Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2025 Approved Work Plan

General Information

ID Number: 2025-025

Staff Lead: Lisa Bigaouette

Date this document submitted to LCCMR: June 13, 2025

Project Title: Restoration and Outreach for Minnesota's Native Mussels

Project Budget: $1,258,000

Project Manager Information

Name: Kathryn Holcomb

Organization: MN DNR - Ecological and Water Resources Division

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Project Reporting

Date Work Plan Approved by LCCMR: June 24, 2025

Reporting Schedule: April 1 / October 1 of each year.

Project Completion: June 30, 2028

Final Report Due Date: August 14, 2028

Legal Information

Legal Citation: M.L. 2025, First Special Session, Chp. 1, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 04b

Appropriation Language: $1,258,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources to propagate, rear, and restore native freshwater mussel populations and the ecosystem services they provide to Minnesota waters; to evaluate reintroduction success; and to inform the public on mussels and mussel conservation.

Appropriation End Date: June 30, 2028

Narrative

Project Summary: We will improve the conservation of native mussels by rearing and releasing imperiled species, monitoring restored populations, and inspiring public action, thereby improving the health of aquatic ecosystems in Minnesota.

Describe the opportunity or problem your proposal seeks to address. Include any relevant background information.

Native mussels are critical to aquatic ecosystems because they filter and clean our rivers and lakes, create habitat for fish and other invertebrates, and serve as indicators of ecosystem health. Unfortunately, more than 70% of the nation's species are in decline. Historically, mussel populations in Minnesota were decimated by overharvest for the pearl and button industries. Pollution also contributed to declines because mussels are sensitive to chemicals and metals. Fortunately, the Clean Water Act and the end of harvesting has slowed the progression of loss for some species, but threats remain. Habitat alterations like dams and channelization cause erosion, siltation, and prevent host fish movement. Furthermore, invasive zebra mussels continue to expand their range and compete with native mussels for habitat and food. These threats and other enigmatic issues put pressure on stressed populations, thus limiting their ability to recover naturally. As such, management benefitting mussels and raising public awareness has become integral over the last few decades. Propagation and reintroduction of mussels to recover depleted populations has benefited species like the endangered Higgins Eye. It is imperative this work continues for other species to prevent and reverse the loss of biodiversity and ensure Minnesota maintains healthy waterways.

What is your proposed solution to the problem or opportunity discussed above? Introduce us to the work you are seeking funding to do. You will be asked to expand on this proposed solution in Activities & Milestones.

The DNR Center for Aquatic Mollusk Programs (CAMP) is partnering with the Minnesota Zoo to reintroduce imperiled freshwater mussel species into priority waterways, monitor outcomes of management decisions, and increase public perception of their importance. With this partnership, we will build upon previous investments by increasing the number and species of mussels we propagate and reintroduce, thereby improving mussel diversity, abundance, and filtration capacity in rivers. We will utilize our expertise in aquaculture to construct specialized holding tanks for species-specific hosts. We will incorporate the use of equipment that can analyze mussel food quantities in waters used for propagation and holding to improve rearing techniques. We will increase monitoring efforts for released mussels by adding qualitative surveys and measuring new habitat variables, using results to inform selection of future reintroduction sites and determine sustainability of current populations. Finally, we will expand public education and engagement by raising awareness among people of all ages through the Show Us Your Mussel challenge, on Zoo campus, and at other venues and by creating new interpretive materials.

What are the specific project outcomes as they relate to the public purpose of protection, conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the state's natural resources?

This project is expected to: 1) Improve degraded rivers and lakes through mussel propagation and reintroduction, thereby increasing mussel populations of Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) that have limited ability to recover on their own. Subsequently, this will improve water quality and support fish and wildlife recreation and nature-based tourism. 2) Improve the science of mussel reintroductions by leveraging the use of new techniques and tools to conduct propagation and implement monitoring programs. 3) Improve awareness and encourage public action on behalf of Minnesota's aquatic resources by expanding educational programs and spaces that benefit mussel conservation.

Project Location

What is the best scale for describing where your work will take place?

Region(s): Central, Metro, NW, SE,

What is the best scale to describe the area impacted by your work?

Statewide

When will the work impact occur?

