



NEBRASKA ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST FUND

H1. Project Sponsor: Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

H2. Project Name: Trout in the Classroom

3. County(s) where project is located: **Statewide**

4. Nearest town: **Gretna, NE**

5. Total Amount Requested: **\$135,250**

6. Years of funding requested (select one): **3**

Contact Person:

7. Name: **Lindsey Chizinski**

8. Title: **Fisheries Biologist II**

9. Organization: **Nebraska Game and Parks Commission**

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14. E-mail: **Lindsey.chizinski@nebraska.gov**

15. Sponsor web site: **outdoornebraska.org**

16. Is this a continuation request for a project previously funded by the Trust: YES NO: **NO**

Is this a resubmission of a project application previously not funded by the Trust: YES NO: **NO**

17. Please indicate which category best describes the applicant: **State Agency**

Selections are: Individual City or County Natural Resources District Federal Agency Private for Profit

Private Nonprofit Consortium School, Irrigation, Power or Development District State Agency Other (specify):

18. Will this project receive federal funds or require a federal review or permit? YES NO: **YES**

If yes, identify the agency(s) and its role:

Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Funds earmarked for aquatic education will be used to compensate Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC) staff for time contributed to project development and implementation, and will also be used for material supplies such as curriculum guides, equipment, and other educational materials.

19. Will this project receive other State of Nebraska funds or require a state review or permit? YES NO: **YES**

If yes, identify the agency(s) and its role:

Nebraska Game and Parks Commission will supply trout eggs, trout feed, and adult trout from state fish hatcheries and contribute funds to the purchase and creation of curriculum guides, equipment and other materials. Additionally, the Aksarben Aquarium and Schramm Park State Recreation Area will function as a field trip site.

20. In **300 words or less** provide an overview of the project for which you seek funding. If you are asking the Trust to fund only a portion of the project, indicate the components for which you seek funding.

Trout in the Classroom (TIC) is an environmental education program in which students have the opportunity to raise trout from eggs to juveniles, monitor water quality, engage in habitat study, learn about ecosystem interactions and water resources, and begin to foster a conservation ethic. TIC has interdisciplinary applications in science, social studies, mathematics, language arts, fine arts, and physical education. Thirty-five states are involved in more than 500 TIC projects, and TIC has been successfully implemented in the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom for more than 20 years. In addition to receiving fertilized trout eggs from a state fish hatchery, classrooms enrolled in the program receive all necessary equipment and materials to raise rainbow trout, award winning curriculum tailored to address trout in Nebraska, hands-on teacher training, technical support, opportunities for classroom visits from fisheries biologists and trout conservationists, and opportunities for field trips to release trout, go fishing, and visit the Aksarben Aquarium or a state fish hatchery. Trout in the Classroom is being piloted in 2013 with three schools in eastern Nebraska, and NGPC plans to increase enrollment to at least 50 4th-5th grade classrooms statewide by 2016. We are seeking funding to supply 50 classrooms with the necessary equipment and materials to raise cold water fish species, and to fund a temporary staff position to assist the coordinator of the program.

21. On behalf of the sponsor(s) named above, I hereby certify that the information contained in this application, including all attachments, is true, accurate and complete.

Authorized Signature of Sponsor Organization

Title

Date

Typed or Printed Name of Authorized Signatory

Typed or Printed Title

H1. Project Sponsor: Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

H2. Project Name: Trout in the Classroom

PROGRAM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

In human growth and development theory, Piaget's Theory of Moral Development identifies 'autonomous morality' as the stage of development that occurs between the ages of nine and eleven (Piaget 2007). During this stage, children begin to view the world outside of a wholly selfish perspective and understand that their decisions and actions affect everyone, and therefore can benefit or hurt everyone. **It is vital that conservation ethics are introduced at this stage of development.** If children miss the connection between their choices and their environment at this age, they are much less likely as adults to think about their surroundings in terms of conservation. TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM provides a vehicle to access youth at this crucial stage of development and introduce conservation concepts within the learning environment.

TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM is a unique way to teach the relevance of watersheds, water quality, life cycles, food webs, aquatic habitats, fish biology, and fishing recreation. Trout are a perfect subject to introduce these topics; as an indicator species, their abundance directly reflects the quality of the water in which they live. TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM provides students the opportunity to raise trout from eggs to fingerlings (juveniles). Students participating in the program develop a connection with and concern for the trout they raise in classroom aquaria, a connection that extends to the natural habitat in which trout live.

Goals

After completing the TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM program, 75% of participants will be able to:

- Diagram components of an aquatic ecosystem and describe connections among them.
- Demonstrate through hypothesis testing how excessive nutrients in water can negatively affect water quality.
- Compare point and nonpoint source pollution and recognize that everyone contributes to and is responsible for the quality of Nebraska's waters.
- Identify ways to reduce pollution of Nebraska's waters.
- Describe life cycle differences between hatchery raised and naturally reproducing trout and identify habitat components that are essential to survival.
- List six Nebraska fish species and describe how their varying adaptations can help them survive in different habitats.
- Demonstrate how to tie a fishing knot, rig a fishing pole, and cast a fishing rod.
- Recognize the contribution of fish stocking programs and aquatic habitat management to Nebraska's outdoor recreation opportunities.
- Recognize the importance of following fishing regulations and identify how fishing regulations relate to water quality and habitat conservation.

Objectives

Participants in this program will:

- Gain an appreciation for Nebraska's water resources
- Develop an understanding of ecosystem interactions
- Begin to foster a conservation ethic.

The objectives of Nebraska's TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM program directly align with the objectives of the Nebraska Environmental Trust by providing an ideal opportunity to inform and educate Nebraskans about the importance of preserving Nebraska's lakes, water ways, and ground water from degradation. This project provides the unique opportunity to introduce these concepts at a crucial stage of development during which the groundwork is laid for a lifelong environmental code of ethics.

PROGRAM DESIGN

TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM is a cooperative program that operates as a partnership between local schools, private conservation organizations, and government agencies and programs. Participating fourth and fifth grade classrooms are provided an aquarium, habitat components for the aquarium, and trout eggs. Additionally, participating educators receive award-winning TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM curriculum (targeted to fourth and fifth grade classrooms, but applicable to younger and older audiences) and Aquatic WILD curriculum (kindergarten – twelfth grade) as well as interactive training that covers both trout care and maintenance and classroom activities. The curricula provide interdisciplinary lessons in science, social studies, mathematics, language arts, fine arts, and physical education that are aligned to state standards for teaching.

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Equipment and materials to facilitate curriculum activities are available to participating classrooms through the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC) Aquatic Education program.

Throughout the program, students take ownership of caring for both their trout and the aquarium habitat by testing water quality, feeding their trout, and monitoring growth and development. Participants in the program engage in fully interactive learning through all stages of project, from the day eggs arrive in the classroom to the day they are released into a natural habitat.

Participating educators are expected to implement TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM annually. The program timeline is as follows:

Summer:

- First-time participating educators attend a training workshop at the Aksarben Aquarium Outdoor Education Center.
- Ongoing participating educators attend an optional refresher workshop.

Fall:

- Participating schools receive and/or set up trout rearing aquaria in their classrooms.

Winter:

- Trout eggs and trout feed are received at Aksarben Aquarium and distributed to participating educators.

Winter/Spring:

- Trout are reared in classrooms from egg to fingerling.
- Core curriculum activities are implemented as part of classroom learning objectives.

Spring:

- Fingerling trout are released at the canyon ponds in Schramm Park during classroom field trips to Aksarben Aquarium. Field trips also include a tour of the Aksarben Aquarium, fishing activities, fly fishing demonstrations, and water quality testing at the release site.
- Participating teachers evaluate the program and provide feedback to NPGC.
- Equipment is maintained and stored by participating educators until the following school year.

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM is coordinated and administered through the NGPC Aquatic Education Program. It is being piloted in three schools during the 2013-2014 school year, and participating educators attended a four-hour teacher training workshop on July 31st, 2013.

