



Friends of Minnesota Scientific & Natural Areas

Friends of Minnesota Scientific and Natural Areas Recommends an additional \$6 Million, Per Biennium, for the DNR Scientific and Natural Area (SNA) Program

The following summary of needs is based on our knowledge of the SNA Program.

DNR Regions 1 (Northwest MN), 3 (Central & Southeast MN) and 4 (Southwest MN): example;

These three regions need a total of **up to 11 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) positions in each DNR Region**. These FTEs would be composed of professional resource personnel, technicians, and management crews needed to plan, oversee, and carry out management activities on SNA and Native Prairie Bank sites, coordinate with Prairie Bank owners relative to retained property rights, coordinate with adjacent landowners and local units of government.

Up to 33 FTEs for staffing these 3 regions: \$3.6 million

Equipment and management supplies (trucks, ATVs, lodging, travel expenses, chain saws, office space etc.): **\$1.5 million**

DNR Region 2 (Northeast MN): example:

Up to 2 FTEs for staffing this region: \$225,000

Equipment and management supplies (ATVs, lodging, travel etc.): **\$275,000**

Central Office:

1 FTE is needed for statewide outreach from the Central St. Paul Office. This effort also requires outreach materials and clerical and administrative support.

Cost for Central Office: \$400,000

One example serves to illustrate the issue: Region 4 with headquarters in New Ulm. This DNR Region covers 32 counties and includes 37 SNAs with 4,489 acres and another 110 NPB conservation easements with 7,398 acres. Yet, there are only 4 SNA personnel (2 Natural Resource Specialists, a technician and 1 laborer). This low staffing level makes it

impossible to carry out and monitor all of the maintenance activities necessary. As a result, some sites may not have any maintenance for years.

In total, the SNA Program needs an additional \$6 million in general funds, for each biennium, to cover essential management, outreach, equipment, and administration costs. .

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