2017 Project Abstract
For the Period Ending June 30, 2020

PROJECT TITLE: Increasing Residential Environmental Learning Center Opportunities
PROJECT MANAGER: Bryan Wood
AFFILIATION: Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center (formerly Audubon Center of the North Woods)
MAILING ADDRESS: PO Box 530
CITY/STATE/ZIP: Sandstone/MN/55072
PHONE: 320-290-8246
E-MAIL: wood@ospreywilds.org
WEBSITE: https://ospreywilds.org
FUNDING SOURCE: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
LEGAL CITATION: M.L. 2017, Chp. 96, Sec. 2, Subd. 05g

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: $130,000
AMOUNT SPENT: $130,000
AMOUNT REMAINING: $0

Sound bite of Project Outcomes and Results
This project connected 1,254 K-12 Minnesota students to nature through multi-day environmental learning experiences at Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center (formerly Audubon Center of the North Woods). This was accomplished through translating fieldtrip forms into three new languages, purchasing and lending outdoor gear to students, and providing K-12 student scholarships.

Overall Project Outcome and Results
Today’s students are increasingly being left out of nature learning experiences with children today spending far less time outdoors than any other generation in human history. For students that are low on the socio-economic spectrum, this is compounded as there are typically no outdoor areas near where they live, or adults who spend time with them in natural areas. Many schools do not have the financial resources to make environmental field trips possible. Additional factors impeding their participation are the cultural and language barriers increasingly seen with immigrant populations. Parents do not understand what the experience is, and are wary of sending their child away on an overnight field trip. Students coming from low economic families cannot afford to pay the student fee, or buy winter outerwear or a sleeping bag for use in the dormitory. We as a society have a responsibility to foster environmentally literate citizens from all backgrounds and it starts with our children. They will make the decisions for our society’s future.

We wanted to engage with the diverse and changing demographics of MN’s schools through this project by offering scholarships to financially strained schools to attend Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center for environmental learning experiences. This project’s goal was to make residential environmental learning experiences more accessible by: 1) providing a minimum of 1,000 K-12 scholarships to Minnesota students for residential programming at Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center, 2) purchasing outerwear (snow pants, coats, hats, mittens, scarves, winter boots) to lend out to K-12 students when attending to keep them comfortable and safe, 3) translating all K-12 trip forms into Spanish, Hmong, and Somali.

Through this project, we were actually able to provide 1,254 K-12 scholarships to Minnesota K-12 students, exceeding our goal of 1,000 student learning experiences with this project.

Project Results Use and Dissemination
The ongoing results of this project have been shared through our newsletters, our annual reports and social media accounts. Through these platforms, we have updated our constituents on the goals of the program, and the number of participants served. Some of our newsletters and annual reports are available online including: the Spring/Summer 2018 Newsletter, the Spring/Summer 2019 Newsletter, and the Fiscal Year 2019 Annual Report.
Date of Submission: April 21, 2020
Final Report
Date of Work Plan Approval: June 6, 2017
Project Completion Date: June 30, 2020

PROJECT TITLE: Increasing Residential Environmental Learning Center Opportunities

Project Manager: Bryan Wood
Organization: Audubon Center of the North Woods
Mailing Address: PO Box 530
City/State/Zip Code: Sandstone, MN 55072
Telephone Number: (320) 245-2648
Email Address: bwood@audubon-center.org
Web Address: www.audubon-center.org

Location: Activities will take place at our campus in Pine County, but the impact will be statewide as students will come from schools across Minnesota to our site.

Total ENRTF Project Budget:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ENRTF Appropriation</th>
<th>$130,000.00</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount Spent</td>
<td>$130,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Legal Citation: M.L. 2017, Chp.96, Sec. 2, Subd. 05g

Appropriation Language:
$130,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the Audubon Center of the North Woods to provide scholarship opportunities for a minimum of 1,000 students that are not currently served through other residential environmental education learning centers. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2020, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.
I. PROJECT TITLE: 101-C: Increasing Residential Environmental Learning Center Opportunities

II. PROJECT STATEMENT:

1. We wish to provide scholarships to under-served schools for 2-night, 3-day residential environmental learning experiences at the Audubon Center of the North Woods.
   - Today’s students are increasingly being left out of nature learning experiences with children today spending far less time outdoors than previous generations. For students low on the socio-economic spectrum, this is compounded as there are typically no outdoor areas near where they live, or adults who spend time with them in natural areas.
   - Many schools do not have the financial resources to make environmental field trips possible. Additional factors impeding their participation are the cultural and language barriers increasingly seen with immigrant populations. Parents do not understand what the experience is, and are wary of sending their child away on an overnight field trip. Students coming from low economic families cannot afford to pay the student fee, or buy winter outerwear or a sleeping bag for use in the dormitory.
   - We as a society have a responsibility to foster environmentally literate citizens from all backgrounds and it starts with our children. They will make the decisions for our society’s future.

