

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

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**Project Title:**

**ENRTF ID: 118-C**

Native Youth Plant a Pollinator Meadow

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**Category:** C. Environmental Education

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**Total Project Budget:** \$ 55,487

**Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested:** 1 year, July 2016 to June 2017

**Summary:**

DWH will provide hands-on educational and cultural experiences for American Indian youth in our programs to learn about pollinators, and establishment and maintenance of pollinator habitat and native plants.

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**Name:** Diane Wilson

**Sponsoring Organization:** Dream of Wild Health

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Minneapolis MN 55404

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**Web Address** www.dreamofwildhealth.org

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**Location**

**Region:** Metro

**County Name:** Washington

**City / Township:** Hugo

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**Alternate Text for Visual:**

Dream of Wild Health (DWH) is a 10-acre, non-profit, organic farm located in Hugo, MN. At the back end of our farm, two acres lie directly beneath a large electric utility pole, specifically intended for pollinator habitat.

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

**PROJECT TITLE: Native Youth Plant a Pollinator Meadow**

**I. PROJECT STATEMENT**

We plan to address recent declines in pollinator populations with the installation of a Pollinator Meadow. The youth in our programs will assist in establishment and maintaining the acreage planted with native plants that are adapted to local soils and climate. Two acres that lie directly beneath a large electric utility pole have been in cover crop for several years to help the soil recover from years of conventional farming. We have designated this area as the Pollinator Meadow.

Our American Indian Youth Education & Leadership Program helps urban Native youth--80% of whom come from unstable and/or low-income homes--to take action to build a positive and sustainable future with their communities. In Minnesota, there are approximately 400 species of native bees alone that provide vital pollination services and are an important component of species diversity. Research suggests that our wild bee populations are also declining due to habitat loss and widespread use of pesticides. Yet these native species are best adapted to the climate and pollination needs of our native plants.

Primary goals and outcomes for the Pollinator Meadow are educational and environmental benefits: Educational: to provide American Indian youth with the skills and knowledge necessary to preserve the environment that sustains us.

Environmental: Pollinator habitat will provide diverse and constant nectar and pollen sources that will attract pollinators, including bees, butterflies, and birds, to the Native berry orchard, vegetable fields and kitchen garden to fertilize flowers that will improve fruition of crops.

Education Strategies:

- Teachings are provided in a culturally appropriate context with focus on holistic approaches;
- Experiential learning utilizes methods that have been developed as best practices suited to the learning style of Native students.
- Hands-on documentation methods learned and shared within their communities and public broadly

Environmental Strategies:

- Success in establishing native forbs, documented through recording survival rate
- Documenting pollinator variety and frequency through observation, photos, and recordkeeping
- Documenting presence of other avian and amphibians through photos and record keeping
- Comparing vegetable yields with prior year production

**Activity 1: (Building and Maintenance of Pollinator Meadow)**

**Budget: \$25,785**

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
<i>1. Assessment of health and returning Native plants and Pollinators</i>	<i>September 2016</i>
<i>2. Assessment of impact of pollinators</i>	<i>March 2017</i>
<i>3. Controlled Prairie Burn</i>	<i>April 2017</i>
<i>4. Assessment of returning Native plants and Pollinators</i>	<i>May 2017</i>
<i>5. Re-introduction and implementation of care plan of Native plants and pollinators</i>	<i>June 2017</i>

**Activity 2: (Education and Documentation of Pollinator Meadow)**

**Budget: \$29,702**

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
<i>1. Formal lessons: restoring native prairie habitat, identification of Native flora and fauna</i>	<i>September 2016</i>
<i>2. Media documentation of Meadow and Native plants and Pollinators</i>	<i>September 2016</i>
<i>3. Documentation of learnings and impact of pollinators on farming and community health</i>	<i>March 2017</i>
<i>4. Training and Participation in controlled Prairie Burn</i>	<i>April 2017</i>
<i>5. Education on impact of pollinators on farming and community health</i>	<i>June 2017</i>
<i>5. Participation in maintenance and re-introduction of Native plants and pollinators</i>	<i>June 2017</i>

### **III. PROJECT STRATEGY**

#### **A. Project Team/Partners**

Diane Wilson, Executive Director of DWH Farm, provides oversight and management for all aspects of implementation. She brings 20 years of non-profit management experience and years of training as a Master Gardener. Diane works with an advisory committee of community representatives and experts, including Dr. Craig Hassel, Associate Professor and Extension Nutritionist, Department of Food Science and Nutrition at the University of Minnesota and Beth Markhart, Consultant/Advisor.