During the Project

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Propagating and rearing native mussels at CAMP and the Zoo

Activity Budget: $764,368

Activity Description:
The DNR and Zoo will collect up to 10 brooding female mussels of each target species annually during early spring to late fall. Broods will be separated by watershed and housed up to several months in chilled recirculating systems. The DNR will acquire up to 200 fish hosts for each mussel species annually. The Zoo will construct and retrofit aquaculture systems and develop husbandry techniques to breed, grow, or maintain host species (fish and/or amphibian). Hosts will be inoculated with mussel larvae at CAMP and kept in specialized juvenile collection tanks, placed into cages within their watershed, or released at selected restoration sites. Juveniles that transform in the lab will be collected from host tanks, counted and placed into rearing systems at CAMP and the Zoo. A portion of juveniles may be transferred to other partners. New food sources and feeding regimes will be explored and evaluated using a particle sizer and counter. Survival and growth will be routinely monitored for 2 - 4 years prior to release.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
DNR & Zoo: Collect brood mussels; up to 10 females/species annually.	May 31, 2028
DNR: Collect fish hosts; up to 200 hosts per/mussel species annually.	June 30, 2028
Zoo: Rear up to four species of fish and/or amphibian hosts annually.	June 30, 2028
DNR: Collect juvenile mussels from hosts; up to 200,000/species annually.	June 30, 2028
DNR & Zoo: Rear juvenile mussels; up to 5,000/species annually.	June 30, 2028

Activity 2: Mussel reintroduction and post-release monitoring

Activity Budget: $375,339

Activity Description:
Previous efforts have reintroduced four mussel species among 2 - 3 sites in each of the Cedar, Cannon, and Mississippi watersheds. Two species (2018 & 2019 cohorts) are monitored annually for 3 - 5 consecutive years to determine their response to different habitats and document reproductive status. Results will inform selection of up to three additional reintroduction sites where mussels (2021, 2022, and 2024 cohorts) will be released beginning summer 2024. Therefore, we propose monitoring these new populations annually for three years to acquire data necessary to compare metrics of mussels (survival, growth, reproduction) and habitats (water temperature, ammonia, etc.) among watersheds, sites, species, and cohorts. Furthermore, we will conduct surveys near previously-funded reintroduction sites to document offspring of reintroduced populations. Additional surveys will occur in the three watersheds (and others statewide) to determine the status and management needs for other mussel species. Propagated mussels (2022 and 2024 cohorts) that reach a minimum size of 15 mm during the grant period will be marked with a unique identifier on their shells. A subset of each species will receive a passive integrated transponder (PIT) tag to maintain consistency with our ongoing monitoring plan, and these mussels will be released beginning summer 2025.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Reintroduce up to 5,000 mussels into reintroduction sites; 1-3 sites/watershed annually.	September 30, 2027
Recapture at least 10 tagged mussels at reintroduction sites; 1-3 sites/watershed annually.	October 31, 2027
Document reproductive status of mussels (2016-2019 cohorts) released at previous reintroduction sites annually.	October 31, 2027

Conduct surveys near previous reintroduction sites to find offspring of propagated mussel populations.	October 31, 2027
Conduct surveys at new locations to determine status and management needs for other mussel species.	June 30, 2028

Activity 3: Expanding public awareness and engagement of native mussels

Activity Budget: $118,293

Activity Description:

The Zoo will amplify the “Show Us your Mussels'' (SUYM) challenge implemented previously with ENRTF support. This campaign promotes awareness about Minnesota’s water resources and encourages associated public action such as reducing de-icing salt and fertilizer use. We will leverage our educational expertise and engage teachers and their middle and high schools students in the development of informational campaigns addressing water quality and mussel conservation. Students then present their findings at a Mussel Exhibition at the Minnesota Zoo. We will evaluate the impact on knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors and provide teachers multiple levels of support. Zoo Conservation and Education staff will conduct related outreach both on- and off-site. The DNR will inform the public and media about our program and the importance of mussels through a variety of events, including the MN State Fair. At these events, people of all ages can learn about the new ENRTF-supported mussel ID app (Clam Counter MNDNR), handle shells, buttons, and live mussels, and take home posters and field guides. Quarterly posts to the DNR Facebook and Instagram pages and our CAMP newsletter, will provide updates on our activities.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Zoo: Create professional development videos to support the SUYM challenge.	June 30, 2026
Zoo: Recruit a small teacher advisory group to assist with implementation of the SUYM challenge.	August 31, 2026
Zoo: Recruitment of new schools to participate in the SUYM challenge (annual).	February 28, 2028
Zoo: Professional development, school presentations and other support provided to teachers.	April 30, 2028
Zoo: Schools visit Zoo to showcase their projects to staff, peers, and public (annual).	April 30, 2028
DNR: Annual presentation(s) at various platforms (State Fair, Water Festival, Nature Centers).	June 30, 2028
DNR: Quarterly posts to the DNR Facebook and Instagram pages.	June 30, 2028

