

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

Date of Report: November 16, 2009
Date of Next Progress Report: January 15, 2011
Date of Work Program Approval:
Project Completion Date: January 15, 2012

I. PROJECT TITLE: Project Get Outdoors

Project Manager: Sara Grover
Affiliation: Project Get Outdoors Coordinator and Board Member
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Location: Southern Minnesota, including the counties of *Goodhue, Wabasha, Winona, Houston, Fillmore, Olmsted, Dodge, Mower, Steele, Freeborn, Rise, Waseca, Faribault, Blue Earth, LeSueur, Sibley, Nicollet, Brown, Watonwan, Martin, Jackson, Cottonwood, Redwood, Renville, Lac Que Parle, Yellow Medicine, Lyon, Murray, Nobles, Rock, Pipestone, and Lincoln.*

Total ENRTF Project Budget:	ENRTF Appropriation	\$15,000
	Minus Amount Spent:	\$ 0
	Equal Balance:	\$15,000

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

Appropriation Language:

II. PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS:

In an effort to re-connect Minnesota children in grades K-8 to nature exploration and outdoor recreation utilizing our public lands, Project Get Outdoors, Inc. will use the funds from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund for the completion of fifty toolkits that will facilitate after school activities that get kids out in nature. These toolkits will be shared with 50 Minnesota communities free of charge to help guide them through the phases of designing, implementing and sustaining their own unique Project GO after school programs.

Because most communities lack this sort of accessible, after school program, the toolkits have been developed to provide critical resources that will aide community volunteers. The toolkit will consist of a handbook, CD-ROM, DVD and start up backpacks with basic supplies to offer safe, outdoor activities that help children develop lifelong connections to the outdoors and appreciation of our natural resources. The

toolkit will also offer communities the free use of equipment trunks that focus on specific outdoor activities, such as geo-caching, fishing, camping and nature art.

The toolkits will be assembled and ready for dispersal by October 2010 and will be available to 50 communities across Southern Minnesota until they run out. Regional Project Coordinators hired by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, will work with interested communities throughout the entire southern region to share these resources and train interested volunteers to lead these programs. These Project GO programs will continue to operate long after this grant expires. During this grant period, through a minimum of 1500 separate program activities, these toolkits will serve approximately 5,000 children, a minimum of 2,500 of whom will be low-income and/or minorities. These numbers will continue to grow every year.

After this grant period, we will continue to work toward our goal of implementing at least one Project GO program into every county of Minnesota by 2015.

III. PROGRESS SUMMARY AS OF :

IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS:

RESULT 1: Accessible & Practical Activity Planning Resources

Description: The resources available through the Start Up Backpacks, Activity Ideas Booklet, and Equipment Trunks will facilitate Project GO program start up and activity planning for a minimum of 50 communities located in Southern Minnesota, serving a minimum of 5000 registered participants and implementing a minimum of 1500 separate outdoor nature activities, fieldtrips and/or service projects.

Summary Budget Information for Result 1: ENRTF Budget: \$ 15,000
 Amount Spent: \$
 Balance: \$ 15,000

Deliverable	Completion Date	Budget
1. 50 Start Up Backpacks with basic supplies (blindfolds, magnifying glasses, rope, bug boxes, trail cards, animal calls, clipboards, balls, etc.) to initiate over 100 simple outdoor activities such as nature games, themed hikes, insect collecting, nature scavenger hunts, etc. within a community. An activity backpack will be given to each of 50 interested communities for their indefinite use.	June 2011	\$10,000
2. 5 Equipment Trunks with resources for Project GO clubs to experience a greater variety of outdoor recreation activities (binoculars, fishing poles, GPS units, digital cameras, tents, aquatic nets, art	June 2011	\$5,000

supplies, etc.). Trunks will be available indefinitely to all GO clubs in the region to check out for free.		
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Result Completion Date: January 15, 2012

Result Status as of: January 15, 2011

Result Status as of: July 15, 2011

Result Status as of:

Result Status as of:

Final Report Summary: January 15, 2012

V. TOTAL ENRTF PROJECT BUDGET:

Personnel: \$ 0

Contracts: \$ 0

Equipment/Tools/Supplies: \$ 15,000 for 50 Activity Backpacks (blindfolds, magnifying glasses, rope, bug boxes, trail cards, animal calls, clipboards, balls, etc.) and 5 Equipment Trunks (fishing poles, gps units, nature art supplies, etc.).

Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements): \$ 0

Travel: \$ 0

Additional Budget Items: \$ 0

TOTAL ENRTF PROJECT BUDGET: \$15,000

Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$3,500: Equipment trunks will be used for the same purpose for their lifetime, shared for free among the Project GO groups in region. This \$15,000 investment by the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund will continue to aide local communities in their outdoor education efforts for years.

VI. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners:

The Project GO Board of Directors will be overseeing the project. The Board is composed of individuals who represent various agencies and organizations that share an interest in connecting kids to the outdoors. Members include; Maria Acosta – Wabasha County Social Services, Tony DeBusk – Boys Scouts of America, Larry Gates – Farmer & retired DNR Watershed Coordinator, Sara Grover – MN State Parks, Jon Holger – Fillmore County Social Services & MN State Parks, Samantha Grant – U of MN Extension Service, Kate O’Grady – MN State Parks & WSU Assistant Professor, Andrea Lorek Strauss – U of MN Extension Service, Dave Palmquist – MN State Parks, Ann Rethlefsen – Winona State University, Ellen Rollie – St. Charles Public Schools, Cindy Samples – US Fish & Wildlife Service (board liaison). Sara Grover serves as the lead project manager and will be assisted by the board and their partner agencies.

B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy:

Project GO is helping Minnesota communities to implement free after school programs that get kids outdoors and engaged in nature. The 50 toolkits funded through this grant will be issued for free to 50 interested communities throughout the entire southern region. Like 4-H Clubs or Scout Troops, the Regional Project GO Coordinators will work with interested communities to train community volunteers how to start up and sustain their own unique programs. These Project GO programs will continue to operate in each community long after the completion of this grant period. Over the coming years, Project GO will continue to work with communities and partnering organizations to secure more funding in order to assemble additional toolkits and expand the program reach throughout the entire state of Minnesota.

We plan to continue to partner with government and non-government agencies that share in our mission and to identify ways that partnering organizations can help contribute funds or other resources to aide in this effort.

Project GO received 501c3 tax-exempt status in February 2009. Since then, our Board of Directors has begun to move forward on developing a sustainable funding strategy. Prior to this, we operated under the fiscal sponsorship of the Parks and Trails Council of Minnesota.

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

We have submitted grants to the Environmental Protection Agency (\$19,000) and the Ecolab Foundation (\$10,000) to help cover other costs of this project. If awarded, these funds would help cover travel expenses, website redesign and other project supplies not covered by the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund award. Also, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Division of Parks and Trails is covering the salary costs (\$75,000) of two Project GO Regional Coordinators who will be stationed out of Whitewater State Park and Minneopa State Park and oversee Project GO expansion throughout Southern Minnesota.

D. Spending History:

VII. DISSEMINATION:

VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS: Periodic work program progress reports will be submitted not later than January 15, 2011, July 15, 2011. A final work program report and associated products will be submitted by January 15, 2012 or as requested by the LCCMR.

IX. RESEARCH PROJECTS:

Attachment A: Budget Detail for 2010 Projects - Summary and a Budget page for each partner (if applicable)

Project Title: <i>Fill in your project title</i>					
Project Manager Name: Sara Grover					
Trust Fund Appropriation: \$ 15,000					
2010 Trust Fund Budget	<u>Result 1 Budget:</u>	Amount Spent <i>(date)</i>	Balance <i>(date)</i>	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
	<i>Accessible & Practical Activity Planning Resources</i>				
BUDGET ITEM					
Non-capital Equipment / Tools: - 50 Start Up Backpacks with basic supplies (blindfolds, magnifying glasses, rope, bug boxes, trail cards, animal calls, clipboards, balls, etc.) - 5 Equipment Trunks with resources for Project GO clubs to experience a greater variety of outdoor recreation activities (binoculars, fishing poles, GPS units, digital cameras, tents, aquatic nets, art supplies,	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
Other <i>(Describe the activity and cost) be specific</i>	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
COLUMN TOTAL					