

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

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Project Title:

Wolf Research Red Lake Reservation (5,500 square miles)

Category: A. Foundational Natural Resource Data and Information

Total Project Budget: \$ 404,535

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 3 Years, July 2014 - July 2017

Other Non-State Funds: \$ 99,792

Summary:

Red Lake is a unique Reservation, having complete jurisdiction over lands within 5,500 square miles of Minnesotas wolf range. This project will facilitate effective management of wolves in northern Minnesota.

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Sponsoring Organization: Red Lake Department of Natural Resources

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Web Address: www.redlakednr.org

Location

Region: Northwest, Northeast

County Name: Beltrami, Clearwater, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, Marshall, Pennington, Red Lake, Roseau

City / Township:

MP: 0513-2-019-proposa

Budget: 0513-2-019-bud

Qual: 0513-2-019-qualifi

Map: 0513-2-019-map-R

Resolution:

List:

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

PROJECT TITLE: Wolf Research Red Lake Reservation (5,500 square miles)

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

After nearly 40 years of protection, gray wolves were removed from the Federal Endangered Species list and are currently in the mandatory 5-year federal monitoring period specified by the Endangered Species Act. The state of Minnesota and Tribal governments will now manage wolves in the state, but they have very different management philosophies. Red Lake is a “closed reservation”, so there is no private ownership and no state jurisdiction on Red Lake lands. Because wolves are a wide-ranging species that will maintain territories that include state and tribal lands, they are a shared resource, requiring effective communication amongst management jurisdictions and cooperative management strategies to ensure their long-term survival.

The Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians adopted a wolf management plan in 2010, designating all of its 850,000 acres (in 8 Minnesota counties) a wolf sanctuary. In contrast, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources assumed management authority over wolves in 2012, and implemented hunting and trapping seasons on state managed lands adjacent to, and amongst, tribal lands. Many wolves were harvested adjacent to the Red Lake Lands and their territories almost certainly included both tribal and state-managed lands. The Red Lake Band has complete jurisdiction over lands contained within over 5,000 square miles of Minnesota’s wolf range.

The effects of the state’s first regulated wolf hunting/trapping season on local and regional wolf distribution, abundance, habitat use, and pack dynamics is not known. From a state-wide management perspective, it is important to gather data that will help evaluate local and regional changes in important wolf population parameters and individual pack dynamics during the federal post-delisting monitoring period. The overall goal of this 3-year project is to collect data on wolf abundance, distribution, habitat use, movement patterns and survival on and around Red Lake’s extensive land holdings. Information collected during this project, through extensive surveys and tracking radio-collared individuals, will be shared with state Wolf Biologists, and compared to existing data sets to help manage this important shared resource.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Activity 1: surveys of wolf distribution and abundance

Budget: \$185,063

Information will be compared to existing data sets to evaluate habitat use, identify territorial boundaries, guide trap placement, detect changes and help identify trends.

* Winter track surveys (Dec. – April), scent station surveys (Sept. and Oct.) and scat surveys (continuous) using snowmobiles, specialized all-terrain vehicles, and 4X4 pickup trucks will be conducted along hundreds of miles of roads and trails on Red Lake lands and in remote portions of the Northwest Angle.

Information will be gathered on pack composition and individual wolf characteristics (e.g., health indicators such as frequency of sarcoptic mange).

* Placement, repositioning and monitoring of 25 remote cameras (continuous) in remote locations

Outcomes

Completion Date

1. Detect changes to local and regional population levels

Summer, 2017

2. Track changes in distribution, habitat use, and health

Summer, 2017

Activity 2: live-trapping and monitoring radio-collared individuals Budget: \$219,472

* Live-trapping and radio-collaring (May – Oct), until 5 adult wolves are captured. Trapping will resume and collars re-deployed when recovered. Up to 35 traps will be checked daily, from 0600 to 1200, and trap lines will be repositioned about every 2 weeks to target different packs in different locations. Wolves will be tranquilized, we will collect biological samples, and adults will be equipped with satellite radio-collars. Trapping activities will occur on all of Red Lake’s land holdings, including the Northwest Angle.