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Tamara Smith	US Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 3 office	Permitting and planning for reintroduction of federally listed species. Funds acquired for this project can be used as matching funds for our State Wildlife Grants on a 35% state 65% federal basis. $135,000 will be used as match.	No
Megan Bradley	US Fish and Wildlife Service, Genoa National Fish Hatchery	Technical guidance and expertise. Provision of additional juvenile mussels and coordination of release of more fully-grown sub-adult mussels.	No
Elizabeth Glidewell	US Fish and Wildlife Service, Genoa National Fish Hatchery	Technical guidance and expertise. Provision of additional juvenile mussels and coordination of release of more fully-grown sub-adult mussels.	No
Michelle Bartsch	U.S. Geological Survey	Technical guidance and expertise. Provision of additional juvenile mussels and coordination of release of more fully-grown sub-adult mussels.	No
Dan Kelner	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Coordinates and pays for monitoring of reintroduction sites on the Mississippi River	No
Luke Reese	Hormel Nature Center	Director and project advocate for mussels in Austin and at HNC. New freshwater mussel exhibit at HNC.	No
Alli Holdhusen, Marian Shaffer	National Park Service	Assists with monitoring and collection of donor mussels.	No
Tim Ruzek	Mower County Soil & Water Conservation District and Friends of the Hormel Nature Center	Assist with mussel release locations in the Cedar River, and monitor East Side Lake cage location.	No
Jeremy Tiedemann	Illinois Natural History Survey	Technical guidance and expertise.	No
Andrew Scholten	MN DNR	Primary contact for secondary culture in ponds at Waterville Fish Hatchery	No
Ben Minerich	Minnesota Zoo	Coordination of mussel rearing and research activities at the Minnesota Zoo. Support for field surveys and implementation of the Show Us Your Mussels challenge and other education activities at the Zoo.	Yes
Gina Goralski	Minnesota Zoo	Coordination of the Show Us Your Mussels challenge at the Minnesota Zoo.	Yes
Seth Stapleton	Minnesota Zoo	Provision of technical expertise for scientific components of the project. Support for implementation of the Show Us Your Mussels challenge and other education activities at the Zoo.	Yes

Dissemination

Describe your plans for dissemination, presentation, documentation, or sharing of data, results, samples, physical collections, and other products and how they will follow ENRTF Acknowledgement Requirements and Guidelines.
OUTREACH - See Activity 3 for details. The MN DNR and MN Zoo will expand public awareness and engagement of native mussels and Minnesota's water resources through the " Show us your Mussels" challenge and a variety of public outreach events and social media outlets.

COMMUNICATING PROJECT RESULTS - Results of our novel propagation work will be shared during outreach events, at

regional and national freshwater mussel conferences (such as the Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society, Upper Mississippi River Conservation Committee) with other scientists, through DNR and Zoo technical reports, and via Zoo social media outlets and member newsletters. Technical reports will provide other scientists with valuable information about how to propagate specific mussel species and will also be available to the public, but any information or data that could possibly be used to harm federally or state-listed species (e.g., specific relocation site) will be redacted.

ENRTF will be acknowledged on all outreach and communications materials mentioned above using the ENRTF logo and appropriate citation language.

Long-Term Implementation and Funding

Describe how the results will be implemented and how any ongoing effort will be funded. If not already addressed as part of the project, how will findings, results, and products developed be implemented after project completion? If additional work is needed, how will this work be funded?

