

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

Date of Report: January 8, 2010
Date of Next Progress Report: January 15, 2011
Date of Work Program Approval:
Project Completion Date: June 30, 2013

I. PROJECT TITLE: Urban Wilderness Youth Outdoor Education (LCCMR ID: 165-F)

Project Manager: Greg Lais
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Location: Mississippi River Watershed in the Urban Core of Minneapolis and St. Paul and surrounding metropolitan areas.

Total ENRTF Project Budget:	ENRTF Appropriation	\$ 557,000
	Minus Amount Spent:	\$ 0
	Equal Balance:	\$ 557,000

Legal Citation: ML 2010, Chap.[____], Sec.[____], Subd.____.

Appropriation Language:

II. PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS:

Urban Wilderness Youth Outdoor Education (UWYOE) is a new and innovative environmental education and recreation program on the Mississippi River that will serve more than 20,000 urban youth over a three-year period. While many programs offer opportunities for youth to get outside for an environmental learning experience, none have provided this type of hands-on learning opportunity on such a large scale. Our ultimate goal is to make the UWYOE program a regular part of the school experience for all kids in the Twin Cities Metro area. If successful, this program will serve as a national model for engaging urban youth in the conservation movement through national, state, and local partnerships.

Through an unique partnership between Wilderness Inquiry, the National Park Service, the Mississippi River Fund, the Minneapolis and St. Paul Public School Districts, the DNR, and more than 40 other organizations, UWYOE will deliver outdoor education and recreation program on the Mississippi River, complete with guided day trips, overnight camping, and environmental education programs for youth in elementary, middle and high school. Our goal is to encourage outdoor recreation and environmental stewardship as life-long pursuits among disadvantaged urban youth. We also aim to grow the perception of the Mississippi River as a world-class resource for education and understanding about the natural world for Minnesotans.

UWYOE is a response to the sharp decline in participation in outdoor education and activities such as canoeing, camping, hunting and fishing by urban youth. UWYOE is based on the premise that youth who have meaningful outdoor education experiences are more likely to become engaged and committed environmental stewards, and to invest in Minnesota's outdoor resources as adults.

The Mississippi River traverses the state and is a major source of our nation's history. The river is essential to our diverse economy, and serves as the primary water source for millions of area residents. Minnesota is also home to the only National Park dedicated to the river, the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area. Currently, the Mississippi River is under-utilized as a venue for outdoor recreation and for environmental education.

Program Goals

1. Provide accessible, outdoor education and recreation opportunities for 20,000 of Minnesota's urban youth--who are under-served in outdoor recreation and education pursuits--right in their back yard;
2. Encourage schools, youth organizations, and land management agencies to promote and provide opportunities for urban youth to engage in outdoor education and recreation as life-long pursuits;
3. Create positive outdoor experiences that engender understanding of the vital role of the Mississippi River in our community and our personal lives;
4. Increase commitment of urban youth to invest in Minnesota's outdoor resources over the course of their lives.

III. PROGRESS SUMMARY AS OF:

IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS:

RESULT 1: Introductory Outdoor Education Experiences

Description: We will provide introductory canoe and outdoor education experiences serving 10,000 urban youth and families on Mississippi River and surrounding watershed in the Twin Cities metro area. Youth and families will paddle in 24' Voyageur canoes at community events such as Juneteenth and the Stone Arch Festival to introduce them to water safety, basic canoe training, natural history interpretation, and, for many, experience getting in a canoe for the first time.

Summary Budget Information for Result 1:	ENRTF Budget:	\$ 50,000
	Amount Spent:	\$ 0
	Balance:	\$ 50,000

Deliverable	Completion Date	Budget
1. Provide introductory or “gateway” canoe and outdoor education experiences for 2,000 youth and families. Cost per youth served: \$5.	June 30, 2011	\$10,000
2. Provide introductory or “gateway” canoe and outdoor education experiences for 3,500 youth and families. Cost per youth served: \$5.	June 30, 2012	\$17,500
3. Provide introductory or “gateway” canoe and outdoor education experiences for 4,500 youth and families. Cost per youth served: \$5.	June 30, 2013	\$22,500

Result Completion Date: June 30, 2013

Result Status as of January 15, 2011

Result Status as of *(Insert Date of Second Update Report):*

Result Status as of *(Insert Date of Third Update Report):*

Result Status as of *(Insert Date of Fourth Update Report):*

Final Report Summary:

RESULT 2: Environmental Learning Day Trips

Description: We will provide environmental learning day trips serving 12,000 urban youth on the Mississippi River and surrounding watershed in the Twin Cities metro area. These trips will be coupled with more traditional classroom sessions both before and after the day trip.

