Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Fall River Restoration

ML 2025 Request for Funding

General Information

Date: 05/31/2024

Proposal Title: Fall River Restoration

Funds Requested: $1,680,000

Confirmed Leverage Funds: $94,800

Is this proposal Scalable?: Yes

Manager Information

Manager's Name: Robert Kimmel-Hass
Title: County Engineer
Organization: Cook County
Address: 609 4th Ave E
City: Grand Marais, MN 55604
Email: robert.hass@co.cook.mn.us
Office Number: 218-387-3014
Mobile Number:
Fax Number:
Website:

Location Information

County Location(s): Cook.

Eco regions in which work will take place:

- Northern Forest

Activity types:

- Restore

Priority resources addressed by activity:

- Habitat

Narrative

Abstract

The project will restore and protect cold-water streams for natural occurring brook trout, a sensitive and semi-rare species, by replacing three culvert crossings which are decreasing the water quality of Fall River. The project is part of a larger countywide collaborative initiative with local and state partners to protect water quality by ensuring crossings are correctly sized. Replacing these three undersized crossings will improve stream connectivity, ensure future fish passage, improve climate resiliency, reduce sediment loading which directly impacts stream food-chains, eliminate further stream bank erosion, and restore the Fall River back to its natural state.

Design and Scope of Work

Northeast Minnesota contains many pristine lakes and rivers which support robust populations of wild brook trout and other sensitive or semi-rare aquatic organisms. Brook trout are significant to aquatic ecosystems, recreational fishing, and an indicator of healthy watersheds. Ecological functions of streams are diminished by roads, development, and impairments that degrade the aquatic ecosystem leading to reductions in brook trout populations. Tributaries provide critical services by providing thermal refugia to brook trout populations. Increased sediment in waterways can disrupt natural food-chains for fish causing decreases in fish population, clog gills thus reducing resistance to disease for fish, and alter stream navigability for fish by reducing water depth.

Fall River is a tributary to Lake Superior. Three crossings (North, Middle, and South) have been identified as high priority for replacement for several reasons: to better facilitate aquatic organism passage (AOP), to reduce stream velocities which are causing unnatural bank erosion, and to reduce sediment loading in the water. AOP is defined as the ability of fish and other aquatic organisms to migrate and swim freely upstream and downstream through or beneath human infrastructure such as culverts, bridges, diversion, dams, etc. Currently, trout and other fish are unable to pass through these crossings due to high velocities and perched culvert bottoms. The bankfull width measurements for the North crossing is 11 feet, the Middle crossing is 11.8 feet, and the South crossing is 14 feet. Cook County has determined the North and Middle crossings will become 14'x6' concrete box culverts and the South crossing will become an 85' single span bridge to improve native brook trout habitat, build for climate resiliency with increased precipitation events, and aid in maintaining and improving water quality. Cook County and Cook County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), with input from the MN DNR, agree that the upsized box culverts and bridge crossing will be the most beneficial for the water quality and aquatic habitat. This project is directly in line with the MN DNR Fisheries priorities of restoring fish passage in our streams. Wild brook trout have been identified as the primary species in the project area. Downstream, near the mouth at Lake Superior, rainbow trout, pink salmon, coho salmon, and chinook salmon have all been identified in the river.

The current crossings are impeding AOP, pinching the river at three locations since it is not at bankfull width, causing high stream velocities, and increasing sediment loading in the river. Because it is pinching the river at these locations, it is causing an increase in velocity of stream flow. The velocity is creating shear stress on downstream banks, causing erosion, unnatural pools and contributing to sediment loading in the river. The inlet and outlet banks of each crossings show extreme erosion due to the undersized crossings. The project will replace the last three crossings on Fall River, therefore restoring it back to its natural state. The crossings will meet bankfull width, match stream riffle slopes, reduce water velocities, and reduce erosion.

