

# Landowner Incentive Program Example Application

Project Title: Baraboo Hills Bluff Prairie Restoration

Pre-proposal ID: PS2007-77

County: Sauk                      Township                      Honey Creek  
Township    10N                      Range: 5E                      Section: 18                      1/4:                      1/4 1/4:

**Legal Description of Project Site (From Deed Description):**  
A parcel of land located in ..., and described as follows...

**Priority Area:** Prairie and Savanna

**Habitat Type:**

- Prairie
- Savanna
- Wetland
- Dune
- Other:

**Project Type:**

- Enhancement Project
- Restoration Project
- Habitat Creation

**LIP Project Acreage:** 17                      **Total Acreage:** 83

**Current Land Use / Habitat:**

This bluff includes former goat prairie and oak savanna that was pastured and allowed to succeed to red cedar, basswood, buckthorn, honeysuckle and prickly ash. Since 1996 we have restored it to high quality natural area by removing cedars, many basswoods, invasive shrubs and herbs, and conducting 4 controlled burns, under a WHIP contract (since expired). Currently under MFL but no more cutting required, though a few trees cut annually in concert with MFL and restoration goals. Bluff-top is now white oak woodland, upper slopes dry prairie, and slopes below sandstone cliffs are bur-red oak savanna and woodland. Many native woodland, savanna and prairie plant species are present, as documented for conservation easement with Stewardship funding. Greatest threats are 1) re-invasion by exotic buckthorn, honeysuckle, multi-flora rose, reed canary grass, and the native prickly ash, smooth sumac and Rubus; and 2) deer browse on oak seedlings & some forbs.

**Adjacent Land Use / Habitat:**

The site is located at the SW edge of Baraboo Hills, where it borders the Leland Marsh and is surrounded by privately owned Baraboo Hills forest, a restored prairie at base of bluff, one homestead, and low-intensity agriculture. High-quality wetland and the village of Leland is within 400m.

**Current Site Activities:**

Main activities are restoration, nature study, and field trips (e.g., for DNR forestry trainees, BRPA). Birds, small mammals, herptiles and plants are regularly monitored. A few dead and live trees are harvested annually for use as lumber and fuel and in accordance with MFL, restoration goals, and the property stewardship plan. Deer and turkey hunting occur.

**Benefiting At-Risk Species**

Whip-poor-will	Blanding's Turtle	Blue-winged Warbler
Brown Thrasher	Field Sparrow	four-toed salamander
pickerel frog	American Woodcock	western harvest mouse
purple milkweed	Wood Thrush	Yellow-billed Cuckoo
bullsnake	Shadowy goldenrod	roundstem foxglove
Woolly Milkweed	Red-headed Woodpecker	

**Current Level of Protection at the Project Site:**

- Land Currently Not Protected  
 Land Use / Management Agreement  
Agreement  
Years

Permanent Easement

Easement Holder: Baraboo Range Preservation Association (BRPA)

Project is located within a designated State, Federal, local land trust, or other conservation organization project boundary

Project:

Adjacent land is within 1/2 mile of project within a designated State, Federal, local land trust, or other conservation organization project boundary

Project: Natural Bridge State Park and SNA; TNC Baraboo Hills /Leland Marsh

Adjacent land within 1/2 mile of project is under a land use agreement

Type of: CRP; NAWCA easement; MFL

**Other Information:**

Working with the Blufflands Project (joint venture between the Aldo Leopold Foundation and The Prairie Enthusiasts) to conduct controlled burns and other restoration activities. Some of the property is in MFL. Formerly under WHIP contract, which cost-shared the initial clearing of cedars, shade-tolerant trees and invasive shrubs; that contract was completed. Adjacent prairie restoration below bluff is under CRP. Entire property is protected with a Conservation Easement with BRPA, with funding from BRPA, NAWCA, and WI Stewardship Fund (Natural Areas sub-fund).

**Project Goal:**

The goal is to maintain mosaic of dry prairie, oak savanna and woodland on this 17-acre bluff, with high native plant and animal diversity, and minimal invasion by exotic and native invasives. Maintain or increase populations of several plant indicators.

**Project Needs:**

Very few remnants of dry prairie and savanna occur in the Baraboo Hills and adjacent landscapes. This is the only remaining intact goat prairie-savanna within the series of rich remnants noted in Lange's (1998) Flora of Sauk County. Although the flora returned remarkably with our cutting, treating and burning during 1996-2006, there has been rapid invasion and re-invasion by sumac, Rubus, prickly ash and various exotics such as multi-flora rose. It is essential that the bluff continue under restoration management, especially cutting and treating invasives, and periodic burns.

**Project Objectives:**

1. Reduce cover of invasives by fall 2009 by 90%.
2. Maintain or increase populations of At-Risk prairie-savanna- woodland plants and birds.

**Work Schedule:**

Aug-Sep 2007: Landowner will map the cover of invasive and native plants throughout bluff and measure invasives and select native indicators along two 100m line transects in most critical prairie-savanna habitats.

Aug 2007-Feb 2008: Contractor will cut and treat (w/Round-up, Garlon) stumps of invasives throughout bluff.

April 2008: Contractor and Landowner will burn bluff.

May-Sep 2008: Landowner will monitor and map cover of invasive and native plants throughout bluff. Measure invasives and select native indicators along two 100m line transects in most critical prairie-savanna habitats.

Aug 2008-Feb 2009: Contractor will cut and treat (w/Round-up, Garlon) re-sprouts of invasives throughout bluff..

April 2009: Contractor and Landowner will burn bluff.

**Future Maintenance:**

Adaptive management based on Results of LIP Project. Assume more of the same annually, with the help of more cost-sharing grants.

**Monitoring Plan:**

Stewardship Plan for Conservation Easement requires monitoring every 10 years (plant list and subjective abundance and distribution) for entire property including bluff. Run invasives mapping and line-transects every 5-10 years. Annual breeding bird monitoring (territory mapping and 1 permanent point-count on bluff, along with property-wide monitoring); small mammal surveys every 3-5 years.

**Project Budget**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Will Accept Partial Funding	LIP Funds	LO or Partner Funds	In Kind Match
<b>Salaries</b>	0	0	0
<b>Contracting Services</b>	5000	1000	0
<b>Other Purchased Services</b>	0	0	0
<b>Supplies</b>	300	0	0
<b>Equipment Rental Charges</b>	0	0	0
<b>Other Costs</b>	0	0	0
<b>Donated Labor</b> (300 hrs)			3600
<b>Subtotals</b>	5300	1000	3600

**Salaries:** N/A

**Contracting Services:** Hire Blufflands Project (2 prescribed burns, cut-treat)

**Other Purchased Services:** N/A

**Supplies:** Herbicide (Round-up, Garlon)

**Equipment Rental Charges:** N/A

**Other:** N/A

<b>LIP Funding Requested:</b>	5300
<b>Landowner Contribution:</b>	4600
<b>Percent Match Provided by Landowner:</b>	46 %
<b>Total Project Cost Estimate:</b>	9900
<b>LIP Cost Per Acre:</b>	311.76