Youth will paddle in 24’ Voyageur canoes to introduce them to the outdoors and provide environmental education lessons through hands-on exploration of the Mississippi River and its surrounding watershed. Youth will participate in environmental education, service learning, river clean up, and habitat restoration activities, creating a foundation for stewardship.

Through a carefully crafted set of modules developed by the National Park Service (as an in-kind contribution to this project), we will assist teachers in linking the indoor and outdoor classrooms for maximum effect. In the weeks preceding the experiential classes on the river, students will be introduced to the science and language arts concepts, as well as to the mapping and topography of the river they will be paddling. While in the outdoor educational setting, they will collect data and build on the information they’ve acquired in the classroom setting. Following the outdoor classes, students will synthesize what they learned from materials and what they experienced for themselves while on the river.

To help the students develop concrete ways of protecting the river and adjacent wetlands, the teachers and students will develop and execute a “service learning”

project where the students assess how the community interacts with the Mississippi River. They will identify a community need with regard to the river and identify ways to address the need with a student-run initiative, i.e. educating residents about keeping pollutants out of storm water drains. The service learning project will enable the students to apply the skills they're learning in school, and thus reinforce the value of the science and writing knowledge they are gaining through the program.

Summary Budget Information for Result 2: ENRTF Budget: \$ 387,000
Amount Spent: \$ 0
Balance: \$ 387,000

Deliverable	Completion Date	Budget
1. Implement UWYOE curricula in Minneapolis Public Schools Summer School Program.	June 30, 2011	\$ 21,833
2. Provide daylong canoe experiences on the Mississippi River and surrounding watershed for 3,000 youth. Cost per youth served: \$30.	June 30, 2011	\$ 68,167
3. Implement UWYOE curricula in one additional school district (total of 2 districts).	June 30, 2012	\$ 21,833
4. Provide daylong canoe experiences on the Mississippi River and surrounding watershed for 4,000 youth. Cost per youth served: \$30.	June 30, 2012	\$150,167
5. Implement UWYOE curricula in two additional school districts (total of 4 districts).	June 30, 2013	\$ 21,833
6. Provide daylong canoe experiences on the Mississippi River and surrounding watershed for 5,000 youth. Cost per youth served: \$25.	June 30, 2013	\$103,167

Result Completion Date: June 30, 2013

Result Status as of January 15, 2011

Result Status as of *(Insert Date of Second Update Report):*

Result Status as of *(Insert Date of Third Update Report):*

Result Status as of *(Insert Date of Fourth Update Report):*

Final Report Summary:

RESULT 3: Environmental Learning Overnight Trips

Description: Provide overnight environmental learning experiences for 1,000 urban youth on the Mississippi River and surrounding watershed. These experiences provide an opportunity for students to deepen and expand on the work they have done on the environmental learning day trips.

In addition to canoeing and camping, students will study the ecosystems of the flood plain forest and the history of human efforts to live in the floodplain. Students will understand the many connections between the local river and the world including relationships to commodity agriculture and shipping. Students will define and commit to a vision for a healthy future river and consider implications for the river of global climate change.

Summary Budget Information for Result 3: ENRTF Budget: \$ 75,000
Amount Spent: \$ 0
Balance: \$ 75,000

Deliverable	Completion Date	Budget
1. Provide overnight canoe trips on the Mississippi River and surrounding metro area watersheds for 250 youth. Cost per youth served: \$75.	June 30, 2011	\$ 18,750
2. Provide overnight canoe trips on the Mississippi River and surrounding metro area watersheds for 350 youth. Cost per youth served: \$75.	June 30, 2012	\$ 26,250
3. Provide overnight canoe trips on the Mississippi River and surrounding metro area watersheds for 400 youth. Cost per youth served: \$75.	June 30, 2013	\$ 30,000

Result Completion Date: June 30, 2013

Result Status as of January 15, 2011

Result Status as of *(Insert Date of Second Update Report):*

Result Status as of *(Insert Date of Third Update Report):*

Result Status as of *(Insert Date of Fourth Update Report):*

Final Report Summary:

Result 4: Evaluate Success of the Program and Develop Plan for Replication

Description: Oversee and evaluate the success of the UWYOE experiences and curricula in connecting urban youth with the natural world and creating a conservation ethic.

We will work with researchers from the University of Minnesota’s Center for Applied Research and Educational Improvement to development evaluation strategies to measure the effectiveness of the curricula in achieving environmental education outcomes as well as school performance outcomes in science and English language arts.

The evaluation will measure our success in achieving stewardship objectives, such as:

- Students will be able to identify many ways in which they are connected to the water of the river.

