



Project Summary 2008

SB-2008-MN-55027: Ladyslipper Scenic Byway: Vegetation Plan & Ladyslipper Transplant Program

State Submission Date

Mar 20, 2008

Division Submission Date

not submitted

State Priority

0

This application must be completed online at <http://www.bywaysonline.org/grants/>, and submitted electronically and in printed form.

Project Category

Which category best describes the location of this project?

- Project that is associated with a highway that has been designated as a National Scenic Byway, All American Road, or one of America's Byways.
- Project along a State or Indian tribe scenic byway that is carried out to make the byway eligible for designation as a National Scenic Byway, an All-American Road, or one of America's Byways.
- Project that is associated with the development of a State or Indian tribe scenic byway program.

Choose from the following categories of eligible work the type that best fits your project.

- Byway Programs
- Corridor Management
- Safety Improvements
- Byway Facilities
- Access to Recreation
- Resource Protection
- Interpretive Information
- Marketing

Is this application a resubmission of an unfunded project from a previous year?

- Yes
- No

Project Location

State(s) involved in project:

Minnesota

Indicate the byway's regional location within the State. Reference prominent landmarks such as parallel major highways, natural features, counties, or large cities, that makes the byway(s) easy to locate in a road atlas.

The Ladyslipper SB is located in North Central Minnesota. The byway begins at the Junction of US Hwy 2 and Cass County 10. The byway is 28 miles long and ends in Blackduck, Minnesota; at the junction of State Highway 71 and Beltrami County 39. The Great River Road and the Ladyslipper share a route for a distance of five miles. The byway is located within the Chippewa National Forest and Leech Lake Reservation.

Briefly describe the project's location(s) on the byway using references to route numbers, byway gateway communities, project location communities and landmarks so any reviewer can identify the project sites.

The Vegetation Management plan will map uplands and wetlands on the east and west side of the road corridor for a distance of 200 feet. The plan will also make recommendations on protecting the showy lady's slipper habitat which is of interest given the impending highway reconstruction effort beginning in 2009.

Associated Byways

| State | Byway Name |
|-------|------------------------------|
| MN | Great River Road - Minnesota |
| | Ladyslipper Scenic Byway |

Is this project consistent with the Corridor Management Plan(s) for the byway(s) involved?

- Yes
- No / CMP not available

Congressional Districts

| State | District | Representative (at time of application) |
|-------|----------|---|
| MN | 8 | Oberstar, James L. |

Abstract

Project Description

Complete the sentence "This project will..." before adding remaining information.

This project will create a vegetative management plan that would focus on strategies to conserve and manage vegetation within a 200 foot corridor along the byway including the showy lady's slipper. The lady's slipper is the Minnesota State Flower, adopted in 1902. The Chippewa NF and state are concerned with protection and management because lady's slippers grow slowly, taking up to 16 years to produce thier first flowers and its habitat is in bogs swamps and damp woods. The flowers are also the brand for the byway and an attraction for travelers. The completed plan would identify specific measures to maintain the scenic, vegetative and biologic values important to the byway traveler.

Byway Benefits

Complete the sentence "This project benefits the byway traveler by..." before adding remaining information.

This project benefits the byway traveler by planning for the management of vegetation along the scenic corridor and preserving sensitive species such as the showy lady's slipper. The byway's intrinsic values include scenic, natural resources including forest and wetland communities and the plants associated with wetlands including orchids. Since the highway will be widened during construction, the orchids will be at risk because they inhabit the road ditches and shoulders. The traveler will be able to enjoy the scenic beauty of the forest adjacent to the byway and orchid lovers will enjoy seeing the ladyslippers in bloom once this project is completed and the highway is reconstructed.

Narrative

Project Summary

Completely describe all the major elements of your proposed project in a concise but complete summary.

