



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) M.L. 2018 ENRTF Work Plan (Main Document)

Today's Date: October 30, 2018
Date of Next Status Update Report: July 1, 2020
Date of Work Plan Approval: June 5, 2019
Project Completion Date: September 15, 2022
Does this submission include an amendment request? No

PROJECT TITLE: Connecting Over 6,500 Students to the Boundary Waters

Project Manager: Chris Knopf

Organization: Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness

College/Department/Division:

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Location: Statewide

Total Project Budget: \$450,000

Amount Spent: \$0

Balance: \$450,000

Legal Citation: M.L. 2019, First Special Session, Chp. 4, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 05b

Appropriation Language: \$450,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness to connect approximately 6,500 students to the boundary waters through classroom education and wilderness canoe experiences for diverse and underserved populations across Minnesota. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2023, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

I. PROJECT DESCRIPTION & STATEMENT:

Project Description:

This project will connect over 6,500 students to the Boundary Waters through classroom education and wilderness canoe experiences, targeting diverse and underserved populations across Minnesota.

Project Statement:

Arizona has the Grand Canyon. Wyoming has the Tetons. And Minnesota has the Boundary Waters.

Although approximately 200,000 people visit the Boundary Waters each year, many Minnesotans have never been to the Boundary Waters and do not have a full appreciation of its unique and complex wildlife, ecology, culture, and history. This project aims to change this situation by connecting over 6,500 students (grades 6-12) to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness through classroom education and wilderness canoe experiences, targeting diverse and underserved students throughout Minnesota. There are two components to this program:

- 1) Educational, classroom presentations about the wildlife, ecology, culture, and history of the Boundary Waters at schools across Minnesota, reaching at least 6,480 students over a three-year period.
- 2) Multi-day wilderness canoe experiences in the Boundary Waters for at least 250 students from across Minnesota over a three-year period, focusing on outdoor skills, leadership development, and self-reliance.

Providing educational and classroom outreach about the Boundary Waters and multi-day wilderness canoe experiences in the Boundary Waters will yield multiple lasting benefits for the youth participants, for the Boundary Waters, and for the state of Minnesota. This project will increase students' understanding of the Boundary Waters, while also developing leadership skills, self-reliance, and positive relationships. An important part of the long-term protection of the Boundary Waters is fostering the next generation of wilderness paddlers and explorers. The deep connections that students will develop with the Boundary Waters will lead to sustained awareness and care of wilderness areas. Minnesota benefits from its youth developing leadership skills, self-reliance, and an enhanced stewardship ethic.

II. OVERALL PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

First Update June 1, 2020

Second Update December 1, 2020

Third Update June 1, 2021

Fourth Update December 1, 2021

Fifth Update June 1, 2022

Final Report Between September 15 and November 1, 2022

III. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

Activity 1: Connecting 6,480 Students from Across Minnesota to the Boundary Waters Through Classroom Education

An Education and Community Outreach Coordinator will give presentations at schools across Minnesota to educate students (grades 6-12) about the Boundary Waters, with an emphasis on diverse and underserved students who would not otherwise have exposure to the Boundary Waters. This activity will reach a total of 6,480 students over a three-year period, in all four Minnesota DNR Regions across the state (Northwest, Northeast, Southern,

and Central). Students will learn about the wildlife and ecology of the Boundary Waters, the unique history of the Boundary Waters, historical figures (i.e., Sig Olson, Dorothy Molter), and the Leave No Trace principle. This will also be an opportunity to recruit interested students for multi-day wilderness canoe trips in the Boundary Waters as outlined in Activity 2.

Activity 1 will build upon and expand our existing curriculum related to the Boundary Waters called “The BWCA Wilderness Kit.” The BWCA Wilderness Kit is an engaging, hands-on curriculum designed for middle school-aged youth that introduces students to the Boundary Waters and helps them explore and discover the wonders of Minnesota’s one-of-a-kind wilderness area. The kit was developed with educator involvement and in partnership with the Superior National Forest. The units and activities are aimed at middle school grade levels (6-8), however, each lesson is flexible enough to tailor content to an older audience. The BWCA Wilderness Kit does not currently include any lesson plans or materials related to copper-nickel sulfide mining and we will not include that subject as part of the educational program.

