

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2014 Request for Proposals (RFP)

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Project Title:

The Wolf At Our Door

Category: C. Environmental Education

Total Project Budget: \$ 123,672

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 2 Years, July 2014 - June 2016

Other Non-State Funds: \$ 0

Summary:

This new initiative will bring an outreach specialist to metro area K-12 classrooms and nature centers to help children understand issues around wolf management in this new era of delisting.

Name: Darcy Berus

Sponsoring Organization: International Wolf Center

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Minneapolis MN 55427

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Web Address: http://www.wolf.org

Location

Region: Metro

County Name: Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, Sherburne, Washington, Wright

City / Township:

MP: 0613-2-052-proposa

Budget: 0613-2-052-bud

Qual: 0613-2-052-qualifi

Map: 0613-2-052-map-1

Resolution:

List:

_____ Funding Priorities	_____ Multiple Benefits	_____ Outcomes	_____ Knowledge
Base			
_____ Extent of Impact	_____ Innovation	_____ Scientific/Tech Basis	_____ Urgency
_____ Capacity Readiness	_____ Leverage	_____ Employment	_____ TOTAL



PROJECT TITLE: The Wolf at Our Door: A Workshop for Young Citizens

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

The hunting of wolves is a hot topic in Minnesota, with the public sharply divided after wolves were recently removed from the endangered species list and returned to state management for the first time in almost 40 years. The transition from being a federally protected species to one that is hunted and trapped has caused heated and polarized public debate. Chasms divide people on all sides of the issue around wolf management—rural, urban and suburban communities; hunters and non-hunters, trappers and non-trappers, residents and non-residents of areas with wolf populations; and more. Educating the public—especially young people, the next generation of stewards of our natural resources—about these apex predators is more critical now than ever.

This new initiative will bring a Twin Cities-based International Wolf Center outreach specialist into K-12 classrooms and nature centers in the Twin Cities metro area to help children understand these complicated issues and provide engaging, non-biased, in-depth programs about wolves and the loss of wilderness habitat.

Why are wolves important in a balanced ecosystem? How will the loss of wilderness areas in Minnesota affect wolves and other animal populations? What role can children play in protecting the environment for future generations? These topics and more will be core to the most aggressive effort we’ve ever made to educate our next generation of citizens about the challenges wildlife face in our quickly changing world.

Using the current conflicts around wolves as a catalyst to discuss larger issues about wilderness and the environment, the goals of this project are to: 1) Teach children about wolves and their important role in the ecosystem and in Minnesota, in particular; 2) Foster an ethic of stewardship of wilderness in young people; 3) Empower children to develop critical thinking skills and explore perspectives of various stakeholders; 4) Expand the conversation with our next generation of citizens around larger biological and environmental topics; and 5) Engage children in discussions about the issues faced by human populations in wolf areas and current controversial issues around wolf management.

Programs lasting 90 minutes will educate students about the social and political challenges wolves face in today’s society, as well as basic information regarding wolf biology, pack dynamics and loss of habitat in Minnesota. Programs lasting three hours will include these topics and provide an expanded opportunity for students to role-play in a game in which they practice critical thinking to make wolf-management decisions. Participants will be surveyed pre- and post-program using Turning Point survey technology that will collect data on participant attitudes on and knowledge of wolves and wolf management. These real-time surveys will provide context for a facilitated discussion about these important issues affecting Minnesota wilderness, and public opinions that affect the survival of wolves and their habitats. The results of these surveys will be shared with participants, in *International Wolf* magazine, and will be available on the Center’s web site.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Activity 1: *On site classroom presentations*

Budget: \$123,672

Conduct on site programs to a large number of Twin Cities metro schools, reaching urban, underserved and minority students to teach them about the social and political conflicts around the Minnesota wolf hunting controversies and the loss of wildlife habitats throughout the State of Minnesota.

