

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2016 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

Project Title:

ENRTF ID: 099-C

Expanded Wolves at our Door program

Category: C. Environmental Education

Total Project Budget: \$ 240,012

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 2 years, July 2016 to June 2018

Summary:

An expansion to all of Minnesota for the successful Wolves at our Door classroom education program.

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Sponsoring Organization: International Wolf Center

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Location

Region: Statewide

County Name: Statewide

City / Township:

Alternate Text for Visual:

A few classroom photos of children participating in the Wolves at our Door program.

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



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)

2016 Main Proposal

Project Title: *Expanded Wolves at our Door program*

PROJECT TITLE: Expanded "Wolves at our Door" program

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

The expansion of wolf range in Minnesota has been a polarizing issue. What risks does this pose to people who live and work in these areas? Will conflicts with humans increase as wolves inhabit new areas? How can we teach children the truth about wolves with so much misinformation in the media from organizations that promote their passion - or hate - for wolves?

The "Wolves at our Door" program has been a proven success in answering these questions for over 6,400 Twin Cities urban and suburban students in more than 250 classrooms in the program's first year. As a result, teachers from schools throughout greater Minnesota want the opportunity to bring this popular new program to their classrooms. With the aim of teaching children how to live safely with this misunderstood predator, "Wolves at our Door" helps young people understand the complexities of our co-existence with wolves - preparing them to be the next generation of engaged citizens.

Our goal is to expand the availability and impact of "Wolves at our Door" to all Minnesota public schools. Presentations contain unbiased, scientific information that provide a balanced look at the impact wolves have on humans and ecosystems. In addition to being expanded to all Minnesota public schools, the program would also be available to public libraries, nature centers, and Minnesota State Parks.

As an element of the program, in-class surveys will be conducted using interactive technology to learn about things like the attitudes students have towards wolves and gauge their understanding of wolf biology and behavior. At the conclusion of the project, findings will be published to help the public understand how young people view this apex predator and perceive the complex issues surrounding wolf-human relationships.

II. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

Activity 1: On-Site Classroom Presentations

Budget: \$236,812

Conduct 60-minute in-person programs in 700 Minnesota public school classrooms, libraries, nature centers, and state parks throughout the state. Each student/participant will receive a take-home handout to complement the material covered in the presentation, and outline important safety tips to follow around wolves and other wildlife. The total number of students impacted will be 21,000 (average of 30 students in 700 classrooms)

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Adapt handouts for students so that language is grade-level appropriate for grades 2-12	July, 2016
2. Add info in the handouts about how habitat preservation reduces wolf-human conflicts, and safety tips for being around wolves and other wildlife	July, 2016
3. Organize a volunteer effort to collect contact information for schools throughout the state to be used in marketing the program	August, 2016
4. Develop and implement scheduling strategy to minimize travel and related expenses in serving schools in greater Minnesota	September, 2016
5. Update the International Wolf Center's wolf.org website to promote the expanded "Wolves at our Door" program and house teacher resources	July, 2016
6. Begin scheduling programs and delivering presentations	Summer, 2016



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Activity 2: Collect and Disseminate Post-Program Survey Results

Budget: \$3,200

During and at the conclusion of the project, program and survey results will be shared through: 1). The International Wolf Center's website - approximately 1.6 million views annually, 2). The International Wolf Center's Facebook page - 68,000 current followers, 3). INTERNATIONAL WOLF magazine - distributed in all 50 states and 37 countries globally, 4). Press releases to newspapers throughout Minnesota, 5). Press releases to local media outlets in communities where classroom presentations have occurred, 6). Media packets to school district newsletters where classroom presentations have occurred, 7). Updates to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, 8). Showcase project at the 2018 International Wolf Symposium in Minnesota.

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Complete post-program survey summary and report	June, 2018
2. Post a web page at wolf.org and a web page link on the Int'l Wolf Center Facebook page	June, 2018
3. Distribute post-program report to media outlets, the Minnesota DNR, and school districts	June, 2018
4. Publish report in INTERNATIONAL WOLF magazine.	August, 2018
5. Showcase project at the International Wolf Symposium being held in Minnesota	October, 2018

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

1. Rob Schultz, Executive Director, IWC. Supervisor of project leaders and designated support staff.
2. Tara Morrison, Outreach Director, IWC. Will promote, schedule and present programs.
3. Sharon Reed, Director of Admin & Finance, IWC. Oversees expenditures and prepares financial reporting.
4. David Kline, Development Director, IWC. Manages the project and ensures fulfillment of grant obligations.
5. Kelly Godfrey, Program Director, IWC. Advises development of curriculum and presentations.
6. Debbie Hinchcliffe, Chair, Ed. Comm., IWC. Advises development of curriculum and handout materials.
7. Dick Thiel, Board Member, IWC. Technical advisor and curriculum editor.
8. Dr. L. David Mech, Founder and Vice Chair, IWC. Technical advisor and curriculum editor.

