



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2025 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2025-212

Proposal Title: Inclusive Wildlife Engagement in Classrooms and Communities

Project Manager Information

Name: Jessica Ruthenberg

Organization: MN DNR - Ecological and Water Resources Division

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Project Basic Information

Project Summary: DNR will provide educational, hands-on, outdoor experiences for diverse demographics; leading students and the public to conservation ethics and action through three programs: Bird by Bird, EPIC, and Community Science.

ENRTF Funds Requested: \$796,000

Proposed Project Completion: June 30, 2028

LCCMR Funding Category: Environmental Education (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.

Experiences in nature provide enduring benefits to human well-being, particularly for youth, as reflected in numerous initiatives for getting outside and nature prescription. Unfortunately, many people don't have regular opportunities to connect with nature, and the demographics of Minnesotans enjoying the outdoors, choosing natural resource careers, and volunteering to support environmental organizations do not reflect the ethno-racial diversity of our communities.

Trends in Minnesota indicate that population growth is greatest in urban areas, and Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) are projected to represent one-third of our population by 2053, yet recent surveys have shown that of Minnesota's State Park visitors, only 11% of respondents identified as non-white and of Minnesota's wildlife viewers, 90% of respondents identified as white. Furthermore, BIPOC individuals report lower rates of volunteerism to formal organizations than Minnesota's average.

Providing Minnesotans with educational, action-based outdoor experiences will benefit our communities and our wildlife. The State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) identifies 346 Species in Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN), and data is lacking on many of them. To achieve SWAP goals, we need to engage a broad public, build awareness and knowledge, and foster stewardship ethics and actions that fill data gaps and support rare, vulnerable wildlife.

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.

The DNR, in broad partnership, will provide three engaging educational outdoor programs for varying ages, all intentionally designed to welcome and include demographics underrepresented in natural resources.

Bird by Bird will engage elementary students at need-based schools learning about birds through observation; outdoor, hands-on activities; and community science. Classrooms will receive curriculum, supplies, training for teachers, and visits from DNR volunteers who will provide bird expertise and engage the school community.

EPIC (Empowering Pathways into Conservation) will provide urban young adults with exposure to wildlife conservation careers through immersive field experiences and access to natural resource professionals, gaining knowledge of conservation approaches and research techniques. DNR will partner with community organizations who work with underrepresented ethno-racial groups to identify participants.

Our Community Science Program will engage urban and rural Minnesotans in research supporting the SWAP through surveys of chimney swifts, butterflies, frogs, and bats. Volunteers will be trained in species identification, data collection, and conservation of at-risk species. They will observe wildlife in the field and record and report data for analysis. By offering multiple opportunities in varying locations at varying skill levels, providing training, building relationships, and working with partners, we will serve diverse groups of Minnesotans.

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?

2,000 students at 10 need-based schools access the outdoors and nature education, with DNR-trained teachers and volunteers, to increase their knowledge about birds and spark interest, appreciation, and stewardship for nature. Each school will also participate in a bird activity engaging their larger community.

60 young adults experience the outdoors, develop wildlife skills, and connect with role models in wildlife careers; empowering and inspiring them to become natural resource professionals, ultimately increasing representation in Minnesota's conservation workforce.

200 diverse volunteers connect to wildlife and conservation through four community science projects that will generate critical data on at-risk wildlife.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Bird by Bird Classrooms: Birdwatching at Schools

Activity Budget: \$454,123

Activity Description:

Approximately 2,000 students (grades 3-6), at 10 schools identified as underserved in science and environmental education, will engage in place-based outdoor learning activities to increase their knowledge of birds, healthy ecosystems, and overall environmental literacy. Schools will be located in environmental justice areas, according to the Environmental Protection Agency’s mapping tool. Students will participate in multiple classroom activities and a field trip each year that are supported by DNR-trained volunteers. These activities will engage students in bird identification, natural history, conservation, and a community science project (The Cornell Lab’s Project FeederWatch). Bird feeding stations will be installed at schools. Students will receive and learn to use binoculars to observe birds at feeders and on bird walks at their schools and in their neighborhoods. They will practice wildlife ethics by learning how to clean feeders and prevent bird window collisions. Teachers will receive training on a suite of interactive, hands-on lesson plans with curriculum on bird ecology and accompanying supporting materials to enhance students’ learning experience. To engage the larger school communities, volunteers will also deliver free, family-friendly bird activities/ bird walks at a school or community event. This activity expands from five pilot schools engaged under LCCMR 2022 funding.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Recruitment, application reviews, screening, selection, and training of volunteers	September 30, 2025
7 schools identified, engaged, teachers trained, and ready to begin programming	September 30, 2025
Students experience field trips (7 schools)	June 30, 2026
Volunteers complete their community outreach activities	June 30, 2026
Volunteer recognition event	June 30, 2026
Continued recruitment, application review, screening, selection, and training of additional volunteers	September 30, 2026
3 additional schools identified, engaged, teachers trained, and ready to begin programming	September 30, 2026
Students experience field trips (10 schools)	June 30, 2027
Volunteers complete their community outreach activities	June 30, 2027
Volunteer recognition event	June 30, 2027
Continued recruitment, application review, screening, selection, and training of additional volunteers (as needed)	September 30, 2027
10 schools identified, engaged, teachers trained, and ready to begin programming	September 30, 2027
Students experience field trips (10 schools)	June 30, 2028
Volunteers complete their community outreach activities	June 30, 2028
Volunteer recognition event	June 30, 2028

