

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

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**Project Title:**

Wolf-Livestock Conflict Reduction Using Cost-Effective Non-Lethal Prevention

**Category:** C. Environmental Education

**Total Project Budget:** \$ 417,250

**Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested:** 1 Year, July 2014 - June 2015

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

**Summary:**

Educate, empower, and assist livestock producers that have experienced chronic livestock losses from wolves with non-lethal prevention techniques to minimize conflicts and foster coexistence between humans and wolves.

**Name:** Tom Sullivan

**Sponsoring Organization:** Howling For Wolves

**Address:** PO Box 4099  
Hopkins MN 55343

**Telephone Number:** (651)214-3459

**Email:** tom@howlingforwolves.org

**Web Address:** www.howlingforwolves.org

**Location**

**Region:** Central, Northeast, Northwest

**County Name:** Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Carlton, Koochiching, Itasca, Aitkin, Pine, Kanabec, Hubbard, Clearwater, Beltrami, Lake of the Woods, Roseau, Kittson, Marshall, Pennington, Red Lake, Polk, Norman, Mahnomen, Becker, Clay, Cass, Crow Wing, Mille Lacs, Wadena, Morrison, Todd, Ottertail

**City / Township:**

**MP:**

**Budget:**

**Qual:**

**Map:**

**Resolution:**

**List:**

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



## Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)

### 2014 Main Proposal

**Project Title:** Wolf-livestock conflict reduction using cost-effective non-lethal prevention

**PROJECT TITLE:** Wolf-livestock conflict reduction using cost-effective non-lethal prevention

**I. PROJECT STATEMENT:** Since the development of the Wolf Management Plan (WMP), “Best Management Practices” (BMPs) to reduce and prevent livestock depredation by wolves have been recognized as crucial to the long term survival of wolves in Minnesota. The legislature directed the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MNDA) to develop BMPs for this purpose. A 1999 U of M study about depredation disseminated by MNDA did not seek to test the effectiveness of non-lethal preventative methods to reduce or eliminate wolf depredation, but it did state that “continued control of wolves preying on livestock will be one of the greatest management needs” when state management authority resumes. Related research that was recommended in the WMP has not been conducted, existing information hasn’t been accurately disseminated, and wolf depredation management methods in Minnesota have not kept pace with available non-lethal control methods that are publicly supported. Reimbursement payments and USDA depredation services fail to address the root cause of the wolf-livestock conflicts by not offering preventative solutions. This project addresses the need to validate the effectiveness of non-lethal prevention methods for reducing wolf-livestock conflicts in Minnesota. It creates an opportunity to overhaul the outmoded depredation management model currently employed with solutions that address the root cause of wolf-livestock conflicts in a cost-effective manner. The project aims to provide solutions and build tolerance in rural communities for coexistence with wolves that offer numerous ecological benefits for the north woods ecosystem.

#### **Project Goals:**

1. Educate, empower, and assist livestock producers in wolf range that have experienced chronic losses from wolf depredation to implement and maintain non-lethal depredation control methods.
2. Educate livestock producers about wolves to foster an increased tolerance for their presence on the landscape and develop attitudes of coexistence.
3. Demonstrate that non-lethal preventative methods offer a root cause solution and represent a more acceptable application of public resources for a situation with ongoing potential conflicts.

**Project Outcomes:** Prevent or minimize wolf-livestock conflicts at project sites to minimize the number of wolves killed and livestock lost, and minimize reimbursement claims paid to producers at project sites.

**Project Summary:** We will work in cooperation with the MNDA, USDA, and MNDNR to secure participation commitments from 10 unique livestock producers in wolf range that have experienced chronic livestock losses from wolf depredation. Specific non-lethal implementation plans for each location will be developed in cooperation with individual producers and wolf depredation consultants. Non-lethal solution implementation will focus on minimizing attractants, installing low-cost fencing deterrents, and increasing human presence for monitoring and the employment of non-lethal scare tactics. Locals in project areas will be employed Apr-Oct for site maintenance. Accessible educational materials about wolves and their place in the Minnesota ecology will be developed to present and review with project participants. All inputs (activity, time, cost) and observed results will be documented to create a data driven project summary. Participants will be surveyed about their attitudes before, during, and after the project. An analysis will be performed to compare costs and results of the project with the current USDA lethal control program. Project results will be reviewed with all stakeholders.