Result Status as of *(Insert Date of Fourth Update Report):*

Final Report Summary:

V. TOTAL ENRTF PROJECT BUDGET:

Personnel: **TOTAL \$321,085**

- UWYOE Program Coordinator, Jenni O'Link (.5 FTE) - \$48,000
Coordinates the day-to-day details of the day and overnight river experiences, including hiring, training, scheduling, and supervising staff and volunteers conducting the events, coordinating with schools, collecting and maintaining accurate demographic tallies, coordinating all trip logistics including permits and reservations, transportation, gear, and food.

- UWYOE Program Coordinator, TBA (1 FTE) - \$87,500
Coordinates the development and implementation of the environmental education curricula, develops and maintains partnership relationships with school and other partners, coordinates the evaluation and assessment process in collaboration with the schools and the University of Minnesota. Ensures that all service goals for the program are met.

- WI Trail Guides, TBA (2.5 FTE) - \$147,661
Responsible for conducting safe and enjoyable environmental educational canoe trips.

- Benefits and taxes - \$37,924

Contracts: **TOTAL \$ 20,500**

To work with the University of Minnesota's Center for Applied Research and Educational Improvement to develop and implement a coordinated assessment and evaluation of the program (more detail provided on pp. 4-6)

Transportation: **TOTAL \$ 48,000**

Rental of two vehicles for four months each year to transport staff, equipment, and participants to and from program events. Also includes gas and maintenance for these vehicles.

Equipment/Tools/Supplies: **TOTAL \$ 39,725**

All program supplies and equipment for participants and program volunteers. A detailed listing of all equipment and supplies is provided in Attachment A.

Food: **TOTAL \$ 19,190**
All meals and snacks for participants, staff and volunteers. Ave cost of 83 cents per person served.

Insurance: **TOTAL \$ 42,000**
Students in this program will engage in canoeing, hiking, and other outdoor activities that have inherent risk. While Wilderness Inquiry has an excellent safety record, we must carry liability insurance for this program. We use a standard cost per service day (one person served for one day) to allocate insurance costs. The UWYOE program represents 20% of our overall service days. The total dollar amount for this line represents 20% of our insurance cost.

Permits and Fees: **TOTAL \$ 14,500**
For overnight camping fees at Fort Snelling State Park.

Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$3,500: **TOTAL \$ 52,000**
Four 24' Voyageur canoes.

TOTAL ENRTF PROJECT BUDGET: \$557,000

Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$3,500: As in all programs we do, safety will be our first priority in conducting UWYOE activities. While our greatest safety precaution on Mississippi River trips is trained, professional staff, another key to safe and successful UWYOE trips is the use of the 24' Voyageur canoes made by Northwest Canoe Company located in downtown St. Paul, MN These boats offer:

- Stability – These canoes are very stable and they can take very large waves—built for Lake Superior.
- Power – Can accommodate up to ten people per boat, providing opportunities to participate for inexperienced or weak paddlers who simply would not be able to safely handle a tandem canoe.
- Efficient staff to student ratios – Because one staff member can paddle eight students, we are able to safely staff these outings with a ratio of 1 staff to 8 students.

In order to expand our capacity to serve an increasing number of youth in the program each year of the grant, we need to purchase four of these specially crafted boats. We will continue to use these boats for environmental education purposes for the life of the boats.

VI. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners: Mississippi National River and Recreation Area (National Park Service) and Mississippi River Fund. Neither partner is receiving any monies from the appropriation.

The National Park Service role in the partnership will focus primarily on environmental education and interpretation and coordination with other partners, including facilitating land use agreements and developing water trail facilities and interpretation. The NPS will also provide education content to the UWYOE and Park Rangers on all day and overnight trips. Additionally, the NPS will develop a special Jr. Ranger component to the canoe route enabling participants to earn their Jr. Ranger Badge.

Because the NPS staff are closely involved in the preservation and interpretation of the many natural and cultural resources, they are able to enrich the experiences with information customized to the needs of school groups. As part of the the program, the NPS will provide enducational materials such as laminated historic photos, maps, learning activities on shore, and stewardship programs that provide tangilble environmental education learning opportunities and the building blocks for a stewardship ethic. Staff at the NPS have already developed a rich trove of educational and interpretive materials to educate youth on the natural, cultural, and environmental aspects of the Mississippi. The NPS and other partners will continue to develop these materials and make them available and accessible to teachers and students.

The Mississippi River Fund's primary role is to champion this program in the community and be the chief fundraising entity to start up and sustain the UWYOE, as well as assist with promotion and public relations. MRF will also coordinate program evaluations to determine the effectiveness of the UWYOE.