Activity 2: Empowering Pathways into Conservation (EPIC) Program

Activity Budget: \$168,148

Activity Description:

EPIC will coordinate outdoor experiential learning opportunities for high school students and recent graduates from underrepresented communities who may face barriers to exploring or pursuing a natural resource career. We will partner with youth-serving organizations to identify 60 young adults to participate in immersive field experiences. EPIC will connect participants to role models in the DNR and other conservation organizations, including U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and University of Minnesota Raptor Center. In these field experiences, young adults will learn about bird identification and gain knowledge of conservation approaches and research techniques. Activities may include kestrel chick and songbird banding, waterfowl surveys, bird identification with a park ranger, and habitat management.

Additional opportunities include a career panel.

Eliminating barriers for participants is critical. Transportation stipends will be provided to partners to offset transportation costs and eliminate the need for young adults to provide their own transportation. Tools such as binoculars, field guides, and other field gear will be provided to support the participants' experience. Young adults will receive stipends for participation to eliminate any conflict between needing to work a part-time job to support their households or participating in a program to support their own future endeavors.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
20 EPIC participants identified by partners, receive initial orientation, and participate in 6 field experiences	September 30, 2025
EPIC field experiences set up and coordinated with the staff and partners implementing them	June 30, 2026
20 additional EPIC participants identified by partners, receive orientation, and participate in 6 field experiences	September 30, 2026
EPIC field experiences set up and coordinated with the staff and partners implementing them	June 30, 2027
20 additional EPIC participants identified by partners, receive orientation, and participate in 6 field experiences	September 30, 2027

Activity 3: Community Science Program Expansion: Engaging Minnesotans in Wildlife Conservation

Activity Budget: \$173,729

Activity Description:

200 diverse volunteers will be trained in survey protocols and participate in DNR research projects in cooperation with community, state, federal, and other organizations focused on wildlife conservation. Participants connect to nature and contribute data on at-risk and SGCN wildlife to the Minnesota Natural Heritage Information System. The following four projects will be developed and/or expanded:

Chimney Swifts communally roost in human-built structures such as chimneys, making them ideal for observation in the Twin Cities area. This entry-level experience allows volunteers to experience roost monitoring up close.

Regal fritillaries and Monarchs indicate prairie health, but their distribution data in Minnesota is limited. Volunteers visit suitable locations and report observed butterflies. This research documents populations throughout the state and provides a baseline for focused research.

Frogs and toads are indicators of environmental change. Volunteers visit wetlands at night and listen for calling frogs, recording species heard. Through this monitoring, participants contribute to our understanding of statewide distributions and population trends.

Bats are ecologically important, yet their population trends in Minnesota are poorly understood. Volunteers observe roosting colonies and use audio detectors to collect bat vocalization data, expanding our knowledge of bat populations and contributing to a multi-national research program.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Develop volunteer outreach and engagement project plan	September 30, 2025
Recruit chimney swift volunteers for fall 2025 monitoring events	September 30, 2025

Conduct 2025 field surveys for frog and toad and chimney swift projects	October 31, 2025
Hold end-of-season recognition event for volunteers	November 30, 2025
Purchase bat acoustic kits	December 31, 2025
Process, enter, and analyze data from 2025 field season	January 31, 2026
Develop butterfly and bat survey design and trainings; update existing survey protocols	February 28, 2026
Produce data summaries/ reports from 2025 field season	February 28, 2026
Recruit, onboard, and train volunteers for 2026 field season	June 30, 2026
Conduct 2026 field surveys	October 31, 2026
Hold end-of-season recognition event for volunteers	November 30, 2026
Process, enter, and analyze data from 2026 field season	January 31, 2027
Produce data summaries/ reports from 2026 field season	February 28, 2027
Update project materials and volunteer trainings for 2027	March 31, 2027
Recruit, onboard, and train volunteers for 2027 field season	June 30, 2027
Conduct 2027 field surveys	October 31, 2027
Process, enter, and analyze data from 2027 field season	January 31, 2028
Produce data summaries/ reports from 2027 field season	February 28, 2028

