

**2018 Project Abstract
For the Period Ending June 30, 2020**

PROJECT TITLE: Update International Wolf Center Exhibits
PROJECT MANAGER: Rob Schultz
AFFILIATION: International Wolf Center
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FUNDING SOURCE: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
LEGAL CITATION: M.L. 2018, Chp. 214, Art. 4, Sec. 02, Subd. 05i

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$1,000,000
AMOUNT SPENT: \$1,000,000
AMOUNT REMAINING: \$0

Sound bite of Project Outcomes and Results

The success of wolf recovery over the past three decades in Minnesota led us to a major overhaul of the exhibit. This updated exhibit will now celebrate Minnesota's historic success in recovering this endangered species, as well as to educate Minnesotan's about the need for their management.

Overall Project Outcome and Results

Since 1993, over one million people have learned about wolves at the International Wolf Center's interpretive center in Ely. The Center's old exhibit was created in the early 1980's, its purpose was to promote species survival. Although beautifully and professionally created, the success of wolf recovery over the past three decades in Minnesota has resulted in it becoming outdated. Display materials were made with a high-quality printing process on permanent materials, making it cost-prohibitive to update exhibit displays.

The New Exhibit has three main components: 1) History of Wolves 2) Science of Wolves: Their Biology and Role in Nature as an Apex Predator and 3) Co-Existence with Wolves: The Need for Wolf Management. The exhibit is equipped with interactive state of the art technology to optimize the learning experience. A "Howling Room" sound chamber simulates an outdoor experience where visitors will learn how to communicate with packs. Through immersive experiences, visitors will learn about the complicated issues in Minnesota surrounding human interactions with wolves

The exhibit, known as Discover Wolves! informally opened to the public beginning on Friday, May 10th. The official, large public grand opening celebration occurred on Friday, June 28th. The finished Discover Wolves! exhibit will teach tens of thousands of Minnesotans and people around the world who visit the interpretive center the facts about wolf biology, management and recovery.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

Updates about the progress of the new exhibit were shared each month on the International Wolf Center's social media platforms and through electronic mailings. In April, Executive Director Rob Schultz appeared before the Ely City Council and gave an update on the progress of the new exhibit. Updates of the progress of the exhibit preparations were shared with news media throughout the spring months, and the Center received publicity in regard to the new exhibit upon completion of its installation in May.

An article giving updates about the new exhibit was published in International Wolf Magazine in mid-May. Additional items planned include news releases being prepared that highlight the grand opening celebration, as well as a final article about the completion of the new exhibit that will appear in International Wolf Magazine in mid-August.



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)

M.L. 2018 ENRTF Work Plan Final Report

Today's Date: 8/15/2019

Final Report

Date of Work Plan Approval: 06/05/2018

Project Completion Date: 08/15/2019

PROJECT TITLE: Update International Wolf Center Exhibits

Project Manager: Rob Schultz

Organization: International Wolf Center

College/Department/Division:

Mailing Address: 7100 Northland Circle N., Suite 205

City/State/Zip Code: Brooklyn Park, MN 55428

Telephone Number: 763-560-7374 ext. 222

Email Address: rob@wolf.org

Web Address: www.wolf.org

Location: Ely, St. Louis County, Minnesota

Total ENRTF Project Budget: \$1,000,000

Amount Spent: \$1,000,000

Balance: \$0

Legal Citation: M.L. 2018, Chp. 214, Art. 4, Sec. 02, Subd. 05i

Appropriation Language: \$1,000,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the International Wolf Center to design, construct, and install new interactive educational exhibits to help Minnesotans understand coexistence with the state's wolf populations and ongoing wolf- management efforts.