This proposal is part of a multi-partner effort to restore depleted mussel populations across the upper Midwest, encompassing new watersheds and species. Healthy mussel communities perform significant water filtration services, removing harmful bacteria and contaminants. As such, we anticipate that restoration will play an important role in achieving Minnesota's clean water goals. Our combined efforts will advance the recovery of imperiled mussels, expand public awareness, and inspire actions to improve water quality, including proper disposal of pet waste and appropriate fertilizer use. We anticipate that conservation activities will extend beyond this proposal period and will seek alternative future funding

Other ENRTF Appropriations Awarded in the Last Six Years

Name	Appropriation	Amount Awarded
Restoring Native Mussels in Streams and Lakes	M.L. 2019, First Special Session, Chp. 4, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 03b	$500,000
Expanding Restoration And Promoting Awareness Of Native Mussels	M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 5, Sec. 2, Subd. 03f	$489,000
Restoring Mussels In Streams And Lakes - Continuation	M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 6, Sec. 2, Subd. 08b	$619,000
Restoring Mussels in Streams and Lakes - Continuation	M.L. 2023, , Chp. 60, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 08d	$825,000

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	$ Amount
Personnel								
DNR -- Supervisor		Administration, coordination, and assistance of Activity 1-3			25%	0.99	X	$118,350
DNR -- Research Scientist		Coordination and implementation of Activity 1-2			25%	0.69	X	$87,800
DNR -- NR Specialist Senior		Coordination and implementation of Activity 1-2			25%	1.53	X	$158,220
DNR -- NR Specialist Intermediate		Coordination and implementation of Activity 1-3			25%	0.93	X	$236,700
DNR -- NR Specialist		Assist with implementing Activity 1-3			25%	1.23	X	$178,740
							Sub Total	**$779,810**
Contracts and Services								
Liu Evelyn Shui Quing	Service Contract	DNR -- Fees associated with maintaining Clam Counter App. $2,000 per year.				0		$6,000
Minnesota Zoo	Subaward	Personnel ($160,490) – Mussel Conservation Specialist, Education Project Coordinator, Mussel Educator; Contracts ($11,000) – video production and teachers; Equipment ($61,000) – consumables for maintenance of systems; Travel in MN ($3,600) – field sites and conferences; Printing & Publications ($3,600); Other ($27,000) – student transportation.		X		1.32		$266,690
							Sub Total	**$272,690**
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
	Tools and Supplies	Mussel and fish food, propagation laboratory supplies, field gear	DNR - propagation lab and field expenses					$79,800
	Tools and Supplies	Poster stands, poster board, mussel stickers, mussel temporary tattoos, etc.	DNR - Items for outreach					$1,500

							Sub Total	**$81,300**
Capital Expenditures								
		Hach flow meter	Used to measure flow rate at mussel reintroduction sites	X				$10,000
							Sub Total	**$10,000**
Acquisitions and Stewardship								
							Sub Total	**-**
Travel In Minnesota								
	Miles/ Meals/ Lodging	DNR -- Fleet costs, meal and mileage reimbursement. No lodging.	DNR - Trips to conduct propagation work and outreach					$48,000
							Sub Total	**$48,000**
Travel Outside Minnesota								
	Conference Registration Miles/ Meals/ Lodging	DNR -- Attendance at Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society Meeting. Registration, transportation, meals, lodging.	DNR - Present grant results and network with other mussel propagation professionals	X				$2,100
	Miles/ Meals/ Lodging	DNR -- Travel to mussel propagation laboratories in other states (e.g., Alabama DNR and Kentucky DNR)	DNR -- To learn about other custom mussel propagation systems and techniques.	X				$2,800
							Sub Total	**$4,900**
Printing and Publication								
							Sub Total	**-**
Other Expenses								
		DNR's direct and necessary costs pay for activities that are directly related to and necessary for accomplishing appropriated projects. HR Support ($21,311), Safety Support ($2,992), Financial Support	DNR - Direct and Necessary (overhead costs)					$61,300

		($10,896), Communication Support ($1,528), IT Support ($57,548), and Planning Support ($1,137).						
							Sub Total	**$61,300**
							Grand Total	**$1,258,000**