ENRTF BUDGET: \$ 218,750

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Year 1: 840 diverse and underserved students (grades 6-12) from across Minnesota develop an understanding and appreciation of the Boundary Waters (Computation: 7 visits/year x 120 students/visit = 840 students)	6/30/2020
2. Year 2: 2,640 diverse and underserved students (grades 6-12) from across Minnesota develop an understanding and appreciation of the Boundary Waters (Computation: 22 visits/year x 120 students/visit = 2,640 students)	6/30/2021
3. Year 3: 3,000 diverse and underserved students (grades 6-12) from across Minnesota develop an understanding and appreciation of the Boundary Waters (Computation: 25 visits/year x 120 students/visit = 3,000 students)	6/30/2022
4. Total Impact: 6,480 diverse and underserved students (grades 6-12) from across Minnesota develop an understanding and appreciation of the Boundary Waters	6/30/2022

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Activity 2: Providing 250 Diverse and Underserved Students from Across Minnesota with a Multi-Day Wilderness Canoe Experience in the Boundary Waters

While many Minnesotans are familiar with the Boundary Waters, for others it is a remote and foreign place that they may never visit because of cost or distance. To alleviate these barriers, this program will provide scholarships to 250 diverse and underserved high-school students from across Minnesota so that they can experience a multi-day, wilderness canoe trip in the Boundary Waters. These students will develop leadership skills and learn how to be self-reliant outdoors through hands-on activities such as canoeing, portaging, building a fire, pitching a tent, and fishing. They will also develop love and respect for the wilderness by learning about the unique wildlife, ecology, history, and culture of the Boundary Waters.

This Activity will leverage our existing collaborative partnership with YMCA Camp Menogyn to build on our current program that provides multi-day wilderness canoe experiences in the Boundary Waters for approximately 30-60 students each year from underserved and diverse communities in Minnesota. In the past, this program has relied on several community partners to help recruit and sponsor youth from diverse and underserved

backgrounds. For example, in 2017 these organizations included Learning Works, Venture Academy, Hiawatha Academy, Hmong Outdoor Leadership Training, Tamales y Bicicletas, REBOUND Minneapolis, YMCA Intervention Services, TORCH, and White Bear Lake Community Education. We will build upon these existing partnerships and create new ones to ensure a statewide reach.

ENRTF BUDGET: \$ 231,250

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Year 1: 50 diverse and underserved students (grades 9-12) from across Minnesota have a multi-day wilderness canoe experience in the Boundary Waters, developing leadership skills and self-reliance through hands-on activities.	9/15/2020
2. Year 2: 75 diverse and underserved students (grades 9-12) from across Minnesota have a multi-day wilderness canoe experience in the Boundary Waters, developing leadership skills and self-reliance through hands-on activities.	9/15/2021
3. Year 3: 125 diverse and underserved students (grades 9-12) from across Minnesota have a multi-day wilderness canoe experience in the Boundary Waters, developing leadership skills and self-reliance through hands-on activities.	9/15/2022
4. Total Impact: 250 diverse and underserved students (grades 9-12) from across Minnesota have a multi-day wilderness canoe experience in the Boundary Waters, developing leadership skills and self-reliance through hands-on activities.	9/15/2022

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IV. DISSEMINATION:

Description:

Each year, the Education and Community Outreach Coordinator, in conjunction with the Project Manager, will collect quantitative and qualitative data for the project, including, but not limited to, the number of students reached in Activities 1 and 2, location and demographic data for participating schools and students, evaluation forms submitted by participating educators and students, and other information as desired.

In addition to the six updates to the LCCMR, information and updates regarding the project will be made available via the Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness website (<https://www.friends-bwca.org>), e-newsletter, print newsletter, social media and Annual Report, as well as press releases to local media and public presentations at relevant community events.

The Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) will be acknowledged through use of the trust fund logo or attribution language on project print and electronic media, publications, signage, and other communications per the ENRTF Acknowledgement Guidelines.