Using established programs such as Idaho Trout in the Classroom and Michigan Salmon in the Classroom as a guide, NGPC staff developed a curriculum package (Attachment 1 [cover page], available online at: <http://fishingnebraska.files.wordpress.com/2013/08/nebraska-trout-in-the-classroom-curriculum.pdf>) to align with Nebraska's state academic standards and with our unique trout habitat and management practices (See Introduction by Daryl Bauer in Attachment 1). Additionally, a care and maintenance guide was developed for participating classrooms (Attachment 2 [cover page], available online at: <http://fishingnebraska.files.wordpress.com/2013/08/nebraska-tic-equipment-and-care.pdf>).

Funding for trout, trout feed, and all educational materials are provided by the NGPC Aquatic Education Program, using Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration and NGPC Game Cash funds. Equipment for two pilot schools was funded by the Nebraska Chapter of Trout Unlimited (TU) #710 (www.tu710.org). Equipment for the third pilot school was funded using Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration and NGPC Game Cash funds. (A potential fourth participating classroom is seeking its own funding through state agricultural grants.)

Program marketing and administration, curriculum development, classroom support, and facilitation of classroom visits and field trips are conducted by NGPC Fisheries Biologists, Staff Assistants, Conservation Technicians and Tourism Guides. Additionally, NGPC Wildlife Division Program Specialists contribute to curriculum development and teacher training.

The NGPC also provides facilities at the Aksarben Aquarium Outdoor Education Center and Schramm Park State Recreation Area to conduct teacher trainings and to provide an education-based trout release field trip site. Additionally, the Aksarben Aquarium houses a promotional display that consists of a trout rearing aquarium, trout life cycle display, and pertinent information about the project. Trout Unlimited #710 members will continue to fund two schools annually and to provide volunteer hours to present fly-fishing workshops during trout release field days and classroom presentations about habitat conservation efforts through the 2016 – 2017 school year.

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Continuation of the project beyond the pilot program

The project will be promoted through statewide networks including, but not limited to:

- Presentation at the annual conference of the Nebraska Association of Teachers of Science (NATS),
- Presentation at the annual conference of the Nebraska Alliance for Conservation and Environment Education (NACEE) and utilization of their listserv,
- Cooperation with the Nebraska Department of Education Science Curriculum Specialist.

Promotion will also occur through localized avenues within school districts (e.g., the Durham Educator's Night for the Omaha Public Schools).

NGPC is seeking funding to expand TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM beyond the pilot phase and implement the project in at least 50 schools statewide during 2014-2016. Specifically, NGPC is pursuing NET grant funds to:

- **Supply each participating school with the necessary equipment to initiate the program.**
- **Hire a seasonal staff assistant to contribute to program administration and marketing, and to act as a liaison between program partners.**

The proposed expansion timeline is as follows:

- *Fall 2013-2015:* Promote TIC statewide and accept program applications; develop an online presence to facilitate communication between partners
- *Spring 2014:* Accept 12 new schools into the program (ten funded through NET grant funds, and two through TU contributions)
- *Spring 2015:* Accept 22 new schools to the program (twenty funded through NET grant funds, and two through TU contributions)
- *Spring 2016:* Accept 22 new schools to the program (twenty funded through NET grant funds, and two through TU contributions)
- *Summer 2017:* Assess current participation and determine whether to continue expansion beyond the established school participation.

In the event that a participating school discontinues the program, the equipment will be relinquished to NGPC and become available to another classroom.

Future funding for the continued maintenance, administration, and evaluation of TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM will be provided by the NGPC Aquatic Education Program using Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration and Game Cash funds. This funding includes continued oversight by Aquatic Education staff, maintenance of a seasonal coordinator position, and funding to maintain equipment and materials for participating schools. Trout Unlimited #710 will assess their continued contribution to TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM beyond the 2016-2017 academic year.