Explain how the proposal addresses habitat protection, restoration, and/or enhancement for fish, game & wildlife, including threatened or endangered species conservation

Currently, the river has three crossings that are undersized: reducing water quality and preventing AOP. The new structures will be wide enough to accommodate bankfull width and will be able to handle larger flood events. It will fully restore the area back to a more natural state. The instream area of the new structures will have natural channel design to aid in AOP and aquatic habitat. The natural riffle slopes of the river will be matched at each crossing, natural stream material will be used in the North and Middle crossings to fill the bottom of the box culverts, and the amount of water that backs up during storm events will be reduced, decreasing flooding. The Southern crossing acts like a dam currently, backing up during Spring melt and other flooding events. All three of the proposed crossings will have reduced water velocities compared to the current conditions. This will immediately reduce the amount of sediment eroding into the river which greatly disrupts the food chain for fish, can cause increased disease by clogging gills, and reduces navigability for fish and other organisms. Reduced velocities also benefit AOP which benefits the entire ecosystem. 2 miles of river and tributaries will be opened up with the replacement of these structures in addition to less sediment being transported downstream towards Lake Superior. By improving water quality the ecosystem surrounding the river benefits. A variety of mammals, birds, turtles, frogs, fish, insects, and plants all benefit from a healthy river. Restoring Fall River back to its natural state helps maintain and improve not just Fall River but the Lake Superior watershed.

What are the elements of this proposal that are critical from a timing perspective?

The continued erosion that is occurring because of these crossings will only worsen over time. Sediment loading is known to greatly disrupt waterway ecosystems by increasing water turbidity, which reduces sunlight for plants and other organisms which the fish in the waterway rely on for food. Reduced food supply immediately impacts the fish population which reduces water quality. A diverse ecosystem is more resilient to disease and climate change. Increased sediment also can clog gills and reduce stream navigability for fish. According to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) the leading cause of increased sediment in rivers are ravines, bluffs, and streambanks. This is evident near these crossings where the streambanks are eroding away. This will continue to happen until these crossings are replaced.

Describe how the proposal expands habitat corridors or complexes and/or addresses habitat fragmentation:

Fall River is a tributary to Lake Superior. There are smaller tributaries that flow into Fall River as well. The project will connect 2 miles of river and its tributaries, thus reducing habitat fragmentation. According to the MN Department of Natural Resources, there are healthy numbers of brook trout up to the southern edge of the project. By replacing the three undersized crossings and incorporating natural channel design the remainder of Fall River would open up to this population thus creating more upstream habitat and creating a more diverse genetic pool with more mobility in the river. Erosion is causing increased amounts of sediment in the river which inhibits stream navigability for fish and other organisms. By matching natural stream conditions (riffle slopes and water velocities) at each crossing the remainder of Fall River and its tributaries opens up for fish and other organisms to reach. Increasing the diversity of ecosystems makes them more resilient to disease, drought, climate change, and other external pressures.

Which top 2 Conservation Plans referenced in MS97A.056, subd. 3a are most applicable to this project?

- Minnesota's Wildlife Action Plan 2015-2025
- Other : Lake Superior North, One Watershed One Plan

Explain how this proposal will uniquely address habitat resilience to climate change and its anticipated effects on game, fish & wildlife species utilizing the protected or restored/enhanced habitat this proposal targets.

By incorporating natural channel design, meeting bankfull width, and floodplain connection, the river will return to a natural state and be more climate resilient to handle precipitation challenges. Natural sediment deposition will be less disrupted, providing a more natural channel evolution of the river. The stream will not be pinched to a confined area in three locations causing upstream and downstream issues. Flood waters will be able to flow in a more natural way, allowing the stream to function and adapt more naturally. The long-term benefits of this project include reducing habitat fragmentation, increasing water quality, preventing sediment loading and bank erosion, reducing water velocity and reducing warming water trends. Climate resiliency is addressed through riparian planting, natural channel design, floodplain connection, and crossings that are designed to handle larger storm events.

Which LSOHC section priorities are addressed in this proposal?

