

Request for Funding

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council Fiscal Year 2015 / ML 2014

Program or Project Title: Invasive Species Net Duplication

Funds Requested: \$912,500

Manager's Name: Jeff Riedemann

Title: President

Organization: Minnesota Inland Commercial Fisherman's Association

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Organization Web Site: <http://www.mncommercialfish.com/>

County Locations: No Counties Listed

Ecological Planning Regions:

- Northern Forest
- Forest / Prairie Transition
- Southeast Forest
- Prairie
- Metro / Urban

Activity Type:

- No Activities Listed

Priority Resources Addressed by Activity:

- Wetlands
- Habitat

Abstract:

This grant will be used to assist commercial fishermen to meet specific DNR requirements to protect Minnesota waters from invasive species by assisting them with a second set of nets to supplements existing, in use equipment.

Design and Scope of Work:

The Inland Commercial Fisherman has long played a role in enhancing and improving habitat in the lakes and wetlands of Minnesota. Year in and year out, good weather and bad, they are in our waters, netting those species of fish that have been deemed less desirable – bullhead, sheepshead, buffalo, and especially carp (*Cyprinus Carpio.*), and now Asian carp. Their activities are often unnoticed, and sometimes vilified. And yet, the potential for positive effects from this harvest are huge.

Fishermen are often contracted with by local Lake Associations, and also by watershed Districts to take fish. This might be done to improve water quality – the feeding behaviors of some of these fish can lead to turbidity, and also disturb phosphorus on the lake bottom, making it available again to algae – or to reduce the numbers of a species to “make room’ in the biomass of a lake for more desirable species to grow. The US Fish and Wildlife Service has identified common carp as a threat to habitat as they uproot native plants and stir up sediment,

impairing water quality.

Recently, Commercial Fishermen have been required to take extra care reduce the risk of spreading aquatic invasive species by either freezing or drying their nets after using them in an impaired water, and prior to using them in another water. Since most fishermen have only one set of nets, this means that they must wait until they can move on to a new water. As a result, the Inland Commercial Fisherman's Association is seeking this grant to support the Fishermen in their efforts to keep carp, and other less desirable species in check, and thereby enhancing water quality and improving habitat throughout the state.

The grant will provide funds for the fisherman to purchase nets to supplement his or her current inventory. Up to three nets, a large, medium and small net, may be purchased with the funds provided. To participate, a commercial fisherman must be actively fishing, have used the nets in the last 2 years, and the nets must be in good condition. Fishermen receiving support under the grant will be required to pay a 3% administrative fee. This fee will pay for grant administration, specifically to verify fisherman activity, and that the nets are in good and usable condition. An accountant will also be retained to both verify this information, as well as to oversee disbursement of funds.

Stakeholders in this project are the commercial fishermen themselves, Lake Associations, Watershed Districts, anglers and other sportsmen. The Fishermen are supportive of this effort. The act of Commercial Fishing in Minnesota has been getting much more difficult over time, and any actions that can ease their burden will be well received. Lake Associations and watershed Districts who depend upon the commercial fishermen to remove carp and other species of fish will also be supportive of efforts to enable the fishermen to be more responsive to their needs. Among anglers and sportsmen, Commercial Fishing has a mixed reputation. Some support it, while others do not. In addition, there are groups with a competing philosophy, such as Carp Busters, who feel that commercial fishing is not as effective as their efforts. Regarding this, commercial fishing has the additional benefit of producing a useful product; while spearing/bowhunting the fish produces waste that is placed into landfills.

A final note about the application: The data entered into the Output Tables was entered simply to fill the spaces, and is not reflective of projected activity. It is not possible to predict in advance the activity of the fishermen, as there are simply too many variables - which Watershed Districts and Lake Associations will want their services, and also which fishermen will choose to participate will all drive this, rather than being driven by the organization. This information can be provided retroactively, however. Likewise, the parcels affected are still to be determined. The organization will work with LSOHC to ensure that all information is provided in a timely manner. Additionally, the organization does not have audited financials at this time.

