

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund  
2019 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

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**Project Title:**

**ENRTF ID: 134-C**

Northwest Minnesota Partners Unite to Grow Eco-system Stewards

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**Category:** C. Environmental Education

**Sub-Category:**

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**Total Project Budget: \$** 214,840

**Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested:** June 30, 2022 (3 yrs)

**Summary:**

The Tamarac Nature Connection unites natural resource partners and is organized for the purpose of providing regional school districts with hands-on, water ecosystem education, which focuses on sustainability and stewardship.

**Name:** Bill Henke

**Sponsoring Organization:** Friends of Tamarac NWR

**Title:** Board Director

**Department:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** 35704 County Hwy 26  
Rochert MN 56578

**Telephone Number:** (218) 844-1767

**Email** tamaracrefuge@gmail.com

**Web Address** www.tamaracfriends.org

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**Location**

**Region:** Northwest

**County Name:** Becker, Clearwater, Hubbard, Mahnomen, Otter Tail

**City / Township:** Detroit Lakes, Frazee, Perham, Mahnomen, Park Rapids, Ponsford, White Earth, Naytawa

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**Alternate Text for Visual:**

School Districts impacted include: Mahnomen, Bagley, Waubun- Ogema-WhiteEarth, Detroit Lakes, LakePark-Audubun, Frazee-Vergas, Perham-Dent, Pelican Rapids, Park Rapids

<input type="checkbox"/>	Funding Priorities	<input type="checkbox"/>	Multiple Benefits	<input type="checkbox"/>	Outcomes	<input type="checkbox"/>	Knowledge Base
<input type="checkbox"/>	Extent of Impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	Innovation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific/Tech Basis	<input type="checkbox"/>	Urgency
<input type="checkbox"/>	Capacity Readiness	<input type="checkbox"/>	Leverage	<input type="checkbox"/>		TOTAL	<input type="checkbox"/> %
<input type="checkbox"/> If under \$200,000, waive presentation?							



**PROJECT TITLE: Northwest Minnesota Partners Unite to Grow Eco-system Stewards**

**I. PROJECT STATEMENT**

The Friends of Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge will launch the Tamarac Nature Connection with regional natural resource partners in the Fall 2019. The program will serve as a model for other regions in the state to improve hands-on environmental education in the field. This program will be spearheaded by a part-time environmental educator, who will also serve as a volunteer manager. With the goal of creating a self-sustaining program, education delivery strategies will be determined by an advisory team consisting of Friends of Tamarac board members and representatives of the regional partners.

- Eight regional entities coming together to provide environmental education in the field.
- Ten school districts and 3 stand-alone schools to receive environmental education reaching 11,361 students.
- More than half of the school districts educate children enrolled in the White Earth Tribe.
- Partner organizations to provide the scientific expertise to train staff and volunteers.
- Volunteer teams recruited, trained and managed to provide outdoor, hands-on activities.
- In the field, grade-level appropriate instruction that addresses environmental literacy and graduation standards.
- Annual evaluation on how the program meets best practices for environmental education, as identified by the North American Association for Environmental Education in their Guidelines for Excellence in Environmental Education.
- Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge is 43,000 acres, encompasses three major biomes, and will serve as the primary outdoor classroom for many of the activities.
- Develop traveling replica sculptures to enhance identification of invasive species vs native species.
- Published guide and presentations to share the partnership process and successes.

As a regional coordinator, the Tamarac Nature Connection will increase the capacity of partners to meet their environmental education priorities, as measured by the increase in number of programs presented and the number of students attending.

**II. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES**

**Activity 1:** *Establish an advisory team of natural resource partners to develop a regional strategy for environmental education and recruit volunteers for the regional delivery of programs and outreach.*

**ENRTF BUDGET: \$ 25,000**

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
1. <i>At least 5 partners will provide staff to participate on the team along with Friends board members. A strategic plan for the program and sustainability will be published.</i>	12/30/2019
2. <i>Volunteer teams –at least 20 people - will be recruited and trained to provide educational activities.</i>	12/30/2020
3. <i>A guide on establishing a regional environmental education partnership program will be published (electronic) and presented at least twice at state-wide conferences or meetings.</i>	07/30/2022

**Activity 2:** *Educational activities that address aquatic plant ecology, watersheds, stream stabilization, aquatic invasive species and the three biomes of the region prairie, hardwoods, and conifer forests will be delivered to the partner school districts.*

**ENRTF BUDGET: \$ 189,840**

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
1. <i>Educational field experiences for 8 school districts are delivered, supplies are collected</i>	08/01/2020



**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)  
2019 Main Proposal Template**

2. Educational field experiences for 9 school districts are delivered in the 2020-2021 school year– each partner school participates in 3 public land visits/school year and 3 pre & post activities.	07/01/2021
3. Educational field experiences for 10 school districts are delivered in the 2021-2022 school year– each partner school participates in 3 public land visits/school year and 3 pre & post activities.	07/01/2022

**III. PROJECT PARTNERS:**

**A. Partners receiving ENRTF funding - NA**

**B. Partners NOT receiving ENRTF funding**

Name	Title	Affiliation	Role
Becker County Soil and Water	AIS Program	Community Partner with AIS Program	Training & Supplies Scientific Support
Becker County Environment Services	Recycling and Hazardous Waste	Community Partner in Waste Education	Training & Supplies Scientific Support
Becker County Coalition of Lake Associations		Community Connection to local lake shore owners	Training & Supplies
Pelican River Watershed District		Watershed of the region	Training & Supplies Scientific Support
Buffalo River Watershed District		Watershed of the region	Training & Supplies Scientific Support
Wild Rice Watershed District		Watershed of the region	Training & Supplies Scientific Support
White Earth Nation	Natural Resources Department	Community Partner and Local land owner	Training & Supplies, Connection with White Earth Schools
Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge		Landowner for site of 75% of educational activities	Provide office space and general office supplies

**IV. LONG-TERM- IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING:**

The Friends of Tamarac will work with the partners and schools to develop a strategy for public and private funding to continue this program. During the establishment of the program fundraising efforts will be explored to continue the education program.

**V. TIME LINE REQUIREMENTS:**

2019 - August – Advisory Team convenes, December – Nature Connection Strategies complete  
 2020- Jan/February – Environmental Educator is hired, March/April - Training & Partner collaboration, May/June – Education Activities Delivered , July/Aug – Volunteer Recruitment & Training, Partner School Agreements, Aug-Dec – Education Delivered  
 2021- Jan-May – Education Delivered, June/July- Evaluations & Adjustments Made, Partner School Agreements, Aug – Volunteer Recruitment & Training, Aug-Dec – Education Delivered  
 2022 - Jan-May – Education Delivered, June/July- Evaluations, Partner School Agreements, July – Nature Connection Guide Completed, August- Dec -Nature Connection Guide shared

## 2019 Proposal Budget Spreadsheet

**Project Title: Northwest Minnesota Partners Unite to Grow Eco-system Stewards**



### IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET - 3 years 2019-2022

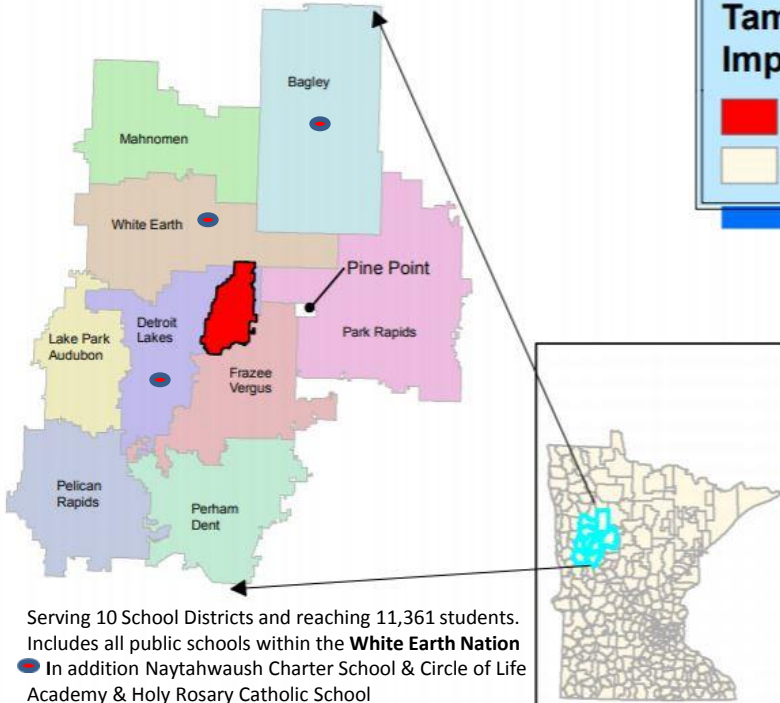
BUDGET ITEM (See "Guidance on Allowable Expenses")	AMOUNT
<b>Personnel:</b> 1. Environmental Educator - part-time, year round. Salary. \$60,000 per year x 3 years 2020-2022 2. Project and fiscal management - a) Portion of the salary of the Friends of Tamarac Office Manager- does not exceed 5% - \$5000	\$ 185,000
<b>Professional/Technical/Service Contracts:</b>	\$ -
<b>Equipment/Tools/Supplies:</b> Youth educational tools and supplies such as: waders \$80 ea x 15, magnifiers 100 -\$350 , aquatic dip nets \$120 ea x12- \$1440, journals 2500-\$4500, educational identification cards/keys \$500, Storage tubs and misc \$250 = <b>\$8240</b> Replica invasive/native species - educational traveling sculptures - 12 @ \$800ea <b>\$9600</b> produced by local artist/sculture about 10x 12 inches in size dependent on species to compare native vs invasive aquatic species.	\$ 17,840
<b>Acquisition (Fee Title or Permanent Easements):</b>	\$ -
<b>Travel:</b> In state travel to attend training and conduct education events in surrounding counties of Becker, Ottertail, Clearwater, Hubbard, Mahnommen.	\$ 3,000
<b>Additional Budget Items:</b> Training for volunteers \$3,000/year x 3 years workshop and training tuition, training materials and resources (books & other media)	\$ 9,000
<b>TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =</b>	<b>\$ 214,840</b>

### 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
<b>Other Non-State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:</b> Friends of Tamarac Bus Funding - financial assistance to schools for transportation to nature field sites	\$ 5,000	<i>secured</i>
<b>Other State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:</b>	\$ -	NA
<b>In-kind Services To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:</b> Volunteer Team for teaching students in the outdoors. Approximately 15 volunteers donating 750 total hours per year. Based on current volunteer estimated value by the Independent Sector \$24.14 per hour (2016)- \$50,694. Training and supplies provided by partner organizations \$5,000	\$ 55,694	<i>secured</i>
<b>Past and Current ENRTF Appropriation:</b>	\$ -	NA
<b>Other Funding History:</b> Education supplies - funding for waders from Becker County COLA	\$ 500	<i>secured</i>

# Tamarac Refuge School District Impact Map-NW Minnesota

-  Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge
-  Tamarac School District Boundaries



**Project Manager:**

Bill Henke, Email: wchenke1@gmail.com

Board of Directors, Friends of Tamarac NWR

Active Leader in Isaak Walton League of America, retired physician, hunter and local visionary for environmental stewardship development and environmental education.

**Organizational Description:****Friends of Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge**

35704 County Hwy 26

Rochert, MN 56578

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[www.tamaracfriends.org](http://www.tamaracfriends.org)

Federal Identification Number: 41 -1732084

The Friends of Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge is a 501(c)3 organization. The mission of Friends of Tamarac is to facilitate activities and programs that educate, interpret, protect and restore the natural and cultural resources of Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge.

Established in 1992 this nonprofit group is made up of an active 12 member board and over 200 members. The Friends sponsor educational programs and events, build observation platforms, generate thousands of grant dollars for water quality and habitat projects, host a popular nature photography contest, and so much more. Our energy and passion is evident in a recently completed an \$800,000 classroom building, Tamarac Discovery Center, and initiating an effort to further develop the volunteer education leaders that are the heart of the outdoor programs. We are an advocate for wildlife refuges and passionate about protecting wild places for generations. We feel connecting people and nature is a vital component to sustainable, healthy communities. The volunteers of Tamarac donated over 7,000 hours of service in 2017.

The education program at Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge, Tamarac Adventures, has been a success with the community for over 5 years. During that time we've developed relationships with seven partner school districts. The majority of this program is funded through private donations. The program currently engages 700 students in on-site activities in the course of three visits during each school year. 50% of the schools are from the White Earth Indian Reservation and we'd like to add more and become a regional provider of environmental education. The Friends of Tamarac are committed to growing into a new education program that supports the region in developing environmental stewards.