
Name of Organization: Center for Compatible Economic Development

Type of Organization: Other

Contact Information: Mr. Kent Gilges

339 East Avenue, Suite 300

Rochester NY 14604

Phone: (716) 232 - 3530 **Extension:**

Fax: (716) 546 - 7825

E-Mail: kgilges@tnc.org

Project Title: Forest Management Network

Project Category: Habitat (Ecological) Protection and Rest

Rank by Organization (if applicable): 0

Total Funding Requested (\$): 10,920 **Project Duration:** 1 Years

Abstract:

The Forest Management Network will provide a forum and ongoing support to develop forest management methods and approaches consistent with biodiversity conservation at critical landscape scale sites that include conservation of working forests as part of their program. Three workshops will help participants develop management strategies at 3-4 focal sites, while leveraging critical learning at 15-20 other sites. Learning and strategy development will take place in the course of three workshops spread over one year, and facilitation will be provided by the Conservancy's Ecological Management & Restoration team and The Forest Bank program of CCED.

Geographic Areas Affected by the Project

States:

<input type="checkbox"/> Illinois	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New York
<input type="checkbox"/> Indiana	<input type="checkbox"/> Pennsylvania
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michigan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wisconsin
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minnesota	<input type="checkbox"/> Ohio

Lakes:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Superior	<input type="checkbox"/> Erie
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Huron	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ontario
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michigan	<input type="checkbox"/> All Lakes

Geographic Initiatives:

<input type="checkbox"/> Greater Chicago	<input type="checkbox"/> NE Ohio	<input type="checkbox"/> NW Indiana	<input type="checkbox"/> SE Michigan	<input type="checkbox"/> Lake St. Clair
--	----------------------------------	-------------------------------------	--------------------------------------	---

Primary Affected Area of Concern: Not Applicable

Other Affected Areas of Concern:

For Habitat Projects Only:

Primary Affected Biodiversity Investment Area: Bad River Watershed/Bayfield Peninsula

Other Affected Biodiversity Investment Areas: Eastern Lake Ontario
Lake Superior Highlands
Keweenaw Peninsula

Problem Statement:

Protection of biodiversity within the Great Lakes Basin requires protection of the natural processes that shape and sustain our watersheds. A majority of our most biologically intact ecosystems remain so because of their forested watersheds. The Nature Conservancy has identified the protection of these intact, functioning ecosystems as an institutional priority. A number of these sites are also identified as Biodiversity Investment Areas by EPA.

Yet in areas such as the Bad River Watershed, the Lake Superior Highlands, Tug Hill/Eastern Lake Ontario, and the Keweenaw Peninsula, protection of the forested watersheds must include compatible economic uses of the land. The way forestry is practiced across public, private, and corporate ownerships will determine the long-term health of these systems and the species and communities they contain.

The Nature Conservancy, acting through its Forest Bank program at the Center for Compatible Economic Development and its National Stewardship Team, can combine a working knowledge and in depth experience of the economic drivers of forest management with a proven capacity to develop and implement strategies for ecological management and restoration to help a targeted group of landscape conservation projects develop and implement critical forest management strategies.

The need for this is clear. We must develop and use sound methods and scientific approaches to forest management. Ideally, forest management should be carried out within an adaptive management framework and must be compatible with our conservation goals for these landscapes. This includes management of our own lands as well as influencing the management of public and private lands which comprise our most critical functional landscape projects.

Currently, forest managers and practitioners have a range of "sustainable forestry" guidelines to work with. These include state and federal Best Management Practices, voluntary certification systems like the industry-supported Sustainable Forest Initiative, third-party based guidelines from certification groups like the Forest Stewardship Council, and advice from local managers.

Unfortunately, except for the latter these guidelines often focus at a fairly general level and are of limited use in developing site specific recommendations that address biodiversity at the stand and landscape scales simultaneously. Local managers and forest consultants, on the other hand, often have a very good knowledge of site-specific timber management but a limited ability to develop and integrate strategies that will protect biodiversity.

We have learned from some of our major acquisitions in the past year-- including the purchase of 185,000 acres from International Paper and 27,000 from Atlas Timberlands-- that there is a clear need to develop site-based management strategies for working forests. We also believe that the processes and approaches we develop at a handful of our leading edge sites will be transferable to a large number of forested landscape protection efforts elsewhere.

Proposed Work Outcome:

The Forest Management Network will provide a forum and ongoing support to develop forest management methods and approaches consistent with biodiversity conservation at critical Conservancy and partner sites.

