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Date of Report: January 15, 2000  
Date of Next Work Program Update: June 30, 2000  
Date of Work Plan Approval: May 8, 1998  
Project Completion date: June 30, 2000

**LCMR Work Program 1998**

**I. Title: SCIENTIFIC AND NATURAL AREA ACQUISITION**

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**Total Biennial Project Budget: Amounts in thousands**

**A. Total Biennial Project Budget: Amounts in thousands**

Fund	Year	Approp.	Liquid.	Encumb.	Balance
SNA Acquisition <sup>1</sup> (Trust Fund)	1993	1,000	1,000	0	0
SNA Acquisition <sup>2</sup> (Bonding)	1994	1,000	1,000	0	0
RIM Wildlife <sup>3</sup> (Bonding)	1996	500	500	0	0
SNA Acquisition <sup>4</sup> (General Fund)	1997	250	250	0	0
RIM Wildlife Habitat <sup>5</sup> (Environmental Trust Fund)	1997	200	200	0	0
SNA Acquisition <sup>6</sup> (Capital Improvement)	1997	2,200	1,280	318	602
<b>Total</b>		<b>5,150</b>	<b>4,230</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>602</b>

**A. Legal Citations:**

**1993 Appropriation**

1. M.L. 1993, Chapter 172, Sec.14, Subd. 12(a). Reinvest in Minnesota-Critical Habitat Match, Scientific and Natural Areas, Wildlife and Prairie Acquisition. This appropriation is from the trust fund to the Commissioner of Natural Resources to accelerate the reinvest in Minnesota program.....\$1,000,000 is to acquire land for scientific and natural areas...

**1994 Appropriation**

2. M.L. 1994, Chapter 643, Section 23, Subd.23. RIM Wildlife and Natural Area Land Acquisition. To acquire land related to wildlife management areas, scientific and natural areas, and prairie bank easements. The Commissioner shall determine project priorities as appropriate based upon need. \$4,000,000. (The agency has allocated \$1,000,000 to this program).

### **1996 Appropriation**

3. M. L. 1996, Chapter 463, Sec.7, Subd. 22. RIM Wildlife and Natural Area Land Acquisition. To acquire land for wildlife management areas .....to acquire land for scientific and natural areas under Minnesota Statutes, section 84.033: ....The commissioner shall determine project priorities as appropriate based upon need. \$500,000 is for scientific and natural areas and native prairie bank easements.

### **1997 Appropriations**

4. M.L 1997, Chapter 216, Sec.5, Subd.7, \$250,000. This appropriation is from the general fund to accelerate the acquisition of land for scientific and natural areas under Minnesota Statutes, section 84.033.

5. M.L. 1997, Chapter 216, Sec.15, Subd.17( k), \$200,000. This appropriation is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources to accelerate the acquisition of land for scientific and natural areas under Minnesota Statutes, section 84.033.

### **1998 Appropriations.**

6. M.L. 1998, Chapter 404, Sec.7 , Subd.18, \$2,200,000. To acquire land related to scientific and natural areas and prairie bank easements and for development, protection, or improvements of a capital nature to scientific and natural areas throughout the state. \$2,200,000 is for scientific and natural area acquisition, \$400,000 is for scientific and natural area restoration and development, and \$400,000 is for Prairie Bank easements. The commissioner shall determine project priorities as appropriate based upon need.

## **I. PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS:**

The Department of Natural Resources has developed a long-range plan for Scientific and Natural Areas (SNA) acquisition designation and management. This plan relies on the Natural Heritage data system and County Biological Survey, Minnesota Subsections of the Ecological Classification Map and the Department's SNA policy.

The SNA activity goal is to preserve and perpetuate the ecological diversity of Minnesota's natural heritage for scientific study, education, and nature observation. Presently, 130 areas have been designated on existing public lands or acquired through purchase, gift, or free leases. These areas protect "elements" of natural diversity such as rare and endangered plant and animal species, undisturbed plant communities, geological features, and other natural resources. To adequately protect Minnesota's critical resource "elements" the SNA long-range plan calls for the protection of five sites for plant communities and three sites for rare species in each ecological region of the State.

## **III. PROGRESS REPORT**

In this reporting period, the above funds have protected 1,017 acres of ecologically significant lands at seven existing and three new Scientific and Natural Areas in Jackson, Brown, Wabasha, Washington, Sherburne, St. Louis, Morrison, Norman, Stearns and Polk counties.

## **OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS**

### **1998 Appropriations:**

The balance of the appropriations will be used to pursue the top ecological priorities in the state identified through the Natural Heritage and County Biological Survey Programs. Appendix A lists the order in which out state and metropolitan priorities will be pursued. Should negotiations with any of the landowners for the top ecological priorities not be successful, other priorities identified through the County Biological Survey will be pursued.

**I. CONTEXT:**

**A. Significance:**

The SNA Acquisition Program has been highly successful in protecting sites of statewide significance for rare and endangered plant and animal species, plant communities, land forms, and geological features. Prior to 1982 there were twenty-two SNAs. Since that time another 108 sites have been dedicated on existing public lands or acquired through gifts, purchase or free leases. This total includes 16 peatland SNAs (with state ownership) established by the legislature. These 130 areas encompass 178,733 acres of which 16,105 were acquired. The other areas were established on the public land base or gifted.

