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**Name of Organization:** National Wildlife Federation

**Type of Organization:** Other

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**Project Title:** Local and Sector Based Pollution Prevention

**Project Category:** Pollution Prevention and Reduction - BNS

**Rank by Organization (if applicable):** 1

**Total Funding Requested (\$):** 178,934 **Project Duration:** 1 Years

**Abstract:**

The National Wildlife Federation (NWF) will develop and implement activities under the Binational Toxics Strategy (BTS) that achieve reductions in mercury releases from selected industry sectors and regions. We intend to continue our work in the Lake Superior Basin while adding a special geographic emphasis on work in Southeast Michigan and Ohio. The mercury use and release reductions will be achieved through a series of activities that are tailored to the unique set of opportunities in each region.

Key elements of the project are A) expansion of our successful mercury pollution prevention work in the healthcare industry to include clinics, HMOs, and possibly local businesses and households; B) cosponsoring activities in support of the Detroit River Remedial Action Plan (RAP) Pollution Prevention Action Team's program; C) continuing our leadership role among environmental non-governmental organizations (ENGOS) in the BTS; D) initiating a multi-stakeholder mercury pollution prevention task force in Ohio; E) enrolling at least 15 Ohio hospitals into the mercury-medicine program; F) working with the coal-fired utility and other industries to apply appropriate measures to gain industry-wide pollution reductions.

**Geographic Areas Affected by the Project**

**States:**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Illinois             | <input type="checkbox"/> New York        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Indiana              | <input type="checkbox"/> Pennsylvania    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michigan  | <input type="checkbox"/> Wisconsin       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minnesota | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ohio |

**Lakes:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Superior | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Erie |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Huron               | <input type="checkbox"/> Ontario         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michigan | <input type="checkbox"/> All Lakes       |

**Geographic Initiatives:**

- |  |   |                                     |   |   |
|--|---|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greater Chicago | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NE Ohio | <input type="checkbox"/> NW Indiana | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SE Michigan | <input type="checkbox"/> Lake St. Clair |
|--|---|-------------------------------------|---|---|

**Primary Affected Area of Concern:** Detroit River, MI

**Other Affected Areas of Concern:**

- Cuyahoga River, OH
- Rouge River, MI
- Saginaw River, MI
- St. Clair River, MI
- Black River, OH
- Clinton River, MI
- St Louis River, MN

***For Habitat Projects Only:***

**Primary Affected Biodiversity Investment Area:**

**Other Affected Biodiversity Investment Areas:**

**Problem Statement:**

High levels of persistent bioaccumulative toxins (PBTs) in the Great Lakes states have resulted in contaminated fish and advisories regarding limited amounts that can be safely eaten. These pollutants can be responsible for harm to humans and wildlife. Human impacts can include cancer, cerebral palsy and mental retardation, and wildlife impacts can include impaired sperm generation, and reduced hatching rates.

Some progress toward applying pollution prevention to meeting the mercury goals of the Binational Toxics Strategy has been demonstrated, yet this progress is still occurring slowly. Examples of progress are the mercury pollution prevention pilot projects initiated by NWF with the healthcare industry. However, a successful pilot project does not automatically translate into sector-wide toxic reduction. There is still a need to replicate the success of pilot projects throughout the sector as well as to broaden the scope of that work to include clinics, nursing homes and other medical facilities.

Other sectors – such as coal-fired power plants – have been resistant to pilot projects and have shown little progress, even though their PBT emissions are quite high. Still others – like the chlor-alkali industry – that have begun to show significant reductions now have the potential for even deeper cuts.

Accelerating the pace of progress also is critical for areas that are heavily contaminated by PBTs such as Southeast Michigan and the Detroit River. Detroit and the rest of Southeast Michigan are home to more than 4.8 million people. This region is also home to six of the areas of concern recognized by the International Joint Commission and U.S. EPA (Detroit River, Rouge River, Raisin River, Lake St. Clair, St. Clair River and Clinton River). Southeast Michigan is also home to the sources of many of the pollutants targeted for virtual elimination by the United States and Canada., including mercury, dioxins, and PCBs.

The need for broad and active participation in the BTS remains a critical issue. There has been some increase in ENGO participation in workgroups, but the BTS still suffers from a participation problem. In addition to greater numbers of ENGOs, more industrial and state/local government participants are needed. It is important for those entities to see that the BTS is worth their time and resources to participate.

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**Proposed Work Outcome:**

The National Wildlife Federation proposes to continue work begun under our "Local and Sector-based Pollution Prevention in the Binational Toxics Strategy" project begun with support from the EPA. Specific elements of the proposed project are: 1) working to reduce mercury pollution in S.E. Michigan and Ohio, 2) watershed approaches to mercury pollution prevention in Michigan and Ohio, 3) engaging industries to apply appropriate measures to gain industry sector-based mercury reductions, and 4) continuing our leadership role among environmental NGOs in the Binational Toxics Strategy.

1) Mercury pollution prevention

NWF has successfully signed 125 hospitals to pledges to become mercury-free facilities. Of these, 52 are in Great Lakes states, but only one is in Ohio. We will build on our successful mercury pollution prevention work in the healthcare industry to include clinics, HMOs, and possibly local businesses and households. NWF plans to develop an outreach campaign for these facilities in conjunction with the Detroit River RAP Pollution Prevention Action Team. We envision this campaign as reaching citizens and businesses throughout the Detroit River basin and culminating in a promotional conference, seminar or other high profile event possibly linked to celebrations of Detroit's 300th birthday and a focus on improving the river's water quality. Members of the RAP action team represent the diversity of River stakeholders including the City of Detroit Water and Sewerage Department, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, industries, higher education, public health and recreational interests. This grant would help provide the resources to make these activities successful.

