

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2018 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

Project Title:

ENRTF ID: 127-C

Preparing Minnesotans for Changes in Wolf Management

Category: C. Environmental Education

Total Project Budget: \$ 1,200,000

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: 2 years, July 2018 to June 2020

Summary:

Minnesotans need to understand the complexities of successful state-controlled management, conflict resolution, and co-existence with our 2,400 wolves. A new educational exhibit at the International Wolf Center will help.

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Sponsoring Organization: International Wolf Center

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Location

Region: Northeast

County Name: St. Louis

City / Township: Ely

Alternate Text for Visual:

Potential interactive howling room at the new Wolf Discovery Center

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



PROJECT TITLE: Preparing Minnesotans for Changes in Wolf Management

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

Since 1993, over one million people have learned about wolves at the International Wolf Center's vibrant interpretive center in Ely. It is home to live ambassador wolves, great programs and educational exhibits. However, the original 1980's era main exhibit fails to prepare Minnesotans for today's changes in wolf management. It desperately needs a major overhaul to become the dynamic, new interactive *Wolf Discovery Center*. It will educate and fascinate the next million people by including:

- Sensational hands-on elements for all ages
- Interactive and durable technological activities
- Invigorated historical displays about wolves in our culture
- Helpful details for Minnesotans (especially those living in or near wolf territory) on how to best live alongside this keystone animal
- Information for better understanding on the challenges our Minnesota DNR faces with wolf management now that federal delisting of wolves appears imminent

The *Wolf Discovery Center* will also:

- Help farmers, ranchers, pet owners and all Minnesotans understand how to reduce wolf-human conflicts
- Tell the story of Minnesota's successes, challenges, leadership, and heritage in wolf recovery, research, management, and education
- Incorporate the expertise of Minnesota's home-grown International Wolf Center
- Strengthen the Arrowhead region as a vibrant tourist destination

II. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

Activity 1: Design, construction/installation of dynamic, interactive exhibit

Budget: \$1,200,000

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Exhibit area (interior) site preparation	December 2019
2. Build many displays off-site for installation	December 2019
3. Prepare exhibit infrastructure for installation (interior walls, electrical, flooring, etc.)	February 2020
4. Install displays	April 2020

III. PROJECT STRATEGY

A. Project Team/Partners

The project team will consist of full-time Center staff, volunteer board members and outside contractors. Rob Schultz, David Kline, Krista Harrington (paid for by the IWC) and IWC volunteer board member Paul Anderson will work with the designers and project managers from the design-build firm (paid for by ENRTF funds) yet to be selected by an RFP.



B. Project Impact and Long-Term Strategy

The *Wolf Discovery Center's* impact will be more Minnesotans and tourists coming to the Arrowhead region to learn about complex wolf issues like wolf management changes. After this investment by the ENRTF, no additional funding requests to the ENRTF will be necessary for operations/maintenance.

Annual attendance at the Ely interpretive center has been stagnant in recent years. This dynamic, new exhibit will boost attendance and generate public interest in learning how to live alongside wolves.

Our long-term strategy is to keep the *Wolf Discovery Center* relevant and attractive through engaging and up-to-date content. The design will include flexible technology like touch screen kiosks where content can be frequently uploaded, helping it feel current. Key components will be interactive experiences such as a "Howling Room" where small groups enter to discover how wolves communicate by howling with a simulated pack. These experiences will be a repeat attraction much like how a theme park's rides attract return thrill-seekers.

C. Timeline Requirements

Once ENRTF funds are approved, the International Wolf Center can initiate the RFP from design-build firms with its own designated funds. Approved final plans will trigger the start of on and off-site work around November 1, 2019. Installation will finish in the spring months of 2020 with a grand opening around the Memorial Day Weekend of 2020 at the latest.

2018 Detailed Project Budget

Project Title: Wolf Discovery Center

INSTRUCTIONS AND TEMPLATE (1 PAGE LIMIT)

Attach budget, in MS-EXCEL format, to your "2018 LCCMR Proposal Submission Form".

(1-page limit, single-sided, 10 pt. font minimum. Retain bold text and DELETE all instructions typed in italics. ADD OR DELETE ROWS AS NECESSARY. If budget item row is not applicable put "N/A" or delete it. All of "Other Funds" section must be filled out.)

IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET 2 years

BUDGET ITEM (See "Guidance on Allowable Expenses", p. 13)	AMOUNT
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts: The design-build firm secured through an RFP process will complete the schematic designs previously started and paid for by the International Wolf Center.	\$ 140,500
Equipment/Tools/Supplies: Construction (equipment and labor) of the exhibit by the design-build firm.	\$ 1,059,500
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =	\$ 1,200,000

** Note to LCCMR Staff. Estimates are almost final and thus the total may change to \$1.1 million, thus affecting the two main expenses making up the total.*

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

SOURCE OF FUNDS	AMOUNT	Status
Other Non-State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period: International Wolf Center private donations held in a reserve fund for schematic design plans secured through an RFP. These funds may overlap the project period by several weeks or months.	\$ 100,000	Secured
Staff time for executive, development, communications and educational directors. Approximately 5% of each's time during the project period will be spent on the project. Funds are from the general operations budget of the International Wolf Center.	\$ 10,000	Secured
International Wolf Center funds will be used to promote through advertising the grand opening.	\$ 7,500	Secured
Other State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:	N/A	N/A
In-kind Services To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:	N/A	N/A
Past and Current ENRTF Appropriation:	N/A	N/A
Other Funding History:	N/A	N/A



An interactive howling room will teach how
wolves communicate at the new *Wolf Discovery*
Center.

07/29/2017

ENRTF ID: 127-C

Wolf Discovery Center

2017 LCCMR Proposal -- International Wolf Center

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 16 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 44,000 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; 3,000 children through WolfLink videoconferencing (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.

To: Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR)

From: Nancy jo Tubbs, Chair, Board of Directors, International Wolf Center

Date: May 11, 2017

Re: Letter Authorizing 2018 LCCMR Proposal Submission

The Board of Directors of the International Wolf Center (IWC) authorizes and endorses the submission of the organization's 2018 LCCMR Proposal for \$1.2 million. We are grateful for LCCMR's past support of the Center and appreciate the opportunity to bring forward this proposal.

A new *Wolf Discovery Center* will be the centerpiece interactive exhibit giving new and returning visitors a sensational reason to learn at the Ely, Minnesota interpretive center. Minnesota school children (especially those living in or near wolf territory) will have a fascinating opportunity to understand how to best live alongside this keystone animal. Other citizens need a resource to understand the challenges our Minnesota DNR faces with wolf management issues in a time when federal delisting of wolves appears imminent. The goal of teaching people of all ages about our state's wolf population is to reduce wolf-human conflicts through memorable educational opportunities like the new *Wolf Discovery Center*.

We believe this project advances the 2018 LCCMR Environmental Education funding priorities, as the new *Wolf Discovery Center* will interactively disseminate information "that will increase the knowledge and skills of students," and "the public...to restore and maintain a healthy and biodiverse natural environment."

Since 1985, the IWC has taught people of all ages about wolves and their relationship to wildlands through our flagship education center in Ely, MN. Annually, we serve over 44,000 visitors; nearly two million more through our award-winning website wolf.org; and 5,000 member-readers with the quarterly *International Wolf* magazine. The Center's interactive educational offerings engage children and adults in classrooms, online and in the wild.

Based on our 32 years of experience, we believe the complex issues surrounding wolves and their relationship to humans are most efficiently addressed through educational programs and exhibits based on scientific knowledge. Community members see us as a trusted resource for unbiased information to help answer their questions about wolf issues.