Potential challenges to program expansion

Limiting the teacher training and trout release site to the Aksarben Aquarium in Eastern Nebraska may present a challenge for schools required to travel more than 100 miles, and could influence statewide participation. Due to the risk of disease introduction, NGPC production managers are concerned with releasing fish in public waters so trout release field trips at a nearby pond or stream are unlikely, but a reasonable solution is a field trip and return of fish to a state fish hatchery. Teacher training courses can also take place regionally at state fish hatcheries. Another option for field trips in central and western Nebraska is to partner with existing NGPC Outdoor Discovery Programs. These annual springtime programs offer a wide variety of outdoor activities to fourth through sixth grade classrooms, and already include fishing and fly-fishing activities. An additional activity could be implemented for TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM participants to facilitate a trout release.

Cost effectiveness

TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM requires a significant initial investment for each participating school. Because trout are a cold water species, an aquarium chiller is required to provide suitable habitat. After the initial investment to set up a trout rearing aquarium, the costs per classroom are negligible, and limited to expenditures for replacement water quality supplies, trout eggs and trout feed. With proper care, trout rearing aquaria can be used for many years.

That Pet Place, an online distributor of pet supplies, has worked with Trout Unlimited to create a TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM package, available only to educators participating in the program (<http://www.thatpetplace.com/Trout-in-the-Classroom>). This package includes all of the equipment and water quality supplies necessary to build an operational cold water trout rearing aquarium, with the exception of the tank itself, which can be purchased locally. The package is offered at



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discounted prices, with affordable shipping. Kits are offered at two price points, and classrooms will be supplied with the less costly option (\$740.97 + \$8.99 shipping).

PROGRAM BENEFITS

Fosters a conservation ethic

TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM acts as a catalyst to introduce water quality and aquatic habitat conservation concepts to Nebraska's citizens and future stakeholders at a crucial phase of cognitive development. Youth who gain an established connection to natural resources will be more likely to support their conservation as adults (Chwala and Derr 2012) and to establish a family and peer heritage of appreciation and support (USFWS 2003).

Offers a unique, proven, long-term approach to integration of aquatic education in classrooms

TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM is a nationwide initiative that has been a major component of aquatic education in states like New York, Idaho, and Michigan for decades. Once established, and with the support of state natural resource agencies, the program perpetuates itself. Schools tend to maintain involvement once they obtain the necessary equipment, even when participating teachers are replaced.

TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM is unique from other aquatic education programs offered by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC), such as Family Fishing Nights, in that it equally addresses both outdoor recreation learning objectives as well as water resource conservation objectives. Additionally, existing NGPC aquatic education materials are dated and grossly underutilized in our schools. TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM offers a platform to introduce curriculum and activities that are relevant to today's teaching standards and classrooms.

Aquatic education resources are available to classrooms through Aquatic WILD and Project WET curriculums, however both have their limitations. Aquatic WILD curriculum offers excellent activities (some of which are adapted for Nebraska TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM curriculum) but they are designed to be utilized nationwide; thus many activities are not ideally suited to teaching about Nebraska's aquatic environments. Additionally, Aquatic WILD is a supplement to the core Project WILD curriculum, and teacher training is primarily focused on core curriculum. TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM offers curriculum that is specialized to Nebraska's aquatic habitats and teacher training that is focused entirely on aquatic education. Project WET is a water education program that focuses on water use and conservation, however its focus is primarily human use. Furthermore, there is no longer an active coordinator in the state, and training workshops are not offered in Nebraska.

Supports Nebraska's economy

TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM promotes recreational fishing. According to the 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation (USFWS 2012), over 200,000 people fish in Nebraska annually (86% of whom are Nebraska residents), and individually contribute an average of \$626 annually in purchases of fishing equipment and trip related expenditures. Total annual expenditures of anglers in Nebraska amount to over \$182 million dollars. The survey also notes a nationwide declining trend in angler participation and angler expenditures. In light of declining trends in fishing, TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM's role as an advocate of fishing activity is vital to the continued participation of Nebraska's citizens in outdoor recreation, and to fishing's significant contribution to the state's economy.

Promotes healthy lifestyles

In addition to economic contributions, fishing activities contribute to a healthy lifestyle through promotion of outdoor nature play and activity. Richard Louv, in his acclaimed book *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children From Nature Deficit Disorder* (2006), summarizes the costs of alienation from nature as diminished use of the senses that leads to attention difficulties and higher rates of physical, mental, and emotional illnesses. Fishing also contributes to healthy social interactions. Youth engaged in outdoor activities are less likely to become involved in negative activities as adolescents (Witt and Caldwell 2010).