B. Project Impact and Long-Term Strategy

The "Wolves at our Door" program will have a direct, long-term impact on participants through an increased understanding of wolves, their biology, the complexities of wolf-human relationships, and safety considerations for being around wolves and other wildlife. The knowledge young people gain from participation will prepare them to be the next generation of engaged citizens. The program will also have a direct, long-term impact on teachers by increasing their knowledge about wolves, modeling the Center's time-tested approach to teaching the public about wolves without bias, and in learning how to access the Center's curriculum resources. Parents, family members, friends and other acquaintances of program participants will be indirectly impacted as participants share what they have learned. And millions of people - in Minnesota and around the world - may become familiar with the program and its messages through the extensive promotion the Center will provide through its network of members, online users, social media fans and followers, media outlets, printed materials, and international network of leading biologists. In terms of long-term strategy, this proposal covers the project from beginning to end, with completion anticipated in June, 2018. In submitting this proposal, it is not our intention to extend the project beyond LCCMR's grant award period unless a new funding source is secured following an internal evaluation of the program's results and approval for extension by our Board.

C. Timeline Requirements

The project timeline will begin July 1, 2016, and conclude on June 30, 2018. Programs in public schools will be delivered primarily during September through May. During summer, the program will be available to year-round public schools, Minnesota State Parks programs, and summer youth programs in public parks. Throughout the year, the program will be available to public libraries and nature centers.

2016 Detailed Project Budget

Project Title: Expanded Wolves At our Door program

IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET July 2016 - June 2018

<u>BUDGET ITEM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Personnel	\$ 95,480
100% FT Outreach Educator salary and benefits (\$47,740/year x 2 years) One person Year-Round - 100% salary, 100% benefits	
100% FT Outreach Educator salary and benefits (\$45,465/year x 2 years) One person Year-Round - 100% salary, 100% benefits	\$ 90,930
10% FTE Outreach Educator salary and benefits (\$50,500/year x 2 years) One person Year-Round - 10% salary, 10% benefits	\$ 7,575
Equipment/Tools/Supplies:	\$ 3,200
Second educator Turning Point survey unit & 60 clickers + 10 extra for replacements (purchase of participant assessment tool to be used before and after program and post-program in evaluation)-	
Wireless Microphone for 3 educators	\$ 750
2 Projectors for 2nd & 3rd Educator for specific use of Wolves At Our Door (\$750 each) - Includes five replacement bulbs @ \$400/piece	\$ 3,500
21,000 Handouts - updated & reprinted (700 classrooms x 30 students/class x \$0.55each)	\$ 11,550
Postcards to mail for teachers and districts- \$700 for printing	\$ 700
Travel	\$ 20,327
Mileage for three outreach educators (projected 30,100 miles x \$0.575/mi. = \$17,250) +10 trips for each FT outreach educator for training @ 525 miles x \$0.575/mi. = \$3019	
Hotel stays for educators @\$100/night average (not to exceed state rate at each location) - projected 30 nights/year/educator	\$ 6,000
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =	\$ 240,012

V. OTHER FUNDS *(This entire section must be filled out. Do not delete rows. Indicate "N/A" if row is*

<u>SOURCE OF FUNDS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>Status</u>
Other Non-State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:	\$ 60,101	
Office space for educators, phones, copiers, new computer, meals while traveling, cell phone stipend, office supplies not covered by LCCMR Marketing and Promotions (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. Training and support @ 15% project cost (\$35091)		Costs covered by IWC general budget and private contributions - secured



International Wolf Center

Teaching the World about Wolves

Wolves at Our Door

LCCMR Grant Application 2015

Images from Education Outreach Programs



Top left: Outreach Educator, Tara Morrison, teaches a class about the wolf's jaw strength. **Middle:** A students learns about the wolf's undercoat. **Bottom:** Students are excited to hear a wolf howl for the first time.

Top right: During a Wolves at Our Door program, students are able to handle wolf artifacts. **Bottom right:** Young girl feels the difference between the long permanent guard hairs and undercoat

Expanded Wolves at our Door program

2016 LCCMR Proposal -- International Wolf Center

#6. Project Manager Qualifications and Organization Description

David Kline has served as the International Wolf Center's development director since February 2015 after serving as its communications director since August 2014. David 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. David has experience managing large grant-funded projects, having worked in development, fundraising and grant making for over 15 years, including at the Target Foundation, Northern Star Council-BSA, Dunwoody College of Technology, and Intellectual Takeout. David has Bachelors in Finance from the University of Minnesota and a Masters of Business Communications from the University of St. Thomas.

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 with the establishment of a permanent facility on the edge of the Boundary Waters Canoe Wilderness Area. 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 in Eveleth, MN. In 1998, a 3,260-square-foot addition provided a 120-seat wolf-viewing observation area and classroom, storage and laboratory space, funded by a 1996 bonding bill in the Minnesota State Legislature.

Administrative offices hosting finance, communications, outreach, membership and development are located in Minneapolis. The interpretive center and educational facility in Ely serves more than 35,000 annual visitors (60% are Minnesota residents) through daily programming, group visits, seminars and more; 5,000 members who also receive the quarterly *International Wolf* magazine featuring articles about wolves around the world; over 1,400 children through annual WolfLink videoconferencing presentations (made possible in part by 2010 LCCMR funds); and more than 1.8 million visits to its wolf.org Web site to watch live streaming Web cams of the Center's five ambassador wolves and explore other content.