



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)

M.L. 2018 ENRTF Work Plan (Main Document)

Today's Date: February 22, 2018

Date of Next Status Update Report: September 15, 2018

Date of Work Plan Approval:

Project Completion Date: June 30, 2020

Does this submission include an amendment request? No

PROJECT TITLE: Nongame Wildlife Program Acceleration

Project Manager: Carrol L. Henderson

Organization: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

College/Department/Division: Division of Ecological and Water Resources

Mailing Address: Box 26, DNR, 500 Lafayette Road

City/State/Zip Code: St. Paul, MN 55155

Telephone Number: 651-259-5104

Email Address: carrol.henderson@state.mn.us

Web Address: www.mndnr.gov

Location: Statewide

Total Project Budget: \$1,000,000

Amount Spent: \$0

Balance: \$1,000,000

Legal Citation: M.L. 2018, Chp. xx, Sec. xx, Subd. xx

Appropriation Language:

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' Nongame Wildlife Program is entrusted with the conservation of Minnesota's wildlife that are not traditionally hunted or harvested. This represents over 1000 species of wildlife. These species are integral parts of our landscapes, providing ecological and economic benefits, educational opportunities and recreational enjoyment for Minnesotans. The Nongame Wildlife Program is regarded as one of the most effective and successful conservation programs of its kind in the nation.

This proposal will accelerate the delivery and effectiveness of the program by providing a match to the approximately \$1 million that citizens donate to the program annually, primarily through a voluntary checkoff on their state tax returns. Donations from tax returns, which had averaged over \$1 million annually, dropped during the 2008 recession and have been slow to recover to previous levels but are now approaching \$1 million/year. This has prevented the Nongame Wildlife Program from keeping up with the demands for conserving and managing nongame wildlife habitats and providing the public with recreational opportunities focused on nongame wildlife.

Minnesota's Wildlife Action Plan, which directs much of the work of the Nongame Wildlife Program, was updated in 2015. The plan identifies a statewide "Wildlife Action Network" as a strategy for maintaining and enhancing habitat for all wildlife. Within the network, habitat management efforts will be concentrated with support from conservation partners in "Conservation Focus Areas" where effectiveness and long-term outcomes will be tracked. These efforts will support other conservation efforts such as the MN Prairie Conservation Plan, and it helps ensure that our conservation efforts maintain healthy and diverse wildlife populations and ecosystems into the future.

Additional priorities in the Wildlife Action Plan include: 1) improving the management and delivery of foundational information on nongame species, 2) surveys to assess the status of priority nongame species, 3) conducting a repeatable survey to measure the public's interest in and support for the conservation values and the work and fundraising efforts of the Nongame Wildlife Program, 4) an evaluation of educational efforts focused on nongame wildlife, and 5) providing additional recreational opportunities focused on nongame species and unique habitats. This proposal will enable the Nongame Wildlife Program and its conservation partners to accelerate implementation of Minnesota's Wildlife Action Plan.

II. OVERALL PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

First Update January 31, 2019

Second Update June 30, 2019

Third Update January 31, 2020

Final Update June 30, 2020

III. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1: Conservation focus area implementation

Description: Implement conservation actions for two regionally-based Conservation Focus Areas. This includes the development and implementation of habitat management objectives and effectiveness measures. This will be done in collaboration with DNR wildlife managers and external conservation partners.

ENRTF BUDGET: \$ 414.478

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Establish partnerships to identify management goals and effectiveness measures for two Conservation Focus Areas.	June 30, 2020
2. Initiate collection of baseline data to be used for effectiveness monitoring on approximately 6 sites across 1-2 Conservation Focus Areas.	June 30, 2020
3. Initiate habitat management actions to increase biodiversity for Species in Greatest Conservation Need on at least 80 acres of permanently protected lands in 1-2 two Conservation Focus Areas.	June 30, 2020

First Update January 31, 2019

Second Update June 30, 2019

Third Update January 31, 2020

Final Update June 30, 2020

ACTIVITY 2: Non-game wildlife data collection and management

Description: Accelerate the collection, management and delivery of data on nongame wildlife species to inform conservation efforts.