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
Personnel - DNR -- Supervisor		Administration, coordination, and assistance of Activity 1-3	**Classified :** This position does not have a permanent dedicated funding base and so the MN DNR cannot backfill the ENRTF portion of their salaries. Classified staff manage this program but they may not be retained to work on mussels without the support of this ENTRF grant. Retaining these positions is essential for implementing this project.
Personnel - DNR -- Research Scientist		Coordination and implementation of Activity 1-2	**Classified :** This position does not have a permanent dedicated funding base and so the MN DNR cannot backfill the ENRTF portion of their salaries. Classified staff manage this program but they may not be retained to work on mussels without the support of this ENTRF grant. Retaining these positions is essential for implementing this project.
Personnel - DNR -- NR Specialist Senior		Coordination and implementation of Activity 1-2	**Classified :** This position does not have a permanent dedicated funding base and so the MN DNR cannot backfill the ENRTF portion of their salaries. Classified staff manage this program but they may not be retained to work on mussels without the support of this ENTRF grant. Retaining these positions is essential for implementing this project.
Personnel - DNR -- NR Specialist Intermediate		Coordination and implementation of Activity 1-3	**Classified :** This position does not have a permanent dedicated funding base and so the MN DNR cannot backfill the ENRTF portion of their salaries. Classified staff manage this program but they may not be retained to work on mussels without the support of this ENTRF grant. Retaining these positions is essential for implementing this project.
Personnel - DNR -- NR Specialist		Assist with implementing Activity 1-3	**Classified :** This position does not have a permanent dedicated funding base and so the MN DNR cannot backfill the ENRTF portion of their salaries. Classified staff manage this program but they may not be retained to work on mussels without the support of this ENTRF grant. Retaining these positions is essential for implementing this project.
Contracts and Services - Minnesota Zoo	Subaward	Personnel ($160,490) – Mussel Conservation Specialist, Education Project Coordinator, Mussel Educator; Contracts ($11,000) – video production and teachers; Equipment ($61,000) – consumables for maintenance of systems; Travel in MN ($3,600) – field sites and conferences; Printing & Publications ($3,600); Other ($27,000) – student transportation.	The 3 staff positions provide necessary expertise required to successfully implement Activities 1-3. ENRTF funding will make it possible for these individuals to work on the project for the percentage of time indicated in the budget. Without this funding, they would be unable to support the project with their time. Responsibilities for classified staff will be reprioritized and reallocated as necessary to support the project.
Capital Expenditures		Hach flow meter	We will monitor mussel growth and survival and habitat parameters over time to evaluate the success of our mussel reintroduction efforts. **Additional Explanation :** Monitoring at mussel reintroduction sites will be ongoing, and

			measuring flow will always be measured.
Travel Outside Minnesota	Conference Registration Miles/Meals/Lodging	DNR -- Attendance at Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society Meeting. Registration, transportation, meals, lodging.	One project member will attend the Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society's (FMCS) Biennial Conference in 2027 (national-level conference) to present project findings and participate in the mussel propagation committee to share and learn propagation techniques with professionals from other states. The partners in this project are the only group propagating mussels in MN, so it is valuable to network with professionals in other states. FMCS is a highly active and world-renowned group of freshwater mollusk professionals.
Travel Outside Minnesota	Miles/Meals/Lodging	DNR -- Travel to mussel propagation laboratories in other states (e.g., Alabama DNR and Kentucky DNR)	To increase the health and number of mussels produced (Activity 1), we are planning to build custom mussel propagation ponds as soon as possible (non-LCCMR funding already acquired) and have purchased a new particle counter (non-LCCMR funding) to help us determine optimal feeding regimes for our mussels. The particle counter can measure, count, and photograph algae and other particles in a water sample. Traveling to the Kentucky DNR and Alabama DNR where they have decades of experience with custom mussel propagation ponds and particle counters will help our three full-time Mussel propagation staff learn about pond design and pond management specific to mussels and use of the particle counter for examining mussel feeding rates and food preferences. This travel is necessary because interactive in-person learning and discussion is more effective when working with complex systems and advanced technology. Learning and discussion during this travel will help us produce better outcomes for Activity 1 and it will have a lasting positive impact on our mussel propagation efforts into the future. Travel is expected to occur in spring of 2026, and three full-time propagation employees will participate. Ideally, trips to both facilities would occur in one trip but may need to be split into two trips (one for Kentucky; one trip for Alabama).

Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	$ Amount
State				
Cash	Minnesota Zoo's General Operating budget	Zoo -- Administrative costs, utilities and other expenses associated with implementation of activities, estimated at 15% of the total request to the Zoo	Secured	$48,646
			State Sub Total	**$48,646**
Non-State				
			Non State Sub Total	**-**
			Funds Total	**$48,646**

Total Project Cost: $1,306,646

This amount accurately reflects total project cost?

Yes

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: a6926849-a66.pdf

Alternate Text for Visual Component

This visual depicts the three activities proposed for this project. This project will improve the conservation of native mussels by rearing and releasing imperiled species, monitoring restored populations, and inspiring public action, thereby improving the health of aquatic ecosystems in Minnesota....

Difference between Proposal and Work Plan

Describe changes from Proposal to Work Plan Stage

BUDGET AND ACTIVITY CHANGES (total budget changes = $288,000 reduction)

MN DNR (total reduction = $230,400)

Personnel budget - Total reduction for personnel = $160,713 (salary for Activity 3 reduced, funding for intern removed, funding for NR Specialist position reduced in Activity 2).
Printing and publication budget - Posters and Mussel ID booklets ($30,000).
Equipment etc - reduced by $5,600.
Other budget - Direct and Necessary updated appropriately based on budget reduction ($29,687 reduction).
Activity 3 - Salary reduced by 86%. Removed the milestone related to printing posters and mussel identification booklets, but the DNR will still participate in outreach across the state (e.g., State Fair).

MN ZOO (total reduction = $57,600)

Personnel - Support for Education staff (Activity 3) reduced by $22,160, with a corresponding reduction in off-site education activities. Natural Resources Specialist support reduced by $6,740, with a corresponding reduction in project activities.
Contracts and Services - Videography contract reduced by $1,000.
Contracts and Services - Teacher contracts reduced by $1,500, now including 3 individuals per summer.
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies - Funding for supplies to construct new host animal systems as part of Activity 1 was eliminated and reduces the supply budget by $16,000. Rearing of additional mussel species that require novel fish hosts will not be pursued as listed in Activity 1.
Travel in Minnesota - Conference travel related to Activity 3 reduced by $1,200 ($400 / year).
Other - Funding for bussing students from area schools to the Zoo to engage with educational programs and the Show Us Your Mussels campaign was reduced by $9,000, with a corresponding reduction in students bussed to Zoo campus to share their SUYM educational campaign projects.

Additional Acknowledgements and Conditions:

The following are acknowledgements and conditions beyond those already included in the above workplan:

Do you understand and acknowledge the ENRTF repayment requirements if the use of capital equipment changes?

Yes

Do you understand that travel expenses are only approved if they follow the "Commissioner's Plan" promulgated by the Commissioner of Management of Budget or, for University of Minnesota projects, the University of Minnesota plan?

Yes, I understand the Commissioner's Plan applies.

Does your project have potential for royalties, copyrights, patents, sale of products and assets, or revenue generation?

No

Do you understand and acknowledge IP and revenue-return and sharing requirements in 116P.10?

N/A

Do you wish to request reinvestment of any revenues into your project instead of returning revenue to the ENRTF?

N/A

Does your project include original, hypothesis-driven research?

No

Does the organization have a fiscal agent for this project?

No

Does your project include the pre-design, design, construction, or renovation of a building, trail, campground, or other fixed capital asset costing $10,000 or more or large-scale stream or wetland restoration?

No

Do you propose using an appropriation from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund to conduct a project that provides children's services (as defined in Minnesota Statutes section 299C.61 Subd.7 as "the provision of care, treatment, education, training, instruction, or recreation to children")?

Yes

Do you certify that background checks are performed for background check crimes, as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 299C.61, Subd. 2, on all employees, contractors, and volunteers who have or may have access to a child to whom children's services are provided by your organization?

Yes

Provide the name(s) and organization(s) of additional individuals assisting in the completion of this project:

Seth Stapleton and Ben Minerich (Minnesota Zoo), Lindsay Ohlman and Isabel Boyce (Minnesota DNR)

Do you understand that a named service contract does not constitute a funder-designated subrecipient or approval of a sole-source contract? In other words, a service contract entity is only approved if it has been selected according to the contracting rules identified in state law and policy for organizations that receive ENRTF funds through direct appropriations, or in the DNR's reimbursement manual for non-state organizations. These rules may include competitive bidding and prevailing wage requirements

Yes, I understand