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Hayley Ball	Urban Roots	Urban Roots will support the Bird by Bird Program by advising and collaborating on the Empowering Pathways in Conservation (EPIC) Program. They will identify young adults to participate and provide additional staff and resource support for program delivery.	Yes
MaryLynn Pulscher	Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board	Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board will collaborate on the Empowering Pathways in Conservation (EPIC) Program. They will identify young adults to participate and provide additional staff and resource support for program delivery.	Yes
Monica Bryand	Urban Bird Collective	Urban Bird Collective will support this program by partnering on Bird by Bird, EPIC, and Community Science Chimney Swift Roost Monitoring. The Urban Bird Collective is a Minnesota based 501(c)3 non-profit organization founded by and for BIPOC and LGBTQIA people.	No
Jennifer Vieth	Carpenter Nature Center	Carpenter Nature Center will support this program with EPIC young adult trainings, and hosting field trips for students to see birds in the hand up close at their bird-banding station. (Minimal fees to cover field trip programming are included within the budget.)	Yes
Brian Smith	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	US Fish and Wildlife Service will participate in these efforts by providing support for EPIC field experiences, Community Science projects, and related collaborations where appropriate.	No
Angela Grill	Three Rivers Park District	Three Rivers Park District will support the Community Science Program by partnering with the DNR on training and providing training sites. Three Rivers Park District conducts a variety of wildlife surveys and monitoring programs on a range of animal groups from butterflies and moths to amphibians, reptiles, mammals, and birds.	No

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?

We request three years for this project to ensure a strong base is built with buy-in and support from partners, enabling each program's long-term success. We anticipate that the schools, partners, and volunteers will value these programs and continue to participate long term. Most program materials will roll over from year to year. Bird by Bird should continue running sustainably as a 10-school program with minimal additional financial inputs for bussing, replacement supplies such as bird seed, and program coordination time. DNR will seek partners and grants to cover remaining, on-going programmatic costs in the future.

Other ENRTF Appropriations Awarded in the Last Six Years

Name	Appropriation	Amount Awarded
Nongame Wildlife Program Acceleration	M.L. 2019, First Special Session, Chp. 4, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 08e	\$513,000
Expanding Access to Wildlife Learning Bird by Bird	M.L. 2022, , Chp. 94, Art. , Sec. 2, Subd. 05c	\$276,000

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Jessica Ruthenberg

Job Title: Wildlife Engagement Supervisor

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

Jessica Ruthenberg works within the DNR’s Nongame Wildlife Program leading and directing public engagement programs, which includes supervising the Bird by Bird Program Coordinator, Community Science Program Coordinator, Communications Specialist, Information Officer, and future Wildlife Engagement Specialist. Jessica holds a M.S. in Natural Resources and the Environment from University of Michigan where she specialized in Conservation Biology and Environmental Behavior, Communications, and Education. Jessica has held a diversity of previous conservation positions, nearly all having a focus on birds and their habitats: over nine years as a Watchable Wildlife Biologist for the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources, a Conservation Specialist for Ducks Unlimited at their Great Lakes Atlantic Regional Office, a Seasonal Field Biologist for Texas A&M University, Field Assistant for Michigan Natural Features Inventory, Agricultural Conservation Programs Policy Analyst for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Washington D.C., Teacher-Naturalist at the Debs Park Audubon Center in Los Angeles, and Education Specialist at the Los Angeles Zoo. She also served on the Board of the Virginia Society of Ornithology.

Jessica has extensive experience engaging the public in wildlife, including co-writing a statewide wildlife viewing plan; coordinating a statewide birding trail and its volunteers; developing and implementing educational, outdoor interpretive wildlife programs and curriculums; planning birding festivals; coordinating wildlife cams; co-developing and leading a membership program to fund habitat projects; writing wildlife information for interpretive signs, literature, and digital media; leading bird walks; developing and delivering presentations on birding skills and urban habitat creation; and providing technical assistance on habitat enhancement to landowners. Jessica also has experience conducting field surveys of endangered songbirds and with grant administration and review of grant proposals. For this project, as a supervisor, she will provide direction and leadership to staff implementing the project and will provide administrative oversight of the grant.

Organization: MN DNR - Ecological and Water Resources Division

Organization Description:

The mission of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is to work with Minnesotans 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. One of seven DNR divisions, Ecological and Water Resources (EWR) works towards its vision of healthy lands and waters throughout Minnesota. Within EWR, the Nongame Wildlife Program will lead this project. The Nongame Wildlife Program maintains and enhances the state’s diversity of wildlife by protecting and managing crucial habitats, conducting scientific research to better understand Minnesota’s wildlife species and the ecosystems that sustain them, and forging connections between Minnesotans and native wildlife through engagement and education.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
Bird by Bird Coordinator		Coordinates the Bird by Bird and EPIC programs			25%	3		\$318,916
Wildlife Engagement Specialist		Provides support such as coordination of volunteers, partners, trainings, and programming; event planning; and portions of content development for Bird by Bird, EPIC, and Community Science activities.			25%	3		\$285,908
							Sub Total	\$604,824
Contracts and Services								
Urban Roots	Sub award	Stipends to EPIC young adult participants (\$15/ hr per person for 10 young adults) to cover 34 hours of programming, plus reimbursement for travel costs to the programs				0		\$16,506
Minneapolis Park Board	Sub award	Stipends to EPIC young adult participants (\$15/ hr per person for 10 young adults) to cover 34 hours of programming, plus reimbursement for transportation costs/mileage to the programs				0		\$16,506
Carpenter Nature Center	Sub award	Program fee for Bird by Bird participants at \$5/student for 75 students/class (covers 7 schools in year 1 and 10 schools in years 2-3)				0		\$10,125
							Sub Total	\$43,137
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
	Tools and Supplies	5 school bird watching toolkits	One toolkit per Bird by Bird school: 35 binoculars, 18 bird identification books, 6 foldable pocket bird field guides, 2 storage bins					\$20,219
	Tools and Supplies	An annual supply of bird seed for 10 schools and 5 Schoolyard bird feeding stations (includes: bird feeders, bird bath, multi-hooked shepherds hook, feeder cleaning supplies, bird seed storage container)	Materials for bird feeding stations at Bird by Bird schools, used for student bird observation					\$11,086

	Tools and Supplies	10 classroom sets of bird education supplies (includes: materials for 3 bird activities, annual membership to Cornell's Project Feederwatch for the school, multi-lingual bird guide activity books, and volunteer identification pins)	Sets of supplies for Bird by Bird Classrooms, including 3 educational activities; an activity book for students to learn about bird identification, ecology, and conservation; an annual membership to Cornell's Project Feederwatch citizen science project for the school; and identification pins for volunteers to wear when visiting classrooms						\$2,538
	Tools and Supplies	3 years worth of learning activity materials for school community/family engagement (7 schools in year 1 and 10 schools each in years 2-3)	Supplies such as glue, scissors, markers, etc. to be used while volunteers are once annually engaging each Bird by Bird school's community/families in an activity/event						\$1,038
	Tools and Supplies	Field Gear for 60 EPIC participants (20 participants per year)	Field supplies for EPIC participants to use while participating in outdoor programs						\$1,200
	Tools and Supplies	30 Stationary Bat Monitoring Kits	For Community Science bat monitoring. Each kit includes: AudioMoth, Protective Case, 1 microSDHC 64-GB card, 1 micro USB cable, 64-GB Micro SD Card, Includes Adapter for microSD, 4 pack rechargeable AA NiMH batteries WITH charger, SD card reader for computer to download data from SD cards						\$5,467
	Tools and Supplies	1 Live Demonstration Bat Call Recording Kit	For Community Science Bat monitoring demonstrations. EchoMeter Touch PRO, Kaliedascope Pro software, and an Android tablet necessary to run this software						\$1,247
	Tools and Supplies	Hi-vis apparel for 150 Community Science volunteers	Hi-vis hats and vests will be made available for Community Science volunteers participating in nocturnal monitoring efforts for safety						\$4,050
	Tools and Supplies	4 Pitch Counters	For Community Science chimney swift roost monitoring efforts. These counters are used to count individuals.						\$100
								Sub Total	\$46,945
Capital Expenditures									
								Sub Total	-