* Location information will be downloaded continuously and plotted on habitat maps to track movements, evaluate habitat use, identify territorial boundaries and identify mortality events.

Outcomes	Completion Date
1. Identify critical habitats and territorial boundaries	Summer, 2017
2. Evaluate seasonal movement patterns, habitat use and survival	Summer 2017

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

Red Lake Department of Natural Resources staff will provide necessary vehicles and equipment, administer the project, conduct surveys and trapping activities, collect and compile data, and transfer location data to maps.

U.S. Department of Agriculture – Wildlife Services staff will assist with wolf capture and handling, and provide personnel, vehicles and equipment (traps, bait, animal handling).

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources staff will assist with acquiring necessary permits, provide lodging and logistical support.

B. Timeline Requirements

This is a 3-year project, with proposed activities beginning during July, 2014. Wolf trapping will be conducted from late July through October, 2014, and late April through October, 2015 and 2016. Additional trapping may be conducted during spring, 2017. Collection of location data (from collared animals) will begin with the capture and marking of the first wolf, and continue to the end of the project (July, 2017). Surveys, placement/monitoring of remote cameras and data management will be conducted year-round, beginning in late July, 2014 and ending in late June, 2017.

C. Long-Term Strategy and Future Funding Needs

The federal post-delisting monitoring period for wolves in Minnesota will be in effect until 2017. Long-term monitoring of wolves and development of cooperative management strategies will be essential as Tribal governments and the state of Minnesota assume management authority over this important shared resource. Information collected during this project will contribute to the development of future wolf management strategies on and around Red Lake’s extensive land holdings. This proposed project is the first phase of intensive efforts to track trends in important wolf population parameters. Phase II will build on the findings of this work, with continued surveys and monitoring to help guide future management decisions.

2014 Detailed Project Budget

Project Title: Wolf Research Red Lake Reservation (5,500 square miles)

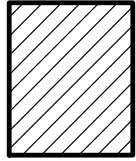
IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET - 3 years

BUDGET ITEM	AMOUNT
Personnel:	\$ -
Project Leader @ .25 FTE X 3 years (sal. + fringe)	\$ 81,000
Biologist @ .50 FTE X 3 years (sal. + fringe)	\$ 121,500
Biologist @ .25 FTE X 3 years (sal. + fringe)	\$ 60,750
Technician @ .50 FTE X 3 yrs. (sal. + fringe)	\$ 60,750
Contracts:	\$ -
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture: personnel, lodging, vehicles, and equipment X 76 days	\$ 34,410
Equipment/Tools/Supplies:	\$ -
mileage @ \$.565/mile X 100 miles/day X 150 days/yr. X 3 yrs	\$ 25,425
Equipment repairs and maintenance @ \$5,000/yr. X 3 yrs.	\$ 15,000
Travel:	\$ -
Lodging @ \$140/night (for 3 staff) X 15 nights/yr. X 2 yrs.	\$ 4,200
Per diem @ \$50/day X 15 days/yr. X 2 yrs.	\$ 1,500
Additional Budget Items:	\$ -
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =	\$ 404,535

V. OTHER FUNDS

SOURCE OF FUNDS	AMOUNT	Status
Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:		
Red Lake Band: Indirect costs @ .1768 X salaries	\$ 42,432	secured
Red Lake Band: DNR Admin. Cost pool @ .14 X (sal. + fringe)	\$ 45,360	secured
Red Lake Band: Summer Internship salary	\$ 12,000	secured
TOTAL Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:	\$ 99,792	
Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:	\$ -	
In-kind Services During Project Period:		
MNDNR / Norris Camp: Lodging for trappers @ \$85/night X 42 nights	\$ 3,570	secured
Red Lake Band: vehicles, (4X4 pickups, ATV's, snowmobiles, trailers)	\$ 30,000	secured
Red Lake Band: traps, animal handling equipment/supplies, bait, radio collars	\$ 30,000	secured
Red Lake Band: technical support/GIS/mapping	\$ 10,000	secured
TOTAL In-kind Services During Project Period:	\$ 73,570	
Remaining \$ from Current ENRTF Appropriation (if applicable):	\$ -	
Funding History:		
USFWS Tribal Wildlife Grants Program (2008 – 2010)	\$ 196,000	
USFWS Tribal Wildlife Grants Program (2010 – 2012)	\$ 200,000	
USBIA Endangered Spp. Program (2008 – 2012)	\$ 50,000	
TOTAL Funding History:	\$ 446,000	