PROGRAM EVALUATION

Program evaluation will consist of implementation evaluations, output evaluations, and outcome evaluations. Impact evaluations of the broad, long-term effects of the program are difficult to assess given restrictions on collecting information from and longitudinal tracking of minors. However, impact can be assessed indirectly through long-term trends in permit sales and participation in outdoor activities.

Implementation Evaluation

All participating teachers will be asked to evaluate their programs annually upon program completion.

Implementation evaluations will gather data on:

- Functionality of teacher training

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- For each activity in the TIC curriculum:
 - Ease of implementation
 - Alignment to state teaching standards
 - Level of student engagement in activity
 - Utility of available educational materials
- Availability of NGPC staff and volunteers to deliver presentations at field days and in the classroom
- Functionality of trout release field days
- Equipment operation and maintenance

Changes will be made to the program requirements, activities, and curriculum annually based on needs indicated in evaluations.

Output Evaluation

Quantitative data collected annually from each participating classroom will track:

- Total number of students participating in the program annually
- Total number of students attending field days annually
- Location of participating schools

Changes will be made to marketing approaches and program structure annually based on location of participating schools, in order to assure that participation is statewide.

Outcome Evaluation

This component of evaluation will identify the level of success in meeting program objectives. With parental consent, every student participating in the program will complete a pre- and post- program assessment that measures their level of knowledge concerning water quality, aquatic habitats, aquatic food webs, life cycles, and fish biology. Additionally, observational evaluations can be made from completed student activities such as journals and worksheets included with the curriculum. These assessments will evaluate the program's impact on participant's attitudes and perceptions regarding their connections with and influences on Nebraska's water resources. As need is indicated by outcome evaluations, adjustments will be made to program activities to align outcomes with the program objectives.

REFERENCES

- Chwala, L. and V. Derr. 2012. The development of conservation behaviors in childhood and youth. Pages 527 – 555 in S. D. Clayton, editor. *The Oxford Handbook of Environmental and Conservation Psychology*. Oxford University Press, Oxford, United Kingdom.
- Louv, R. 2006. *Last child in the woods: Saving our children from nature-deficit disorder*. Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.
- Piaget, J. 2007. *The child's conception of the world: A 20th-century classic of child psychology*, 2nd Edition. Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, Inc., Lanham, Maryland.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2003. *Factors related to hunting and fishing participation in the United States*. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2012. *2011 national survey of fishing, hunting, and wildlife-associated recreation*. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia.
- Witte, P. and L. Caldwell. 2012. *The rationale for recreation services for youth: An evidence based approach*. National Recreation and Park Association, Ashburn, Virginia.



NEBRASKA ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST FUND APPLICATION BUDGET SUMMARY

H1. Project Sponsor: Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

H2. Project Name: Trout in the Classroom

BUDGET YEAR: SUMMARY/1 YEAR ONLY

Column A	Column B	Column C	Column D	Column E	Column F
1. Source of Funds ►	Nebraska Environmental Trust	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration	Nebraska Chapter of Trout Unlimited #710	TOTALS ▼
2. Budget Category ▼					
3. Aquarium equipment and supplies	\$44,817.76			\$6,000	\$50,817.76
4. Curriculum and guides		\$1,225.00	\$3,675.00		\$4,900.00
5. Trout eggs, feed, and specimens		\$5,245.20			\$5,245.20
6. Field staff (classroom presentations & field days)		\$8,092.53	\$24,277.57* A portion of this amount is in kind. See attachment 6	\$1,946.40*	\$34,316.50
7. Administrative staff	\$90,432.00	\$7,250.14	\$21,750.42		\$119,432.56
8. Facilities for training and field trips		\$2,589.50	\$7,768.51		\$10,358.01
9. Additional equipment and printed educational materials for classroom activities		\$5,305.34	\$15,916.02		\$21,221.36
10. Travel expenditures		\$6,888.37	\$20,665.13		\$27,553.50
18. TOTALS ►	135,249.76	\$36,596.08	\$94,052.65	7,946.40	\$273,844.89



NEBRASKA ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST FUND APPLICATION BUDGET YEAR ONE

H1. Project Sponsor: Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

H2. Project Name: Trout in the Classroom

BUDGET YEAR: ONE

(This page is used by multi-year grants only. If your project is not a multi-year grant, then ignore or delete this page.)

