



2010 Native Buffer Cost Share Program Request for Proposals (RFP)

Program Purpose

Grants for cost-sharing up to 75% to establish and maintain diverse native vegetation by planting vegetation or sowing seed that originates from as close to the project site as possible and preferably of the local ecotype region, while protecting existing native prairies from genetic contamination.

Program Announcement

Available funding: \$1 million

Eligible Applicants

SWCD's within the Prairie Ecoregions of the state as shown in the Ecological subsections map found at:

<http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/grantscostshare/native-buffer.html>

Application/Grant Timeline

Oct. 15, 2009	Application period begins
Dec. 1, 2009	Applications due
Apr. 30, 2010	Work plans completed

Eligible Activities

- Site preparation, seed collection, seed, seeding and establishment costs.
- Native vegetation management; prescribed burning, inter-seeding, weed control when tied to vegetation improvement, invasive species control, disking, haying and reseeding existing stands of grass on existing RIM easements.
- Lakescaping, including minimal grading for site preparation, plant materials, seed and mulch.
- Biorentition projects, including minimal grading for site preparation, plant materials, seed and mulch.
- Remnant native prairie management using vegetation management activities with approval from BWSR vegetation management specialist.
- Land rental costs, for non-program lands, during establishment (3 years CCRP rate x 75%) for agricultural lands or seed production areas. The rental payment is at the discretion of the SWCD board when there are acres being converted from ag use and no other program payments are involved. The intent is to cover costs as native vegetation establishes.

Project Reporting

As this is a state cost-share grant, project reporting will be conducted in e-LINK and on the same schedule as other cost-share grants. There is a focus on measureable outcome reporting for this program. Information should be recorded over the life of the grant for pollution reductions and water quality improvements, invasive species controlled, native species established (acres and diversity) and other resource benefits.

Project reporting will also involve summarizing information about what was successful regarding native vegetation establishment to improve the success of future restoration efforts.

As required in the Legislative appropriation, grant recipients must display detailed information on the expenditure of the grant funds, and measurable outcomes as a result of the expenditure of funds, on its web site. A recipient without an active web site shall report to the Board of Water and Soil Resources by June 30 each year detailed information on the expenditure of the grant funds and measurable outcomes to be displayed on the Board's web site.

Scoring Criteria

Note: The following selection criteria will be weighted evenly during the ranking process.

- Completeness of plan for conducting site preparation, planting and maintenance
- Project long-term sustainability
- Coordination of restoration project with local plans
- Cash and/or in-kind contribution/efficient use of funding
- Information provided about expected project outcomes

Note: Projects may not be eligible for funding if they are required as part of a permit or program requirement.

Application Guidance

- Administered locally by SWCD's using the State Cost-Share Program.
- Eligible conservation buffer areas to be determined by the SWCD Board of Supervisors.
- 643 (Restoration and Management of Declining Habitats) and 657 (Wetland Restoration) practice standards are the primary standards used for this program.
- Contract length/duration is for a minimum of 15 years.
- Eligible project areas are limited to SWCDs within the Prairie Ecotype regions of the state as shown in the Ecological subsections map found at: <http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/grantscostshare/native-buffer.html>
- Minimum and maximum size and costs are determined by SWCD Board of Supervisors using reasonable costs process.
- To the extent possible, seed must be obtained from as close to the project site as possible with an emphasis on obtaining seed from the local eco-type region. The Minnesota DNR map: "County Landscape Groupings Based on Ecological Subsections" (http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/pubs_maps.html) can be used as a guide for selecting seed from local ecotype regions. The map shows the general groupings of counties that have similar eco-type similarities. (see additional seed specifications at: <http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/grantscostshare/native-buffer.html>).

Grants and Public Information

Under Minnesota Statute 13.599, responses to a RFP are nonpublic until the application deadline is reached. At that time, the name and address of the grantee, and the amount requested becomes public. All other data is nonpublic until the negotiation of the grant agreement with the selected grantee is completed. After the application evaluation process is completed, all data (except trade secret data) becomes public. Data created during the evaluation process is nonpublic until the negotiation of the grant agreement with the selected grantee(s) is completed.

Prevailing Wage

It is the responsibility of the grant recipient or contractor to pay prevailing wages on construction projects to which state prevailing wage laws apply (Minn. Stat. 177.42 – 177.44). All laborers and mechanics employed by grant recipients and subcontractors funded in whole or in part with state funds included in this RFP shall be paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing on projects of a character similar in the locality.

Additional information on prevailing wage requirements are available on the Department of Labor and Industry (DOLI) website: <http://www.dli.mn.gov/LS/PrevWage.asp>. Questions about the application of prevailing wage rates, should be directed to DOLI at 651-284-5091. The Grant recipient is solely responsible for payment of all required prevailing wage rates.

Application Guidance

If you need additional information, email or call:

- Your area BWSR Board Conservationist. The BWSR staff directory, including a map of work areas is available at: <http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/contact/index.html>, or
- Dan Shaw, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources
Phone No: 651-296-0644
Email: dan.shaw@state.mn.us