We plan to enroll at least 15 Ohio hospitals into our mercury-free campaign by working with the Ohio Hospital Association and the Ohio Department of Environmental Quality.

2) Watershed approaches to mercury pollution prevention

NWF has designed projects to help advance implementation of Total Daily Maximum Daily Loads as a tool for mercury pollution prevention. These pilot projects are currently underway in Ohio and the St. Louis River basin in Minnesota. Because TMDLs can be implemented by regulatory or voluntary measures, there is considerable interest in Ohio (from Ohio EPA and industry) in achieving the mercury reductions required by TMDLs through a voluntary pollution prevention program. Although Ohio currently has no such program for mercury, the stakeholders are excited about the success of pollution prevention programs in Minnesota, Michigan and Indiana. These state programs and their activities have been featured by the BTS mercury workgroup. NWF proposes to lead the multi-stakeholder TMDL group in Ohio in developing a state-funded mercury pollution prevention program in Ohio. NWF will draw resources from the BTS mercury workgroup and will promote the BTS with Ohio agencies and industries as a necessary part of this work.

3) Sector-based reductions

NWF's work with the chlor alkali and utility sectors is showing promise. The BTS forum has enabled NWF to begin discussions with members of each of these sectors about pollution prevention opportunities, and in the past six months we have been able to continue those discussions outside the BTS. The next year will be critical in moving from information-sharing to developing on-the-ground projects with one or both sectors. In particular, the EPA emissions tests for mercury at the Olin chlor alkali facility will enable us to identify new opportunities for pollution prevention measures within the chlor alkali industry.

4) Environmental NGO involvement in BTS

NWF will continue to provide leadership and support to non-governmental organizations and other citizens who wish to participate in the Binational Toxics Strategy. We believe the role of citizens in developing and implementing the programs to achieve progress toward the goals of the BTS as essential. Citizen participation in the workgroups of the BTS is crucial and we will continue to do outreach regarding the BTS and help keep a diverse mix of perspectives represented. Our work in S.E. Michigan and Ohio will enable us to bring new participants into the BTS process.

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<b>Project Milestones:</b>	<b>Dates:</b>
Project Start	10/2000
Participate in BTS workgroups (Ongoing)	10/2000
Establish Ohio Mercury P2 Task Force	10/2000
Plan regional activities (Detroit)	02/2001
Discuss Pilot Projects w/Utilities	04/2001
Finalize Ohio Mercury P2 Recommendations	06/2001
Special Detroit Mercury P2 Event	07/2001
Project End	09/2001

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Project Addresses Environmental Justice

**If So, Description of How:**

The primary impact of this project would be the increase in awareness among effected populations of subsistence fishers. Detroit has a population of more than 70% African-American and a substantive Hispanic population. Many residents are not aware of the need to limit the amount they eat of certain types of catch in order to be protective of their health. This project will raise public awareness of these threats to their health.

Project Addresses Education/Outreach

**If So, Description of How:**

If funded this project would help the National Wildlife Federation leverage the environmental education programs it already offers and has planned for the Detroit metropolitan area. We hope to enhance these programs with elements that would be coordinated with the EPA's S.E. Michigan Initiative, and also through participation in the Detroit River RAP, for example.

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**Project Budget:**

	<b>Federal Share Requested (\$)</b>	<b>Applicant's Share (\$)</b>
<b>Personnel:</b>	93,100	27,560
<b>Fringe:</b>	26,068	7,717
<b>Travel:</b>	14,000	0
<b>Equipment:</b>	3,000	0
<b>Supplies:</b>	4,500	0
<b>Contracts:</b>	10,000	0
<b>Construction:</b>	0	0
<b>Other:</b>	12,000	0
<b>Total Direct Costs:</b>	162,668	35,277
<b>Indirect Costs:</b>	16,266	0
<b>Total:</b>	178,934	35,277
<b>Projected Income:</b>	0	0

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**Funding by Other Organizations (Names, Amounts, Description of Commitments):**

NWF will match the requested amount with funds from NWF and with funds received from grants from the C. S. Mott and Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network. NWF is seeking funding from the George Gund and Joyce Foundations. The funds from NWF will cover the expenses of Andy Buchsbaum our Water Quality Team Manager and Mike Murray our Staff Scientist. The funds from the C.S. Mott and Saginaw Bay WIN are for \$115,000 for projects in the year 2000. Our grant commitments to those funding sources extend beyond the scope of this project, but include relevant goals particularly in regards to mercury pollution prevention.

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**Description of Collaboration/Community Based Support:**

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NWF has been working with organizations such as the Ecology Center, Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice, Great Lakes United, the Michigan Health & Hospital Association, networks like the Lake Superior Alliance. With this new proposal we plan to expand our mercury pollution prevention activities to work more intensively with member organizations of the Detroit River RAP, e.g. Detroit Water & Sewerage Dept., the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, etc. Each has expressed an interest in working with us on the S.E. Michigan component of this proposal.

We are anxious to expand the working relationships we have had in this region and seek the Great Lakes National Program Office's support in this endeavor.