Column A	Column B	Column C	Column D	Column E	Column F
1. Source of Funds ►	Nebraska Environmental Trust	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration	Nebraska Chapter of Trout Unlimited #710	TOTALS ▼
2. Budget Category ▼					
3. Aquarium equipment and supplies	\$8,889.52			\$2,000	10,889.52
4. Curriculum and guides		\$262.50	\$787.50		\$1,050.00
5. Trout eggs, feed, and specimens		\$712.20			\$712.20
6. Field staff (classroom presentations & field days)		\$1,676.04	\$5,028.12	\$648.80	\$7,352.96
7. Administrative staff	\$30,144.00	\$2,416.72	\$7,250.14		\$39,810.86
8. Facilities for training and field trips		\$376.25	\$1,128.76		\$1,505.01
9. Additional equipment and printed educational materials for classroom activities		\$1,136.86	\$3,410.58		\$4,547.44
10. Travel expenditures		\$1,476.00	\$4,428.32		\$5,904.32
18. TOTALS ►	\$39,033.52	\$8,056.57	\$22,033.42	\$2,648.80	\$71,722.31



NEBRASKA ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST FUND APPLICATION BUDGET YEAR TWO

H1. Project Sponsor: Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

H2. Project Name: Trout in the Classroom

BUDGET YEAR: TWO

(This page is used by multi-year grants only. If your project is not a multi-year grant, then ignore or delete this page.)

Column A	Column B	Column C	Column D	Column E	Column F
1. Source of Funds ►	Nebraska Environmental Trust	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration	Nebraska Chapter of Trout Unlimited #710	TOTALS ▼
2. Budget Category ▼					
3. Aquarium equipment and supplies	\$17,964.12			\$2,000	\$19,964.12
4. Curriculum and guides		\$481.25	\$1,443.75		\$1,925.00
5. Trout eggs, feed, and specimens		\$1,748.40			\$1,748.40
6. Field staff (classroom presentations & field days)		\$2,843.24	\$8,529.72	\$648.80	\$12,021.76
7. Administrative staff	\$30,144.00	\$2,416.71	\$7,250.14		\$39,810.85
8. Facilities for training and field trips		\$863.17	\$2,589.50		\$3,452.67
9. Additional equipment and printed educational materials for classroom activities		\$2,084.24	\$6,252.72		\$8,336.96
10. Travel expenditures		\$2,706.15	\$8,118.44		\$10,824.59
18. TOTALS ►	\$48,108.12	\$13,143.16	\$34,184.27	\$2,648.80	\$98,084.35



NEBRASKA ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST FUND APPLICATION BUDGET YEAR THREE

H1. Project Sponsor: Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

H2. Project Name: Trout in the Classroom

BUDGET YEAR: THREE

(This page is used by multi-year grants only. If your project is not a multi-year grant, then ignore or delete this page.)

Column A	Column B	Column C	Column D	Column E	Column F
1. Source of Funds ►	Nebraska Environmental Trust	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission	Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration	Nebraska Chapter of Trout Unlimited #710	TOTALS ▼
2. Budget Category ▼					
3. Aquarium equipment and supplies	\$17,964.12			\$2,000	\$19,964.12
4. Curriculum and guides		\$481.25	\$1,443.75		\$1,925.00
5. Trout eggs, feed, and specimens		\$2,784.60			\$2,784.60
6. Field staff (classroom presentations & field days)		\$3,573.24	\$10,719.72	\$648.80	\$14,941.76
7. Administrative staff	\$30,144.00	\$2,416.71	\$7,250.14		\$39,810.85
8. Facilities for training and field trips		\$1,350.08	\$4,050.25		\$5,400.33
9. Additional equipment and printed educational materials for classroom activities		\$2,084.24	\$6,252.72		\$8,336.96
10. Travel expenditures		\$2,706.15	\$8,118.44		\$10,824.59
18. TOTALS ►	\$48,108.12	\$15,396.27	\$37,835.02	\$2,648.80	\$103,988.21