ENRTF BUDGET: \$255,000

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Conduct assessments on at least one of the species listed in Objective 3.1 of the Wildlife Action Plan.	June 30, 2020
2. Incorporate priority nongame data sets into the Observation Database so the information is readily accessible for: providing technical guidance, conservation planning, determining survey priorities and facilitating environmental review efforts.	June 30, 2020
3. Enhance functionality of the observation database to allow better access for data analysis and decrease staff time needed to maintain data.	June 30, 2020

First Update January 31, 2019

Second Update June 30, 2019

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ACTIVITY 3: Heart of the bog birding trail

Description: Plan and begin implementation of the “Heart of the Bog Birding and Wildlife Trail” in northern Minnesota featuring the wildlife, wildflowers, and natural landscapes of the lowland conifer forests known as

“bogs.” This will benefit local communities and the hospitality and outdoor recreation industries. It will provide employment opportunities for local guides and outfitters while promoting conservation and management of lowland conifer forests for their multiple values and uses ranging from nature tourism to preservation of biological diversity and traditional forest values.

ENRTF BUDGET: \$ 130,000

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Sponsor six meetings along the proposed trail corridor to inform local communities, chambers of commerce, tourism officials, public agencies, politicians, conservation partners, members of the hospitality and outdoor recreation industries, interested individuals, and members of the media to share information on what a birding and 2019 wildlife trail is and how it can benefit natural resources and our local northern communities.	June 30, 2020
2. Plan the “Heart of the Bog Birding Trail,” to highlight the wildlife, plant life, and landscape features of this northern ecosystem and promote economic benefits to rural communities along the birding trail corridor. This includes delineating the final trail and sub-loop corridors, selecting the communities that will serve as “anchor cities” along the trail, identifying publics that wish to be involved with this project, and creation of a working group of organizations, agencies, and individuals for trail planning and development. Produce a final plan for implementation and development of the trail.	June 30, 2020

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ACTIVITY 4: non game education and outreach

Description: Develop and carry out two education and outreach surveys: First, a survey that identifies the priority wildlife conservation education needs that the Nongame Wildlife Program can best address, and identifies opportunities to improve the effectiveness of wildlife conservation education including delivery to underserved publics, and the role of Project WILD and Project WET in meeting these needs. Second, develop and conduct a survey to measure the effectiveness of the Nongame Wildlife Program’s information messages, ascertain citizen awareness of the program and its accomplishments, and identify strategies to diversify and increase donations and income to the Nongame Wildlife Program.

ENRTF BUDGET: \$ 165,000

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Carry out a survey to evaluate, prioritize, and improve current Nongame Wildlife Program educational efforts. Identify the most effective curricula and staffing needs, and ensure reaching both outstate and metro area underserved publics.	June 30, 2020

2. Develop and conduct a repeatable survey to measure the public’s awareness of the Nongame Wildlife Program and the Nongame Wildlife Checkoff and interest in and support of wildlife conservation for nongame and rare wildlife. This information will be used in part to help identify new strategies and techniques for identifying and reaching targeted audiences of potential donors, and initiate more effective fundraising.	June 30, 2020
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First Update January 31, 2019

Second Update June 30, 2019

Third Update January 31, 2020

Final Update June 30, 2020

IV. DISSEMINATION: The results of this project will be disseminated through DNR news releases, Nongame Wildlife Program Facebook posts, at professional society meetings of natural resources agencies and environmental educators, through collaboration with the media, and by providing regular updates to LCCMR staff and commission members.

Description: DNR news releases, Nongame Wildlife Program Facebook posts, at professional society meetings of natural resources agencies and environmental educators, through collaboration with the media, and by providing regular updates to LCCMR staff and commission members will be used to provide the public with information on the status of these efforts.