This project will implement goals and objectives listed in the 2005 Corridor Management Plan: Visual Quality and Vegetation Enhancement. The corridor's scenic resources are closely tied with the forests and wetlands located adjacent to the byway. The look and feel of these forests is very important in maintaining the scenic quality of the corridor. This project would develop a vegetation management plan for the corridor emphasizing strategies for the protection and conservation of known showy lady's slipper populations and forests immediately adjacent to the highway. This is particularly imperative as most of the lady's slippers are within the construction limits of the highway and tree canopy along the highway will also be affected by construction. The lady's slipper is the namesake of the byway, therefore maintaining these populations in the ditches and backslopes of the new highway is a very important attraction for visitors. Our new portal signs that were installed in 2007 are inviting the traveler to see the lady's slippers. The byway board has been working with Beltrami County to interpret and protect populations of the flower. Volunteer board members along with the US Forest Service have gps'd the lady's slipper colonies over the past two years and plan another survey in 2009. This information has been shared with the County so that it can be incorporated into their construction plans. In 2009 the first 7.5 mile phase of the highway reconstruction will begin. This project would develop a specific plan for protection and transplant opportunities and strategies for protecting known lady's slipper populations. Citizen volunteers and youth organizations including byway board members, local landowners, the Blackduck Garden Club and Boy Scouts, would be recruited to perform the transplanting, plant tending and reintroduction of the plants once the road construction is complete. The volunteer recruitment techniques would include posting notices on the Byway's new website, newspaper and radio advertising, flyers distributed in the local communities and a direct mailing to the byway contacts and local residents. The management plan for the forested portion of the byway would prescribe reforestation and harvest options for landowners interested in maintaining the "forested landscape" qualities of the byway. This work would proceed as landowners' desire. Landowners would be contacted through a direct mailing and would be invited to meetings to discuss the findings of the vegetation management plan. Resource agencies such as the Soil and Water Conservation Districts and State and Private Forestry would be invited to participate to offer technical assistance to landowners. Federal or State laws do not require that a management plan for the lady's slippers or that vegetative treatments be implemented for mitigation of the road construction project. State law prohibits collection and sale of wildflowers without permission from the State. This project will comply with all state statutes related to the collection and transplant of wildflowers. A publicity campaign will document the effort of citizens and organizations to involve citizens in the management of scenic byways.

Benefit to Byway Traveler

Describe how the proposed project will benefit a byway traveler, add to their travel experience or fulfill an important objective of your CMP.

The byway was named the Ladyslipper because there are thousands of these orchids in the ditches and backslope of the byway. There are 15 distinct areas with lady's slipper populations in excess of 50 individual plants. These larger colonies will be the target for transplant activities because they provide the best experience for the traveler. The travelers of this byway are drawn to it because of the beautiful trees, wetlands and lady's slipper communities. The vision statement of the byway board is to enhance the experience of visitors, the quality of life for residents, and the economic vitality of the community by preserving and improving the corridor's intrinsic values. Scenic Resources are an intrinsic resource along the byway that includes vegetation. With the impending reconstruction of the highway, many of the trees and showy lady's slippers are present within the planned construction limits of the highway. The vegetation management plan would develop strategies to manage the trees along the corridor as well as the lady's slippers. Once the construction is completed the byway would still be known for its beautiful forests and abundant lady's slipper populations.

Prior Projects

Describe any relationship between this project and previously funded National Scenic Byways grant projects. In addition, discuss how the proposed work relates to any multi-year work plan byway leaders have developed.

This project relates to funding received in 2002 for a Corridor Management Plan for the Byway. The CMP identified intrinsic values along the corridor and established goals and objectives and a vision for the byway. The CMP also identified the need to develop a comprehensive corridor vegetation Management Plan. Byway board members have undertaken a data collection effort addressing the locations of lady's slipper colonies within the road right-of-way over the last two years. The CMP also identified that transportation improvements were needed to improve safety as well as maintain the scenic and aesthetic quality of the Byway. A transportation enhancement proposal was submitted by Beltrami County for 2012 to provide pull-offs and parking to give the public an opportunity to learn about the byway's special features such as wetland resources, lady's slippers and the Mississippi River. The impending reconstruction of the highway is the main reason for proposing this project. Federal or State laws do not require that a protection plan for the Ladyslippers or that vegetative treatments be implemented for mitigation of the road construction project. The Byway Board, USDA Forest Service and Beltrami County wish to undertake these efforts to preserve the intrinsic value of the byway plant communities.

Project Coordinator

Please provide contact information for a person responsible for this project.

Name: Nancy Jill Salminen

Title: Public Service Team Leader

Organization: USDA Forest Service

Address: 417 Forestry Drive
Blackduck , MN 56630

Phone: (218) 835-3116

Fax: (218) 835-3161

E-mail: nsalminen@fs.fed.us

Work Plan

| Milestone/Task | Start Date | Duration | Responsible Party | Justification |
|--|-----------------|----------|--------------------------------|--|
| Establish funding agreement with State | AAD* | | | |
| Assemble Geographic Information Coverages and Aerial Photos for Corridor | AAD + 5 days* | 2 days | USDA Forest Service | This information will be needed by the contractor who prepares the vegetation management plan |
| A Scope of Work will be completed for the project | AAD + 5 days* | 2 days | USDA Forest Service | The Scope of Work will need to be sent out to potential contractors in order to obtain bids. |
| Hire contractor and meet to review project | AAD + 10 days* | 15 days | USDA Forest Service | A contractor will develop the vegetation management plan and the Board will need to communicate expectations for the plan and timelines. |
| Recruit Volunteers for the Transplant Activities | AAD + 10 days* | 20 days | USDA Forest Service | Volunteers will be contacted and volunteer agreements will be signed with participants who are interested in transplanting Ladyslippers prior to and after highway construction activities. |
| Meet with landowners along the byway to discuss the Vegetative Management Plan Results | AAD + 60 days* | 1 day | Ladyslipper Scenic Byway Board | If landowners are aware of the recommendations they may be compelled to take action |
| Organize Transplant Activities including Logistical Support | AAD + 60 days* | 2 weeks | USDA Forest Service | Volunteers will dig, move and transplant lady's slipper colonies to safe locations prior to construction activities. Lady's slippers would then be transplanted back to the highway once the construction is complete. |
| Contract is completed | AAD + 60 days* | 45 days | USDA Forest Service | Once the vegetative plan is completed plans can be set in motion to recruit volunteers to implement the plan. |
| Publicize the Success | AAD + 180 days* | 3 days | Ladyslipper Scenic Byway Board | This effort will provide information to the general public about the success of the project and identify lessons learned so that the same type of effort could be taken on by others. |