Our approach will be to engage a set of our leading edge, landscape-scale projects in a series of three workshops over the course of one year. Following a design developed in the Conservancy's Efromson Workshop program, Karen Poiani-- TNC landscape ecologist with the National Stewardship team and Cornell University-- and Kent Gilges-- Director of The Forest Bank, will lead focal sites through a process of collaborative strategic planning and brainstorming to develop and implement a set of forest management strategies.

Participants will include managers and partners from 3-4 of our most advanced forested landscape protection projects, or focal sites. These are sites where the Conservancy or its partners have active forest management of working forests within an area identified as a functional landscape in our ecoregional process.

The workshops will also include key individuals and/or partners from a set of 15-20 participating sites-- landscape scale projects where working forest protection is a major issue, but where the experience level or active management are not as advanced as the focal sites. We also intend to include a small group of academics and/or agency individuals with expertise to support this effort.

The expected schedule and outcomes for the workshops are as follows:

1st Workshop

Targetted for fall of 2000-- preferably at the Menominee Reservation. The objective will be to introduce the 3-4 focal sites to each other and to participating sites. Focal sites will be expected to come with a list of conservation targets, a list of draft goals-- both general and specific, and a conceptual model of their forest ecosystem. They will each give a thorough presentation that walks participants through their 5 "S" planning (systems, stresses, sources, strategies, & measures of success).

Breakout sessions will allow participants to critique and revise their conceptual ecological models, understand site specific and general forest ecosystem dynamics, and stimulate questions and revisions to their conservation plans. Adequate time will be left for site visits with MTE managers and foresters to the Menominee Forest to learn about and review their approaches.

2nd Workshop

The second workshop will be held approximately 6-7 months after the first at one of the focal sites. The homework assignment for focal sites will be to develop specific ecological goals for the forest ecosystems, and to identify management objectives for the forest ecosystem at two scales-- stand level objectives and landscape level objectives.

This work will force focal sites to identify the desired future condition of the forest at the two scales, and management objectives would be linked directly to biodiversity health and threat abatement measures of success (e.g., size, condition, landscape context). A similar presentation format will allow for review, brainstorming, and revision of strategies. The product of the workshop would include reviewed and revised management objectives at both spatial scales.

3rd Workshop

The last workshop will be held six months after the first, again at one of the focal sites. The assignment for the participants will be to develop a forest management plan for their site, which will include a monitoring component at multiple spatial scales. Again, the presentation and breakout groups will focus on the review and revision of these forest management plans.

A tentative list of sites are as follows:

Atlas Timberlands, VT
Tug Hill Core Forest, NY
Keweenaw Peninsula, MI
St. Johns River, ME
Lower Ozarks, MO
Baraboo Hills, WI
Bad River/Kakagon River, WI
Adirondacks, NY
Superior Highlands, MN
Clinch River, VA
Roanoke River, NC
Eastern U.P., MI
Champion Lands, NH
Blue River, IN

Funding from GLNPO is requested to cover meeting costs for participants in the Forest Management Network workshop number one. Meeting costs associated with the second and third workshops are being used as a match and will be raised by the National Stewardship Team.

Project Milestones:	Dates:
Project Start	10/2000
Workshop Number 1	10/2000
Workshop Number 2	04/2001
Workshop Number 3	09/2001
	/
	/
	/
Project End	/

Project Addresses Environmental Justice

If So, Description of How:

Project Addresses Education/Outreach

If So, Description of How:

The series of workshops is specifically designed to engage of suite of sites for whom forest management at a large scale is critical to success in learning a very effective approach to biodiversity-based forest management planning. Beyond the direct effect on 15-20 landscape scale projects and the partners associated with those sites, we intend to publish in some form results and lessons learned on our website at www.forestbank.org

Project Budget:

	Federal Share Requested (\$)	Applicant's Share (\$)
Personnel:	2,000	0
Fringe:	750	0
Travel:	5,850	11,700
Equipment:	0	0
Supplies:	500	500
Contracts:	0	0
Construction:	0	0
Other:	0	0
Total Direct Costs:	9,100	12,200
Indirect Costs:	1,820	2,440
Total:	10,920	14,640
Projected Income:	0	0

Funding by Other Organizations (Names, Amounts, Description of Commitments):

The National Stewardship Team of The Nature Conservancy has agreed to raise any additional funds necessary to complete this project. Included in the cost but not in the request to GLNPO (as a match item) are the salary costs for Karen Poiani. Since these funds are yet to be raised, we do not feel we can offer them as a match.

Participants will be expected to pay for their own airfare to get to the workshops. Again, we have not included this as a match.

Description of Collaboration/Community Based Support:
