

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund  
2010 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

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**LCCMR ID: 210-F**

**Project Title:**

Hunting Skills Education Grants Program

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**LCCMR 2010 Funding Priority:**

F. Environmental Education

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**Total Project Budget: \$** \$315,000

**Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested:** 2 years, 2010 - 2012

**Other Non-State Funds: \$** \$0

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**Summary:**

Hunting Skills Education grants will provide incentives to deliver basic hunting skills training. The program will result in a minimum of 40 skills training workshops and several thousand participants.

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**Sponsoring Organization:** DNR

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**Location:**

**Region:** Statewide

**County Name:** Statewide

**City / Township:**

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_____ Knowledge Base	_____ Broad App.	_____ Innovation
_____ Leverage	_____ Outcomes	
_____ Partnerships	_____ Urgency	_____ TOTAL

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## MAIN PROPOSAL

### PROJECT STATEMENT

**Why this project needs to be done:** The numbers of hunters nationally and in the state is decreasing. Hunters through their advocacy and revenue generated by licenses sales are important funders of conservation and habitat restoration projects that benefit the citizenry as a whole.

Clearly, the preservation of hunters and hunting is critical to the protection, conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the state's air, water, land, fish, wildlife, and other natural resources.

There are several factors that are contributing the decrease in hunting participation. Factors include: urbanization, lack of time, family obligations, work obligations, lack of a mentor, lack of knowledge and skills necessary to participate.

This project addresses the final factor by facilitating hands-on, skills-based hunting educational workshops by providing incentive grants to organizations that are already working to recruit and develop new hunters.

**Overall goal of project:** To increase hunting knowledge and skills in youth ages 8-17 and young adults ages 18-40.

#### **How Project will achieve this goal:**

- 1) Provide 40 or more individual grants of up to \$5,000 for skills based "learn to hunt" education programs to local sportsman's clubs, conservation organizations, and non-formal education centers.

### DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT RESULTS

**Result 1:** "Learn to Deer Hunt" Workshops **Budget:** \$50,000

**Activity:** Provide grants to fund 10 deer hunting workshops conducted by local chapters of the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association, Blufflands Whitetails Association, Quality Deer Management, Safari Club International, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, local sportsman's groups, regional environmental learning centers. To be based on criteria developed from the Minnesota DNR Hunter Education and Advanced Hunter Education programs.

#### **Measurable Outcomes:**

- 1) 10 "Learn to Deer Hunt" Workshops delivered by June 30, 2012
- 2) 150-500 participants
- 3) Participants will demonstrate proficiency in firearms safety
- 4) Participants will demonstrate understanding of whitetail deer life history, habitat needs, and biology
- 5) Participants will demonstrate knowledge, skills, and tactics that will enable them as deer Hunters

**Result 2: “Learn to Hunt Small Game” Workshops Budget: \$50,000**

**Activity:** Provide grants to fund 10 small game hunting workshops conducted by local chapters of Pheasants Forever, The Ruffed Grouse Society, Woodcock Minnesota, Quail Forever, local sportsman’s groups, regional environmental learning centers. To be based on criteria developed from the Minnesota DNR Hunter Education and Advanced Hunter Education programs.

**Measurable Outcomes:**

- 1) 10 “Learn to Small Game Hunt” Workshops delivered by June 30, 2012
- 2) 150-500 participants
- 3) Participants will demonstrate proficiency in firearms safety
- 4) Participants will demonstrate understanding of small game life history, habitat needs, and biology
- 5) Participants will demonstrate knowledge, skills, and tactics that will enable them as small game hunters

**Result 3: “Learn to Waterfowl Hunt” Workshops Budget: \$50,000**

**Activity:** Provide grants to fund 10 waterfowl hunting workshops conducted by local chapters of Ducks Unlimited, Minnesota Waterfowl Association, Delta Waterfowl, local sportsman’s groups, regional environmental learning centers. To be based on criteria developed from the Minnesota DNR Hunter Education and Advanced Hunter Education programs.

