

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund  
2010 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

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**LCCMR ID: 178-F**

**Project Title:**

Youth Aquatic Environmental Education and Angling Grants Program

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**LCCMR 2010 Funding Priority:**

F. Environmental Education

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**Total Project Budget: \$** \$625,000

**Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested:** 2 years, 2010 - 2012

**Other Non-State Funds: \$** \$0

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**Summary:**

Providing competitive grant dollars for schools, civic and community organizations, youth programs, Scouts, 4-H, Park and Recreation, and similar groups to integrate aquatic and angling education in their settings.

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**Sponsoring Organization:** DNR

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**Location:**

**Region:** Statewide

**County Name:** Statewide

**City / Township:**

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_____ Knowledge Base	_____ Broad App.	_____ Innovation
_____ Leverage	_____ Outcomes	
_____ Partnerships	_____ Urgency	_____ TOTAL

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# MAIN PROPOSAL

**PROJECT TITLE:** Environmental Education Grants for Youth DNR MinnAqua *Fishing: Get in the Habitat!* Aquatic and Fishing Education

## I. PROJECT STATEMENT:

1. DNR MinnAqua program developed a nationally recognized curriculum called *Fishing: Get in the Habitat!* for educators to teach youth about MN's water resources, fisheries management and the recreation of fishing. Through a recent evaluation educators noted excitement in using *Fishing: Get in the Habitat!* but found barriers to successful integration. Namely start up funds to purchase fishing equipment, funds for field studies and fishing events, and professional development funds for more educators to take the training.
2. Grants are needed to enhance integration of *Fishing: Get in the Habitat!* into local communities, school districts, scout packs, civic organizations, park and recreation, 4-H, and environmental learning centers. A grants program is consistent with a key DNR strategy: provide partners with high-quality information so they – through their own vast networks – can be the delivery system at the local level and get youth outdoors.
3. Funds will be given as grants to purchase fishing equipment (rods, reels, tackle) and environmental education project materials (field and classroom), implement field studies, and aid in *Fishing: Get in the Habitat!* professional development. Grants would be awarded to expand and integrated environmental education and fishing field study using *Fishing: Get in the Habitat!*

## II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT RESULTS

**Result 1: Professional development Budget: \$50,000 Completion Date: June 30, 2012**

Noted as a barrier in evaluations, grants would be used to aid in professional development opportunities for educators, youth/community leaders to attend beginning or advanced workshops to implement MinnAqua *Fishing: Get in the Habitat!* in their classrooms, youth groups and community outreach.

**Deliverable:** 312.5 (eight-hour) grants @ up to \$160 each for professional development workshops.

**Result 2: Fishing equipment & project materials Budget: \$175,000 Completion Date: June 30, 2012**

Noted by educators, youth/community leaders as a barrier, grants would be used for purchasing fishing equipment and project materials to enhance integration of MinnAqua *Fishing: Get in the Habitat!* in schools, organized youth groups, community organizations, park and recreation, and civic groups. Project materials would be selected from MinnAqua materials list, including but not limited to rod/reel, tackle, field study equipment, and individual/group environmental education activity materials.

**Deliverable:** 116.6 grants @ up to \$1,500 each for MinnAqua related materials.

**Result 3: Environmental education field study Budget: \$25,000 Completion Date: May 30, 2012**

Getting outdoors and discovering builds knowledge and interest. To enhance learning, grants for implementing field studies using MinnAqua as the framework are needed. Reimbursement for groups/schools to implement field studies including but not limited to fishing, habitat studies, and community outreach presentations at organized meetings to promote service-learning projects associated with MinnAqua.

**Deliverable:** 25 grants @ up to \$1,000 each for field studies.

**Result 4: Community environmental education Budget: \$150,000 Completion Date: March 30, 2012**

Grants would be used to support community and group events using MinnAqua as the framework. Groups include but are not limited to civic organizations, youth groups, schools, park and recreation, community organizers and environmental centers. Examples include grants for connecting mentors with youth in the community to build resource knowledge and fishing skills. Programs must have initiative to create sustainable outcomes and not just one-day fishing events.

**Deliverable:** 30 grants @up to \$5,000 each to implement environmental aquatic and fishing education.

**Result 5: Evaluation Budget: \$25,000 Completion Date: September 20, 2012**

Result categories will be evaluated and tracked for outcomes and success or areas for improvement. Framework and questions will be established by evaluation specialists through the University of Minnesota.

**Deliverable:** Written report with results of grants implemented, outcomes and success or failure of result(s) intent.

### **III. PROJECT STRATEGY**

#### **A. Project Team/Partners**

Intended recipients to receive grants are schools -ISD, charters, and home schools, civic organizations like Lions and Kiwanis, youth groups like Scouts and 4-H, community groups like Parks and Recreation and Environmental Centers, organized groups like Trout Unlimited, MN Bass Federation, and Muskies, Inc.