First Update January 31, 2019

Second Update June 30, 2019

Third Update January 31, 2020

Final Update June 30, 2020

V. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:

A. Preliminary ENRTF Budget Overview: See attached budget spreadsheet

Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$5,000:

Explanation of Use of Classified Staff: N/A

Total Number of Full-time Equivalents (FTE) Directly Funded with this ENRTF Appropriation: 2.1 FTEs

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

Enter Total Estimated Personnel Hours:	Divide by 2,080 = TOTAL FTE:
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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:			
	\$ 40,000	\$	2 years. FY 19 & 20
Other State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:			
Non-game budget - inkind	\$ 1,000,000	\$	2 years. FY 19 & 20
Past and Current ENRTF Appropriation: N/A			
	\$	\$	
Other Funding History: N/A			
	\$	\$	

VI. PROJECT PARTNERS:

Project partners will include the DNR Divisions Ecological and Water Resources, Fish and Wildlife, Parks and Trails, Lands and Minerals, Forestry and external conservation organizations actively conducting habitat work in the Conservation Focus Areas, the University of Minnesota, and communities in Minnesota associated with recreational opportunities.

A. Partners receiving ENRTF funding

Name	Title	Affiliation	Role

B. Partners NOT receiving ENRTF funding

Name	Title	Affiliation	Role

VII. LONG-TERM- IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING: This effort will enable the Nongame Wildlife Program to better address the conservation, education, and recreational needs of Minnesota’s nongame wildlife species and their habitats. This two-year project is the first of a potential longer term matching effort and partnership that will benefit Minnesota wildlife by a collaborative conservation effort in which ENRTF supplements the voluntary Nongame Wildlife Checkoff donations by Minnesota citizens to the Nongame Wildlife Fund. This would promote conservation accomplishments of the ENRTF and increase the long term effectiveness of the Nongame Wildlife Program for wildlife conservation in Minnesota.

VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

- The project is for 2 years, will begin on 7/1/2018, and end on 6/30/2020.
- Periodic project status update reports will be submitted 4/15 and 9/15 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

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



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M.L. 2018 ENRTF Appropriation:

Project Length and Completion Date: Two years. June 30, 2020

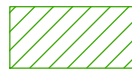
Date of Report: February 22, 2018

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Budget	Amount Spent	Balance
BUDGET ITEM			
Personnel (Wages and Benefits) - Overall	\$355,000		\$355,000
CFA coordinator: 1 FTE: \$182,000 (\$72,000 sal; \$18,000 benefits) - 2 years (Total estimated amount \$180,000)			
Data mgt: 1 FTE (\$57,000 sal; \$13,000.00 ben. 1 yrs.) (Total estimated amount \$70,000)			
Surveyors: two .3 FTEs (\$42,000 sal; \$10,500 benefits, per 2 staff per year) 2 years (Total estimated amount \$105,000)			
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts			
RFP for baseline data collection on CFAs-2 yrs	\$120,000		\$120,000
Contracts for habitat management	\$100,000		\$100,000
MNIT SLA for enhancements to Observation Database and data collecting apps.	\$50,000		\$50,000
Heart of the Bog Bird Trail coordinator	\$130,000		\$130,000
Two RFPs to develop and conduct surveys and analyze	\$165,000		\$165,000
Equipment/Tools/Supplies			
CFA field tablets, meeting equipment	\$7,000		\$7,000
Wildlife survey supplies - includes field related training costs.	\$10,000		\$10,000
Travel expenses in Minnesota			
CFA -Coordination from St. Paul	\$7,478		\$7,478
Wildlife surveys-travel	\$20,000		\$20,000
Other			
Direct and necessary costs cover HR Support (~\$6,235), Safety Support (~\$1,432), Financial Support (~\$12,601), Communication Support (~\$1,271), IT Support (~\$12,912), and Planning Support (~\$1,072), necessary to accomplish funded programs/projects (Total \$35,522).	\$35,522		\$35,522
COLUMN TOTAL	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$1,000,000