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V. ADDITIONAL BUDGET INFORMATION: N/A

A. Personnel and Capital Expenditures

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

Explanation of Use of Classified Staff:

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

Enter Total Estimated Personnel Hours for entire duration of project: 7,072	Divide total personnel hours by 2,080 hours in 1 yr = TOTAL FTE: 3.4
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Total Number of Full-time Equivalents (FTE) Estimated to Be Funded through Contracts with this ENRTF Appropriation:

Enter Total Estimated Contract Personnel Hours for entire duration of project: 1248	Divide total contract hours by 2,080 hours in 1 yr = TOTAL FTE: .6
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VI. PROJECT PARTNERS:

A. Partners outside of project manager’s organization receiving ENRTF funding: N/A

B. Partners outside of project manager’s organization NOT receiving ENRTF funding: YMCA’s Camp Menogyn will partner with us in implementing Activity 2.

VII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

- Project status update reports will be submitted June 1 and December 1 each year of the project.
- A final report and associated products will be submitted November 1, 2022.

VIII. SEE ADDITIONAL WORK PLAN COMPONENTS:

- A. Budget Spreadsheet** - see Attachment A
- B. Visual Component or Map** - see attached
- C. Parcel List Spreadsheet** - N/A
- D. Acquisition, Easements, and Restoration Requirements** - N/A
- E. Research Addendum** - N/A

Attachment A:

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2019 Budget Spreadsheet

Legal Citation: M.L. 2019, First Special Session, Chp. 4, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 05b

Project Manager: Chris Knopf

Project Title: Connecting Over 6,500 Students to the Boundary Waters

Organization: Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness

Project Budget: \$450,000

Project Length and Completion Date: Three years; Completion Date: November 1, 2022

Today's Date: October 18, 2018



ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Budget	Amount Spent	Balance
BUDGET ITEM			
Personnel (Wages and Benefits)	\$ 175,257	\$ -	\$ 175,257
Education and Community Outreach Coordinator: .8FTE x 3 years at \$44,000/year salary + benefits = \$132,000			
Program Assistant: .33 FTE x 3 years at \$34,606/year salary + benefits = \$43,257			
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts			
Program Associates (independent contractors selected competitively) to assist with recruiting and preparing students for Boundary Waters Canoe trips (\$20,000/year x 3 years = 60,000)	\$ 60,000	\$ -	\$ 60,000
Equipment/Tools/Supplies			
Boundary Waters canoe trip outdoor clothing for students of extreme financial need (\$200/student x 100 students = \$20,000)	\$ 20,000	\$ -	\$ 20,000
Capital Expenditures Over \$5,000			
N/A	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Fee Title Acquisition			
N/A	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Easement Acquisition			
N/A	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Professional Services for Acquisition			
N/A	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Printing			
Educational program materials for classroom use (\$5/student x 6,480 students = \$32,400)	\$ 32,400	\$ -	\$ 32,400
Program materials for students on Boundary Waters canoe trips (\$5/student x 250 students = \$1,250)	\$ 1,250		\$ 1,250
Travel expenses in Minnesota			
Travel to Minnesota schools (18 school visits/year x 3 years x 275 miles/visit x .545 = \$8,093.25)	\$ 8,093		\$ 8,093
Staff food and lodging for overnight stays for visits to schools in Greater Minnesota (24 overnight stays over years x \$125 = \$3,000)	\$ 3,000		\$ 3,000
Other		\$ -	
Scholarships: for 250 high-school students to experience a multi-day canoe trip in the Boundary Waters (250 students x \$600/student = \$150,000)	\$ 150,000	\$ -	\$ 150,000
COLUMN TOTAL	\$450,000		\$450,000

OTHER FUNDS CONTRIBUTED TO THE PROJECT	Status (secured or pending)	Budget	Spent	Balance
Non-State: Individual donations and foundation grants to support the multi-day Boundary Waters canoe wilderness trips. (estimated)	Pending	\$ 60,000	\$ -	\$ 60,000
State:		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
In kind: Additional staff support from the Executive Director and Northern Communities Director (\$8,000/year x 3 years = \$24,000; .15 FTE)	Secured	24,000	\$ -	24,000

PAST AND CURRENT ENRTF APPROPRIATIONS	Amount legally obligated but not yet spent	Budget	Spent	Balance
Current appropriation:		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Past appropriations:		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -