

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund  
2011-2012 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

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**LCCMR ID: 204-G**

**Project Title:** Environmental Education Grants for Youth

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**Category:** G. Environmental Education

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**Total Project Budget: \$** \$302,809

**Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested:** 2 yrs, July 2011 - June 2013

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

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**Summary:**

This proposal expands and integrates environmental (water) education using Fishing: get in the Habitat! curriculum by providing formal and non-formal organizations opportunities to overcome current barriers to implementation.

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**Sponsoring Organization:** U of MN - Water Resources Center

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**Location**

**Region:** Statewide

**Ecological Section:** Statewide

**County Name:** Statewide

**City / Township:** statewide

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|---|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Funding Priorities | <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple Benefits | <input type="checkbox"/> Outcomes              | <input type="checkbox"/> Knowledge Base                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Extent of Impact   | <input type="checkbox"/> Innovation        | <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific/Tech Basis | <input type="checkbox"/> Urgency                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Capacity Readiness | <input type="checkbox"/> Leverage          | <input type="checkbox"/> Employment            | <input type="checkbox"/> TOTAL <input type="checkbox"/> % |

# 2011-2013 MAIN PROPOSAL

**PROJECT TITLE: Environmental Education Grants for Youth**

## I. PROJECT STATEMENT

The DNR has 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. As the DNR has transitioned its MinnAqua program from directly working with groups, to training local community group leaders, teachers, educators in civic organizations and youth organization educators and leaders, the biggest barriers to adopting and continuing to use this model is lack of equipment, funds for local field events and professional development funds for local educators. The goal of the project is to expand and integrate environmental education and fishing field study using ***Fishing: get in the Habitat!*** into existing curriculum both in formal and non-formal education setting, through grants which will help educators move past the barriers so they can adopt and successfully use this environmental education curriculum.

## II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

**Activity 1: Professional Development Budget:** \$70,974 **Completion Date:** June 30, 2013  
Professional development grants for educators and youth/community leaders to attend ***Fishing: Get in the Habitat!*** in their classrooms, youth groups and community outreach.

**Result 1:** A minimum of 312 newly trained educators and youth/community leaders at a cost of up to \$160 each for professional development workshops (eight hours each).

**Activity 2: Fishing Equipment and Project Materials Budget:** \$193,167 **Completion Date:** June 30, 2013

Grants would be used by educators and youth/community leaders to obtain necessary fishing equipment and project materials to enhance integration of curriculum in schools, organized youth groups, community organizations, park and recreation, and civic groups. Project materials would be selected from MinnAqua materials list and would include items such as rod/reel,tackle, field study equipment, and individual/group environmental education activity materials.

**Result 2:** A minimum of 116 grants of MinnAqua related materials with a value of up to \$1500 each.

**Activity 3: Environmental education field study Budget:** \$38,167 **Completion Date:** May 30, 2013

This curriculum is successful only if used in the field, but one of the barriers for using it fully is funding for school and youth/community organizations getting into the field. Reimbursement of r 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.

**Result 3:** Minimum of 25 different organizations who would not have been able to use this curriculum for field studies use this through grants of up to \$1000 each.

## III. PROJECT STRATEGY

### A. Project Team/Partners

The Water Resources Center will administer this program so that school and youth/community groups can take better advantage of the train the trainer training sessions on ***Fishing: Get in the Habitat!*** Curriculum offered by the Department of Natural Resources and other organizations. WRC will coordinate with the Department of Natural Resources, to ensure that the grants are used most effectively and are delivered in a timely manner.

**B. Timeline Requirements**

This project will be completed within 24 months.

**C. Long-Term Strategy and Future Funding Needs**

Environmental education is one of the most effective methods of engaging youth in outdoor activities, leading to better care of the natural resources and environment. However, environmental education is rarely funded or the first to be cut. This proposal is to provide a bridge during this tough economic times and to develop a better strategy for more permanent long term support for this sort of programming.

## 2011-2012 Detailed Project Budget

### IV. TOTAL TRUST FUND REQUEST BUDGET 2 years

| <u>BUDGET ITEM</u>  | <u>AMOUNT</u>     |
|---|-------------------|
| <b>Personnel:</b> 1/4 time grant specialist (accountant) 2 years salary + fringe at 37% , 25% research fellow 1 year salary plus fringe at 33.3%, undergraduate student at 500 hours. All will be hired for this project or we will find a part time employee who wishes a temporary increase in hours. | \$51,809          |
| <b>Contracts:</b> Small grants as listed in narrative with a possible total of 450 - 475 grants   | \$250,000         |
| <b>Equipment/Tools/Supplies:</b> <i>postage</i>   | \$ 500            |
| <b>Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements):</b> NA   | \$ -              |
| <b>Travel:</b> NA   | \$ -              |
| <b>Additional Budget Items:</b> <i>printing</i>   | \$ 500            |
| <b>TOTAL ENVIRONMENT &amp; NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST</b>  | <b>\$ 302,809</b> |

### V. OTHER FUNDS

| <u>SOURCE OF FUNDS</u>   | <u>AMOUNT</u> | <u>Status</u> |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| <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            |
| <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            |
| <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            |
| <b>Remaining \$ from Current ENRTF Appropriation (if applicable):</b> <i>Specify \$ and year of appropriation from any current ENRTF 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            |
| <b>Funding History:</b> <i>Indicate funding secured prior to July 1, 2011 for activities directly relevant to this specific funding request. State specific source(s) of funds.</i>  | \$ -          | NA            |

## **Project Manager Qualifications and Organizational Capability**

**Faye Sleeper** is co-director of the University of Minnesota's Water Resources Center and will be overall project manager for this proposal. She works on issues related to impaired waters/total maximum daily load, water policy, citizen engagement and bringing together practitioners with researchers to solve water quality and quantity issues. Faye has facilitated numerous projects and meetings throughout her career and more recently projects on environmental education, ground water sustainability, climate change adaptation, clean water funds measurement and TMDL training for agricultural producers. Prior to this current position Faye worked at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) for 17 years where initially, she worked in the construction grants program, in the wastewater enforcement program and as the project leader for an EPA funded wastewater project with the Russian Federation. Her last eight years at the PCA, Faye Managed the Watershed Section at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. This section is responsible for coordinating policy, legislative and financial programs for the MPCA's impaired waters and nonpoint source water programs. Faye is Water Quality Coordinator for the Great Lakes Region Water NIFA team and represents University of Minnesota Extension on the Board of Water and Soil Resources. Faye has managed numerous grant projects that included technical expertise, including US/Russia Wastewater Project, USDA CSREES water quality grant, DNR Facilitation Master Agreement,

### **Organization Description**

The University of Minnesota is one of the largest, most comprehensive, and most prestigious public universities in the United States ([http://www1.umn.edu/twincities/01\\_about.php](http://www1.umn.edu/twincities/01_about.php)). The facilities at the University contain all the facilities needed for the proposed research.

