



Buffalo County

## Land Conservation and Resource Management Department

### CapX2020 Fund Selection and Approval Process for Trout Stream and Bluff Prairie Restoration sites

The Buffalo County Board of Supervisors is responsible for overseeing CapX2020 funding for cost sharing Bluff Prairie and Trout Stream restoration projects in coordination with the WI-Department of Natural Resources, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and UW-Extension. This framework document outlines the application selection and approval process for bluff prairie and trout stream restoration projects throughout Buffalo County. For questions, contact Land Conservation (608)685-6264, NRCS (608)685-4454 or WI-DNR (608)685-3252.

#### **Trout Stream Restoration Projects**

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin awarded \$100,000 of CapX2020 funds over a five year timeframe to be used with matching funds for trout stream rehabilitation projects. The project will target stream bank restoration with private landowners to enhance the trout streams in Buffalo County through the installation of fish habitat structures and stream bank protection. Interested landowners should take the following actions:

1. Coordinate with the local Rod & Gun or Conservation Club to develop a project proposal and record an easement allowing public access for the proposed stream reach project site.
2. Each landowner must be able to generate a match, either direct payment or donated labor is accepted.
3. Landowners should complete and sign a "CAPX2020 Buffalo County Trout Stream Restoration Request" application and submit it along with required attachments (copy of easement agreement, aerial photo map, and photos) to the Land Conservation and Resource Management (LCRM) Department.

The LCRM Department proposes to award \$5,000 per stream restoration site, with a maximum of \$10,000 per landowner. Applications are accepted throughout the year and resource specialists will evaluate and rank each site using a general stream assessment including stream location, water quality, stream bank erosion severity, sedimentation, and fish habitat and resource improvement potential. Applications that also include a secured public easement, approved streambank restoration plans and permits, and available match funding will rank as priority projects. The LCRM Department will track CapX2020 fund expenses for restoration projects. Annual distribution of funds has not been set, however funds should be allocated for specific projects by 2020.

#### **Bluff Prairie Restoration Projects**

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin awarded \$75,000 of CapX2020 funds over a five year timeframe to be used with matching funds for bluff prairie restoration projects. The project will target restoration of remnant dry bluff prairies on private lands to preserve this valuable ecosystem and provide habitat for many rare plant and animal species. Interested landowners should complete and submit a "CAPX2020 Buffalo County Bluff Prairie Restoration Request" application along with required attachments, including:

1. An aerial photo map and photographs of the site.
2. A signed agreement that allows public access of the bluff prairie upon request of the LCRM Department.
3. An operations and maintenance plan agreeing to maintenance of the site for 10 consecutive years.
4. Commit to in-kind contributions to the project, either direct payment or donated materials/labor.

Applications for bluff prairie restoration sites are **due September 1<sup>st</sup> of each year**. Applications will be evaluated and ranked using the following: measurement of the "C" Factor (Coefficient of Conservatism), ecological integrity of the site, location, habitat potential, or other unique features. The "C" Factor is the degree to which a species can tolerate disturbance and its dependence on undegraded conditions. Restoration costs will be determined by conservation partners, including U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program and ranges from \$1500 to \$3000 per acre, depending on site conditions. Steep slopes often prevent the use of machinery thus most brush/cedar removal is completed by hand. The LCRM Department tracks CapX2020 fund expenses. Annual distribution of funds has not been set, however funds should be allocated for specific projects by 2020.