## **II. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES**

### **Activity 1: Planning**

**Budget: \$34,750**

Identify eligible and interested participants. Determine strategically located participants and secure participation agreements. Produce tailored plans for implementing non-lethal prevention solutions by working with wolf depredation consultants and participants. Develop accessible educational materials about wolves’ natural role.



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<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
1. <i>Identify eligible and interested participants</i>	<i>Jan 15, 2014</i>
2. <i>Determine strategic participants and secure participation commitment agreements</i>	<i>Feb 28, 2014</i>
3. <i>Assess geographic requirements and challenges</i>	<i>Mar 14, 2014</i>
4. <i>Develop protection plan and maintenance schedule</i>	<i>Mar 28, 2014</i>
5. <i>Develop accessible educational materials</i>	<i>Feb 14, 2014</i>

**Activity 2: Implementation**

**Budget: \$376,333**

Implement non-lethal preventative solutions on project sites in cooperation with participants and wolf depredation consultants. Perform daily site maintenance, monitoring, and reporting. Conduct surveys of participants about their attitudes before, during, and after the project. Review educational materials.

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
1. <i>Acquire necessary equipment and supplies for implementation</i>	<i>Mar 28, 2014</i>
2. <i>On-site protection implementation and training</i>	<i>Apr 18, 2014</i>
3. <i>Daily site maintenance, monitoring, and reporting of observed results</i>	<i>Oct 31, 2014</i>
4. <i>Survey of participant attitudes</i>	<i>Oct 31, 2014</i>
5. <i>Present and review materials with project participants</i>	<i>Apr 18, 2014</i>

**Activity 3: Analysis and Reporting**

**Budget: \$6,167**

Perform a comparison analysis of project costs and results for non-lethal control program versus the currently employed lethal control program. Present and review results with all stakeholders.

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
1. <i>Compile, analyze, and compare project data with existing lethal control program</i>	<i>Dec 5, 2014</i>
2. <i>Present and review results with stakeholders</i>	<i>Dec 19, 2014</i>

**III. PROJECT STRATEGY**

**A. Project Team/Partners**

The project team will consist of the following members who will be receiving funds from this request: Project Manager Tom Sullivan (Howling For Wolves), Depredation Consultants (TBD), Fencing Consultant (People and Carnivores), Site Leaders (local -TBD), and Site Assistants (local -TBD). We aim to collaborate as appropriate with the following organizations and others to be determined that will not be receiving funds from this request: MNDA, USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services, MNDNR, National Resource Defense Council, and International Wolf Center.

**B. Timeline Requirements:** The project duration would be one calendar year and include three distinct phases:

1. A planning phase to identify participants and create implementation plans (Jan - Mar).
2. An implementation phase to rollout, maintain, and monitor solutions (Apr - Oct).
3. An analysis and reporting phase to compile, compare, and communicate findings (Nov - Dec).

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

The project aims to provide data driven evidence from real-world case studies in Minnesota that non-lethal depredation control solutions are an effective preventative method and a more acceptable use of public resources than status quo lethal controls. A successful model that minimizes livestock losses and wolves killed in response, and builds tolerance for coexistence with wolves will be leveraged on a state level to change the paradigm for the primary depredation control response from lethal to non-lethal methods. Non-fencing equipment will be used on an ongoing basis to continue assisting interested livestock producers in Minnesota's wolf range with the implementation and maintenance of non-lethal solutions employed in this project.

