



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2027 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2027-426

Proposal Title: Increasing Access to Outdoor Recreation for 21,000 Minnesotans

Project Manager Information

Name: Nell Holden

Organization: Wilderness Inquiry

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Email: nell@wildernessinquiry.org

Project Basic Information

Project Summary: Wilderness Inquiry will engage 21,000 Minnesota youth and families through a progression of outdoor recreation experiences that inspire learning, environmental stewardship, and future careers in the outdoors.

ENRTF Funds Requested: \$1,580,000

Proposed Project Completion: June 30, 2030

LCCMR Funding Category: Education and Outdoor Recreation (C)

Project Location

What is the best scale for describing where your work will take place?

Statewide

What is the best scale to describe the area impacted by your work?

Statewide

When will the work impact occur?

During the Project and In the Future

Narrative

Describe the opportunity or problem your proposal seeks to address. Include any relevant background information.

Spending time outdoors is demonstrated to support positive physical and mental health outcomes. YMCA of the USA's 2025 report, Nature of the Outdoors, found that more young people in outdoor programs demonstrate growth than peers in non-outdoor programs. Yet access to the outdoors is not equitably available to all Minnesotans for reasons including:

- > Unequal representation in outdoor activities and spaces by disability status, race, and socio-economic status.
- > Significant barriers including unequal access to natural resources, prohibitive costs (for permits/fees, specialized gear, or clothing), and lack of accessible transportation.
- > Limited opportunities for multi-generational programming that promotes confidence building, safety, and accessibility for youth and family members.
- > Limited access to culturally relevant outdoor opportunities.
- > Screen time replacing outdoor time: Children in the U.S. spend 4-7 minutes a day playing outside and 7+ hours on a screen.
- > "Independent mobility" and the freedom for kids to explore their neighborhoods alone has declined. Without organized programs or encouragement from parents, many youth have limited solo contact with natural spaces.

Demand for Wilderness Inquiry programs statewide has increased significantly. This project will allow us to grow our service and meet unmet needs in every corner of the state – in urban, suburban, and rural communities.

What is your proposed solution to the problem or opportunity discussed above? Introduce us to the work you are seeking funding to do. You will be asked to expand on this proposed solution in Activities & Milestones.

Wilderness Inquiry seeks ENRTF funding to expand outdoor recreation programming for 21,000 Minnesotans, inspiring the next generation of outdoor stewards through place-based, culturally relevant programs on public lands and waters statewide.

Wilderness Inquiry has demonstrated impact scaling effective programming to meet LCCMR priorities outlined in "C. Education and Outdoor Recreation." In recent evaluations, 91% of youth shared they are more interested in helping the environment after a Wilderness Inquiry experience.

This project will:

- > Connect 21,000 youth and families to Minnesota's public lands and waterways through a progression of outdoor experiences that includes daylong Canoemobile events, overnight camping at state parks and public lands, and career pathway programs that support mentorship, leadership, and natural resource career exploration.
- > Lean on our 48-year history of providing accessible outdoor programs that remove or significantly reduce the barriers/challenges outlined above, with expertise supporting access for underrepresented youth and people experiencing disability.
- > Support skill-building, confidence, and a sense of safety, and remove real and perceived barriers that prevent equitable outdoor access.
- > Collaborate with schools and state agencies to develop and implement standards-based STEAM- and climate-education curricula (including Project WET/WILD).
- > Provide activities including fishing, canoeing, camping, orienteering, water quality testing, and macroinvertebrate exploration.

What are the specific project outcomes as they relate to the public purpose of protection, conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the state's natural resources?

Addressing funding priority “C. Education and Outdoor Recreation,” this project will:

- > Remove barriers to outdoor recreation for 21,000 Minnesotans; Wilderness Inquiry primarily serves communities underrepresented in the outdoors. (C1, C3)
- > Provide a progression of outdoor experiences in communities statewide. (C6)
- > Assess program locations, gear/equipment, and curricula to ensure they are accessible/adaptive for individuals experiencing disability. (C2)
- > Partner with schools and organizations from indigenous and underrepresented communities to develop/deliver culturally relevant programming. (C5, C7)
- > Expand career pathway programs through partnerships with MNDNR and federal land management agencies. (C-4)
- > Evaluate and demonstrate positive youth development outcomes (see Activities).

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Partnership and Program Development: Research, Planning, and Development to Expand a Statewide Progression of Outdoor Recreation and Education Experiences

Activity Budget: \$172,287

Activity Description:

Develop and enhance foundational program components, including: nurturing current and building new partnerships statewide, developing and refining curriculum, and hiring and training seasonal staff to facilitate programs, in order to grow, deliver, and evaluate high-quality, accessible, and safe outdoor recreation and environmental education programs at scale across the state of Minnesota.

TASKS / OBJECTIVES / OUTCOMES:

Partnership Stewardship & Growth: 90% of participating groups have experienced barriers to outdoor access and environmental education, defined by:

- > High opportunity gap for outdoor recreation.
- > Lack of financial resources (low income families, Title 1 status, high percentage of F/RL students).
- > Lack of transportation for field trips.
- > Communities who have been historically underrepresented in outdoor recreation spaces (disability, BIPOC, LGBTQ+, DHH).

Curriculum Enhancement & Development

- > Develop educational curriculum focused on STEAM, environmental stewardship, climate change, and climate justice content aligned to state academic standards.
- > Ensure educational content delivered is accessible to all learners through facilitation modifications, language interpreters, and visuals.
- > Collaborate with underrepresented groups to ensure curricula are culturally relevant and inclusive of diverse perspectives.

Hiring & Training

- > Annually recruit, hire, and train seasonal staff to lead high-quality, safe, and enriching programs. Focus on recruitment/retention of staff who reflect the demographics of the participants we seek to serve.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Develop materials and a communication calendar for statewide outreaches that increase exposure/education about project.	June 30, 2028
Develop a robust group assessment rubric that centers core project audiences for program/partner recruitment.	June 30, 2028
Develop/refine curricula focused on: STEAM, environmental stewardship, climate change, and climate justice content areas.	June 30, 2028
Develop accessibility standards and facilitation modifications across 100% of curricula on youth and family trips.	June 30, 2028
Hire and train Outdoor Leaders annually to deliver outdoor recreation and education programming statewide.	June 30, 2030

Activity 2: Program Implementation and Refinement: 21,000 Youth and Families Access Outdoor Recreation and Education on Minnesota Public Lands and Waters

Activity Budget: \$1,377,713

Activity Description:

This project will engage 21,000 Minnesotans across the state through a progression of outdoor recreation and education programs that decrease barriers to access and are thoughtfully designed to: broaden outdoor perspectives, increase environmental engagement and stewardship ethics, build relationships to peers and community, and strengthen resilience in youth and families. This activity includes a range of experiences that will take place statewide, including: introductory day programs, multi-day overnight camping adventures, and skill-building and leadership development for outdoor and natural resources careers.

TASKS / OBJECTIVES / OUTCOMES:

Engage 21,000 youth and families from underserved and underrepresented communities in place-based outdoor programs demonstrated to promote positive physical and mental health and social-emotional development.

Approximately:

- > 150+ schools/organizations engaged across Minnesota annually.
- > 25-30% of total participants from communities outside the 7 County Metro Area.
- > 6,500-7,200 served annually.

Of the 21,000 youth and families:

- > 20,000 will participate in single-day experiences in parks and waterways close to home or virtually from classrooms.
- > 800 individuals will camp overnight in near-nature and backcountry locations.
- > 200 youth and young adults will receive training relevant to outdoor career pathways.

Examples of specific activities include: fishing, canoeing, camping, orienteering, water quality monitoring, and macroinvertebrate exploration.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
150+ schools/organizations engaged across Minnesota annually.	June 30, 2030
20,000 individuals (~6600 annually) participate in single-day outdoor recreation and environmental education programs.	June 30, 2030
800 individuals (~260 annually) participate in overnight camping trips for groups and families.	June 30, 2030
200 youth and young adults (~60 annually) participate in outdoor career pathways programming and training.	June 30, 2030
Participant focus: 90% of participating groups experience barriers to outdoor access and environmental education.	June 30, 2030

Activity 3: Program Evaluation and Dissemination: Program Outcomes are Measured and Communications Delivered to Share Program Impact with Stakeholders and General Public

Activity Budget: \$30,000

Activity Description:

Wilderness Inquiry will evaluate and disseminate the results of this project on an annual basis. Activity 3 includes milestones that evaluate ongoing program delivery, and dissemination efforts to share the impact of the project. To ensure ongoing progress in the overall goal of increasing access to outdoor recreation across Minnesota, we will refer back to four core components to develop, deliver, and evaluate our project. Programs will:

- > Broaden outdoor perspectives.
- > Increase outdoor engagement and stewardship ethics.
- > Build relationships and connections with peers and community.
- > Strengthen resilience.

TASKS / OBJECTIVES / OUTCOMES:

80% of youth participants will report meaningful gains in the following areas:

- > Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) growth.
- > Increased interest in outdoor recreation.
- > Deeper connections with peers, self, and community.
- > Increased desire to take care of the environment.

90% of teachers, educators, and group leaders organizing a Wilderness Inquiry event will report positive outcomes in the following areas:

- > High program quality, safety, and accessibility.
- > Positive impacts to their groups' overall wellbeing after the program.
- > Increased desire to incorporate outdoor-based activities in the future.

Wilderness Inquiry disseminates annual project results through: Annual Reports, blogs on our website, using social media accounts, through direct communications with our audiences, and via media releases in communities statewide.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Develop/refine evaluation and measurement tools to gauge program impact and outcomes.	June 30, 2028
Implement annual evaluation process with youth and educators to measure program impact and outcomes.	June 30, 2030
Annual evaluation results demonstrate increased gains in outdoor affinity and SEL growth (80+% measurement goal).	June 30, 2030
Project results and outcomes are disseminated through Wilderness Inquiry platforms and communications annually.	June 30, 2030
Manage financial spending and program/participant information through secure database and annual 3rd-party audit process.	June 30, 2030

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Educators, teachers, and principals	Minnesota School Districts	Minnesota school districts, principals, and educators are key program partners that: coordinate programs; recruit participants; share important details with students, parents, and families; attend programs as trip chaperones; coordinate environmental education curriculum; and participate in Wilderness Inquiry professional development workshops.	No
Parks & Recreation and local municipal staff	Minnesota statewide communities	Parks & Recreation and local municipal staff support program delivery via education stations, permitting, and site use statewide. Examples include Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board, Saint Paul Parks & Recreation, Olmstead Parks, Mower County Soil & Water District, and Duluth Parks & Recreation.	No
Supt. Tucker Blythe	National Park Service (NPS)	NPS provides in-kind support of staff time for curriculum development, co-created professional development trainings for educators, career pathway programming, and staffing and program implementation along the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area and across programming sites.	No
Dan Dressler	US Forest Service (USFS)	USFS supports program implementation in national forests and USFS-managed lands across Minnesota, connection to stewardship education and hands-on conservation opportunities, and career pathway programming.	No
Cathy Jordan, Ph.D.	Children & Nature Network; University of Minnesota - Institute on the Environment	Provides guidance on professional development trainings for educators and teachers. Also serves as research consultant to inform our evaluation strategies for the project, and increased integration of existing STEM and nature-based learning into curriculum.	No
Shane DeSantis	State Services for the Blind	Consult with Wilderness Inquiry to continue to provide high quality adaptive programming to participants experiencing disability.	No
Leslie Carnegie-Hilde	Minnesota Hands & Voices	Support participant recruitment of youth and families experiencing disability, and provide consultation on accessible curriculum adaptations.	No

Dissemination

Describe your plans for dissemination, presentation, documentation, or sharing of data, results, samples, physical collections, and other products and how they will follow ENRTF Acknowledgement Requirements and Guidelines.

Through the culturally relevant, hands-on outdoor recreation and education experiences that will occur as a result of this project, Wilderness Inquiry is equipping the next generation with the tools, information, and opportunities for lifelong understanding, engagement, and action on behalf of Minnesota’s environment and natural resources.

Wilderness Inquiry utilizes both internal and external evaluation methods to measure our success and program impact. In addition to our internal staff, we work with teams mentioned above including Wilder Research Foundation and Hello Insight. We involve our board, staff, community members, and consultants in designing, implementing, and analyzing evaluations and research.

We publish evaluations and results on our website, through print and social media (including Annual Reports, direct communications with educators, and others), conduct briefings, present at conferences, and disseminate results in other manners. In addition, we share evaluations and quantitative results with our funders, board of directors, staff, and community members. Ongoing impact stories and news articles are posted and shared on our website at:

<https://wildernessinquiry.org/about-us/our-impact/research-and-reports/>. The Environment and Natural Resources

Trust Fund will be acknowledged through use of the Trust Fund logo or attribution language on project print and electronic media, publications, signage, and other communications.

Long-Term Implementation and Funding

Describe how the results will be implemented and how any ongoing effort will be funded. If not already addressed as part of the project, how will findings, results, and products developed be implemented after project completion? If additional work is needed, how will this work be funded?

Wilderness Inquiry maintains a diversified budget, wherein funding from state government sources is matched 6:1 by other contributed and earned revenue. Additional funding includes earned revenue from trip sales (unique to Wilderness Inquiry’s model), corporate and foundation support, individual contributions, and proceeds from endowments we maintain with JP Morgan Private Bank. Matching (in-kind) contributions to this project include costs associated with planning, delivery, and administrative and other investments needed to successfully deliver on programming. We will continue to develop these contributed and earned sources of revenue to sustain the impacts of this work beyond the life of this project.

Other ENRTF Appropriations Awarded in the Last Six Years

Name	Appropriation	Amount Awarded
Urban Environmental Education Engaging Students in Local Resources	M.L. 2014, Chp. 226, Sec. 2, Subd. 09c	\$1,093,000
Connecting Youth to Minnesota Waterways through Outdoor Classrooms	M.L. 2017, Chp. 96, Sec. 2, Subd. 05a	\$1,200,000
Minnesota Freshwater Quest: Environmental Education On State Waterways	M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 5, Sec. 2, Subd. 05b	\$500,000
Minnesota Freshwater Quest: Environmental Education For 15000 Youth	M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 6, Sec. 2, Subd. 05c	\$699,000
Outdoor Pathways to Environmental Education, Recreation, and Careers	M.L. 2024, , Chp. 83, Art. , Sec. 2, Subd. 05j	\$1,500,000

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Nell Holden

Job Title: Finance and Operations Director

Provide description of the project manager’s qualifications to manage the proposed project.

Nell Holden, Finance and Operations Director, oversees all aspects of operations, financial management, human resources, and risk management for Wilderness Inquiry. This includes supporting operational aspects of more than 500 program events each year serving more than 38,000 people across Minnesota and around the country. In this capacity, Ms. Holden supervises and oversees all Wilderness Inquiry operations staff (currently 5 FTE), as well as our seasonal staff and Outdoor Leaders (120+ staff annually).

Ms. Holden has been with Wilderness Inquiry since 2015 in a variety of operational, programmatic, and business administration roles. Ms. Holden has extensive experience in the areas of outdoor recreation and wilderness tripping, program operations and implementation, staff hiring and training, supervision, budget development and management, and financial management.

Organization: Wilderness Inquiry

Organization Description:

Wilderness Inquiry's mission is to connect people of all ages, backgrounds, identities, and abilities through shared outdoor adventures so that all people can equitably experience the benefits of time spent in nature.

Wilderness Inquiry programs, which range from single-day introductory activities to multi-day adventures, provide outdoor education, recreation, and career pathway opportunities while building community through engagement in the natural world. We meet participants and partners where they are and offer nature-based experiences designed to teach about stewardship, conservation, environmental education, and support learning around STEM, geography, and history – ultimately equipping the next generation with the resources needed to protect and participate in Minnesota's great outdoors.

Each year we connect 38,000+ people to accessible outdoor experiences on public lands and waterways in more than 50 communities across Minnesota and around the country. Wilderness Inquiry is governed by a 17-member volunteer board of directors and has 26 full-time and 120+ part-time/seasonal staff, and 350+ volunteers.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
Outdoor Leaders (multiple personnel)		Serve as trip guides and leaders of on-the-ground program delivery and direct-service work with youth and families.			0%	9		\$463,635
Part-time warehouse staff (multiple personnel)		Warehouse and logistical support, trip pack-in and pack-out, canoe and inventory maintenance and repairs, evaluation data entry.			0%	0.6		\$30,000
Program Director		Oversees all aspects of program development, implementation, and delivery, as well as statewide partnership development for Wilderness Inquiry.			0%	0.9		\$105,523
Senior Program Manager		Leads the Canoemobile program, including program development and delivery, curriculum development, evaluation, and partnerships with schools and statewide agencies.			0%	1.2		\$111,767
Program Manager - Day Programs		Manages implementation and delivery of Day Programs and Canoemobile, including program planning and logistics, group/participant recruitment, and Trip Directing (supporting Outdoor Leaders in the field).			0%	1.5		\$111,272
Program Manager - Overnight Adventures		Manages implementation and delivery of overnight programs, including program planning and logistics, group/participant recruitment, and Trip Directing (supporting Outdoor Leaders in the field).			0%	0.9		\$66,763
Operations Manager		Manages operational aspects of project, including assigning gear and equipment (vans, canoes), overseeing warehouse operations, and ensuring trip resources are allocated appropriately for safety, quality, and cost effectiveness.			0%	0.9		\$66,763
Staffing Manager		Manages staff (Outdoor Leader) recruitment, hiring, training, certifications, and supervision of seasonal staff (Outdoor Leaders) responsible for program delivery.			0%	0.9		\$66,763
Participant & Volunteer		Manages trip registrations, group contracts, waivers, and assessments; manages outreach to community			0%	0.6		\$44,509

Engagement Manager		groups with specific focus on disability-serving organizations.						
Finance and Administration Manager		Manages payroll, employee benefits and enrollment, and budget tracking, and administers background checks for full-time employees and Outdoor Leaders.			0%	0.6		\$44,509
Program Coordinator - Day and Youth Programs		Coordinates program logistics and supports program delivery statewide. Responsible for administering curriculum and evaluations.			0%	1.5		\$92,727
Operations Coordinator		Coordinates operational aspects of project, including gear and equipment maintenance, menu development and preparation, warehouse coordination, and trip logistics.			0%	0.9		\$55,636
Part-time Trip Director		Facilitates Trip Directing (supporting Outdoor Leaders), ensuring programs are running smoothly and safely when in the field.			0%	1.5		\$75,000
							Sub Total	\$1,334,867
Contracts and Services								
Contract Project Evaluator (TBD)	Service Contract	Contract for project evaluation to demonstrate success of implementation of the project throughout the state. Contracts selected through a competitive bidding process.				0.6		\$30,000
							Sub Total	\$30,000
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
	Tools and Supplies	Programmatic equipment and supplies: water safety gear replacement, camping gear replacement, consumable first aid supplies, adaptive gear, STEM activity supplies and water quality testing materials, Project WET/WILD materials, educational kit materials. (\$12,000/year x 3 years = \$36,000).	Materials and supplies to conduct environmental education programming with youth and outdoor recreation programming with youth and families.					\$36,000
	Equipment	Equipment and vehicle maintenance and repair - this program primarily utilizes existing equipment such as 10-person North canoes, vans, and trailers, however these require annual maintenance and repair to use safely across the state. (\$15,000/year x 3 years = \$45,000).	Maintenance needed to keep equipment safe for direct outdoor recreation programming with youth and families.					\$45,000

							Sub Total	\$81,000
Capital Equipment								
							Sub Total	-
Acquisitions and Stewardship								
							Sub Total	-
Travel In Minnesota								
	Other	Student transportation and busing	When needed, and in order to make programming accessible to youth and families from low-income backgrounds, Wilderness Inquiry assists with student buses to program locations near the school. (\$400/day x 60 events = \$24,000).					\$24,000
	Miles/ Meals/ Lodging	In-state transportation and travel expenses: > Transportation for Wilderness Inquiry staff to deliver environmental education events across the state via van with trailer and boats (230 day/local events x avg. 10 miles round trip x .725 = \$1,667.5; 10 Greater MN tours x 400 miles/trip x .725 = \$2,900; 50 extended x avg. 500 miles/trip x .725 = \$18,125) > Lodging for Outdoor Leaders during Greater MN tours (45 nights x 7 staff x \$20/night = \$6,300) > Food for Outdoor Leaders during Greater MN tours (45 nights x 7 staff x \$20/night = \$6,300)	To deliver outdoor recreation programming, Wilderness Inquiry staff travel across the state (with boats and equipment) to reach participants in the communities where they live. Additionally, this category includes transportation (via Wilderness Inquiry vans) for overnight camping adventures for youth and families.					\$35,292
	Miles/ Meals/ Lodging	Food for participants during overnight camping trips for youth and families (50 trips x \$750/trip = \$37,500)	In order to make our programs accessible, funding supports costs associated with purchase of food for program participants during overnight camping trips.					\$37,500
							Sub Total	\$96,792
Travel Outside Minnesota								

							Sub Total	-
Printing and Publication								
							Sub Total	-
Other Expenses								
		Program reservations and rentals (permits, campsite and shelter reservations, biff rentals, etc.)	In order to conduct programming in state parks and on public lands, we purchase permits and reservations for campsites. Additionally, during large day programs and when needed for groups, we will provide portable toilets to make programming accessible.					\$37,341
							Sub Total	\$37,341
							Grand Total	\$1,580,000

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
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Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	Amount
State				
			State Sub Total	-
Non-State				
Cash	Bigelow Foundation	Funding specifically to connect East Metro youth to a progression of immersive outdoor experiences. Supports overall LCCMR program goals to connect youth & families to outdoor recreation and environmental education programming.	Secured	\$30,000
Cash	H.B. Fuller	Funding specifically to connect Saint Paul youth to a progression of immersive outdoor experiences. Supports overall LCCMR program goals to connect youth & families to environmental education programming.	Secured	\$5,000
Cash	Linsmayer Foundation	Funding specifically to connect Minneapolis youth to a progression of immersive outdoor experiences. Supports overall LCCMR program goals to connect youth & families to environmental education programming.	Secured	\$25,000
In-Kind	National Park Service	NPS provides program staff and Rangers in-kind to support programs, deliver educational materials, and guide students through place-based environmental education lessons on the Mississippi River.	Secured	\$60,000
In-Kind	USDA Forest Service (USFS)	USFS provides program staff in-kind to support programs, deliver educational and career pathway content, and guide students through place-based environmental education lessons in Forest Service-managed areas statewide.	Secured	\$15,000
In-Kind	Wilderness Inquiry	Wilderness Inquiry will contribute the following in-kind support to this project: staff benefits; additional staff support including from the Executive Director, Finance and Operations Director, Senior Manager of Operations, and Executive Assistant; equipment and facilities; staff food and lodging during training; insurance; and vans for program transportation.	Secured	\$341,000
Cash	Minnesota Public School Districts	When able, school districts and schools contribute a small amount of fee for service funding to support Canoemobile programs in their community. Additionally, school districts and teachers contribute valuable time and resources to this project through staffing field trips/place-based programming, providing substitute teachers, recruiting and contacting students, and planning and prep time.	Pending	\$210,000
Cash	National Park Service	Funding specifically to connect Twin Cities youth to educational and recreational programming on the Mississippi River. Supports overall LCCMR program goals to connect youth to environmental education programming.	Pending	\$18,000

Cash	RBC Wealth Management	Funding specifically to connect Twin Cities youth to a progression of immersive outdoor experiences. Supports overall LCCMR program goals to connect youth & families to environmental education programming.	Secured	\$6,000
Cash	USDA Forest Service	Funding specifically to connect Minnesota youth in urban areas to a progression of immersive outdoor experiences. Supports overall LCCMR program goals to connect youth & families to environmental education programming.	Pending	\$150,000
			Non State Sub Total	\$860,000
			Funds Total	\$860,000

Total Project Cost: \$2,440,000

This amount accurately reflects total project cost?

Yes

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [849a3dad-f1d.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

Alternative Text:

Title: Increasing Access to Outdoor Recreation for 21,000 Minnesotans

Subtitle: Statewide – in urban, suburban, and rural communities

Body: Program description and goals

Footer: Learn more at wildernessinquiry.org

Sidebar: Quote from a teacher and students

Photos: Youth participating in programs

Map: MN map of statewide program locationsa...

Financial Capacity

Title	File
Wilderness Inquiry 2025 - MN Secretary of State - Certificate of Good Standing	4133c804-2a1.pdf
Wilderness Inquiry 2024 Audit Report Final (2025 audit available in April 2026)	1679d9cf-ca5.pdf
Wilderness Inquiry 2024 Form 990 (2025 version available in April 2026)	23c63bd6-c19.pdf

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
Wilderness Inquiry LCCMR Board Authorization Letter - 2026	84161376-9c7.pdf

Supplemental Attachments

Capital Project Questionnaire, Budget Supplements, Support Letter, Photos, Media, Other

Title	File
LCCMR Letter of Support - Supt. Tucker Blythe - NPS-MNRRRA - 2026	d3fee107-71c.pdf
LCCMR Letter of Support - Tim Ruzek - Cedar River Watershed District - 2026	db83f842-368.pdf

Administrative Use

Does your project include restoration or acquisition of land rights?

No

Do you understand that travel expenses are only approved if they follow the "Commissioner's Plan" promulgated by the Commissioner of Management of Budget or, for University of Minnesota projects, the University of Minnesota plan?

Yes, I understand the Commissioner's Plan applies.

Does your project have potential for royalties, copyrights, patents, sale of products and assets, or revenue generation?

No

Do you understand and acknowledge IP and revenue-return and sharing requirements in 116P.10?

N/A

Do you wish to request reinvestment of any revenues into your project instead of returning revenue to the ENRTF?

N/A

Does your project include original, hypothesis-driven research?

No

Does the organization have a fiscal agent for this project?

No

Does your project include the pre-design, design, construction, or renovation of a building, trail, campground, or other fixed capital asset costing \$10,000 or more or large-scale stream or wetland restoration?

No

Do you propose using an appropriation from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund to conduct a project that provides children's services (as defined in Minnesota Statutes section 299C.61 Subd.7 as "the provision of care, treatment, education, training, instruction, or recreation to children")?

Yes

Do you certify that background checks are performed for background check crimes, as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 299C.61, Subd. 2, on all employees, contractors, and volunteers who have or may have access to a child to whom children's services are provided by your organization?

Yes

Provide the name(s) and organization(s) of additional individuals assisting in the completion of this proposal:

This proposal was completed entirely by Wilderness Inquiry staff, including Willy Tully, Christine Rettler, and Nell Holden. External partners only contributed Letters of Support or agreed to be Project Collaborators for program implementation.

Do you understand that a named service contract does not constitute a funder-designated subrecipient or approval of a sole-source contract? In other words, a service contract entity is only approved if it has been selected according to the contracting rules identified in state law and policy for organizations that receive ENRTF funds through direct appropriations, or in the DNR's reimbursement manual for non-state organizations. These rules may include competitive bidding and prevailing wage requirements

Yes, I understand