2. We want to engage with the diverse and changing demographics of MN’s schools by offering scholarships to financially strained schools to come to the Audubon Center of the North Woods for 2-night, 3-day residential environmental learning experiences.
   - Through our residential environmental education programs, students will experience six 2-hour classes, two evening programs, receive seven meals and two nights lodging.
   - Teachers select from their choice of approximately fifty class options during their stay in the fields of biological, earth and physical sciences, adventure, energy, food, cultural history and team building.
   - We will make lasting impacts and open students’ eyes and minds to a world larger than they previously knew, and awareness that their actions have environmental consequences. Studies show that most people who develop a love of nature trace it back to a positive childhood experience with a caring adult.

3. We would offer scholarship assistance of up to 100% of the $115/student cost.
   - We want to improve the environmental literacy of Minnesota students and share with them the joy of being immersed in nature.
   - We would serve student populations in the Twin Cities metro area, as well Minnesota state-wide.
   - Eligible schools would have free and reduced lunch student percentages of over 25%.
   - This will provide funding for a minimum of 1,000 students to participate in a residential environmental learning experience
   - We will reach out to superintendents, principals, executive directors and teachers of Minnesota schools to inform them of this opportunity and work with them to bring their students to the Audubon Center of the North Woods.
   - We would translate our school forms including our K-12 Trip Planner, Student Health, Adult Health, Liability Release, Packing list and Parent Information forms into Somali, Hmong and Spanish for better understanding of students and parents.
   - We would purchase 100 pairs of winter gear including jackets, boots, snow pants, hats, mittens neck gaiters and sleeping bags to be lent out to students attending so they will be safe and comfortable outside and sleeping in the dormitories.

III. OVERALL PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

Project Status as of 12.30.17:
Work in the project is moving along well. We have all of our forms translated into Somali, Spanish and Hmong, have uploaded them onto our website for schools to access. We have purchased winter gear that is organized and stored and ready for K-12 use. We have awarded one school with LCCMR funds, and have several set for Spring 2018 that will be receiving funds. We have reached out to the major school districts in the Twin Cities
metro area to let their leadership know about the opportunity for K-12 scholarships, and discussions are ongoing with multiple schools. We have sent K-12 brochures to all schools statewide notifying them of scholarships funds for schools currently not attending a residential center.

**Amendment Request 04.18.18:**
We are requesting a change to move the remaining $2,812.42 for K12 forms translation to K12 scholarship funds, bringing the K12 scholarship project budget to $117,812.42. Our K12 forms translation project is complete and came in under budget and we would like to dedicate those remaining funds to fund more student outdoor experiences through scholarships.

For the Winter Gear project, we would like to change the text to instead be purchasing a combination winter outer gear and equipment that best fits the needs of the schools. The current text says “Purchase 100 sets of winter jackets, snow pants, winter boots, mittens, stocking caps, neck gaiters and 50 sleeping bags.” We want to change that text and not be held to 100 for each item, and instead purchase gear and equipment that is most needed for schools.

Amendment Approved by LCCMR 4/26/2018

**Project Status as of 08.20.18:**
The project is going very well with 8 schools having received LCCMR funds to attend ACNW, where they would not have been able to without those funds. Through the first school year of the grant we awarded more than $29,000 in K-12 scholarship funds to those 8 schools. We look forward to offering more scholarships over the next two years to more schools. We have completed all purchases of our winter gear and that activity budget is now completed, as is the K-12 forms translation, leaving only the K-12 scholarships activity to have funds expended moving ahead.

**Amendment Request 10.15.18:**
We are requesting an amendment that would open our scholarship funds to also be used for busing costs for schools in need. While we have reached many schools already through this grant, we are hearing from schools that busing costs are a funding problem for them and a barrier to making these experiences possible. We believe this amendment will allow us to reach more students and schools. Since not all schools are requesting 100% scholarships, we are still on track to reach or surpass our goal of providing experiences to a minimum of 1,000 K12 students.