Red Lake Reservation Tribal Lands



= Size of Common Pack Territory
(125 sq. mi.)

Manitoba

Ontario

"Northwest
Angle"

Lake of
the Woods

Lake of the Woods

Roseau

Marshall

Koochiching

Pennington

"Diminished
Reservation"

Red Lake

Polk

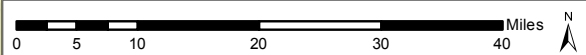
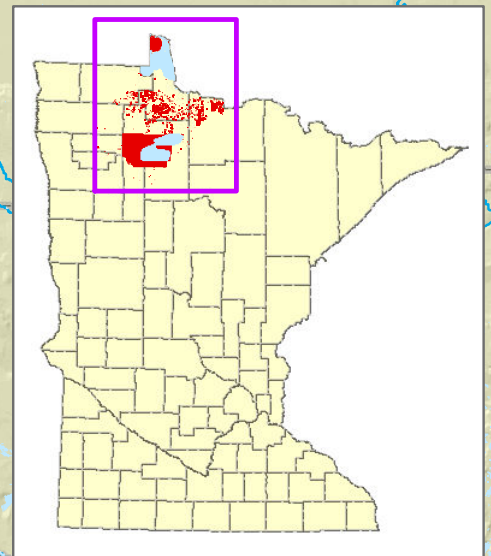
Clearwater

Beltrami



Red Lake Band Wolf Facts

- Over 840,000 Acres within 5,500 square miles of wolf range
- Tribal Ownership across 8 MN Counties
- Sole Management Authority
- Wolf Sanctuary per Tribal Council Resolution



Project Manager Qualifications & Organization Description

Project manager: Jay T. Huseby, Ph.D.
Wildlife Director
Red Lake DNR
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(218)-679-3959

The Project Manager has led projects funded by a wide variety of funding sources/agencies, including: the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA), the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR), U.S. Department of Agriculture's chronic wasting disease, and tuberculosis monitoring programs, U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs' Circle of Flight, Noxious Weed, and Endangered Species Programs. He has secured and managed over \$3.5 million in external funds to contribute to wildlife projects on Red Lake lands, since assuming his position in 1997.

The Project Manager represented the Red Lake Band on the Minnesota Wolf Management Roundtable, which was convened in 1998 to assist the state of Minnesota with development of their wolf management plan. He is the principal author of the "Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians Gray Wolf Management Plan" adopted by Red Lake's Tribal Council in September, 2010. He has been the project leader for 2 large wolf research projects at Red Lake.

Organization Description:

The Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians is a federally recognized Indian tribe. The Red Lake Reservation encompasses over 840,000 acres of land and water which spans across eight northern Minnesota counties.

Natural resources programs for the Reservation have been operating since the 1980's. Base programs such as forestry, fisheries, wildlife, waters, and environmental protection have created a strong foundation, allowing expansions in recent years to create specialized programs such as wetlands, GIS, air quality, and fire prevention.

The Red Lake DNR Wildlife Program is responsible for managing wildlife and their associated habitats for the benefit and enjoyment of the members of the Red Lake Nation. This includes activities designed to help maintain the viability of wildlife populations, including threatened and endangered species, found on Red Lake's vast land holdings. The Wildlife Program conducts habitat restoration and enhancement projects, as well as research on regional and migratory wildlife populations. The program also collects biological data on individual species most important to Band members.