

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

Date of Report: May 24, 2010
Date of Next Progress Report: April 15, 2011
Date of Work Program Approval:
Project Completion Date: June 30, 2012

I. PROJECT TITLE: **Connecting Youth with Nature**

Project Manager: Carrol L. Henderson
Affiliation: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Mailing Address: Box 25, 500 Lafayette Road
City / State / Zip: St. Paul, MN 55155
Telephone Number: 651-259-5104
E-mail Address: Carrol.Henderson@state.mn.us
Fax Number: 651-296-1811
Web Site Address: www.dnr.state.mn.us

Location: Statewide. Workshop sites to be provided on map as workshops are planned.

Total ENRTF Project Budget:	ENRTF Appropriation	\$	160,000
	Minus Amount Spent:	\$	0
	Equal Balance:	\$	160,000

Legal Citation: M.L. 2010, Chp. 362, Sec. 2, Subd. 8c

Appropriation Language:

\$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” addresses the problem that young people are losing interest in nature, and that their involvement in outdoor recreation is declining. This project responds to the need for outdoor-based curricula identified by the Outdoor Education Working Group in January 2009. It will allow children to experience positive photography experiences in the outdoors through planning and presenting 80 digital photography training workshops for 1000 elementary and middle school teachers, park naturalists, and nature center naturalists.

Two coordinators would train and supervise nine workshop facilitators who have a background in nature, digital nature photography, and teaching. These coordinators and facilitators would plan and carry out teacher workshops on how to use digital photography in the outdoors to enhance traditional classroom curricula. Teachers would receive continuing education units (CEUs) and be provided with curriculum guides and free loan of learning trunks with cameras and field guides.

Teachers would return to their classroom, state park, or nature center and carry out digital photo safaris with their students. These activities would meet state academic standards as they relate

to science, art, language arts, and math. The photo safari sessions would involve the use of volunteers who would serve as mentors.

The goal of this project is to reach at least 1000 teachers and naturalists with nature photography outdoor workshops over a two-year period. It is estimated that they will introduce 30,000 students to the opportunities for discovering Minnesota’s outdoors through digital photography.

III. PROGRESS SUMMARY AS OF APRIL 15, 2011:

IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS:

RESULT/ACTIVITY 1: 80 Digital Photography Bridge to Nature teacher workshops

Description: Eighty “Connecting Youth with Nature” workshops will be held for 1000 teachers and naturalists during the biennium. A total of 42 photography learning trunks will be created that include teacher curriculum materials, wildlife field guides, and 12 digital cameras each. The cameras will be obtained from other funding sources. Teachers will subsequently be able to check out these photography learning trunks for use by students for photo safaris in natural areas, wildlife lands, and parks near their schools. Some camera trunks will be maintained in DNR State Parks. The resulting photos will be used to enhance curriculum studies in math, science, geography, arts, and language arts.

Summary Budget Information for Result/Activity 1:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 160,000
Amount Spent: \$ 0
Balance: \$ 160,000

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	\$ 14,000

Result Completion Date: June 30, 2012

Result Status as of April 15, 2011:

Result Status as of September 15, 2011:

Result Status as of April 15, 2012:

Result Status as of September 15: 2012:

Final Report Summary:

V. TOTAL ENRTF PROJECT BUDGET:

Personnel: 0
Contracts and Annual Plans: \$ 146,000

Contract with two persons (professional-technical contracts) to administer 80 statewide photo workshops for teachers and with nine persons (annual plans) to provide services as facilitators at 80 workshops..

Supplies: \$ 14,000

Purchase workshop supplies for teachers including portable learning trunks, curriculum materials, and field guides to place in the photography learning trunks.

Acquisition: 0
Travel: 0
Additional Items: 0

TOTAL ENRTF PROJECT BUDGET: \$ 160,000

Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$3,500: None

VI. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners: DNR Divisions of Ecological Resources, State Parks and Trails, Fisheries, and 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: It is the goal of this project to reach 1000 teachers and naturalists in the first two years. These teachers should consequently reach 30,000 students with the opportunity to explore Minnesota's outdoors with a camera and use their nature photos to enhance their learning experiences. It is the long term intention to carry this project forward for at least the next six years to institutionalize this strategy into Minnesota's school curricula.

C. Other Funds Proposed to be spent during the project period:

Camera donations:	\$ 45,000
DNR staff time:	75,000
In-kind Mentor time:	175,000
In-kind Watchable Wildlife time:	12,000
<u>DNR workshop supplies:</u>	<u>8,000</u>
Total:	\$ 315,000

D. Spending History: No funds have been allocated for this project in the past.

VII. DISSEMINATION:

This project will be included as a special feature on the DNR website, www.mndnr.gov and will be regularly reported in DNR news releases. The first workshop will feature Jim Brandenburg as the keynote speaker on July 10, 2010, at Luverne, Minnesota, and Don Shelby has indicated his interest in covering the program for WCCO-TV at that event.

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

IX. RESEARCH PROJECTS: N/A

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

Project Title: Connecting Youth with Nature

Project Manager Name: Carrol L. Henderson

Trust Fund Appropriation: \$ 160,000

2010 Trust Fund Budget	<u>Result 1 Budget:</u>	Amount Spent (July 1, 2010)	Balance (July 1, 2010)	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. \$23,000/year for Greater MN coordinator for 2 years, and \$12,000/year for Metro MN coordinator for two years.	70,000	0	70,000	70,000	70,000
Annual plans: 8 workshop facilitators @ \$4,500/year for 2 years & 1 workshop facilitator @ \$2,000/year for 2 years	76,000	0	76,000	76,000	76,000
Supplies for workshops and learning trunks: reference materials, CDs, software, trunks, paper	14,000	0	14,000	14,000	14,000
COLUMN TOTAL	\$160,000	\$0	\$160,000	\$160,000	\$160,000