Outcome	Completion Date
<i>1. Hire Twin Cities-based outreach specialist</i>	<i>August 2014</i>
<i>2. Provide intensive training of Twin Cities-based outreach specialist</i>	<i>August 2014</i>



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)
2014 Main Proposal
Project Title: The Wolf at Our Door: A Workshop for Young Citizens

3. Conduct programs in 460 classrooms in Twin Cities metro area (estimated 16,100 students)	June 2016
4. Collect data on student attitudes regarding controversial wolf hunting issues and loss of Minnesota wildlife habitat	June 2016

Activity 2: Disseminate post-program survey results of participating students **Budget: \$ IWC in kind support**

Prepare a summary of student attitudes regarding controversial wolf hunting issues and loss of Minnesota wildlife habitat and disseminate this information in International Wolf magazine (distributed nationally and internationally), on the IWC web site www.wolf.org, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the 2017 Midwest Wolf Stewards Conference, and Minnesota news media.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Complete post-program survey report	June 2016
2. Publish report in International Wolf magazine	Fall 2016
3. Publish report on IWC web site	June 2016
4. Distribute report to Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	June 2016
5. Distribute report to Minnesota news media	June 2016
6. Present report at Midwest Wolf Stewards Conference	April 2017

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

Rob Schultz, Executive Director, IWC: Manage and Supervise the Project and Outreach Specialist
 Lori Schultz, Wolf Curator, IWC and Faculty Member, VCC: Technical Resource
 Jess Edberg, Information Services Director, IWC: Technical Resource
 Tara Johnson, Program Specialist, IWC: Technical/Education Resource
 Tom Myrick, Communications Director, IWC: Project Marketing and Media Relations

B. Timeline Requirements

The project timeline is July 2014-June 2016. School programs to be delivered during the school calendar September-May of project years; community programs to be delivered year-round.

C. Long-Term Strategy and Future Funding Needs

This proposal covers the project from beginning to end with completion in June 2016. It is not the IWC's intention to extend the project beyond LCCMR funding completion unless project funding is secured, following an internal evaluation on the success of the program.

2014 Detailed Project Budget

Project Title: The Wolf at Our Door: A Workshop for Young Citizens

International Wolf Center

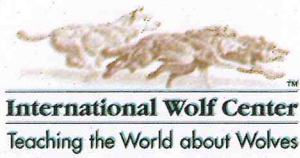
IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET 2 years

<u>BUDGET ITEM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Personnel: Outreach Educator (salary \$36,000/year; health insurance \$3,600/year; retirement contribution \$360/year; disability insurance \$345/year; HAS \$1,200/year; taxes @ 11%/year; \$3,960) = \$45,465/year x 2 years	\$90,930
Equipment/Tools/Supplies: Computer \$1,900; projector \$1,200; Turning Point survey unit + clickers for participants \$900; handouts \$12,075 (460 schools x 35 students/class x \$0.75 each) (one-time costs)	\$16,075
Travel: Mileage for outreach educator (460 schools x avg. 55 miles x \$0.565/mi.= \$14,294 + 8 trips for outreach educator to and from Twin Cities-Ely @ 525 miles x \$0.565/mi.) = \$2,373	\$16,667
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =	\$ 123,672

V. OTHER FUNDS

<u>SOURCE OF FUNDS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>Status</u>
In-kind Services During Project Period: Marketing and Promotions (logo development, MN Professional Educators Conference booth, State Fair exhibit postcard handouts, MN principals and teachers direct mail & list buy, MESPA membership email (free), MN educator magazine "opportunities" section (free), weekly membership email announcement (2x/year), MREA membership email announcement (2x/year), MN Field Trip Library program, Web content development = \$12,235; office use @ \$3,500/year x 2 years; technology (phone, internet, \$80/month x 2 years) \$1,920; training and support @ 15% project cost (\$21,724)	\$42,879	Committed

The Wolf at Our Door: A Workshop for Young Citizens
LCCMR Grant Application 2014
Images of Education Outreach Programs*