## 2014 Detailed Project Budget

**Project Title:** Wolf-livestock conflict reduction using cost-effective non-lethal prevention

### IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET 1 year

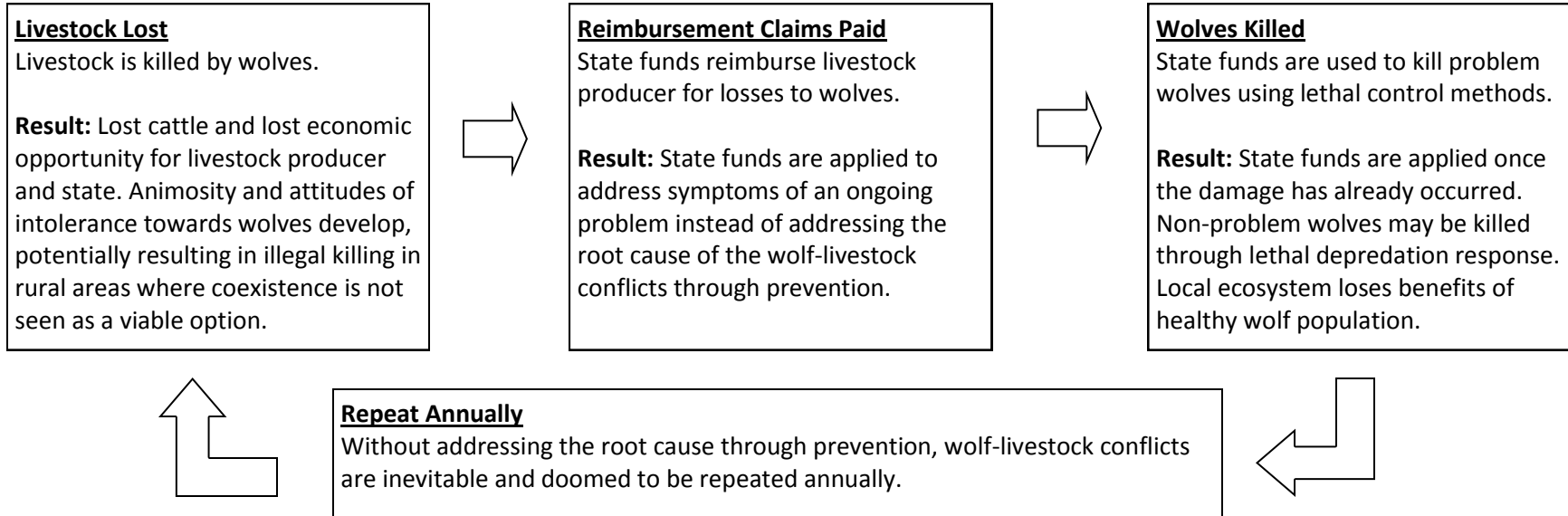
<u>BUDGET ITEM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
<b>Personnel:</b> Project manager, 75% full-time, contract role Jan - Dec 2014 (1 person) - \$37K Depredation consultant, 15% full-time, contract role Jan - May (1-2 people) - \$15K Fencing consultant, 20% full-time, contract role Jan - May (1 person) - \$20K Site leader, 100% full-time, contract role Apr - Oct (5 people) - \$149K Site assistant, 50% full-time, contract role Apr - Oct (5 people)- \$39K	\$ 260,000
<b>Contracts:</b> Carcass disposal service to remove dead livestock - Cost/contractor TBD (est. \$500 per site)	\$ 5,000
<b>Equipment/Tools/Supplies:</b> Pickup truck used for equipment transportation between sites - \$20K (x1) ATV (side by side) used for turbo-fladry installation - \$9K (x1) ATV (single rider) used for fladry maintenance and wolf monitoring - \$4.5K (x5) Electrified fencing (turbo-fladry) for portable barrier deterrent - \$7.5K (x10) Communication devices for remote team ops (phone, computer, digital camera) - \$350 (x5) Field equip. for remote team ops (multi-tool, handheld GPS, backpack, wx radio) - \$350 (x5) Paintball gun and ammo for non-lethal wolf harrassment - \$250 (x5)	\$ 131,250
<b>Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements):</b> N/A	N/A
<b>Travel:</b> Planning travel (4x trips to project area from TC, ~ 600 mile roundtrip, 3 people) \$1.4K Planning lodging + meal costs (4x trips to project area, 2 days and 2 nights each) \$3.1K Implementation travel (3x one-week trips to project area, ~ 600 mile roundtrip, for 2) - \$1K Implementation lodging + meal costs (3x trips to project area, 5 days & 6 nights each) - \$4.5K Transportation costs for travel between sites (monitoring April-October) - \$11K	\$ 21,000
<b>Additional Budget Items:</b> N/A	N/A
<b>TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =</b>	<b>\$ 417,250</b>

### V. OTHER FUNDS

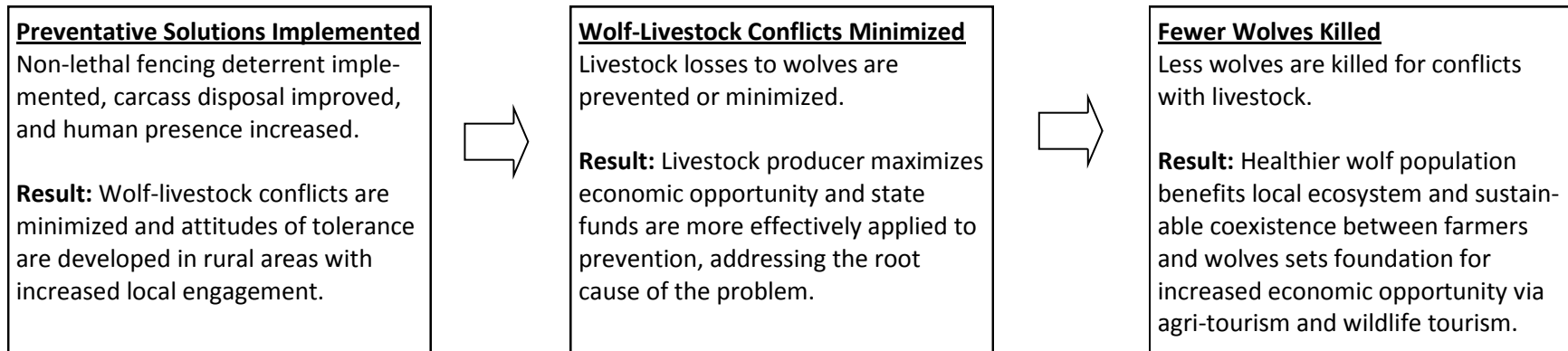
<u>SOURCE OF FUNDS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>Status</u>
<b>Other Non-State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:</b> Private fundraising opportunities will be pursued to support project goals (TBD).	\$ -	Pending
<b>Other State \$ Being Applied to Project During Project Period:</b> No other state funds are being sought for this project.	\$ -	N/A
<b>In-kind Services During Project Period:</b> In-kind goods and services will be sought as available, appropriate, and necessary to supplement project funding (TBD). An example would be to negotiate lower costs with MN based ATV manufacturers Polaris and Arctic Cat.	\$ -	Pending
<b>Remaining \$ from Current ENRTF Appropriation (if applicable):</b> N/A	\$ -	N/A
<b>Funding History:</b> N/A - no other funds have been secured at time of application submission.	\$ -	N/A



### Current Wolf Depredation Model



### Proposed Non-Lethal Preventative Wolf Depredation Model





## **Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)**

### **2014 Project Manager Qualifications and Organization Description**

**Project Title:** Wolf-livestock conflict reduction using cost-effective non-lethal prevention

#### **Project Manager Qualifications:**

Tom Sullivan is a results oriented, collaborative professional that brings 10 years of project management experience at small and large organizations, leading project teams up to 15 individual contributors and stakeholders, working with budgets up to \$1M, and responsible for products with combined annual revenues exceeding \$10M. He has successfully managed multiple projects concurrently, overseeing the project scope, requirements, schedule, budget, team tasks, and reporting. Tom has been consistently recognized for the ability to implement creative solutions that translate conceptual ideas into reality. A Minnesota native, he graduated from Cretin-Derham Hall HS and is currently completing his foreign language requirement at the University of St. Thomas to earn his undergraduate degree. He is a small business owner and an Eagle Scout.

#### **Organization Description:**

Howling For Wolves (HFW) is a wolf advocacy organization that aims to educate the public and policy-makers about wolves to foster understanding and tolerance, and to ensure their long-term survival in Minnesota. HFW seeks innovative non-lethal solutions for conflict prevention and coexistence where wolves are perceived to be a threat. We oppose the random killing of non-problem wolves for sport and the cruel methods utilized. We do not oppose other forms of hunting conducted in a humane and ethical manner where the animal is consumed and the activity is needed to control population size. HFW current efforts focus on the Minnesota's gray wolves, which is the largest and only original wolf population remaining in the lower 48 states.