

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund  
2017 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

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**Project Title:**

**ENRTF ID: 104-C**

Minnesota Bison Conservation Herd Film

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**Category:** C. Environmental Education

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**Total Project Budget:** \$ 103,852

**Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested:** 3 years, July 2017 - June 2020

**Summary:**

A film documenting the history, state-of-the-art science and human connections involved in Minnesota's attempt to save bison as a wildlife species before it's too late.

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**Sponsoring Organization:** MN DNR

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**Location**

**Region:** Statewide

**County Name:** Statewide

**City / Township:**

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**Alternate Text for Visual:**

A cow and calf pair grazes a Minnesota prairie.

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



**PROJECT TITLE: Minnesota Bison Conservation Herd Film**

**I. PROJECT STATEMENT**

A film documenting the history, state-of-the-art science and human connections involved in Minnesota’s attempt to save bison as a wildlife species before it’s too late.

1. Minnesota State Parks and Trails has established a conservation herd of bison with the reintroduction at Minneopa State Park. To achieve genetic security into the future, more host sites will be needed on a mixture of public and private lands reach a herd size of 500 animals. So this message may find new audiences, popular and easily distributed media explaining why bison are a vital part of Minnesota’s natural and cultural heritage must be deployed beyond State Park boundaries.
2. The interpretive documentary will expand outreach efforts to stakeholder citizens and can be a tool to recruit new partners in the Minnesota Bison Conservation Herd initiative. As audiences are exposed to this story awareness and support for bison and grassland conservation will increase. Bison and grassland resources will be protected by developing an informed citizenry aware of the advances in bison conservation biology. This project will elevate the public’s understanding, awareness, and support for bison conservation within Minnesota.
3. Several aspects of bison conservation will be explored including the cutting edge genetic technology such as reproductive cleansing used to combat diseases by circumventing quarantines and genetic sequencing used to detect cattle DNA. The dramatic history of bison in Minnesota and the cultural connections modern people place on them will be told. Multiple perspectives and values will be examined including those of American Indian communities. This film will be distributed over broadcast television, the web, and at Minnesota State Parks with bison herds.

**II. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:**

**Activity 1: Minnesota Bison Conservation Herd Interpretive Film**

**Budget: \$ 100,000.00**

This project will interpret the Minnesota Bison Conservation Herd partnership between the Minnesota Zoo and the Department of Natural Resources Division of Parks and Trails as it reintroduces bison with healthy genetics into State Parks and future partner lands. Using storytelling, compelling videography and celebrity narration, the history of bison from a Minnesota perspective and the efforts to save this animal in Minnesota will be depicted.

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
<i>1. Project out for bid</i>	<i>Winter 2018</i>
<i>2. Story board/script finalization</i>	<i>Summer 2018</i>
<i>3. Filming/editing finalization</i>	<i>June 2019</i>



### **III. PROJECT STRATEGY**

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

The project team includes staff from DNR. DNR and MN Zoo have an interagency agreement for cooperative management of bison and prairie wildlife native to Minnesota. Colorado State University is partnered to provide bison with Yellowstone genetic heritage. [Project Partners Receiving Funds – MN DNR](#). [Project Partners Not Receiving Funds - MN Zoological Gardens, Colorado State University](#).

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

Broad outreach efforts are critical to achieve the goal of 500 bison required for Minnesota’s conservation herd. DNR has suitable state parks, but is open to partnering with other organizations. In-kind contributions have been made by DNR and MN Zoo staff in managing the existing population and planning for the Minneopa reintroduction. DNR and MN Zoo may also submit a future request to assist with additional reintroduction sites.

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

It is anticipated that all aspects of the proposed project will be completed within a 36 month period of receiving funding. It is expected that the bulk of the infrastructure work will take place in 2018 and beyond because of the need for specific site planning, contract preparation, etc. prior to implementation.

## 2017 Detailed Project Budget

Project Title: Minnesota Minnesota Bison Conservation Herd Film

### IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET 3 years

<u>BUDGET ITEM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts: An RFP for a professional/technical contract will be sought for a film production/videography/editing company. This company will provide additional videography and final production editing services.	\$ 100,000
Additional Budget Items: Direct and necessary costs - HR Support (\$0), Safety Support (\$0), Financial Support (~\$1,400), Communication Support7(~\$1,316), IT Support (\$0), Planning Support (~\$912), Procurement Support (~\$197)	\$ 3,825
<b>TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =</b>	<b>\$ 103,825</b>

### V. OTHER FUNDS

<u>SOURCE OF FUNDS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>Status</u>
Other Non-State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:	\$ -	N/A
Other State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:	\$ -	N/A
In-kind Services To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:	\$ -	N/A
Funding History: M.L. 2015 Reintroduction and Interpretation of Bison in Minnesota State Parks. Three budget items from this grant: Interpretive signage, bison buggy, and interperative naturalist 2 50% FTE for 1 year.	\$ 179,217	in process
Remaining \$ From Current ENRTF Appropriation: M.L. 2015 Reintroduction and Interpretation of Bison in Minnesota State Parks. RFP for interrepive wayside exhibits design, fabricate, install will be issued April 2016 for \$50,000. Bison Buggy and interpretive Naturalist to operate has not been bid and hired as of this proposal.	\$ 175,000	Unspent



## **Environment Trust Fund 2017 Project Proposal**

### **Project Title: Minnesota Bison Conservation Herd Film**

#### Project Manager Qualifications

Alexander Watson:

As a regional naturalist for the Division of Parks and Trails, Alexander Watson coordinates interpretive programs and exhibits throughout State Parks and Trails in the 33 southwest counties of the DNR Southern Region and occasionally statewide. These activities help visitors to public lands explore their connections to Minnesota's natural and cultural heritage.

#### Organization Description

The Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Trails operates 67 state parks, 8 state recreation areas, 575 miles of surfaced state trail, 1,610 water access sites, 30 water trails and 9 state waysides throughout Minnesota. The Division connects people to the state's natural resources by providing access to outdoor recreation, conservation education and natural resource restoration and management.

The vision of the Parks and Trails Division is to create unforgettable park, trail and water recreation experiences that inspire people to pass along the love for the outdoors to current and future generations.