**B. Time:**

All previous funds are expended. Contingent on the willingness of landowners to accept offers, the 1998 appropriations are expected to be expended by June 30, 2000.

**C. Budget Context:**

The cost to protect known critical habitats for rare species and communities (see Appendix A) is over \$7.5 million. This need far exceeds the level of appropriations provided. In addition, approximately 51,000 acres of trust fund lands in peatland SNAs will cost an additional \$3.8 million. In that the SNA Program's 1998 request for funding was a part of the Capital Bonding Budget, we could not request funding through the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources process for trust fund and other appropriations.

**1. BUDGET:**

<b>1998 Appropriations Land Costs</b>	<b>\$2,000,000</b>
<b>Professional Services</b>	<b><u>200,000</u></b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,200,000</b>

**2. Professional Service Fees:**

Professional service fees include the following for SNA acquisitions projects: staff time for personnel hired to acquire lands and personnel of the Bureau of Real Estate Management, Engineering, and the Attorney Generals Office; appraisal and survey costs; recording and abstracting fees to process purchases. Professional service costs paid from state appropriations are included in the total amount.

**3. Supplemental Nature of Appropriations**

Any personnel or services funded under these appropriations are only associated with work on SNA acquisitions in this work program.

**IV. Cooperation**

Coordination with other DNR divisions, federal agencies, local units of government and private non-profit groups is constantly explored to protect critical lands. The public land base is continually being reviewed to determine if critical features exist before new sites are acquired. When state significant sites are located on the public land base, they are pursued for SNA designation.

**VII. Location: Ecological classification location:**

Projects can be located in any ecological landscapes.

**XI. Reporting Requirements:**

A work program report will be submitted January 15, 1999, January 15, 2000, and June 30, 2000 or at the liquidation of appropriations .

**APPENDIX A****May 1998****Species/Communities****County****Acres****Nearest Town****METRO PRIORITIES**

<i>Sand Prairie*</i>	Washington	275	Cottage Grove	\$750,000
<i>White Pine Forest*</i>	Anoka	40	Linwood	200,000
<i>Bluff Prairie*</i>	Washington	40	Hastings	200,000
<i>Calcareous Fen*</i>	Carver	300	Chanhassen	600,000
<i>Sand Savanna*</i>	Washington	3.5	Bayport	100,000
<i>Big Woods#</i>	Hennepin	40	Medina	<u>1,000,000</u>
			<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$2,850,000</b>

**OUTSTATE PRIORITIES**

<i>Oak Forest*</i>	Morrison	1,650	Cushing	230,000
<i>Calcareous Fen*</i>	Jackson	160	Windom	600,000
<i>Northern Hardwoods*</i>	St. Louis	125	Duluth	105,000
<i>Calcareous Fen*</i>	Fillmore	100	Chester	100,000
<i>Northwest Prairie*</i>	Norman	320	Twin Valley	60,000
<i>Northwest Prairie*</i>	Pennington	240	Thief River Falls	60,000
<i>Prairie Bush Clover*</i>	Brown	150	Sanborn	110,000
<i>Glacial Till Hill Prairie#</i>	Yellow Medicine	400	Canby	200,000
<i>Bluff Prairie</i>	Goodhue	40	Red Wing	200,000
<i>Sand Prairie#</i>	Norman	80	Fertile	32,000
<i>Mesic Prairie</i>	Stearns	190	Brooten	95,000
<i>Algific Talus Slopes</i>	Fillmore	100	Wykoff	50,000
<i>Glacial Till Hill Prairie#</i>	Pipestone/Clay	550	Holland/Felton	100,000
<i>Northern Hardwoods</i>	Itasca	100	Grand Rapids	100,000
<i>Maple Basswood</i>	Fillmore	320	Fillmore	200,000
<i>MN Dwarf Trout Lily#</i>	Goodhue	250	Can. Falls, Wanamingo	150,000
<i>Oak Forest</i>	Wabasha	20	Zumbro Falls	25,000
<i>Maple Basswood</i>	Cass	100	Walker	50,000
<i>Big Woods#</i>	Wright	100	Buffalo	150,000
<i>Bluff Prairie#</i>	Houston	40	Mound Prairie	35,000
<i>Glacial Till Hill Prairie#</i>	Murray	200	Chandler	100,000
<i>Leedy's Roseroot#</i>	Olmsted	100	Chatfield	140,000
<i>Sand Dunes#</i>	Sherburne	310	Elk River	1,120,000

W. Prairie Fringed Orchid#	Polk	200	Marcoux	300,000
Wood Turtle#	Goodhue/Wabasha	740	Red Wing/Zumbro Falls	320,000
Wet Prairie Parkland#	Kittson	285	Lake Bronson	<u>52,000</u>
			<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$4,684,000</b>

**Bold text indicates top fifteen sites.\* Denotes willing seller; # Denotes spoken with landowner about selling.**