

2010 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2012

PROJECT TITLE: Connecting Youth with Nature (Digital Photography Bridge to Nature)

PROJECT MANAGER: Carrol L. Henderson

AFFILIATION: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

MAILING ADDRESS: Nongame Wildlife Program, Box 25, 500 Lafayette Road,

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WEBSITE: www.mndnr.gov

FUNDING SOURCE: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

LEGAL CITATION: ML 2010, Chap. 362, Sec. 2, Subd. 8c

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$

Overall Project Outcome and Results

Connecting Youth with Nature has successfully achieved its goals as initially proposed. The working title of the project was changed to the "Digital Photography Bridge to Nature" because there were federal agencies using the name "Connecting Youth with Nature" for other environmental education initiatives. Two statewide coordinators were hired under contract—one for the metropolitan region and one for greater Minnesota. Nine workshop facilitators were hired to deliver 80 Digital Bridge workshops over the course of the project. The kickoff teacher workshop was held on July 10 at Luverne, Minnesota, and was attended by 60 teachers. The keynote speaker was world-renowned National Geographic photographer Jim Brandenburg who grew up in Luverne, Minnesota.

A total of 40 camera kits of 12 cameras each and several field guides were purchased and assembled with additional funds provided by the Nongame Wildlife Program and the DNR Division of Parks and Trails. Additional cameras were purchased for use on "Photo safari" programs in State Parks.

For the 24 month period from July 10, 2010, through June 30, 2012, a total of 84 teacher workshops were carried out for a total of 1147 teachers. The goal of the project was to present 80 workshops reaching 1000 teachers in two years. In addition to facilitating teacher workshops, project facilitators have also gone into classrooms with teachers and taken the students on "photo safaris". A total of ten photo safaris were carried out with teachers with a total of over 500 students.

Workshop facilitators have been providing the camera kits to teachers so they can carry out their photo safaris after attending Digital Bridge workshops. The Nikon digital cameras selected for this project have been holding up very well to such intensive use. Only ten cameras out of 500 have been damaged beyond repair.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

Information on the Digital Photography Bridge to Nature project is available on the DNR website (www.mndnr.gov). Additional publicity on this project has been shared on local and state newspapers, radio, television, and the national Birdwatching magazine.

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) 2010 Work Program

Final Report: September 15, 2012

Date of Work Program Approval: June 9, 2010

Project Completion Date: June 30, 2012

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Project Manager: Carrol L. Henderson

Affiliation: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

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Web Site Address: www.mndnr.gov

Location: St. Paul, Minnesota

Total ENRTF Project Budget:	ENRTF Appropriation:	\$ 160,000
	Minus Amount Spent:	\$ 157,301
	Equal Balance:	\$ 2,699

Legal Citation: ML 2010, Chap. 362, Sec. 2, Subd. 8c.

Appropriation Language:

Minnesota Session Law, Chapter 362 Sec. 2. MINNESOTA RESOURCES. Subd. 8.Environmental Education, (c) Connecting Youth with Nature

\$160,000 is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources to hold teacher training workshops on the use of digital photography as a tool for learning about nature. The equipment must be provided from other funds.

II. PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS: Connecting Youth with Nature has successfully achieved its goals as initially proposed. The working title of the project was changed to the "Digital Photography Bridge to Nature" because there were federal agencies using the name "Connecting Youth with Nature" for other environmental education initiatives. Two statewide coordinators were hired under contract—one for the metropolitan region and one for greater Minnesota. Nine workshop facilitators were hired to deliver 80 Digital Bridge workshops over the course of the project. The kickoff teacher workshop was held on July 10 at Luverne, Minnesota, and was attended by 60 teachers. The keynote speaker was world-renowned National Geographic photographer Jim Brandenburg who grew up in Luverne, Minnesota.

A total of 40 camera kits of 12 cameras each and several field guides were purchased and assembled with additional funds provided by the Nongame Wildlife Program and the DNR Division of Parks and Trails. Additional cameras were purchased for use on "Photo safari" programs in State Parks.

For the 24 month period from July 10, 2010, through June 30, 2012, a total of 84 teacher workshops were carried out for a total of 1147 teachers. The goal of the project was to present 80 workshops reaching 1000 teachers in two years. In addition to facilitating teacher workshops, project facilitators have also gone into classrooms with teachers and taken the students on "photo safaris". A total of ten photos safaris were carried out with teachers with a total of over 500 students.

Workshop facilitators have been providing the camera kits to teachers so they can carry out their photo safaris after attending Digital Bridge workshops. The Nikon digital cameras selected for this project have been holding up very well to such intensive use. Only ten cameras out of 500 have been damaged beyond repair.

III. PROGRESS SUMMARY AS OF APRIL 15, 2011

The total number of workshops delivered so far is 33, and the number of teachers attending those workshops is up to 735. At this rate we will have exceeded our goal of 1000 teachers and will reach our goal of presenting 80 workshops by the end of FY '12.

PROGRESS SUMMARY AS OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2011

As of August 31, a total of 62 workshops have been delivered for this project, and the number of teachers attending those workshops totals 888. Our goal for this project is 80 workshops and 1000 teachers, so it is possible we may reach that goal by January 1, 2012. We continue to get excellent reviews back from teachers on their workshop experience. The camera trunks are in continuous use and this constitutes the second tier of effort to see that the teachers follow up their workshop experience with their own photo safaris with their classes. We have learned that the number of children reached per teacher is approximately 60, so the total number of Minnesota children potentially reached by this effort now exceeds 53,000. In addition to workshops, we are now having our workshop facilitators respond to requests from teachers to join teachers at their schools to assist with their first photo safari efforts to give them more training and confidence for delivering this program in a more effective manner. Four photo safaris have already been done in the Duluth area.

This project is receiving exceptional media coverage, including articles about the Digital Photography Bridge to Nature Project in the Minnesota Volunteer and in Birdwatching magazine.

PROGRESS SUMMARY AS OF APRIL 15, 2012

As of April 15, 2012, a total of 75 workshops and 10 photo safaris have been delivered by the project facilitators and coordinators. These workshops have reached 1011

teachers and the facilitated photo safaris have involved over 500 students. We estimate that the teachers have taken these lessons back to over 60,000 students across Minnesota and that this is one of the most effective outdoor recruitment programs available in our schools.

At present, there is still a balance of \$4,771 available in the budget which if not expended will carry forward into the third year of availability from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. Critical Habitat Matching Funds from the Reinvest in Minnesota program have been made available through the Department of Natural Resources for a third year of implementation. These funds total \$75,000. The goal of the program in FY '13 will be to carry out a total of 50 teacher workshops and photo safaris across the state and develop 48 teacher lesson plans cross-referenced by subject area and grade level so that those plans meet state learning standards in a variety of subject areas. These lesson plans will be posted on the DNR website.

FINAL REPORT SUMMARY AS OF JUNE 30, 2012

At the close of this project on June 30, 2012, the Digital Photography Bridge to Nature project had achieved its goals by presenting 84 workshops to 1147 teachers in two years. That is four more workshops than the goal, and 147 more teachers than the initial goal. Since each teacher reaches about 60 students with the program materials, this project has potentially reached about 69,000 students in two years. When this total is pro-rated to the cost of delivery (\$160,000) the cost per student is about \$2.30 per student. The cost, when prorated for the number of participating teachers (1147), was about \$140 per teacher.

The program has been so successful in generating interest and support by teachers and students that \$75,000 has been allocated from RIM Critical Habitat Matching Funds within the Department of Natural Resources to continue this effort. Two coordinators and seven facilitators have been hired for FY '13 to deliver 40 workshops and photo safaris in the coming year and to develop 48 Photo Safari lesson plans classified by grade level and curricula (science, geography, art, language arts, math, geometry). These lesson plans will be posted on the DNR website.

This project is the first of its kind in the nation, and other states and some federal agencies are looking at this model for implementation elsewhere as a way of generating interest in the outdoors by the nation's youth.

At the conclusion of this project there was a budget balance of \$2698.65 which reverts back to the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund.

IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS:

RESULT 1: Deliver 80 teacher workshops to 1000 teachers

Description: A total of 80 Digital Bridge teacher workshops will be presented to at least 1000 teachers over the course of two years.

Summary Budget Information for Result/Activity 1: ENRTF Budget: \$ 160,000
Amount Spent: \$ 157,301
Balance: \$ 2,699

Deliverable/Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. Develop workshop curriculum and carry out 40 “Connecting Youth to Nature” workshops (FY ’11).	June 30, 2011	\$ 73,000
2. Carry out 40 “Connecting Youth to Nature” workshops (FY ’12).	June 30, 2012	\$ 73,000
3. Supplies: Create 42 photo trunks, including field guides & teacher workshop supplies (cameras not included in supply expenses)	June 30, 2011	\$ 13,000

Result Completion Date: June 30, 2012

Result Status as of April 15, 2011: The total number of workshops delivered through December 31, 2010) is 32, and the number of teachers attending those workshops is up to 459. This is well ahead of our FY 2011 goal of 40 workshops and 500 teachers by June 30. Workshop evaluations show exceptional response by the teachers, averaging a score between 4 and 5 out of a maximum of 5. The average number of students reached by the participants is twice that which was estimated at the beginning of the project—60. Therefore, in the first six months of the project, we would potentially reach about 27,500 students with this photo safari activity for connecting youth to the outdoors.

Result Status as of September 15, 2011: The total number of workshops delivered through August 31, 2011 is now 62, and the number of teachers attending those workshops is up to 888. This is well ahead of schedule for reaching our project goal of 80 workshops and 1000 teachers with our workshops by June 30, 2012. Workshop evaluations continue to show an excellent response to the workshops and their content, averaging a score between 4 and 5 out of a maximum of 5. The average number of students reached by the teachers is 60, so this project has already had the potential of reaching over 53,000 students with the photo safari activities.

A new Facebook page has been created for teachers to share information on their photo safaris and classroom activities: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Digital-Photography-Bridge-to-Nature/269993363016116?sk=wall> . This Facebook page is linked to the new LCCMR Facebook page.

There are currently seven more workshops scheduled through October 8.

Result Status as of April 15, 2012: The total of number of workshops delivered through March 31, 2012, is now at 75, and the number of teachers attending those workshops is up to 1011. Ten photo safaris have also been carried out by Project facilitators coordinated with local teachers and reached over 500 students. The response by teachers continues to be excellent, and many schools are already

requesting more teacher workshops for this summer and fall of 2012. It is estimated that this project has now reached over 60,000 students.

The camera trunks have been a very cost-effective way of getting this program into the schools after teachers have taken the initial workshop. Teachers can check out a camera trunk for a two week period to use it on their local photo safaris. There are 40 camera trunks in circulation, and each time they are checked out the cameras are used by an average of 120 students. If each trunk is checked out 15 times per school year, each trunk can be used by approximately 1800 students per year.

Result Status as of September 15, 2012: At the close of this project on June 30, 2012, the Digital Photography Bridge to Nature project has achieved its goals by presenting 84 workshops to 1147 teachers in two years. It is four more workshops than proposed, and 147 more teachers than the initial goal of 1000 teachers. Since each teacher reaches about 60 students with the program materials, this project has potentially reached about 69,000 students in two years.

Final Report Summary: The program has been so successful that \$75,000 has been allocated from RIM Critical Habitat Matching Funds within the Department of Natural Resources for FY '13 to continue this effort. Two coordinators and seven facilitators have been hired to deliver 40 workshops and photo safaris in the coming year and to develop 48 "Photo Safari" teacher lesson plans sorted by grade level and curricula (science, geography, art, language arts, math, geometry). These lesson plans will be posted on the DNR website. It is the intention of the project manager to continue this effort for five years through FY '17.

This project is the first of its kind in the nation. Other states and some federal agencies are looking at this model for implementation elsewhere as a way of generating interest in the outdoors by the nation's youth.

At the conclusion of this project there was a budget balance of \$2698.65 which reverts back to the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund.

V. TOTAL ENRTF PROJECT BUDGET:

Personnel: \$ 77,000

Contracts: \$ 70,000

Equipment/Tools/Supplies: \$ 13,000

TOTAL ENRTF PROJECT BUDGET: \$ 160,000

VI. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A.Project Partners: DNR Divisions of Ecological and Water Resources, DNR Division of ++State Parks and Trails, Section of Fisheries, and Division of Enforcement; Master Naturalists' Program, MN Pollution Control Agency; Watchable Wildlife Inc., MN Nature Photography Club; MN Extension Service; Minnesota 4-H, White Earth Indian Band; National Camera Exchange, Brandenburg Foundation, USFWS National Wildlife Refuges; and Lee and Rose Warner Nature Center.

B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy: This project uses the multiplier effect of teaching the teachers to reach Minnesota youth, grades 3-9, through the appeal of digital photography to get them outdoors and exposed to Minnesota's outdoors. If each teacher attending a workshop reaches 30 students with the photo safari activities, this program may reach 30,000 students with outdoor experiences that can result in a lifetime interest in nature and in protecting and enjoying Minnesota's outdoors.

C. Other Funds Proposed to be Spent during the Project Period: A total of over \$45,000 was spent for the cameras and field guides, and portable camera kits that are used to distribute the cameras to teachers for use in the classroom. All funds for project management personnel time expended by project manager Carrol Henderson were provided through the Nongame Wildlife Fund.

For FY '11, Project manager Carrol Henderson spent 394 hours managing and coordinating this project at a value of \$19,602, and FY '12, an additional \$16,000 in personnel time was provided by project manager Carrol Henderson.

Camera donations:	\$ 45,000
DNR staff time:	35,600
In-kind Watchable Wildlife time:	12,000
DNR workshop supplies:	8,000
Total:	\$ 100,600

D. Spending History: None.

VII. DISSEMINATION: Information on the Digital Photography Bridge to Nature project is available on the DNR website (www.mndnr.gov). Additional publicity on this project has been shared on local and state newspapers, radio, television, and the national Birdwatching magazine.

VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS: This is the final work program report submitted by September 15, 2012 as requested by the LCCMR.

Attachment A: Final Budget Summary for FY '11-'12 (As of 9-15-2012)					
Project Title: Digital Photography Bridge to Nature					
Project Manager Name: Carrol L. Henderson					
Trust Fund Appropriation: \$160,000,					
2010 Trust Fund Budget	<u>Result 1 Budget:</u>	Amount Spent <i>(date)</i>	Balance (9-15-2012)	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
	80 teacher workshops				
BUDGET ITEM					
PERSONNEL: wages and benefits	0	0	0	0	0
Contracts					
Professional/technical. Contracts for two workshop coordinators-greater MN and metro area.	70,000	70,000	0	70,000	0
Other contracts: Annual plans for 9 workshop facilitators.	77,000	76,000	1,000	77,000	1,000
Supplies for workshops/learning trunks:reference materials, CDs, trunks	13,000	11,301	1,699	13,000	1,699
COLUMN TOTAL	\$160,000	\$157,301	\$2,699	\$160,000	\$2,699

Digital Photography
Bridge to Nature Workshops and Photo Safaris
July 2010 - April 2012