* AAD = Actual Award Date (estimated to be August 01, 2008)

Budget

Cost Breakdown

| # | Description | Total Cost | Requested | Match |
|--------------|---|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. | Vegetation Management Plan | 28,000 | 24,000 | 4,000 |
| 2. | Produce Materials to recruit volunteers for transplanting | 1,500 | 500 | 1,000 |
| 3. | Conduct meetings with Landowners along the byway | 1,500 | 500 | 1,000 |
| 4. | Publicize the Success | 1,000 | 500 | 500 |
| Total | | \$32,000 | \$25,500 | \$6,500 |

Matching Funds

| Source | Type | Description | Amount |
|---------------------|------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| USDA Forest Service | Cash | Vegetation Management Funds | 6,500 |
| Total | | | \$6,500 |

Funding Allocation

Do the byways involved in the project cross any Federal Lands? (Check all that apply)

- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Bureau of Land Management
- Fish and Wildlife Service
- National Park Service
- USDA Forest Service

If this project is selected for funding, please indicate your preference for carrying out the project (check one):

- FHWA allocates the funds for the project to the State DOT
- FHWA allocates the funds for the project to one of the Federal Land Management agencies marked above (provide contact information below)
- FHWA allocates the funds for the project to an Indian tribe or tribal government (provide contact information below)

If funding should be allocated to a Federal land management agency or Indian tribal organization, please provide contact information for that organization:

Name: Nancy Jill Salminen

Title: Public Service Team Leader

Organization: USDA Forest Service Chippewa National Forest

Address: 417 Forestry Drive
Blackduck, MN 56630

Phone: 218 835 3116

Fax: 218 835 3132

E-mail: nsalminen@fs.fed.us

Application Checklist

The following statements are for informative purposes. Please read and check each statement.

- I understand that this is a reimbursement program - funds are not available up-front.
- I have reviewed and responded to the Complete Application statements as outlined in the Grants Guidance.
- I have been in touch with the State scenic byway coordinator and have responded to recommendations or requirements of the State.
- I have verified with the State byway coordinator that this proposed project can receive authorization to proceed from the State and FHWA division before the end of the fiscal year for which the application is made.

Attachments

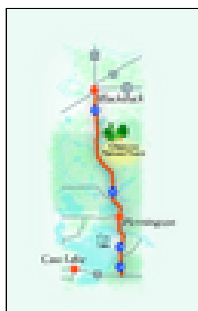
Use this as a checklist to verify that all attachments are provided with your printed application.



Vicinity Map

This map shows where the byway is in the State

Digital version: [07_Grant_mn_vicinity.jpg](#) (130.3 KB)



Ladyslipper Scenic Byway Map

This map shows the location of the byway that will be the subject of the Vegetation Management Plan

Digital version: [ladyslipper_map.jpg](#) (230.0 KB)



□ **Ladyslipper Portal Sign**

These signs were installed in 2007 to highlight the presence of the showy lady's slipper for the byway traveler.

Digital version: [P1010158.JPG](#) (651.7 KB)



□ **Letter of Support from Beltrami County Highway Department**

This letter shows support for the Byways efforts and the Forest Services committment to manage the lady's slipper populations as well as other vegetation along the Byway

Digital version: [Byways grant letter copy.jpg](#) (767.5 KB)



□ **Forest Service Letter of Support**

This letter shows the support for the Vegetation Management plan and the Ladyslipper transplant program.

Digital version: [Pafko_2.jpg](#) (2.2 MB)



□ **Letter of Support from Ladyslipper Scenic Byway**

Shows support for the Vegetative Plan and Ladyslipper Transplant

Digital version: [letter of support LSSB_Letterhead1 copy.jpg](#) (686.9 KB)

Signatures

Application Completeness

I certify that this application is complete and correct, and is eligible for National Scenic Byways funding. (This should be completed by the State's scenic byways coordinator.)

| | |
|--------------------|--------|
| Please print name: | Title: |
| Signature: | Date: |

Matching Funds Certification

I certify that the matching funds for this project are available for use at the time of application.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Please print name: Kim Jenkins | Title: Budget Officer |
| Signature: | Date: |