Dream of Wild Health staff includes three farmers: a graduate of the Horticulture program at UofM, an experienced farmer from Oneida tribal farm; and a UofM Horticulture student who will be focusing on native plants, pollinator habitats and prairie restoration. Our three American Indian program staff include an elder knowledgeable of unique cultural aspects, with all three staff conversant in their language and experienced in culturally based youth education including responsible stewardship for our land and water, and essential relationships between pollinators and plants.

#### **B. Project Impact and Long-Term Strategy**

Maintaining a Pollinator meadow provides an excellent educational opportunity to pass on American Indian values and culture through Indigenous Youth education. Participants will be exposed to the methods of restoring and documenting native prairie habitat, identification of Native flora and fauna. Formal lessons will be taught with experiential learning on long term impact on Minnesota's environmental and community food security. The Pollinator Meadow will enhance ecological functioning beyond the services pollinators provide to crops. Given that prairie lands in Minnesota are down to .01% of their pre-colonial presence, a pollinator meadow will act as a small refuge for prairie community species.

The unique aspects of this project are to incorporate this work into experiential curriculum for American Indian youth participating in our summer programs. Our broad outreach efforts into both the rural Hugo community and the urban American Indian community provide numerous opportunities for educating farmers and public about the importance of pollinators in our food system. Because providing habitat and avoiding pesticides are two measures that can significantly affect pollinator health, this project will provide a compelling model for others to learn from.

Partial funding for installation of "Native Youth Plant a Pollinator Meadow" has been secured through SARE (Sustainable Agriculture and Research Education) and First Nations Development Institute. The implementation phase occurs May through November 2015. Guided by a Strategic Plan/Business Plan created in 2013, our goals are to increase food production, provide greater access to healthy produce, and support a sustainable healthy food system. In 2015 we hired a Co-Director of Programs & Development to help support our growth and who will be seeking sustainable funding.

#### **C. Timeline Requirements**

To manage a sustainable pollinator meadow a seasonal approach to the program is essential. Weather, pesticide use on neighboring farms, seasonal growth and decline are documented for successful maintenance of the Pollinator Meadow. The majority of our youth programs run June through September, with Youth Interns and Youth Leaders taking year round roles and community education. Youth engaged in learning are key to the long term success of the project and to the long term success of pollinators and farming/gardening in Minnesota.

## 2016 Detailed Project Budget

**Project Title: Native Youth Plant a Pollinator Meadow**

### IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET [1] years

<u>BUDGET ITEM</u> (See "Guidance on Allowable Expenses", p. 13)	<u>AMOUNT</u>
<b>Personnel:</b> Executive (Project) Director; 5% of \$51,950 FT (year round), 5% benefits = \$3,377 One FT farmer (Pollinator Meadow); 15,700 (7 mos. seasonal) 100% benefits = \$20,410 One FT Program Staff: 50% of \$33,600 (5 mos. seasonal) 50% benefits = \$21,840	\$45,627
<b>Professional/Technical/Service Contracts:</b> University of MN and Professional/Technical Pollinator Meadow Services - IN KIND Service Contract will be sought for Media Documentation	\$5,000
<b>Equipment/Tools/Supplies:</b> Golf Cart (1/2 cost '\$1,000' secured by SARE) = \$1,000 2 Burn Torches & 2 rakes = \$700.00 Water/Fire Safety Backpacks = 300.00 Perennial Seeds and Plants = \$1,250 Local Pollinator Identification Resources = \$150 30 Disposable Cameras = \$250 Film Development = \$360 Record Keeping software = \$150.00 Program Supplies (notepads \$50 and gloves \$150) = \$200	\$4,360
<b>Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements):</b> 2 acres held in sole ownership by Dream of Wild Health	\$0
<b>Travel:</b> Mileage to and from farm for Urban Youth and U of M student seasonal staff	\$500
<b>Additional Budget Items:</b>	\$0
<b>TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =</b>	<b>\$55,487</b>