Acquisitions and Stewardship								
							Sub Total	-
Travel In Minnesota								
	Miles/ Meals/ Lodging	Bird by Bird Volunteers' travel and DNR staffs' travel for 96 total trips of 50 miles each at a rate of \$0.67/mile. Covers 2 volunteers per BbB school with 7 schools in yr 1 and 10 schools each in years 2-3 (= \$1809), plus the Bird by Bird Coordinator and Engagement Specialist's travel of 14 trips/year (= \$1407).	Bird by Bird Volunteers will travel to participate in classroom sessions, an annual field trip, and an annual community engagement event/activity. The Bird by Bird Coordinator/Engagement Specialist will travel to coordinate Bird by Bird and EPIC activities (eg. 1 Bird by Bird volunteer training, 1 volunteer recognition event, 3 Bird by Bird community events, 5 Bird by Bird school visits, 2 Bird by Bird school field trips, 1 EPIC orientation, and 1 EPIC final event)					\$3,216
	Other	Bus trips for student field trips to nature centers (\$500/bus*1.75 busses per school (most schools will need 2 but some will only need 1; 7 schools for year 1, 10 for years 2 and 3)	Busses for Bird by Bird students to attend field trips to nature centers for banding and hands on experience					\$24,300
	Miles/ Meals/ Lodging	Community Science program travel for 30 trips, totaling 7,710 miles, covering 2 DNR staff, at a rate of \$0.67/mile.	Travel for DNR staff (Community Science Program Coordinator and Engagement Specialist) to lead Community Science trainings and events for frog and toad, bat, chimney swift, and butterfly monitoring projects.					\$5,166
							Sub Total	\$32,682
Travel Outside Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Printing and Publication								
							Sub Total	-
Other Expenses								

		15 Venue rentals	Venues to be used for volunteer, EPIC young adult, and teacher trainings/onboardings/orientations for all three programs (Bird by Bird, EPIC, and Community Science)					\$2,700
		Program admission fees or other training fees for 3 years of the EPIC program	Training for EPIC young adults including admission fees, expert speakers, hands on birding sessions (\$200/visit to Eagle Center; Tour Raptor Center (\$5/adult, \$3/youth, 20 youth + 4 adults * 3 years)					\$900
		Direct and Necessary Costs	Direct and necessary costs cover people support (\$14,448), safety support (\$2,028), financial support (\$6,656), communications support (\$1,528), IT support (\$39,016), and planning support (\$1,137).					\$64,812
							Sub Total	\$68,412
							Grand Total	\$796,000

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				
In-Kind	Nongame Wildlife Fund	These monies will be used for a percentage of salary for the Nongame Wildlife Program's Wildlife Engagement Supervisor, Community Science Coordinator, and Communication Specialist. The Wildlife Engagement Supervisor provides direction and supervision for the Bird by Bird Coordinator, Community Science Program Coordinator, and Wildlife Engagement Specialist. The Community Science Coordinator leads the Community Science Program. The Communications Specialist provides programmatic communications support for all digital media needs (website, social media, and email newsletter) as well as volunteer recruitment and onboarding support.	Secured	\$199,646
			State Sub Total	\$199,646
Non-State				
Cash	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) State Wildlife Grants	These monies will be used for a percentage of salary for the Nongame Wildlife Program's Community Science Coordinator and Communications Specialist. The Community Science Coordinator leads the Community Science Program. The Communications Specialist supports Nongame Wildlife Program digital communication needs (website, social media, and email newsletter) as well as volunteer recruitment and onboarding.	Secured	\$185,354
			Non State Sub Total	\$185,354
			Funds Total	\$385,000

Total Project Cost: \$1,181,000

This amount accurately reflects total project cost?

Yes

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [ac6402dc-2db.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

Infographic depicting project outcomes: 2,000 students provided access to the outdoors and bird-focused nature education; 60 young adults experience the outdoors, develop wildlife skills, and connect with wildlife professionals, inspiring entry to conservation careers; and 200 volunteers engaged in 4 community science projects, generating data on at-risk wildlife....

Supplemental Attachments

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

Title	File
Letter of Support from Urban Roots	8c3ff1ea-c8d.pdf
Letter of Support from Urban Bird Collective	e1586175-45d.pdf
Letter of Support from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	c4c6f21a-98e.pdf
Letter of Support from Three Rivers Park District	1d87bf75-ce1.pdf
Letter of Support from Carpenter Nature Center	eab50bc0-307.pdf
Letter of Support from Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board	17f05895-cf9.pdf

Administrative Use

Does your project include restoration or acquisition of land rights?

No

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?

Yes

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:

Jessica Ruthenberg (MN DNR), Alison Cariveau (MN DNR), May Vang (MN DNR), Mags Edwards (MN DNR), and Kristin Hall (MN DNR)