**Project Status as of 12.31.18:**
147 students from four schools between July 1- Dec. 31 received scholarship support to attend the Audubon Center of the North Woods. A total of $15,039 in scholarships were awarded to these four schools. With the winter gear and forms translations complete, the only activity area in the budget is scholarships. We have several more schools this spring that we will be awarding scholarships to.

**Project Status as of 06.30.2019**
405 K-12 learners from seven schools between January 1 – June 30 received scholarship support to attend the Audubon Center of the North Woods. A total of $37,703 in scholarships were awarded to these seven schools. We anticipate using all of the remaining funds during this upcoming school year, and surpassing the minimum 1,000 students goal we had indicated in the grant.

**Project Status as of 12.31.2019**
K-12 learners from 10 schools between May 22 – Dec 4 received scholarship support to attend the Audubon Center of the North Woods. A total of $28,282 in scholarships were awarded to these 10 schools. We will use the remaining funds up this spring. We have now reached 1,159 K-12 students through this grant, and we will close out the grant, continuing to reach more students above our goal of 1,000 students.
Project Status as of 04.21.2020

95 K-12 learners from four schools from January 13 – March 4 received scholarship support to attend the Audubon Center of the North Woods. A total of $7,342 in scholarships were awarded to four schools. This zeroed out our fund balance and through this project, we provided K-12 scholarship support to 1,254 K-12 students to attend our residential environmental education programs. This is 25% above our goal of providing 1,000 K-12 learners residential educational experiences.

Overall Project Outcomes and Results:

Today’s students are increasingly being left out of nature learning experiences with children today spending far less time outdoors than any other generation in human history. For students that are low on the socio-economic spectrum, this is compounded as there are typically no outdoor areas near where they live, or adults who spend time with them in natural areas. Many schools do not have the financial resources to make environmental field trips possible. Additional factors impeding their participation are the cultural and language barriers increasingly seen with immigrant populations. Parents do not understand what the experience is, and are wary of sending their child away on an overnight field trip. Students coming from low economic families cannot afford to pay the student fee, or buy winter outerwear or a sleeping bag for use in the dormitory. We as a society have a responsibility to foster environmentally literate citizens from all backgrounds and it starts with our children. They will make the decisions for our society’s future.

We wanted to engage with the diverse and changing demographics of MN’s schools through this project by offering scholarships to financially strained schools to attend Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center for environmental learning experiences. This project’s goal was to make residential environmental learning experiences more accessible by: 1) providing a minimum of 1,000 K-12 scholarships to Minnesota students for residential programming at Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center, 2) purchasing outerwear (snow pants, coats, hats, mittens, scarves, winter boots) to lend out to K-12 students when attending to keep them comfortable and safe, 3) translating all K-12 trip forms into Spanish, Hmong, and Somali.

Through this project, we were able to provide 1,254 K-12 scholarships to Minnesota K-12 students, exceeding our goal of 1,000 student learning experiences with this project. Without the support of these funds, these students would not have been able to experience nature and learn in the residential setting they did. We are so very grateful to the LCCMR for recommending this project for ENRTF.

IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

**ACTIVITY 1: K-12 Schools Scholarship Funds**

**Description:** Provide scholarship funds of up to 100% cost of $115/student experience as well as busing scholarships on a needs-basis through scholarship application review for 2-night, 3-day residential environmental learning experience at the Audubon Center of the North Woods to a minimum of 1,000 Minnesota K-12 students. Schools eligible would be Minnesota public schools with free and reduced lunch percentages above 25%. Special consideration will be given to schools with high numbers of minority and immigrant populations.

**Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ENRTF Budget: $117,812.42</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount Spent: $117,812.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance: $0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>Completion Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Provide minimum of 1,000 K-12 student residential environmental learning experiences at the Audubon Center of the North Woods.</td>
<td>June 30, 2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Activity 1 Status as of 12.30.17:
As of Dec. 30 we have awarded $5,345.76 to Venture Academy of Minneapolis for their residential visit Aug. 29-31, 2017 with 84 students. We have three schools for the remainder of the 2017-18 school year that we will be awarding funds, and will likely add more as we continue with ongoing discussions with other schools.

Activity 1 Status as of 08.20.18:
As of August 20th, we have awarded $29,446.36 total in K-12 scholarships reaching 317 students total. Since the last activity status update of 12.30.17, we awarded $24,100.60 to seven schools: Rivers Edge Academy (11 students), Riverway Learning Community (20 students), Dassel-Cokato ALC (15 students), Zanewood Community School (40 students), Lucy Craft Laney Community School (58 students), Palmer Lake Elementary School (77 students), VOA High School (12 students). These numbers are in addition to the 84 students who attended with Venture Academy last fall. With 317 students attending our residential program, this amounts to approximately 147 2-hour classes and 16 evening programs delivered.

