

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

---

**Project Title:**

**ENRTF ID: 178-F**

Nongame Wildlife Program Acceleration

---

**Category:** F. Methods to Protect or Restore Land, Water, and Habitat

---

**Total Project Budget: \$** 2,000,000

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

**Summary:**

This acceleration package will fulfill ENTRF goals including rare wildlife data collection and management, conservation education, collaborative land protection management, & new emphasis on nature tourism to benefit rural communities.

---

**Name:** Carrol Henderson

**Sponsoring Organization:** MN DNR

**Address:** Nongame Wildlife Program, Box 25, Dept of Natural Resources, 500 Lafayette Road  
St. Paul MN 55155

**Telephone Number:** (651) 259-5104

**Email** carrol.henderson@state.mn.us

**Web Address** mndnr.gov/nongame

---

**Location**

**Region:** Statewide

**County Name:** Statewide

**City / Township:**

---

**Alternate Text for Visual:**

Loons helping Loons. ENRTF matching donations to the Nongame Wildlife Fund will include identification of a Wildlife Action Network sites that are a priority for wildlife conservation

_____ 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)

### 2018 Main Proposal

#### Project Title: Nongame Wildlife Program Acceleration

**PROJECT TITLE:** Nongame Wildlife Program Acceleration

**Budget:** \$2,000,000

## I .PROJECT STATEMENT

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' Nongame Wildlife Program is entrusted with the conservation of Minnesota's wildlife that are not traditionally hunted or harvested. This represents over 1000 species of wildlife. These species are integral parts of our landscapes, providing ecological and economic benefits, educational opportunities and recreational enjoyment for Minnesotans. The Nongame Wildlife Program is regarded as one of the most effective and successful conservation programs of its kind. This proposal will accelerate the delivery and effectiveness of the program by providing a 1:1 match to the approximately \$1 million that citizens donate to the program annually, primarily through a checkoff on their state tax returns.

Donations from tax returns, which had averaged over \$1 million annually, dropped during the 2008 recession and have been slow to recover to previous levels but are now approaching \$1 million/year. This has prevented the Nongame Wildlife Program from keeping up with the demands for conserving and managing nongame wildlife habitats and providing the public with recreational opportunities focused on nongame wildlife.

Minnesota's Wildlife Action Plan, which directs much of the work of the Nongame Wildlife Program, was updated in 2015. The plan identifies a statewide "Wildlife Action Network" as a strategy for maintaining and enhancing habitat for all wildlife. Within the network, habitat management efforts will be concentrated in "Conservation Focus Areas" where effectiveness and long-term outcomes will also be tracked. These efforts will support other conservation efforts such as the MN Prairie Conservation Plan, and it will help ensure that our conservation efforts maintain resilient wildlife populations and sustainable ecosystems into the future. Additional priorities in the Wildlife Action Plan include: 1) surveys to reassess the status of several state listed species, 2) improving the collection, management and delivery of foundational information on nongame species, 3) an evaluation of educational efforts focused on nongame wildlife and 4) providing additional recreational opportunities focused on nongame species. This proposal will enable the DNR and its conservation partners to accelerate implementation of our new wildlife action plan goals.

## II. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

**Activity 1:** Implement conservation actions for two regionally-based Conservation Focus Areas. This includes facilitating the development and implementation of habitat management objectives and development of effectiveness measures. This will be done in collaboration with DNR wildlife managers and external conservation partners. **Budget: \$ 1,000,000**

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Establish partnerships to identify management goals and effectiveness measures for two Conservation Focus Areas.	2019
2. Initiate effectiveness monitoring by collecting baseline data on approximately 350 acres across two Conservation Focus Areas.	2020
3. Initiate management actions on at least 350 total acres across two Conservation Focus Areas.	2020

**Activity 2:** Accelerate the collection, management and delivery of data on nongame wildlife species. **Budget: \$500,000**



## Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)

### 2018 Main Proposal

#### Project Title: Nongame Wildlife Program Acceleration

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Conduct assessments on two species listed in Objective 3.1 of the Wildlife Action plan to determine appropriate listing status.	2020
2. Incorporate individual nongame data sets into a central observation database so information is readily accessible to provide technical guidance, conservation planning, and facilitate conducting environmental review efforts.	2020
3. Enhance functionality of the observation database to allow better access for data analysis and decrease staff time needed to maintain data.	2020

**Activity 3: Recreation.** Plan and implement the “Heart of the Bog Birding Trail” in northern Minnesota that will benefit local communities, the hospitality industry, and provide opportunities for local guides and outfitters. This trail will feature the wildlife, wildflowers, and natural landscapes of the lowland conifer forests we know as “bogs.”

**Budget: \$ 200,000**

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Plan and develop the “Heart of the Bog Birding Trail,” to highlight the wildlife, plant life, and landscape features of this important northern ecosystem and promote economic benefits to rural communities on the birding trail corridor.	2020

**Activity 4: Education and Outreach.** Develop a conservation outreach strategy that includes new citizen science opportunities, identifies nongame publics and their support for conservation, and improves effectiveness of conservation education including delivery to underserved publics. Expand existing Project WET and Project WILD efforts.

**Budget: \$300,000**

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Evaluate and prioritize current educational efforts with a focus on reaching outstate and underserved publics and incorporating citizen science in our education programs.	2020
2. Develop and conduct a repeatable survey designed to measure the public’s interest in and support of conservation values and knowledge and conservation of rare wildlife.	2020

### III. PROJECT STRATEGY

#### A. Project Team/Partners

Project partners will include the DNR Divisions Ecological and Water Resources, Fish and Wildlife, Parks and Trails, Lands and Minerals, and Forestry, conservation organizations associated with the Conservation Focus Areas, the University of Minnesota, and communities in Minnesota associated with recreational opportunities.

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

This effort will enable the Nongame Wildlife Program to better address the conservation, education, and recreational needs of Minnesota’s nongame wildlife species and their habitats.

#### C. Timeline Requirements

This two-year project will benefit Minnesota wildlife by a collaborative conservation effort in which ENRTF monies would provide a 1:1 match to voluntary Nongame Wildlife Checkoff donations by Minnesota citizens to the Nongame Wildlife Fund. This would promote conservation accomplishments of the ENRTF and increase the long term effectiveness of the Nongame Wildlife Program for wildlife conservation in Minnesota.

## 2018 Detailed Project Budget

**Project Title:** Nongame Wildlife Program Acceleration

### IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET: two years

<b>BUDGET ITEM</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
<b>Personnel:</b>	
<b>Activity 1.</b> One Conservation Focus Area coordinator, 2 years. *See below regarding fringe.	\$200,000
<b>Activity 2.</b> Data entry technician staff. 1/1/2 yrs. * See below regarding fringe.	\$170,000
* Salaries include ~15-25% fringe benefits as per state union contracts.	
<b>Professional/Technical/Service Contracts:</b>	
<b>Activity 1.</b> RFP for baseline data/monitoring/analysis of conservation effectiveness on 2 CFAs. 2	\$270,000
<b>Activity 1.</b> Habitat management specialist TBD with Section of Wildlife, for implementation of habitat treatments-restoration, invasive control, prescribed burns, stream restoration-2 CFAs .	\$500,000
<b>Activity 2.</b> Two RFP contracts for biologists TBD to survey and assess status on two species. 2 yrs. RFP to cover survey design, survey supplies, travel, lodging, data analysis, and final report.	\$250,000
<b>Activity 2.</b> Contract with MNIT to enhance improve Observation Database to improve data analysis functions and decrease staff time need to analyze data. Two years.	\$80,000
<b>Activity 3.</b> RFP for naturalist project manager (50% time) to plan & finalize trail corridor, conduct informational meetings, solicit corporate sponsors, and create trail working group.	\$250,000
<b>Activity 4.</b> RFP for survey on educational needs, priorities, opportunities, & conservation ideas.	\$ 90,000
<b>Activity 4.</b> RFP for Nongame Program survey on conservation values, program direction, program awareness, funding strategies, motivation, perceptions and knowledge of wildlife	\$ 130,000
<b>Equipment/Tools/Supplies:</b>	
<b>Activity 1.</b> Supplies, 2 years. Meeting materials, field tablet, and tools associated with establishment of Conservation Focus Areas.	\$10,000
<b>Activity 4.</b> Educational supplies and display and exhibit materials	\$30,000
<b>Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements): N/A</b>	\$ -
<b>Travel:</b>	
<b>Activity 1.</b> Travel. 2 years. Conservation Focus Area Coordinator. Mileage and fleet charges for cars, trucks, lodging, and meals as per state contract, two years.	\$20,000
<b>**Direct and Necessary expenses: HR Support (~\$5,196), Safety Support (~\$ 1,194), Financial Support (~\$26,130), Communication Support (~\$1,271), IT Support (~\$10,760), and Planning Support (~\$1,072) necessary to accomplish funded programs/projects.</b> Direct and Necessary expenses include Department Support Services (Human Resources, IT Support, Safety, Financial Support, Communications Support, and Planning Support). Department Support Services are described in the agency Service Level Agreement and billed internally to divisions based on rate that have been developed for each area of service. These services are directly related to and necessary for the appropriation. Department leadership services (Commissioner's Office and Regional Directors) are not assessed. Those elements of individual projects that put little or no demand on support services such as large single-source contracts, large land acquisitions, and funds that are passed through to other entities are not assessed Direct and Necessary costs for those activities.	\$45,622
<b>TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =</b>	<b>\$ 2,045,622</b>

### V. OTHER FUNDS

<b>SOURCE OF FUNDS</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
<b>Other Non-State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period: N/A</b>	\$ -
<b>Other State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:</b> Nongame Wildlife Program match: travel, supplies, equipment used for designation of CFAs.	\$40,000
<b>In-kind Services To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:</b> Nongame Wildlife Program staff time: 4 full-time equivalents for planning & implementation.	\$280,000
<b>Past and Current ENRTF Appropriation: N/A</b>	\$ -
<b>Other Funding History: N/A</b>	\$ -

# Loons Helping Loons

## ENRTF matching donations to the Nongame Wildlife Fund



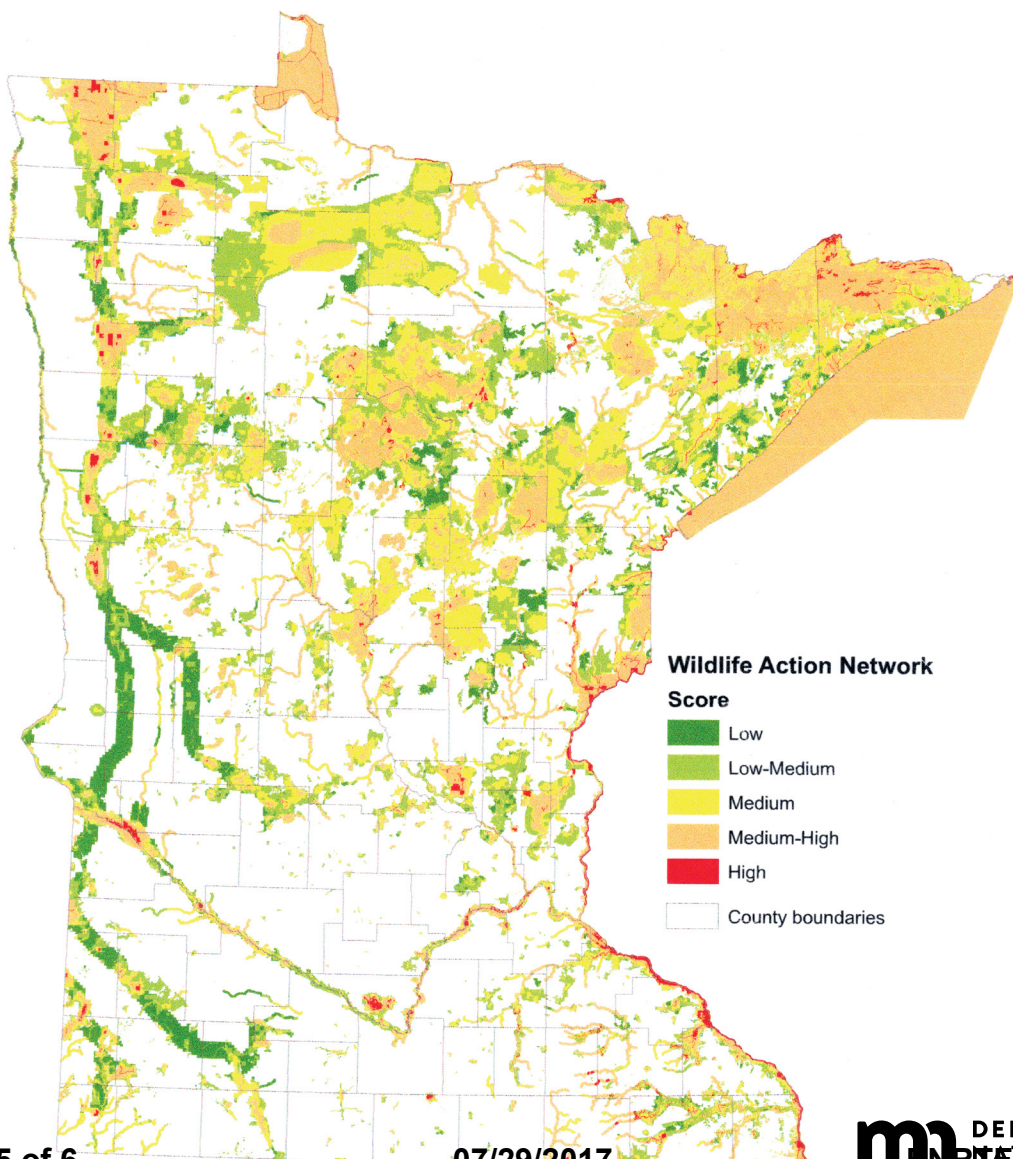
•  
•

**21** Nongame Wildlife Fund contribution (see instructions)

This will reduce your refund or increase amount you owe .....



## A Natural Partnership for Wildlife Conservation



### **Program Manager Qualifications**

Project Manager: Carrol Henderson  
Affiliation Department of Natural Resources, Nongame Wildlife Program  
Mailing Address 500 Lafayette Rd Box 25, Saint Paul, MN 55155  
Telephone No.: 651-259-5104 Fax: 651-296-1811  
E-mail: carrol.henderson@state.mn.us

Carrol Henderson, a 44-year employee of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR), has been supervisor of the MNDNR's Nongame Wildlife Program since 1977. The Nongame Wildlife Program is within the MNDNR Division of Ecological and Water Resources. He has a B.S. in zoology from Iowa State University (1968) and a Master of Forest Resources degree in ecology from the University of Georgia (1970). His graduate studies included coursework in forestry, wildlife management, ecology, journalism, feature writing, and public relations.

In 1977 he was hired to create and develop Minnesota's new Nongame Wildlife Program for the Department of Natural Resources. He has continued in that role to the present and has developed a comprehensive program for the development and protection of Minnesota's nongame and endangered wildlife species. During the past 41 years Henderson has developed a statewide program for the conservation of nongame wildlife that has received both national and international recognition. He has helped plan and carry out restoration of peregrine falcons, bald eagles, eastern bluebirds, river otters and trumpeter swans in Minnesota. In 2012 Henderson received the Gary T. Myers Bird Conservation Award from the North American Bird Conservation Initiative as the outstanding bird conservationist in North America. In 2016 he received the national Frances K. Hutchinson conservation award from the Garden Clubs of America for his lifetime accomplishments in natural resource conservation. The only other Minnesotan who has received this award was Sigurd Olson. Other recipients of this award have included Roger Tory Peterson, Rachel Carson, Lady Bird Johnson, and Walt Disney.

From 1982 to 2011 Henderson provided the LCMR/LCCMR with 15 biennial workplans for the Nongame Wildlife Program and six-month updates for implementation of the Nongame Wildlife Program budget as specified within those work plans.

Henderson has received allocations from the LCMR/LCCMR for four major conservation initiatives including Lakescaping for Wildlife and Water Quality, Minnesota Wildlife Tourism Initiative, Digital Photography Bridge to Nature, and investigations on the impact of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill on Minnesota's loons and white pelicans. All LCCMR projects were successfully completed within the allocated budgets and within stated timelines.

**Minnesota Wildlife Tourism Initiative.** \$250,000 for FY '98-'99.

**Lakescaping for Wildlife and Water Quality Initiative,** 5 allocations totaling \$1,068,100 from FY '98 through FY '11.

**Digital Photography Bridge to Nature Initiative,** \$160,000, FY '11-'12.

**Species of Concern: Investigations:** \$250,000. FY '12-'14

**Contaminants in Minnesota's Loons and Pelicans-Phase 2:** \$260,000. FY '15-'16

**Assessing Contaminants in Minnesota Loons & Pelicans-Phase III:** \$141000. FY' 16-'17.

**Organization Description:** The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR)'s mission is to work with citizens to conserve and manage the state's natural resources, to provide outdoor recreation opportunities, and to provide for commercial uses of natural resources in a way that creates a sustainable quality of life.