



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)

M.L. 2019 ENRTF Work Plan (Main Document)

Today's Date: 6 June 2019

Date of Next Status Update Report: March 1, 2020

Date of Work Plan Approval: June 17, 2019

Project Completion Date: June 30, 2022

Does this submission include an amendment request? N

PROJECT TITLE: Nongame Wildlife Program Acceleration

Project Manager: Kristin Hall

Organization: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Ecological and Water Resources

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

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Location: Statewide

Total Project Budget: \$513,000

Amount Spent: \$0

Balance: \$0

Legal Citation: M.L. 2019, First Special Session, Chp. 4, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 08e

Appropriation Language: \$513,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources to accelerate the nongame wildlife program, including rare wildlife data collection, habitat management, collaborative land protection, conservation education, and a new emphasis on promoting nature tourism to benefit wildlife, visitors, and rural communities.

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 conserving and managing nongame wildlife habitats while providing the public with enhanced recreational opportunities. 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" (CFA) where effectiveness and long-term outcomes will be tracked. The work in CFAs will support other conservation efforts, such as the MN Prairie Conservation Plan, helping to ensure that we maintain healthy and diverse wildlife populations and ecosystems into the future.

The intent of this request is to implement some of the top priorities in the Wildlife Action Plan including: 1) improving the management and delivery of foundational information on nongame species, 2) conducting surveys to assess the status of priority nongame species, 3) promoting recreational opportunities and eco-tourism through citizen science, and 4) developing a repeatable survey to measure the public's interest in and support for the conservation values and fundraising efforts of the Nongame Wildlife Program. 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 March 1, 2020

Second Update September 1, 2020

Third Update March 1, 2021

Fourth Update September 1, 2021

Fifth Update March 1, 2022

Final Report between project end (June 30) and August 15, 2022

III. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1 Title: Conservation Focus Areas

Description: Coordinate the implementation of conservation actions for at least two regionally-based Conservation Focus Areas (Figure 1). This includes the implementation of S.M.A.R.T. objectives and effectiveness measures which are uniquely defined by the partnership within each CFA. This will be done in collaboration with DNR wildlife managers and external conservation partners.

ACTIVITY 1 ENRTF BUDGET: \$45,000

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Continue Conservation Focus Area coordination efforts which includes bringing partners together, defining area specific conservation objectives, supporting the implementation of these objectives and tracking accomplishments	June 2022
2. Establish partnerships to identify management goals and effectiveness measures for up to two additional Conservation Focus Areas.	December 2021
3. Continue collection of baseline data to be used for effectiveness monitoring on approximately 3 sites across 1-2 Conservation Focus Areas.	December 2021

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ACTIVITY 2: Nongame data collection, integration and dissemination

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

ACTIVITY 2 ENRTF BUDGET: \$200,000

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Conduct assessments on at least one of the Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) listed in Objectives 3.1 – 3.3 of the Wildlife Action Plan: Objective 3.1- By 2022, obtain additional survey information for at least 3 of the 23 selected SGCN to determine if their classification on the state list is accurate. Objective 3.2 - By 2022, survey at least 3 of the 15 species or groups of species for which data were insufficient in 2014 to determine if the species met the criteria for SGCN. Objective 3.3 - By 2022, implement research projects to identify the cause(s) of population decline for one or more of the 6 SGCN listed.	December 2021
2. Incorporate approx. 1/3 rd of the 50 identified 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 2022
3. Enhance functionality of the observation database to allow better access for data analysis and decrease staff time needed to maintain data.	June 2022

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ACTIVITY 3: Citizen Science and public engagement

Description: Invest in statewide citizen science efforts with the primary goal of; updating and evaluating existing survey protocols and datasets (Frog and Toad Survey, Loon Survey), assessing emerging questions related to existing data sets, and identifying new survey opportunities associated with the Nongame Program’s survey needs.

Participating in citizen science encourages Minnesotans to travel and discover places otherwise missed, offering a new way to explore the state while contributing to conservation at the same time. We will also develop citizen science engagement app in collaboration with similar existing endeavors such as Explore MN. The app will feature citizen science opportunities aligned with natural areas of interest such as State Parks and Wildlife Management Areas throughout the state.

ACTIVITY 3 ENRTF BUDGET: \$160,500

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Hire a Citizen Science Project Coordinator to manage data, work with nongame science staff and recruit citizen participants.	December 2019
2. Evaluate existing citizen science projects, analyze data, assess newly emerging questions related to existing data sets and improve collection capabilities.	March 2021
3. Create an app with associated media to promote unique travel experiences throughout the state based on citizen science engagement opportunities.	January 2022
4. Identify future citizen science projects working with nongame staff.	June 2022

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Fourth Update September 1, 2021

Fifth Update March 1, 2022

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ACTIVITY 4: Public awareness and programmatic messaging

Description: 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 programmatic reach to new audiences as well as increase donations to the Nongame Wildlife Program. This information will be used in part to help identify new strategies and techniques for identifying and reaching targeted audiences and initiate more effective fundraising.