NEBRASKA ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST FUND

APPLICATION BUDGET JUSTIFICATION

H1. Project Sponsor: Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

H2. Project Name: Trout in the Classroom

1. Have other sources of funding not listed in the Budget Worksheet been approached for project support? If yes, name them and explain the outcome of your request.

No

2. Are all of the matching funds in the Budget Worksheet confirmed? If not, please identify those entities and list the date when confirmation is expected. Explain how you will implement the project if these sources do not confirm participation.

Yes

3. If any of the project costs identified in Column B of the Budget Worksheet have been expended or if debt has been incurred for these costs or a sponsor or partner is obligated for these costs in any other way: List these costs here. Explain clearly why Trust grant funds are requested for these costs.

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4. For each line item in column A of the Budget Worksheet, justify the basis for the dollar amount indicated for that item.

CATEGORY/COMPONENT (from Column A of the Budget Worksheet)	BASIS USED TO DETERMINE COST	Attachment? Y or N	ATTACHMENT LABEL
3. Aquarium equipment and supplies	Actual cost from That Pet Place and other suppliers	Y	Attachment 3. Aquariums
4. Curriculum and guides	Actual printing costs & estimates of printing costs based on printing costs of Pilot Curriculum	Y	Attachment 4. Curriculum
5. Trout eggs, feed, and specimens	Actual production costs from NGPC fish hatcheries	Y	Attachment 5. Trout
6. Field staff (classroom presentations & field days)	Estimated hours contributed by staff and volunteers	Y	Attachment 6. Field Staff
7. Administrative staff	Estimated hours contributed by staff and volunteers	Y	Attachment 7. Administrative Staff
8. Facilities for training and field trips	Estimated based on annual facilities operation and maintenance at Aksarben Aquarium	Y	Attachment 8. Facilities
9. Additional equipment and printed educational materials for classroom activities	Actual cost from various suppliers, estimates of printing costs from the State Print Shop based on prior orders, estimates of UPS shipping costs	Y	Attachment 9. Additional Equipment
10. Travel expenditures	Estimates based on US Federal Government and State of Nebraska standard rates	Y	Attachment 10. Travel Expenditures



NEBRASKA ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST FUND PROJECT SPONSOR FINANCIAL INFORMATION

H1. Project Sponsor: Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

H2. Project Name: Trout in the Classroom

From the 2012 Annual Report, available online at: http://outdoornebraska.ne.gov/admin/annual_reports/annualreport.pdf

2012 Revenue Sources (total \$74.1):

Hunting Permits and Stamps: 18 M (18%)	Investment Income: 1.3 M (2%)
Grants (Federal & State Reimbursements: 109 M (15%)	Tobacco Products Tax: 1.3 M (2%)
General Fund Appropriation: 10.6 M (14%)	Food Services: 0.9 M (2%)
Camping and Lodging Fees: 9.4 M (13%)	Boat Registrations: 1 M (2%)
Direct Federal Funds: 8.3 M (11%)	Resale Items: 0.6 M (1%)
Park Entry Permits: 5.7 M (8%)	Land Use Leases: 0.4 M (1%)
Fishing Permits and Stamps: 5.5 M (7%)	Publication Related: 0.4 M (1%)
Donations: 2.1 M (3%)	Miscellaneous: 0.6 M (1%)
Concessions & Admissions: 2 M (3%)	Sale of Surplus Property: 0.1 M (<1%)

The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission is predominately self-funded, receiving approximately 15 percent of its total 2012 funding from the State General Fund. Additional cash/federal funds have been established for agency use:

- 1) Game Fund
- 2) Park Fund
- 3) Direct Federal Fund
- 4) Voluntary Public Access Federal Fund
- 5) Habitat Fund
- 6) Nebraska Outdoor Recreational Development Act (NORDA) Fund
- 7) Recreational Trails Federal Fund
- 8) Aquatic Habitat Fund
- 9) Wildlife Conservation Fund
- 10) Game Law Investigation Fund
- 11) Cowboy Trail Fund
- 12) Youth Conservation Program Fund
- 13) Nebraska Snowmobile Trail Fund

While most of the fund names are self-descriptive, a few of the more critical warrant further explanation.