I. PROJECT STATEMENT:

Since 1993, over one million people have learned about wolves at the International Wolf Center's vibrant interpretive center in Ely. It is home to live ambassador wolves, great programs and educational exhibits. When our current main exhibit was created in the early 1980's, its purpose was to promote species survival. Although beautifully and professionally created, the success of wolf recovery over the past three decades in Minnesota has resulted in it becoming outdated. Display materials were made with a high-quality printing process on permanent materials, making it cost-prohibitive to update exhibit displays. A major overhaul of the exhibit is needed to celebrate Minnesota's historic success in recovering this endangered species, as well as to educate Minnesotans about the need for their management. The new *Wolf Discovery Center* will have three distinct interpretive components:

1. History of Wolves: Extirpation and the Journey to Recovery in Minnesota
 - a. New stations will display a selection of repurposed artifacts from the original exhibit
 - b. Interactive screens will highlight the historic timeline of extirpation and the successful recovery of wolves in Minnesota – the last place in the lower 48 where wolves survived
 - c. Electronic kiosks will demonstrate historic and modern wolf ranges, wolves in various cultures, folklore/myths, legal challenges, and management practices throughout history
2. Science of Wolves: Their Biology and Role in Nature as an Apex Predator
 - a. Using the latest technology, visitors will discover the science and biology of wolves
 - b. A wolf tracking station will simulate the tracking of wolves using GPS and radio telemetry
 - c. A "Howling Room" sound chamber will simulate an outdoor experience where visitors will learn how to communicate with packs
 - d. Touch-screen displays will feature a variety of topics including wolf/canid evolution, wolves cascading effect on landscapes, pup development stages, wolf behavior charts, the five senses wolves use, how wolves define their territory, diseases, and wolf/prey interactions
3. Co-Existence with Wolves: The Need for Wolf Management
 - a. Through immersive experiences, visitors will learn about the complicated issues in Minnesota surrounding human interactions with wolves
 - b. HD displays will provide a real-life look into the perspectives of farmers, ranchers and pet owners living in wolf country and the challenges they face
 - c. Kiosk stations will use interactive technology to disseminate practical advice to keep pets and livestock safe from predators
 - d. HD displays will outline wolf management practices in Minnesota with facts that will prepare Minnesotans for challenges our DNR will face when federal control reverts back to the states
 - e. Interactive displays answering frequently asked questions like safety in wolf territory

II. OVERALL PROJECT STATUS UPDATES: See Activity 1 below

Sound bite of Project Outcomes and Results

The success of wolf recovery over the past three decades in Minnesota led us to a major overhaul of the exhibit. This updated exhibit celebrates Minnesota's historic success in recovering this endangered species, as well as educates Minnesotans about the pressing issues that relate to wolf management.

Overall Project Outcome and Results

Since 1993, more than one million people have learned about wolves at the International Wolf Center's interpretive center in Ely. The Center's previous exhibit was created in the early 1980s. Its purpose was to promote species survival. Although beautifully and professionally created, the success of wolf recovery over the past three decades in Minnesota resulted in that exhibit becoming outdated. Display materials were made with a high-quality printing process on permanent materials, making it cost-prohibitive to update exhibit displays.

The New Exhibit has three main components: 1) History of Wolves 2) Science of Wolves: Their Biology and Role in Nature as an Apex Predator and 3) Co-Existence with Wolves: The Need for Wolf Management. The exhibit is

equipped with interactive, state-of-the-art technology to optimize the learning experience. A “Howling Room” sound chamber simulates an outdoor experience where visitors will learn how to communicate with packs. Through immersive experiences, visitors will learn about the complicated issues in Minnesota surrounding human interactions with wolves

The exhibit, known as Discover Wolves!, informally opened to the public beginning on Friday, May 10th. The official, large public grand opening celebration occurred on Friday, June 28th.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

Updates about the progress of the new exhibit were shared each month on the International Wolf Center’s social media platforms and through electronic mailings. In April, Executive Director Rob Schultz appeared before the Ely City Council and gave an update on the progress of the new exhibit. Updates of the progress of the exhibit preparations were shared with news media throughout the spring months, and the Center received publicity in regard to the new exhibit upon completion of its installation in May.

An article giving updates about the new exhibit was published in International Wolf Magazine in mid-May. Additional items planned include news releases being prepared that highlight the grand opening celebration, as well as a final article about the completion of the new exhibit that will appear in International Wolf Magazine in mid-August. The finished Discover Wolves! exhibit will teach tens of thousands of Minnesotans and people around the world who visit the interpretive center the facts about wolf biology, management and recovery.

III. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1:

Description: Design, construction/instillation of displays and exhibit infrastructure. Contractor will be selected through a competitive process to build exhibit.

ENRTF BUDGET: \$1,000,000

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Exhibit design and individual displays specifications completed with timelines and costs for displays/construction set	June 2018
2. Exhibit area (interior) site preparation including removal of displays for recycling or repurposing elsewhere in the building or finished new exhibit	December 2019
3. Off-site fabrication/construction of many individual displays for on-site installation by design-build firm	December 2019
4. Prepare exhibit infrastructure for individual display installation (remove/add interior walls, duct work, electrical receptacles, lighting, flooring, etc.)	February 2020
5. Install displays created off-site and recycled displays from original exhibit in storage	April 2020

First Update February 28, 2019

Design work was completed in late fall of 2018 and the production of new exhibit features are currently underway. The International Wolf Center assembled a small group of staff, board members and wolf biologists to work with the design firm team to review content as the project transitions from design into production phases. Working through an online portal, content manuals, schematic designs and exhibit storyboards are shared back and forth between the design and the International Wolf Center teams to edit and refine content. An inventory of artifacts has been created that is being used to collect the items that will be incorporated into exhibit elements. The International Wolf Center

conducted video interviews during the months of January and February that will provide content for interactive displays and computers.

Late February, previous exhibit materials were removed from the site and transported to a temporary storage location so that preparation of the area can commence with contractors who will move walls, install new lighting and carpeting, and paint the space. All site preparation work is expected to be complete by March 31, 2019, and the installation of the new exhibit is scheduled for the month of April 2019. We anticipate that this project will be completed much earlier than expected with a projected close out by early summer.

Second Update June 30, 2019

August 15, 2019 This project was completed early and this update serves as the final update. In early March, final technical edits of narrative content were submitted to the design team and plans for the new exhibit were finalized. Build-out of the landforms, technical components, informational panels and interpretive features continued at Split Rock Studios. Staff and board members visited the studio on Friday, March 15, to review progress of the exhibit build-out and were very pleased with the fabrication of the exhibit components. Throughout the months of March and April, preparation of the exhibit hall area at our Interpretive Center in Ely continued and was completed by late April, at which time installation of the exhibit began. Installation of the new exhibit occurred over a two-week period of time and was largely complete by May 3rd, with minor adjustments, modifications and fine-tuning occurring the week of May 6-10. The exhibit informally opened to the public beginning on Friday, May 10th. In the weeks that followed, the communications department worked to promote the opening of the new exhibit online, through social media, and to our media contacts in the Arrowhead region and greater Minnesota area. The new exhibit was covered extensively in the Ely Timberjay and the Ely Echo. Staff spent time planning and preparing throughout May and June for a large public grand opening celebration that occurred on Friday, June 28.

That grand opening attracted State Rep. Rob Ecklund, Ely Mayor Chuck Novak, members of the Ely City Council, Ely Chamber of Commerce and the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board.

Third Update January 31, 2020 – Project completed 8/15/2019

Final Update June 30, 2020 – Project completed 8/15/2019

IV. DISSEMINATION:

Description: We plan to update the public about our new exhibit at various stages informally. We will formally include an update on our dissemination during our semi-annual reports. Our wolf.org website will be the main source as we progress through the design and construction steps. Our social media presence is strong as well with Facebook and YouTube offerings. Those may also be part of the communication plan. As we progress and get closer to the opening, media releases and interviews with the regional and state press outlets will be likely. The quarterly International Wolf magazine will have an article about how the new Wolf Discovery Center will play an important role in wolf education including the preparation of Minnesotans for changes in wolf management.

