

Request for Proposal (RFP)

Productive Conservation on Working Land

Three Rivers Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D), is requesting proposals within the state of Minnesota for the Productive Conservation on Working Lands (PCWL) project. This Project is in cooperation with the Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) and funded through a Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG). PCWL is a crop establishment incentive, not an easement program intended to reduce the economic, environmental, and social risks to the farmers growing new conservation crops for energy and emerging industry.

Your local Minnesota Resource Conservation & Development office (RC&D), along with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, are offering an alternative agricultural program to Minnesota landowners and/or farmers who would like to be involved in an innovative conservation program that provides sustainable economic opportunities and farm diversity. PCWL has been designed to offer environmental benefits in Minnesota without the idling of lands. Funding for this project requires matching non-federal cash and in-kind contributions.

Productive Conservation on Working Lands Initiative will provide incentive payments for establishment of conservation crops to EQIP eligible producers in Minnesota. PCWL provides environmental benefits of conservation crops with income producing market based incentives. Crop selection will be farmer initiated; some examples would include hybrid poplar trees, switchgrass, willows, hazelnuts, and other alternative energy or non-conventional crops.

The PCWL grant will provide 150\$ per acre or up to 50% of eligible costs to establish a productive conservation crop. There is a limit of 40 acres per project. A producer should complete a "PCWL Producer Request for Services Application" and submit it to Three Rivers RC&D. A state wide technical committee will review and rank proposals shortly after the deadline. Any applications received after the deadline will be considered at the next meeting. Your local RC&D Council may develop the proposal, or the individual may complete this proposal, and submit it to Three Rivers RC&D. Three Rivers RC&D will work with the MN Association of RC&Ds (MARC&D) and the PCWL Technical Advisory Panel to determine project feasibility and make recommendations for a final funding decision. We will continue to accept applications as funding and grant conditions allow.

Please submit applications to:

Three Rivers RC&D Council.
1160 Victory Drive Suite #4
Mankato, MN 56001

For more information please contact:

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PCWL Producer Request for Services Application

Instructions: Please provide information for project proposal. If more space is needed, please attach a separate sheet of paper.

1. Name of applicant (landowner): _____
Contact person (if different from applicant): _____
Address of applicant: _____

County: _____ Township: _____ Section _____
Phone #: _____ email address: _____

Legal description: _____

Please attach aerial photo of project area. Your local FSA or NRCS can provide you with an aerial photo.

2. If you are not eligible for EQIP you will not be eligible for PCWL, are you EQIP eligible?
Yes ___ No ___

Optional: Are you considered a Limited Resource or Minority Farmer according to NRCS standards?

Yes ___ No ___ If you are unsure, go to: <http://www.lrfatool.sc.egov.usda.gov/tool.asp> and complete the online self evaluation

3. What type of crop do you plan on planting? _____

4. How many acres of land do you plan to plant to this new crop? _____

Estimated planting date: ____/____/____ Estimated harvest date: ____/____/____

Is the soil suitable for your intended crop? Yes ___ No ___ Don't Know ___

(Attach a soils map from the county NRCS/SWCD office.)

What is the crop history of the proposed project area? _____

What is the current land cover? _____

5. What are your plans or ideas on how the conservation crop will be marketed?

How easily can this new crop technology be transferred to other landowners in your area?

What type of marketing assistance, if any, would you need from PCWL?

What businesses or industry is interested in this new crop and what is their level of commitment? _____

6. If you are interested in Agroforestry (woody crops), would you be interested in the Agroforestry Advance Loan Fund (AALF), a 4% loan funds to help establish and maintain your agroforestry crop?

Yes ___ No ___

If yes, how would you use these funds? _____

Budget

7. Budget: Please show how you will provide 50% In-Kind or a non-federal cash match. If partners or other agencies are involved, please state their role and their proposed In-Kind or cash match?

(A landowner may receive 50% cost share for crop establishment, please justify your total costs, cash crop establishment payment you are requesting, and remaining costs that you will provide)

Show any cash you contribute to the project and its source. **Federal funds are not eligible for the match.**

Please include the following costs:

Item	Cost per acre	# of Acres	Grant funds	Matching funds	Source of match (applicant, state, other)	Total
Land Cost (rent)						
Land preparation						
Weed Control						
Seeds/plant material						
Planting						
Maintenance						
Harvesting						
Processing						
Marketing						
Other						
Totals						

Applicant Signatures

Pending approval of applicant's signature indicates their agreement to:

1. Grant Three Rivers Resource Conservation and Development or their representative access to the parcel where the PCWL planting will be located in order to inspect and verify the completion of terms of this contract.
2. Be responsible for maintenance and care of PCWL planting described in application through December 2009 .

Applicant Signature:	Date:
Three Rivers RC&D Authorized Representative:	Date:

This is the matrix that will be used to evaluate proposals by the PCWL Technical Committee.

PCWL Proposal Evaluation Form

Criteria	1	2	3	4	5	Score
Project Feasibility						
Sustainability						
Limited Resource/Minority						
Innovative Impact on Industry/Markets						
Greater than 1:1 match						
Crop Suitability to Region						
Partnerships						
					Total	