Planning

MN State-wide Conservation Plan Priorities:

- H6 Protect and restore critical in-water habitat of lakes and streams

Plans Addressed:

- Long Range Plan for Fisheries Management
- Managing Minnesota's Shallow Lakes for Waterfowl and Wildlife
- National Fish Habitat Action Plan

LSOHC Statewide Priorities:

- Are ongoing, successful, transparent and accountable programs addressing actions and targets of one or more of the ecological sections
- Attempts to ensure conservation benefits are broadly distributed across the LSOHC sections
- Leverage effort and/or other funds to supplement any OHF appropriation
- Produce multiple enduring conservation benefits
- Use a science-based strategic planning and evaluation model to guide protection, restoration and enhancement, similar to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's Strategic Habitat Conservation model

LSOHC Prairie Section Priorities:

- Protect, enhance, or restore existing wetland/upland complexes, or convert agricultural lands to new wetland/upland habitat complexes

- Restore or enhance habitat on public lands
- Protect, restore, and enhance shallow lakes
- Protect, enhance, and restore migratory habitat for waterfowl and related species, so as to increase migratory and breeding success

LSOHC Forest Prairie Transition Section Priorities:

- Protect, enhance, and restore wild rice wetlands, shallow lakes, wetland/grassland complexes, aspen parklands, and shoreland that provide critical habitat for game and nongame wildlife

LSOHC Northern Forest Section Priorities:

- Restore and enhance habitat on existing protected properties, with preference to habitat for rare, endangered, or threatened species identified by the Minnesota County Biological Survey

LSOHC Metro Urban Section Priorities:

- Enhance and restore coldwater fisheries systems
- Protect, enhance, and restore riparian and littoral habitats on lakes to benefit game and nongame fish species

LSOHC Southeast Forest Section Priorities:

- Protect, enhance, and restore habitat for fish, game, and nongame wildlife in rivers, cold-water streams, and associated upland habitat

Relationship to Other Constitutional Funds:

- No Relationships Listed

Accelerates or Supplements Current Efforts:

Commercial Fishermen are already engaged in this work, and have been in the state for many years. Recent changes in regulations made by the DNR relating to Aquatic Invasive Species have made it more difficult for these Commercial Fishermen to continue to engage in their commercial activities that benefit all of us. This grant, by assisting Commercial Fishermen in acquiring the additional equipment needed to comply with these regulations, will enhance their ability to engage in these beneficial activities. The effect of this grant will be to keep some commercial fishermen in business, while others will be more active than they otherwise would have been

Sustainability and Maintenance:

Commercial fishermen have been, and will continue to work the waters of Minnesota.

Accomplishment Timeline

Activity	Approximate Date Completed
Identify and contract with grant administrator and accountant	06/30/2014
Open to requests for funds from Commercial Fishermen	07/01/2014
Fund final net purchase from Commercial Fishermen	05/31/2015

Outcomes

Programs in the northern forest region:

- No Programs Listed

Programs in forest-prairie transition region:

- No Programs Listed

Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:

- No Programs Listed

Programs in southeast forest region:

- No Programs Listed

Programs in prairie region:

- No Programs Listed

Budget Spreadsheet

Total Amount of Request: \$912,500

Budget and Cash Leverage

Budget Name	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$0	\$0		\$0
Contracts	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Acquisition	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Stewardship	\$0	\$0		\$0
Travel	\$0	\$0		\$0
Professional Services	\$0	\$0		\$0
Direct Support Services	\$0	\$0		\$0
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$0	\$0		\$0
Capital Equipment	\$912,500	\$912,500		\$1,825,000
Other Equipment/Tools	\$0	\$0		\$0
Supplies/Materials	\$0	\$0		\$0
DNR IDP	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total	\$912,500	\$912,500	-	\$1,825,000

Capital Equipment

Item Name	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Capital Equipment	\$900,000	\$900,000	Private Source	\$1,800,000
Contracts	\$12,500	\$12,500	Private Source	\$25,000
Total	\$912,500	\$912,500	-	\$1,825,000

Output Tables

Table 1. Acres by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	5,000	0	0	0	5,000
Total	5,000	0	0	0	5,000

Table 2. Total Requested Funding by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$912,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$912,500
Total	\$912,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$912,500

Table 3. Acres within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	5,000	0	0	0	5,000
Total	0	5,000	0	0	0	5,000

Table 4. Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$912,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$912,500
Total	\$0	\$912,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$912,500

Table 5. Target Lake/Stream/River Miles

0 miles

Parcel List

Section 1 - Restore / Enhance Parcel List

No parcels with an activity type restore or enhance.

Section 2 - Protect Parcel List

No parcels with an activity type protect.

Section 2a - Protect Parcel with Bldgs

No parcels with an activity type protect and has buildings.

Section 3 - Other Parcel Activity

No parcels with an other activity type.