First Update January 31, 2019

The International Wolf Center has communicated to the public for this first phase through our fall and winter edition of the International Wolf Magazine, Facebook posts and media coverage from the Ely area. Attached

with the submission is the July 24, 2018 International Wolf Center Facebook Post, the Letter from the Executive Director in the Fall 2018 International Wolf and the article, "Immersive New Exhibit Planned for International Wolf Center in Ely" by our Communications Director in the Winter 2018 International Wolf. We anticipate increased media coverage when the new exhibit is completed this spring. Our board has allocated \$10,000 of International Wolf Center funds to be used during the upcoming summer months to help promote the new exhibit throughout the Arrowhead region.

Update June 30, 2019

August 15, 2019 This project was completed early and this update serves as the final update. Updates about the progress of the new exhibit were shared each month on the International Wolf Center’s social media platforms and through electronic mailings. In April, Executive Director Rob Schultz appeared before the Ely City Council and gave an update on the progress of the new exhibit. Updates of the progress of the exhibit preparations were shared with news media throughout the spring months, and the Center received publicity in regard to the new exhibit upon completion of its installation in May.

An article giving updates about the new exhibit was published in International Wolf Magazine in mid-May. Invitations for the exhibit grand opening were sent out ahead of the celebration. Additional items planned include news releases being prepared that highlight the grand opening celebration, as well as a final article about the completion of the new exhibit that will appear in International Wolf Magazine in mid-August.

Third Update January 31, 2020 Project completed 8/15/2019

Final Update June 30, 2020 Project completed 8/15/2019

V. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:

A. Preliminary ENRTF Budget Overview: See attached budget spreadsheet

Explanation of Use of Classified Staff:

Total Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) Directly Funded with this ENRTF Appropriation:

Enter Total Estimated Personnel Hours: 0	Divide by 2,080 = TOTAL FTE: 0
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Total Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) Estimated to Be Funded through Contracts with this ENRTF Appropriation:

Enter Total Estimated Personnel Hours: 8320	Divide by 2,080 = TOTAL FTE: 4
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B. Other Funds:

SOURCE OF AND USE OF OTHER FUNDS	Amount Proposed	Amount Spent	Status and Timeframe
Other Non-State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:			
International Wolf Center	\$ 100,000	\$ 150,000	For initial designs and estimates in 2018

SOURCE OF AND USE OF OTHER FUNDS	Amount Proposed	Amount Spent	Status and Timeframe
Other State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:			
NA	\$	\$	
Past and Current ENRTF Appropriation:			
NA	\$	\$	
Other Funding History:			
	\$	\$	

VI. PROJECT PARTNERS:

A. Partners receiving ENRTF funding

Name	Title	Affiliation	Role
N/A			

B. Partners NOT receiving ENRTF funding

Name	Title	Affiliation	Role
N/A			

VII. LONG-TERM- IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING: The finished Wolf Discovery Center will teach tens of thousands of Minnesotans and people around the world who visit the interpretive center the facts about wolf biology, management and recovery. The daily operations of the exhibit are part of the interpretive center’s annual budget and will require no additional ENRTF funding. Updates to the interactive displays will be handled by staff and volunteers at the Center.

VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

- The project is for 2 years, will begin on 7/1/18, and end on 6/30/20.
- Periodic project status update reports will be submitted on June 30th and January 31st of each year.
- A final report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 15, 2020.

IX. SEE ADDITIONAL WORK PLAN COMPONENTS:

- A. Budget Spreadsheet
- B. Visual Component or Map
- C. Parcel List Spreadsheet
- D. Acquisition, Easements, and Restoration Requirements
- E. Research Addendum

**Attachment A:
Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
M.L. 2018 Budget Spreadsheet**



Project Title: Update International Wolf Center Exhibits
Legal Citation: M.L. 2018, Chp. 214, Art. 4, Sec. 02, Subd. 05i
Project Manager: Sharon Reed
Organization: International Wolf Center
College/Department/Division:
M.L. 2018 ENRTF Appropriation:
Project Length and Completion Date: 2 years June 30, 2020
Date of Report: 08/15/2019

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	TOTAL BUDGET		TOTAL BALANCE
BUDGET ITEM			
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts			
<i>The design-build firm secured through an RFP process will design and build this dynamic new exhibit.</i>	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$0
COLUMN TOTAL	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$0