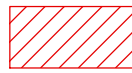
Potential Conservation Focus Areas



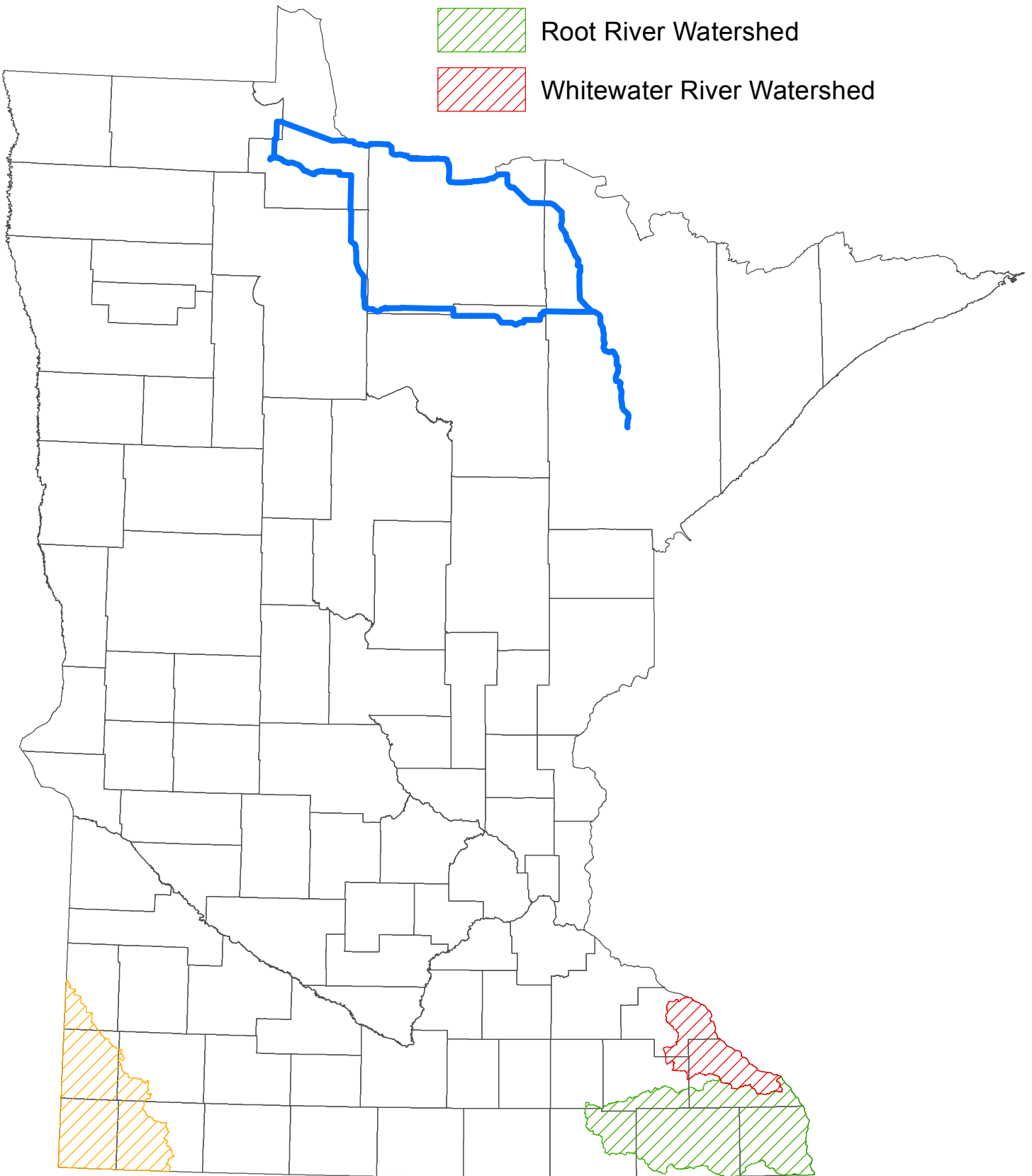
Prairie Coteau



Root River Watershed



Whitewater River Watershed



DRAFT Heart of the Bog Birding Trail