B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy: Our goal is to build pubic awareness, commitment, and enthusiasm for the UWYOE so that it will be sustained long after the initial investment of the LCCMR. We will seek to establish long-term funding options from foundations, corporations, individuals, events, and the Federal Government (National Park Service). By serving 10,000 to 15,000 youth per year, we aim to create a new generation of outdoor enthusiasts who understand and use canoe and boating routes and waterways throughout the State of MN.

C. Other Funds Proposed to be Spent during the Project Period:

Wilderness Inquiry: \$246,674

For Executive staff time, program administration, web and internet development, and insurance.

National Park Service: \$88,021

For curricula development and materials and Park Ranger salaries to provide environmental education curricula and interpretation on environmental education trips.

Mississippi River Fund: \$51,000

Additional grants to support the program.

D. Spending History:

2009 Spending

Wilderness Inquiry: \$183,522

National Park Service: \$45,983

Mississippi River Fund: \$86,391

VII. DISSEMINATION:

We will work with our partners at the University of Minnesota and the public schools to identify venues for disseminating information and findings about this project. Information will also be posted at <http://www.wildernessinquiry.org/UWYOE>

VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS: Periodic work program progress reports will be submitted not later than January 15, 2011, September 15, 2011, January 15, 2012, September 15, 2012, January 15, 2013. A final work program report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 1, 2013 as requested by the LCCMR.

Attachment A: Budget Detail for 2010 Projects																														
Project Title: Urban Wilderness Youth Outdoor Education (LCCMR ID: 165-F)																														
Project Manager Name: Greg Lais																														
Trust Fund Appropriation: \$ 557,000																														
2010 Trust Fund Budget	Result 1 Budget:	Amount Spent	Balance	Result 2 Budget:	Amount Spent	Balance	Result 3 Budget:	Amount Spent	Balance	Result 4 Budget:	Amount Spent	Balance	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE																
		11/22/2009	11/22/2009		11/22/2009	11/22/2009		11/22/2009	11/22/2009		11/22/2009	11/22/2009																		
BUDGET ITEM	Introductory Outdoor Education Experiences (10,000)			Environmental Learning Day Trips (12,000 youth served)			Enviornmental Learning Overnight Trips (1,000 youth)			Data Collection and Evaluation																				
PERSONNEL: wages and benefits																														
- UWCA Program Coordinators (1.5 FTE)	-	-	-	88,500	0	88,500	25,000	-	-	22,000	0	22,000	135,500	135,500																
- WI Trail Guides (2.5 FTE)	38,000	0	38,000	90,000	0	90,000	19,661	0	19,661	-	-	-	147,661	147,661																
- Benefits and Taxes (15% of wages)	5,700	0	5,700	26,775	0	26,775	2,949	0	2,949	2,500	0	2,500	37,924	37,924																
Contracts																														
Professional/technical University of MN for Evaluation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20,500	0	20,500	20,500	20,500																
Other direct operating costs:																														
Transportation (vehicle rental to transport staff and equipment to and from program events, gas, and maintenance.)	-	-	-	48,000	0	48,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	48,000	48,000																
Equipment/Tools/Supplies: (all program supplies and equipment for participants and program volunteers): • \$4,000 for life jackets (80 @ \$50 ea.) • \$8,400 for VHF radios (30 @\$280 ea.) • \$2,500 for paddles (80 @ \$31.25 ea.) • \$ 500 for coolers (20 @ 25 ea.) • \$ 500 for action packers (15 @ \$33 ea.) • \$15,000 for boat and equip. maintenance • \$ 200 for megaphones • \$ 3,500 for staff and volunteer vests (uniform) • \$ 5,125 for t-shirts	-	-	-	39,725	0	39,725	-	-	-	-	-	-	39,725	39,725																
Food (all meals and snacks for participants and staff)	3,300	0	3,300	12,000	0	12,000	3,890	0	3,890	-	-	-	19,190	19,190																
Insurance (for liability insurance; we use a standard cost per service day, our unit of measure, to allocate insurance costs. The UWCA program represents 20% of our overall service	3,000	0	3,000	30,000	0	30,000	9,000	0	9,000	-	-	-	42,000	42,000																
Permits and Fees (camping fees at Ft. Snelling)	-	-	-	-	-	-	14,500	0	14,500	-	-	-	14,500	14,500																
Capital equipment over \$3,500 Four 24' Voyager Canoes @ \$13,000 each	-	-	-	52,000	0	52,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	52,000	52,000																
COLUMN TOTAL	\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000	\$387,000	\$0	\$387,000	\$75,000	\$0	\$75,000	\$45,000	\$0	\$45,000	\$557,000	\$557,000																