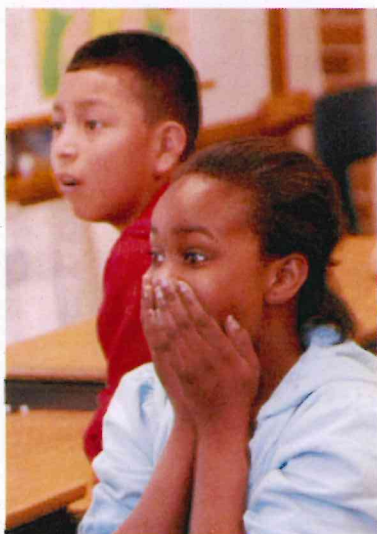
Child comparing his hand size to a wolf track



Child locating his hometown relative to Ely, MN



Children exploring wolf artifacts



**Note: Images shown are from previous off-site programs and used here to illustrate engaging education programs with children around wolves and wilderness. LCCMR grant funds would support a new education outreach initiative and would not be used to fund existing programs.*

The Wolf at Our Door: A Workshop for Young Citizens
2014 LCCMR Proposal -- International Wolf Center
#6. Project Manager Qualifications and Organization Description

Darcy Berus, the International Wolf Center's development director since 2011, will serve as project manager for this new LCCMR-funded initiative. Darcy oversees the International Wolf Center's development and membership programs, from corporate, foundation and government grants to family foundations, individual major donors and membership support. Darcy has experience managing large grant-funded projects, having worked in development, fundraising and nonprofit administration for over 25 years, including at the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis College of Art and Design, Minnesota Museum of American Art, Minnesota Conservatory of Performing Arts, and Film in the Cities. Darcy has a B.A. in French and International Studies from Macalester College.

The mission of the International Wolf Center is to advance the survival of wolf populations by teaching about wolves, their relationship to wildlands and the human role in the future. The Center realizes this mission by developing and presenting quality education and interpretive programs that serve people of all ages—from preschoolers to wildlife adventurers, from research scientists to tourists, from students in Minnesota to classrooms around the world.

The International Wolf Center was founded in 1985 by world-renowned wolf biologist Dr. L. David Mech, the foremost international expert in the field who has tracked and studied wolves in northern Minnesota since 1966. In the early 1980s, Dr. Mech gathered representatives from private, public and professional groups with a vision to establish a center to teach the world about wolves. The site search for the nonprofit center soon focused on Ely, Minnesota, the heart of the largest wolf population in the lower 48 states and home to Sigurd Olson, a world-renowned naturalist who made the first noted wolf studies in the 1930s.

By 1989, the vision for the International Wolf Center was realized and a facility was established on the edge of the Boundary Waters Canoe Wilderness Area (BWCAW). In June 1993, the Center opened the doors to its \$3 million, 17,000-square-foot facility in Ely. State funding of \$1.2 million and \$400,000 in donations from individuals and foundations paid for the expansion of the then-Voyageur Visitor Center. A \$125,000 grant for construction and promotion of the Center was received from the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board (IRRRB) in Eveleth, MN. In 1998, a 3,260-square-foot addition provided a 120-seat wolf-viewing observation area and more classroom, storage and laboratory space, funded by a 1996 bonding bill in the Minnesota State Legislature.

Administrative offices hosting finance, communications, membership and development are located in Minneapolis. The interpretive center and educational facility in Ely serves more than 40,000 visitors (of whom roughly 60% are Minnesota residents) through daily programming, group visits, seminars and more; 7,000 members who also receive the quarterly *International Wolf* magazine featuring articles and research about wolves around the world; 3,000 children and young people through WolfLink videoconferencing (made possible in part by LCCMR grant funds in 2010); and more than 1.6 million visits to its Web site to watch live streaming Web cams of the Center's seven ambassador wolves and explore other resources on www.wolf.org.