#### **B. Timeline Requirements**

All results implementation will be fulfilled within the two year cycle of the LCCMR budget – July 2010-June 2012. The evaluation report will be completed within the reporting requirement timeframe.

#### **C. Long-Term Strategy**

This proposal is to enhance grass-root, capacity building implementation by educators, youth leaders, park and rec, civic and community partners interested in the MinnAqua ***Fishing: Get in the Habitat!*** program. Funding for this enhancement is solely through LCCMR and may be requested similarly or with updates due to evaluation outcomes through this process again.

## Project Budget

### IV. TOTAL PROJECT REQUEST BUDGET (2 years)

BUDGET ITEM	AMOUNT
<b>Personnel:</b>	\$ -
Grant coordinator to oversee, administer, track proposal dollars, (1 FTE 2 year position 74% salary 26% fringe)	\$ 150,000
<b>Contracts:</b>	\$ -
Professional Development in MinnAqua <b>Fishing: Get in the Habitat!</b> , see <b>Result 1</b> for detail (312.5 - 8 hour grants @ \$20.00 per hour = \$160 each)	\$ 50,000
MinnAqua aquatic and fishing materials for school classrooms, youth groups, civic organizations, park and rec - see <b>Result 2</b> for detail (116.6 grants at \$1,500)	\$ 175,000
Field and service learning implementation for school classrooms, youth groups, civic organizations- see <b>Result 3</b> for detail (25 grants at \$1,000)	\$ 25,000
Community environmental education by schools, civic organizations, youth groups, parks and rec- see <b>Result 4</b> for detail (30 grants @ \$5,000)	\$ 150,000
Temporary coordinators / program organizers grants to organizations with volunteers or staff to create and deliver MinnAqua programs (9 positions - 400 hours each @ \$14.00 = \$5,600)	\$ 50,000
<b>Additional Budget Items: Evaluation</b>	\$ 25,000
<b>TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET REQUEST TO LCCMR</b>	<b>\$ 625,000</b>

### V. OTHER FUNDS

SOURCE OF FUNDS	AMOUNT	Status
<b>Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:</b> <i>Indicate any additional non-state cash \$ to be spent on the project during the funding period. For each individual sum, list out the source of the funds, the amount, and indicate whether the funds are secured or pending approval.</i>	NA	NA
<b>Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:</b> <i>Indicate any additional state cash \$ (e.g. bonding, other grants) to be spent on the project during the funding period. For each individual sum, list out the source of the funds, the amount, and indicate whether the funds are secured or pending approval.</i>	NA	NA
<b>In-kind Services During Project Period:</b> <i>Indicate any in-kind services to be provided during the funding period. List type of service(s) and estimated value. In-kind services listed must be specific to the project.</i>	NA	NA
<b>Remaining \$ from Current Trust Fund Appropriation (if applicable):</b> <i>Specify \$ and year of appropriation from any current Trust fund appropriation for any directly related project of the project manager or organization that remains unspent or not yet legally obligated at the time of proposal submission. Be as specific as possible. Describe the status of \$ in the right-most column.</i>	NA	NA
<b>Funding History:</b> <i>Indicate funding secured prior to July 1, 2010 for activities directly relevant to this specific funding request. State specific source(s) of funds.</i>	NA	NA



**PROJECT MANAGER**

Jenifer Matthees  
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Outreach Section, Division of Fish and Wildlife  
MinnAqua Program Coordinator  
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651-259-5217

Miss Matthees has served as the MinnAqua coordinator since 2000. The MinnAqua ***Fishing: Get in the Habitat!*** program has received national recognition for its innovation, professional leadership and material development. Current awards include first place in National Association for Interpretation curriculum category and honorable mention in American Fisheries Society Sport Fish Restoration awards.

She has worked on various aspects and evaluation of outdoor recreation participation and served on professional and department efforts in diversity, evaluation, strategic planning and leadership. She currently serves on Association of Fish and Wildlife Agency Education Committee and the Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources Recreation Research Team.

**ORGANIZATIONAL DESCRIPTION**

DNR's mission is to work with citizens to conserve and manage the state's natural resources, to provide outdoor recreation opportunities, and to provide for commercial uses of natural resources in a way that creates a sustainable quality of life. DNR applies integrated resource management to achieve its three-part mission. DNR programs serve to integrate and sustain the interdependent values of a healthy environment, a sustainable economy, and livable communities.

MinnAqua ***Fishing: Get in the Habitat!***  
Connecting youth to Minnesota's waters through fishing.  
We aim to  
Accept diverse views and strive for innovative programming  
Build capacity and empower others  
Create stewards of the resource