Activity 1 Status as of 12.31.18
As of Dec. 31, we have awarded $44,485.46, total in K-12 scholarships to 464 students total. Since the last activity status update, we awarded $15,039.10 to four schools who brought 147 students: Zanewood Community Schools (70 students), Volunteers of America High School (12 students), Crestview Elementary (36 students), and Webster Elementary (29 students). With 147 students attending our residential program, this amounts to approximately 60 2-hour classes, and 8 evenings programs delivered.

Activity 1 Status as of 6.30.2019
As of June 30, we have awarded $82,188.46 total in K-12 scholarships to 869 K-12 learners. Since the last activity status update, we awarded $37,703 to seven schools who brought 405 K-12 learners: Volunteers of America High School (15), Prairie Seeds Academy (30), Minnesota Internship Center (24), Valley View Elementary School (92), Academia Cesar Chavez (45), Lucy Laney Community School (81) and Palmer Lake Elementary (118).

Activity 1 Status as of 12.31.2019
As of December 31, we have awarded $110,470.46 total in K-12 scholarships to 1,159 K-12 learners, already surpassing our target goal of 1,000 K-12 students in the grant. Since the last activity update, we awarded $28,282 to ten schools who brought 290 K-12 learners; Lucy Laney Community School (transportation support for May visit), Minneapolis Public Schools (88), Henry High School (10), Webster Elementary (18), Jackson Elementary (40), Crestview Elementary (29), Volunteers of America High School (12), Volunteers of America High School (12), Edgerton Elementary (69), Cloquet Alternative Education (12).

Activity 1 Status as of 04.21.2020
As of April 21, we have now awarded the full $117,812.42 in K-12 scholarships through our project to 1,254 K-12 learners, surpassing our target goal of 1,000 K-12 learners by 254 for the grant. Since the last activity update, we awarded $7,342 to four schools who brought 95 K-12 learners; St. John the Baptist (11), Stella Maris Academy (48), Northern Lights Community School (24), and Volunteers of America High School (12).

Final Report Summary
Our grant is now complete as we have awarded the last of our funds to the most recent four schools listed. We are very happy we were able to provide 1,254 residential environmental learning experiences over the last three years to K-12 students from across Minnesota, and from a wide range of demographics. Thank you for allowing us this opportunity.

ACTIVITY 2: School Forms Translation
Description: We will hire a language translation company to translate our six K-12 school forms including our K-12 Trip Planner, Student Health, Adult Health, Liability Release, Packing List, and Parent Information forms into the three languages we see the highest need: Spanish, Hmong and Somali.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 2:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>Completion Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Translate K-12 forms into Spanish, Hmong and Somali</td>
<td>Aug. 1, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Upload translated forms onto our website for download</td>
<td>Sep. 1, 2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Activity 2 Status as of 12.30.17:
Work is completed with this project, and finished $2,812.42 under budget. We received the translated forms on Sep. 14, 2017 and uploaded them onto our website on Oct. 1, 2017. We also have been emailing PDF versions of the forms to schools as we have email communication with their lead contact. We would like to shift this remaining $2,812.42 over to the K-12 Scholarships budget category to provide more children scholarship help.

Activity 2 Status as of 08.20.18:
Activity 2 has been complete since 12.30.17

Activity 2 Status as of 12.31.18:
Activity 2 has been complete since 12.30.17

Activity 2 Status as of 6.30.2019
Activity 2 has been complete since 12.30.17

Activity 2 Status as of 1.1.2020
Activity 2 has been complete since 12.30.17

Final Report Summary
The translated forms were utilized by many schools, parents and students to help the reservation and orientation process.

ACTIVITY 3: Acquire Winter and Sleeping Gear
Description: We will purchase outdoor winter clothing and equipment for K-12 students, many of whom cannot afford the appropriate clothing for the experience. The gear will be permanently kept at the Audubon Center of the North Woods and lent out to any students in need during their visit. Students will return them at the end of their visit.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 3:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>Completion Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Purchase a combination of winter gear and equipment to best equip K12 students</td>
<td>Oct. 1, 2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Activity 3 Status as of 12.30.17:
As of this point we have purchased 65 jackets, 35 hats, 25 pairs of mitten, 46 pairs of boots, and 55 snow pants totaling $5,979.71. We are holding off on purchasing more until we see where the greatest need is for gear, as well as what sizes we need more of. Instead of this budget going to get 100 pairs of everything, we will look to
purchase the quantities of what we need most of, and adjust accordingly. It is unlikely we need 100 pairs of everything, as we received many donations of items over the last year, decreasing our needs.

**Activity 3 Status as of 08.20.18:**
Since the last update, we purchased 14 pairs of winter pants, and a boot dryer. This completes Activity 3’s budget. The winter gear we purchased was used by several schools and was very much appreciated and will continue to be used for schools over the next two years.

**Activity 3 Status as of 12.31.18:**
This activity has been complete since 08.20.18.

**Activity 3 Status as of 6.30.2019**
This activity has been complete since 08.20.18.

**Activity 3 Status as of 1.1.2020**
This activity has been complete since 08.20.18.

**Final Report Summary:**
The outdoor gear we were able to provide students was used time and again over the last three years and made a world of difference for students. The gear was heavily relied upon by many of the students who came without proper footwear, clothing or outer gear.

Copy and paste the above structure for each additional project activity (e.g., Activity 2, Activity 3, etc.), starting at the activity title through the activity “Final Report Summary” entry.

**V. DISSEMINATION:**
**Description:** We plan to share information about this project through our bi-annual printed newsletter “News from the North Woods” that is sent to our mailing list of approximately 3,000 subscribers. We also plan to share it through our periodic E-Newsletter that goes out to our several hundred electronic subscribers. We will share via our Facebook page: Audubon Center of the North Woods, as well as our Twitter account: Audubon Center of the North Woods. We will be contacting K-12 schools beginning July 1, 2017 about the project and scholarship opportunities and will include language appropriately recognized LCCMR and the ENRTF.

**Status as of 12.30.17:**
We shared news of this grant in our Summer 2017 Newsletter, as well as E-Newsletter. We have made several posts on Facebook and Twitter about the opportunity for schools, using the appropriate language.

**Status as of 08.20.18:**
We shared news of this grant in our Spring 2018 Newsletter and the impact it made, and made several posts on Facebook with schools attending from LCCMR funds. We will also acknowledge the impact of this grant in our Annual Report this fall.

**Status as of 12.31.18:**
We highlighted the impact of this grant in our July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018 Annual Report, which was released October of 2018 online and can be found on our website, www.audubon-center.org

**Status as of 6.30.2019:**
We highlighted the impact of this grant at our Donor/Volunteer Recognition Dinner on March 22, as well as at our 50th Anniversary Dinner on June 15.
Status as of 12.31.2019:
We shared the impact of this grant at our Annual Fall K-12 Bids for Kids Scholarship Fundraiser, which was held Nov. 7 at Silverwood Park in St. Anthony, attended by 150 donors and emceed by KARE 11’s Belinda Jensen. One of the teachers who spoke has received funding support for his school to attend. We also produced an Annual Report that highlighted this grant and the students we reached through scholarship report.

Final Report Summary:
We will highlight the impact of this grant in our annual report this fall, which will be distributed digitally to our database of over 10,000 individuals.

VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:
A. Preliminary ENRTF Budget Overview:
*This section represents an overview of the preliminary budget at the start of the project. It will be reconciled with actual expenditures at the time of the final report.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget Category</th>
<th>$ Amount</th>
<th>Overview Explanation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personnel:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professional/Technical/Service Contracts:</td>
<td>$4,817.58</td>
<td>We will hire a language translator contractor to translate 6 school forms into Spanish, Hmong and Somali</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equipment/Tools/Supplies:</td>
<td>$8,000</td>
<td>Purchase winter gear and equipment from thrift, second-hand stores and outdoor clothing companies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capital Expenditures over $5,000:</td>
<td>$</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fee Title Acquisition:</td>
<td>$</td>
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<td>Easement Acquisition:</td>
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<td>Professional Services for Acquisition:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Printing:</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Travel Expenses in MN:</td>
<td>$</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other:</td>
<td>$117,812.42</td>
<td>Scholarships of up to 100% student fee ($115/student) for students and busing scholarships to attend Audubon Center of the North Woods 2-night, 3-day residential environmental learning experience.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET: $130,000

Explanation of Use of Classified Staff:

Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than $5,000:

Total Number of Full-time Equivalents (FTE) Directly Funded with this ENRTF Appropriation:

Total Number of Full-time Equivalents (FTE) Estimated to Be Funded through Contracts with this ENRTF Appropriation:

B. Other Funds:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source of Funds</th>
<th>$ Amount Proposed</th>
<th>$ Amount Spent</th>
<th>Use of Other Funds</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-state</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecolab</td>
<td>$7,500</td>
<td></td>
<td>K-12 Scholarships for St. Paul schools</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:
A. Project Team/Partners
- The project team would consist of the Audubon Center of the North Woods staff.
- Executive Director Bryan Wood would secure a translation company for translating forms, as well as visit thrift stores and work with vendors to purchase sleeping bags and winter outerwear for students.
- Mr. Wood and Program Director Connie Haugen would reach out to schools that have expressed interest in the past, but had financial limitations, as well as reach out to prospective schools in underserved areas of the Twin Cities and Greater Minnesota. School visits and public sessions for parents and students would occur at attending schools.
- Mr. Wood and Ms. Haugen would review and award scholarships on a needs-basis.
- Audubon Center administrators, educators, food service and facilities staff would all work with program delivery for each school attending.

B. Project Impact and Long-Term Strategy
- This project’s impact would be significant in the lives of hundreds of Minnesota K-12 students.
- The chance for students to be immersed in nature for multiple days, spend time outside with their classmates and teachers, and learn in the environment is a powerful experience. For many, they have never done anything like this, let alone spent a night away from home.
- We have seen many schools enact environmental projects and activities at their schools after a visit to our site. Schools realize and embrace the value of the experience and work to keep the trip an annual experience through fundraising. We meet with the schools to give them ideas for how to do this.
- Getting the schools here initially is the largest hurdle, when parents, teachers and faculty are unfamiliar to the process. Once here, it is much easier to work with them to continue returning.
- Studies show that students who have nature experiences report higher academic scores, improved focus, lower stress levels, and fewer behavior problems.
- The benefits to society of this project are also many. This project would foster environmentally literate students, helping shape their decision making process individually and their collective impact on society.
- If we are successful with this grant and find an increasing need for financial assistance to connect more diverse and changing student demographics to residential environmental learning experiences, we may come back to LCCMR with future funding requests.

C. Funding History:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Source and Use of Funds</th>
<th>Funding Timeframe</th>
<th>$ Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ecolab – St. Paul K-12 school scholarships</td>
<td>July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016</td>
<td>$7,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecolab – St. Paul K-12 school scholarships</td>
<td>July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017</td>
<td>$7,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Onan Family Foundation - St. Paul &amp; Minneapolis K-12 scholarships</td>
<td>July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

- The project is for xx years, will begin on 07/01/17, and end on 06/30/20.
- Periodic project status update reports will be submitted [January/1] and [June/30] of each year.
- A final report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 15, 2020.

IX. VISUAL COMPONENT or MAP(S):
**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund**  
**M.L. 2017 Project Budget**

**Project Title:** Increasing Residential Environmental Learning Center Opportunities  
**Legal Citation:** M.L. 2017, Chp. 96, Sec. 2, Subd. 05g  
**Project Manager:** Bryan Wood  
**Organization:** Audubon Center of the North Woods  
**M.L. 2017 ENRTF Appropriation:** $130,000  
**Project Length and Completion Date:** 3 Years, June 30, 2020  
**Date of Report:** Apr. 21, 2020

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**ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BUDGET ITEM</th>
<th>Activity 1 Budget</th>
<th>Activity 1 Amount Spent</th>
<th>Activity 1 Balance</th>
<th>Activity 2 Budget</th>
<th>Activity 2 Amount Spent</th>
<th>Activity 2 Balance</th>
<th>Activity 3 Budget</th>
<th>Activity 3 Amount Spent</th>
<th>Activity 3 Balance</th>
<th>TOTAL BUDGET</th>
<th>TOTAL BALANCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Professional/Technical/Service Contracts</td>
<td>K-12 Schools and Busing Scholarship</td>
<td>$4,188</td>
<td>$4,188</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$4,188</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>Acquire Winter and Sleeping Gear</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$4,188</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equipment/Tools/Supplies</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>$8,000</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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<td>$117,812</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$117,812</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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We will hire a language translation company to translate our six K-12 school forms including our K-12 Trip Planner, Student Health, Adult Health, Liability Release, Packing List, and Parent Information forms into the three languages we see the highest need: Spanish, Hmong and Somali.

Purchase winter gear and equipment to best equip students.

Provide minimum of 1,000 K-12 student residential environmental learning experiences at the Audubon Center of the North Woods.

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**COLUMN TOTAL** | $117,812 | $117,812 | $0 | $4,188 | $4,188 | $0 | $8,000 | $8,000 | $0 | $130,000 | $0 |