Northern Forest

- Protect shoreland and restore or enhance critical habitat on wild rice lakes, shallow lakes, cold water lakes, streams and rivers, and spawning areas

Describe how this project/program will produce and demonstrate a significant and permanent conservation legacy and/or outcomes for fish, game, and wildlife, and if not permanent outcomes, why it is important to undertake at this time:

The area of the project is part of Cook County land in County right of way and will be protected indefinitely. The area is known for cold waters and native brook trout streams. Over time, the inlet and outlets banks of each of these crossings have been eroding away due to the undersized nature of the crossings. This has contributed to sediment loading in the river. With higher rain events and a trend to warming waters, now is the time to be proactive and try and protect aquatic habitats, having structures, practices and vegetation in place to provide climate resiliency to try and maintain cold water habitats.

Outcomes

Programs in the northern forest region:

- Improved aquatic habitat indicators ~ *The project aims to maintain and improve the water quality of Fall River. By reducing the erosion taking place this reduces the amount of sediment in the river. Reduced sediment loading improves the food chain for fish and other organisms. Maintaining a diverse water ecosystem benefits the surrounding area as well for mammals, birds, and other creatures. Sustaining a diverse ecosystem makes it more resilient to disease, climate change, and other external factors. The project would open up 2 miles of Fall River and its tributaries for fish and other organisms.*

What other dedicated funds may collaborate with or contribute to this proposal?

- N/A

Per MS 97A.056, Subd. 24, Please explain whether the request is supplanting or is a substitution for any previous funding that was not from a legacy fund and was used for the same purpose.

These funds are not supplanting or substituting previous funds allocated for this project.

How will you sustain and/or maintain this work after the Outdoor Heritage Funds are expended?

The project is part of a larger countywide effort to protect and improve water quality. The crossings in this project will allow the river to be restored to a more natural state and will be maintained by Cook County for the lifespan of the structure and any subsequent replacements into perpetuity.

Actions to Maintain Project Outcomes

Year	Source of Funds	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
2026 and beyond	local	initial bridge inspection	document observations	continue inspections and documentation for lifespan of structure
2026 and beyond	local	monitor restored banks	document observations	continue to monitor banks and make necessary adjustments

Provide an assessment of how your program may celebrate cultural diversity or reach diverse communities in Minnesota, including reaching low- and moderate-income households:

Enhancing and protecting water quality is in direct alignment with the goals set out by the 1854 Treaty Authority to protect, preserve, and enhance the hunting, fishing and gathering rights of the Grand Portage and Bois Forte bands of Lake Superior Chippewa in the 1854 Treaty area. By improving the water quality, creating better fish habitat, and reducing bank erosion this project is directly benefiting the Grand Portage and Bois Forte bands of Lake Superior Chippewa.

Activity Details

Requirements

Will restoration and enhancement work follow best management practices including MS 84.973 Pollinator Habitat Program?
Yes

Is the restoration and enhancement activity on permanently protected land per 97A.056, Subd 13(f), tribal lands, and/or public waters per MS 103G.005, Subd. 15 or on lands to be acquired in this program?
Yes

Where does the activity take place?

- Public Waters
- County/Municipal

Land Use

Will there be planting of any crop on OHF land purchased or restored in this program, either by the proposer or the end owner of the property, outside of the initial restoration of the land?
No

Will insecticides or fungicides (including neonicotinoid and fungicide treated seed) be used within any activities of this proposal either in the process of restoration or use as food plots?
No

Other OHF Appropriation Awards

Have you received OHF dollars through LSOHC in the past?
Yes

Are any of these past appropriations still OPEN?
Yes

Approp Year	Funding Amount Received	Amount Spent to Date	Funding Remaining	% Spent to Date
2024	$3,000,000	-	-	-
Totals	$3,000,000	-	$3,000,000	0.0%

Timeline

Activity Name	Estimated Completion Date
Design, engineering, and permitting	September 2025
Bid Letting	December 2025
Begin construction	June 2026
End construction	October 2026

Budget

Totals

Item	Funding Request	Total Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	-	$94,800	county levy/tax	$94,800
Contracts	$1,680,000	$960,000	state bridge bonds	$2,640,000
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	-	-	-	-
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	-	-	-	-
Easement Acquisition	-	-	-	-
Easement Stewardship	-	-	-	-
Travel	-	-	-	-
Professional Services	-	-	-	-
Direct Support Services	-	-	-	-
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	-	-	-	-
Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
Other Equipment/Tools	-	-	-	-
Supplies/Materials	-	-	-	-
DNR IDP	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	**$1,680,000**	**$1,054,800**	**-**	**$2,734,800**