ACTIVITY 4 ENRTF BUDGET: \$82,500

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Develop and conduct a repeatable survey to measure public awareness of the Nongame Wildlife Program and the Nongame Wildlife Checkoff to assess support of wildlife conservation for nongame and rare wildlife.	June 2021
2. Use survey results to create new and improved programmatic messaging, fundraising strategies and public engagement tools	June 2022

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Third Update March 1, 2021

Fourth Update September 1, 2021

Fifth Update March 1, 2022

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IV. DISSEMINATION:

Description: 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.

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:

A. Personnel and Capital Expenditures

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

Explanation of Use of Classified Staff: N/A

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

Enter Total Estimated Personnel Hours for entire duration of project: 7,696	Divide total personnel hours by 2,080 hours in 1 yr = TOTAL FTE: 3.7
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Total Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) Estimated to Be Funded through Contracts with this ENRTF Appropriation: 1.3

Enter Total Estimated Contract Personnel Hours for entire duration of project: 2,771	Divide total contract hours by 2,080 hours in 1 yr = TOTAL FTE: 1.3
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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 outside of project manager’s organization receiving ENRTF funding None

B. Partners outside of project manager’s organization NOT receiving ENRTF funding

External conservation organizations actively conducting habitat work in the Conservation Focus Areas such as NGOs, County Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the USFWS and the University of Minnesota.

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 three-year project is part 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:

- Project status update reports will be submitted March 1 and September 1 each year of the project
- A final report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 15, 2022

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. 2019 Budget Spreadsheet

Legal Citation: M.L. 2019, First Special Session, Chp. 4, Art. 2, Subd. 08e

Project Manager: Kristin Hall

Project Title: Conservation Focus Area Coordinator

Organization: MN Department of Natural Resources

Project Budget: \$513,000

Project Length and Completion Date: 20 June 2022

Today's Date: 7 June 2019



ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Budget	Amount Spent	Balance
BUDGET ITEM			
Personnel (Wages and Benefits)	\$ 320,000	\$ -	\$ 320,000
CFA coordinator: .5 FTE: \$45,000 (\$35,000 sal; \$10,000 benefits) 1 year- \$45,000			
Citizen Science Coordinator: .5 FTE: \$100,000 (\$40,000 sal; \$10,000 benefits) 2 years- \$100,000			
Data mgt: 1 FTE (\$57,000 sal; \$13,000.00 ben. 1 yrs.) - \$70,000			
Surveyors: two .3 FTEs (\$42,000 sal; \$10,500 benefits, per 2 staff per year) 2 years- \$105,000			
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts			
Biometrician analysis of existing citizen science data (estimated rate of \$175/hr)	\$ 30,000	\$ -	\$ 30,000
MNIT SLA upgrades to Observation Database and data collecting apps. (estimated rate \$25/hr)	\$ 25,000	\$ -	\$ 25,000
RFP to develop/conduct messaging surveys, analyze and report on findings. (est. rate \$50/ hr)	\$ 80,000	\$ -	\$ 80,000
Equipment/Tools/Supplies			
meeting supplies for CFA planning and citizen science engagement / trainings.	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000
Capital Expenditures Over \$5,000			
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Printing			
printing collateral needs for citizen science and public engagement surveys	\$ 2,500	\$ -	\$ 2,500
Travel expenses in Minnesota			
CFA coordination travel from St Paul to CFAs for partnership meetings \$4,500. Estimated 8 days of travel in accordance to Commissioner's Plan (\$36/day meals = \$288, \$80/day lodging = \$640, and 6158 miles @ .58/mile = 3,572)	\$ 4,500		\$ 4,500
Surveyor Travel, statewide: \$22,800. Estimated 80 days (40days* 2 surveyors) of travel in accordance to Commissioner's Plan (\$36/day meals = \$2880, \$80/day lodging = \$6400, and 7,770miles / yr @ 3 years @ .58/mile = 13,520)	\$ 22,800		\$ 22,800
Other: Direct and Necessary Costs (HR Support ~\$5,467; Safety Support ~\$1,132; Financial Support: ~\$5,910; Communication Support: ~\$1,251; IT Support ~\$12,381; Planning Support ~\$1,059)	\$ 27,200	\$ -	\$ 27,200
	\$ 513,000	\$ -	\$ 513,000

COLUMN TOTAL

		Budget	Spent	Balance
OTHER FUNDS CONTRIBUTED TO THE PROJECT	Status (secured or pending)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Non-State: State Wildlife Grants and Nongame Wildlife Program donations	secured	\$ 145,000	\$ -	\$ 145,000
State:		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
In kind:				

		Budget	Spent	Balance
PAST AND CURRENT ENRTF APPROPRIATIONS	Amount legally obligated but not yet spent	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Current appropriation: M.L. 2018, Chp. 214, Art. 4, Sec. 02, Subd. 08a	\$ 220,000	\$ 220,000	\$ 65,500	\$ 154,500
Past appropriations:				