**Measurable Outcomes:**

- 1) 10 “Learn to Waterfowl Hunt” Workshops delivered by June 30, 2012
- 2) 150-500 participants
- 3) Participants will demonstrate proficiency in firearms safety
- 4) Participants will demonstrate understanding of waterfowl life history, habitat needs, and biology
- 5) Participants will demonstrate knowledge, skills, and tactics that will enable them as waterfowl hunters

**Result 4: “Learn to Turkey Hunt” Workshops Budget: \$50,000**

**Activity:** Provide grants to fund 10 turkey hunting workshops conducted by local chapters of the National Wild Turkey Federation, local sportsman’s groups, regional environmental learning centers. To be based on criteria developed from the Minnesota DNR Hunter Education and Advanced Hunter Education programs.

**Measurable Outcomes:**

- 1) 10 “Learn to Turkey Hunt” Workshops delivered by June 30, 2012
- 2) 150-500 participants
- 3) Participants will demonstrate proficiency in firearms safety
- 4) Participants will demonstrate understanding of wild turkey life history, habitat needs, and biology
- 5) Participants will demonstrate knowledge, skills, and tactics that will enable them as turkey hunters

**Additional Deliverables:**

- 1) Hunting Skills Training Grant Program evaluation completed and executive summary printed. Completion date: September 30, 2012.

**PROJECT STRATEGY**

**Project Partners:**

- 1) DNR Division of Wildlife, DNR Division of Parks and Trails, DNR Division of Information and Education, DNR Division of Enforcement

**Role:** Program administration, Curriculum development, Program evaluation

- 2) Minnesota Deer Hunters Association, Minnesota Waterfowl Association, Ducks Unlimited, Blufflands Whitetail Association, Pheasants Forever, National Wild Turkey Federation, Ruffed Grouse Society, Minnesota Outdoor Heritage Alliance, Safari Club International, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Residential Environmental Learning Centers, Three Rivers Park District, Local Sportsman's Clubs.

**Role:** Program planning, Program staffing, Program implementation

**Timeline Requirements:**

Hiring of the project coordinator and development of grant criteria and application process would take place in the first three months of the biennium. The Hunting Skills Training Workshops would begin thereafter through June 30, 2012.

**Long-term Strategy:**

This effort is intended as a pilot for an ongoing project administered by the Department of Natural Resources.

**Project Budget**  
Outdoor Skills Grants Program

**IV. TOTAL PROJECT REQUEST BUDGET**

<b>BUDGET ITEM</b> (See list of Eligible & Non-Eligible Costs, p. 17)	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>% FTE</b>
<b>Personnel:</b>		
Hunting Skills Grants Program Coordinator, 50% FTE position. 74% salary, 26% benefits, two-year position	\$100,000	50%
<b>Hunting Skills Training Grants: (40 geographically distributed)</b>		
10 "Learn to Deer Hunt" workshop grants	\$ 50,000	
10 "Learn to Small Game Hunt" workshop grants	\$ 50,000	
10 "Learn to Waterfowl Hunt" workshop grants	\$ 50,000	
10 "Learn to Turkey Hunt" workshop grants	\$ 50,000	
<b>Program Evaluation:</b>	\$ 15,000	
Contract with firm specializing in natural resource program evaluation to design, administer, tabulate and report on effectiveness of program in reaching program goals		
<b>TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET REQUEST TO LCCMR</b>	<b>\$ 315,000</b>	

**V. OTHER FUNDS**

<b>SOURCE OF FUNDS</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Other Non-State \$ Being Leveraged During Project Period: Minimum matching requirement required of grant recipients.</b>		
<b>Other State \$ Being Spent During Project Period: Heritage Enhance</b>		
<b>Other State \$: General Fund</b>		
<b>Other State \$: RIM General Fund</b>		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	
<b>Past Spending: 2-year timeframe prior to July 1, 2009</b>		

**Organization Description:** Minnesota 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. DNR applies integrated resource management to achieve its three-part mission. DNR programs serve to integrate and sustain the interdependent values of a healthy environment, a sustainable economy, and livable communities.

**Project Manager Qualifications:** Jay Johnson will serve as project manager for the implementation of this project. Mr. Johnson is the Fish and Wildlife Division Hunter Recruitment and Retention Coordinator. He has a B.S. degree in Outdoor Recreation from the University of Minnesota. He has participated in several national workshops on hunting and shooting recruitment and retention and has completed NSSF Best Practices training.