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

<u>SOURCE OF FUNDS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>Status</u>
<b>Other Non-State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:</b> SARE (Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education) \$7,000 - to be requested if RFP available First Nations Development Institute \$7,500 - to be requested if RFP becomes available James R. Thorpe Foundation - Youth Education programming \$2,000	\$2,000	<i>Pending</i>
<b>Other State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:</b>	\$0	
<b>In-kind Services To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:</b> University of MN and Professional/Technical Pollinator Meadow Services - IN KIND	\$5,000	<i>Secured</i>
<b>Funding History:</b> SARE = \$7,500 First Nations Development Institute - \$7,000	\$14,500	<i>Secured</i>
<b>Remaining \$ From Current ENRTF Appropriation:</b> n/a	\$0	

An aerial photograph of a rural property. A red location pin is placed on a large, rectangular, brownish field in the center. To the right of this field, a large, irregularly shaped area is outlined with a bright green border. In the upper left, there is a residential area with a house, a garage, and several vehicles. A road with a white double line runs along the left edge of the image. The overall scene is a mix of agricultural fields, residential structures, and natural vegetation.

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16085 Jeffrey Ave N

### **DIANE WILSON**

(Dakota/Lakota enrolled Rosebud) Executive Director has a B.A. in Political Science from the University of Minnesota and over 20 years working in senior management and communications roles in various local nonprofit organizations. She is a Master Gardener and served as a volunteer and participant in Peta Wakan Tipi's Dream of Wild Health and Women's Circle for many years where the focus is on reducing American Indian health disparities. Diane is also a well-known author writing about her Dakota heritage and related issues. Diane's role as executive director is oversight of all organizational programs and finances.

- Master Gardener, Chisago County, 2005-present (inactive)
- Author, *Spirit Car: Journey to a Dakota Past*, memoir that examined assimilation policies and experience across five generations of her Dakota family.
- Author, *Beloved Child: A Dakota Way of Life*, nonfiction examines legacy of historical trauma through profiles of contemporary Native elders
- Volunteer, Dream of Wild Health, 2000-2008
- Community organizer for Dakota Commemorative March, 2002-2006

#### Honors

2006 Minnesota Book Award for *Spirit Car: Journey to a Dakota Past*

2012 Barbara Sudler Award from History Colorado for *Beloved Child: A Dakota Way of Life*

### **DREAM OF WILD HEALTH**

Dream of Wild Health (Peta Waka Tipi) is one of the longest continually operating Native American organizations in the Twin Cities, founded in 1986. Peta Wakan Tipi provided chemical dependency aftercare residences for Native American men and women. Its programs were grounded in cultural teachings and lifeways. In response to client and community needs to recover physical and spiritual health, Dream of Wild Health was created in 1998 as a garden program. Its goal was to bring the culinary, medicinal and spiritual uses of traditional Native plants to our clients and the larger Native American community.

The mission of Dream of Wild Health is to promote health in the Native community by expanding knowledge of and access to healthy indigenous foods and medicines. We work to restore health and well-being in the Twin Cities Native American community by increasing access to healthy fresh produce through our Hugo farm production, urban community garden, market outlets and food shelf donations; providing educational programs in cooking skills, nutritional knowledge, organic farming and healthy indigenous foods. We also create opportunities for youth employment and entrepreneurship through our farm to market distribution ventures; and opportunities for community service/volunteer work. Our farm and programs serve over 5,500 people each year from our youngest community members to our oldest.

We partner with multiple community organizations, schools, institutions and tribes in the local and regional area. DWH has an all Native Board of Directors and we are also guided by a Community Advisory Board. Our staff members have extensive experience and education in the fields of non-profit leadership and development, organic farming, nutrition and youth work. As well, our staff shares a passion for healthy indigenous foods and a commitment to working for the increased health and vitality of our shared future in the Native American community, and the restoration of indigenous models of respect for environment, land, foods, families and community.

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