General Fund – This is supported by money collected by the Nebraska Department of Revenue, deposited with the State Treasurer and appropriated by the Legislature. General Fund money is appropriated to Game and Parks for those operating activities that are:

- 1) not self-supporting (primarily operations of the state park system and nongame and endangered species activities);
- 2) administrative activities that are general in nature, applicable to the entire agency and difficult to prorate among the various other funding sources; and
- 3) activities that extend beyond the statutory use of the various cash funds.

Game Fund – This derives its revenues from a variety of sources, including hunting and fishing permit sales, Federal Aid reimbursements and interest earnings. This fund is the largest source of funding for the agency and serves as the primary funding source for fish and wildlife activities.

Park Fund – This is the second largest source of funding to the agency. It is used to improve, maintain and operate areas within the state park system. Major revenue sources include camping & lodging fees, park entry permit sales, restaurant & food services and other park facility use fees.

Federal Grants – These are the third largest cash funding sources for the agency. They include reimbursable & direct grants.

Habitat Funds – These include terrestrial and aquatic funds. They are supported primarily from the sale of the stamps tied to hunting and fishing activities, respectively.

Nebraska Outdoor Recreational Development Act Fund – This is restricted to the development, operation and maintenance of areas of the state park system. The primary source of revenue is the Nebraska Tobacco Products Tax. The portion of the tax earmarked for NORDA is the equivalent of one cent on a conventional package of cigarettes. This fund is critical to the development and maintenance of the state park buildings and amenities infrastructure.



NEBRASKA ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST FUND

TIMELINE

H1. Project Sponsor: Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

H2. Project Name: Trout in the Classroom

See instructions for section D.

Month/Year	Task Description:
July 2014	Host teacher training workshop for 12 new schools (Recruitment to take place in Fall 2013 & Spring 2014). Purchase and distribute equipment to new schools; purchase replacement supplies for existing schools.
September 2014	Hire assistant coordinator.
September 2014 – May 2015	Supply staff and volunteers for classroom presentations. Distribute educational materials as requested.
January – February 2015	Receive and distribute rainbow trout eggs and feed to participating schools.
April – May 2015	Host trout release field trips at Schramm Park and/or state fish hatcheries.
June 2015	Conduct implementation and output evaluations.
July 2015	Host teacher training workshop for 22 new schools and refresher workshop for existing schools. Purchase and distribute equipment to new schools; purchase replacement supplies for existing schools.
September 2015– March 2016	Recruit at least 22 new schools to the program. (If existing schools choose to leave the program, we will recruit to fill the opening).
September 2015 – May 2016	Supply staff and volunteers for classroom presentations. Distribute educational materials as requested.
January – February 2016	Receive and distribute rainbow trout eggs and feed to participating schools.
April – May 2016	Host trout release field trips at Schramm Park and/or state fish hatcheries.
June 2016	Conduct implementation and output evaluations.
July 2016	Host teacher training workshop for 22 new schools and refresher workshop for existing schools. Purchase and distribute equipment to new schools; purchase replacement supplies for existing schools.
September 2016– March 2017	Recruit at least 22 new schools to the program. (If existing schools choose to leave the program, we will recruit to fill the opening).
September 2016 – May 2017	Supply staff and volunteers for classroom presentations. Distribute educational materials as requested.
January – February 2017	Receive and distribute rainbow trout eggs and feed to participating schools.
April – May 2017	Host trout release field trips at Schramm Park and/or state fish hatcheries.
June 2017	Conduct implementation, output and outcome evaluations.

