various positions within the public and private forestry and forest products industry spanning 35 years. These positions have included a significant period of field work including timber harvesting and industrial forestry & land management throughout all of northern Minnesota from Pine to Koochiching counties south to north and from Lake to Wadena counties east to west. The career path led to supervisor and managerial positions with Potlatch Corporation and Ainsworth LLC as their Regional Woodlands Manager. Kent has contributed to the growth of Minnesota's forest management community through working with the Minnesota-Wisconsin Nemadji watershed study, as a member of the Forest Resource Council's wildlife technical team and integration team which developed the voluntary site-level forest management guidelines and managed the installation of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative and Forest Stewardship Council certification programs within both the Potlatch and Ainsworth woodlands organizations. As the timber business program consultant with the DNR Division of Forestry Kent has worked on timber program policy and the state statute revision initiative which was successfully enacted by the 2013 legislature.

Organization Description

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' overall mission is to work with citizens to conserve and manage the state's natural resources, to provide outdoor recreation opportunities, and to provide for commercial uses of natural resources in a way that creates a sustainable quality of life.

The Division of Forestry manages 58 state forests and 4.2 million acres of land for multiple forest resources, maintains over 2,000 miles of state forest roads that provide access to state and other forest lands, is responsible for protecting people, property and natural resources from wildfire on 45.5 million acres of land in Minnesota and works with private landowners, partner organizations, and consulting foresters to promote sustainable management on 5.7 million acres of non-industrial private forestland.

The DNR maintains a forest inventory for DNR administered forest lands under the authority of M.S. §84.03 that directs the commissioner to "collect and arrange statistics and other information in reference to the lands and general and specific resources of the state;" under M.S. §90.041 that directs the commissioner to "make thorough inquiry into the extent, character and value of the timber on all state lands;" and under M.S. §89A.07 that directs the commissioner to "establish a program for monitoring broad trends and conditions in the state's forest resources."