Personnel

Position	Annual FTE	Years Working	Funding Request	Total Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Cook County Engineer	1.0	1.0	-	$21,000	county levy/tax	$21,000
Cook County Inspector	1.0	1.0	-	$73,800	county levy/tax	$73,800

Amount of Request: $1,680,000
Amount of Leverage: $1,054,800
Leverage as a percent of the Request: 62.79%
DSS + Personnel: -
As a % of the total request: 0.0%
Easement Stewardship: -
As a % of the Easement Acquisition: -

Total Leverage (from above)	Amount Confirmed	% of Total Leverage	Amount Anticipated	% of Total Leverage
$1,054,800	$94,800	8.99%	$960,000	91.01%

Detail leverage sources and confirmation of funds:
Leverage sources for personnel come from local levy/tax dollars. State bridge bonds are appropriated from the legislature.

Does this proposal have the ability to be scalable?
Yes

If the project received 50% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Instead of replacing 3 crossings we could do 1 or 2 crossings. This would drastically reduce the amount of river that would be opened up for AOP and go against the premise of restoring the last 3 crossings on the river to fully restore Fall River.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Personnel costs would be reduced since only 1 or 2 crossings would be constructed.

If the project received 30% of the requested funding

Describe how the scaling would affect acres/activities and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Instead of replacing 3 crossings we could do 1 crossing. This would drastically reduce the amount of river that would be opened up for AOP and go against the premise of restoring the last 3 crossings on the river to fully restore Fall River.

Describe how personnel and DSS expenses would be adjusted and if not proportionately reduced, why?
Personnel costs would be reduced since only 1 crossing would be constructed.

Contracts

What is included in the contracts line?
Included in the contracts line are costs associated with mobilzing equipment, removing existing crossings, abutment concrete, concrete beams and diaphragms, excavation of fill material, piling, stream bank restoration, stream diversion, riprap, concrete box culverts.

Federal Funds

Do you anticipate federal funds as a match for this program?
No

Output Tables

Acres by Resource Type (Table 1)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Acres
Restore	0	0	0	1	1
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	0	0	0	0	0
Total	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**1**

Total Requested Funding by Resource Type (Table 2)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	$1,680,000	$1,680,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**$1,680,000**	**$1,680,000**

Acres within each Ecological Section (Table 3)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Acres
Restore	0	0	0	0	1	1
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	0	0	0	0	0
Total	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**1**

Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section (Table 4)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest	Total Funding
Restore	-	-	-	-	$1,680,000	$1,680,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**$1,680,000**	**$1,680,000**

Average Cost per Acre by Resource Type (Table 5)

Type	Wetland	Prairie	Forest	Habitat
Restore	-	-	-	$1,680,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-

Average Cost per Acre by Ecological Section (Table 6)

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	N. Forest
Restore	-	-	-	-	$1,680,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Fee w/o State PILT Liability	-	-	-	-	-
Protect in Easement	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance	-	-	-	-	-

Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles

2 miles

Parcels

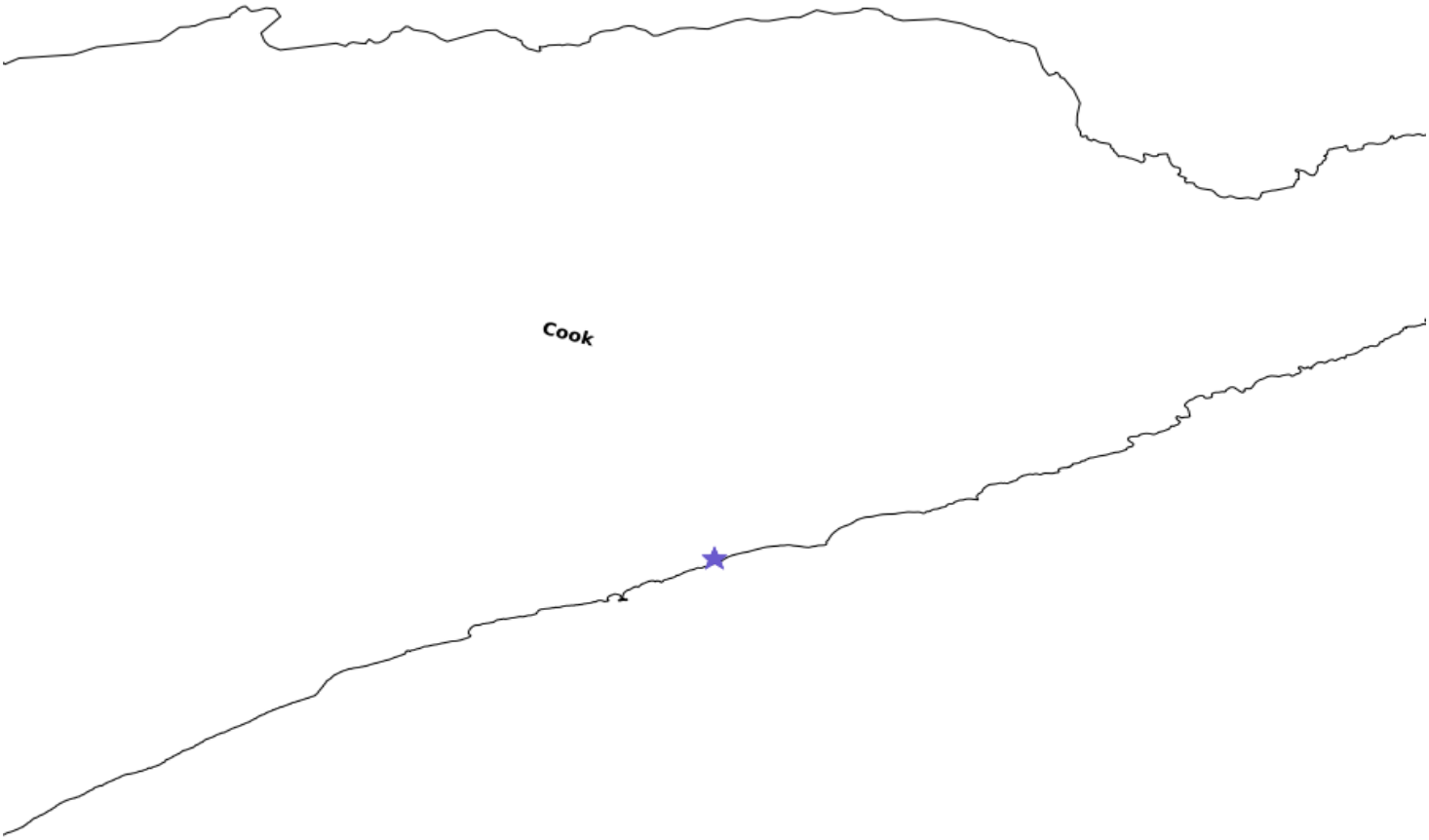
Sign-up Criteria?
No

Explain the process used to identify, prioritize, and select the parcels on your list:
The parcels identified below are the locations of the fish barriers.

Restore / Enhance Parcels

Name	County	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection	Description
Remove North AOP barrier Tax Parcel ID: 52-113-3110	Cook	06101W13	1	$720,000	-	remove AOP barrier
Remove Middle AOP barrier Tax Parcel ID: 52-142-0400	Cook	06101W13	1	$720,000	-	remove AOP barrier
Remove South AOP barrier: Tax Parcel ID: 52-113-3125	Cook	06101W13	1	$1,200,000	-	remove AOP barrier

Parcel Map



0 2 4 6 mi

- Protect in Easement
- Protect in Fee with PILT
- Protect in Fee W/O PILT
- Restore
- Enhance
- Other

Fall River Restoration Project

Restoring stream connectivity and fish habitat for naturally occurring brook trout in the Lake Superior Basin

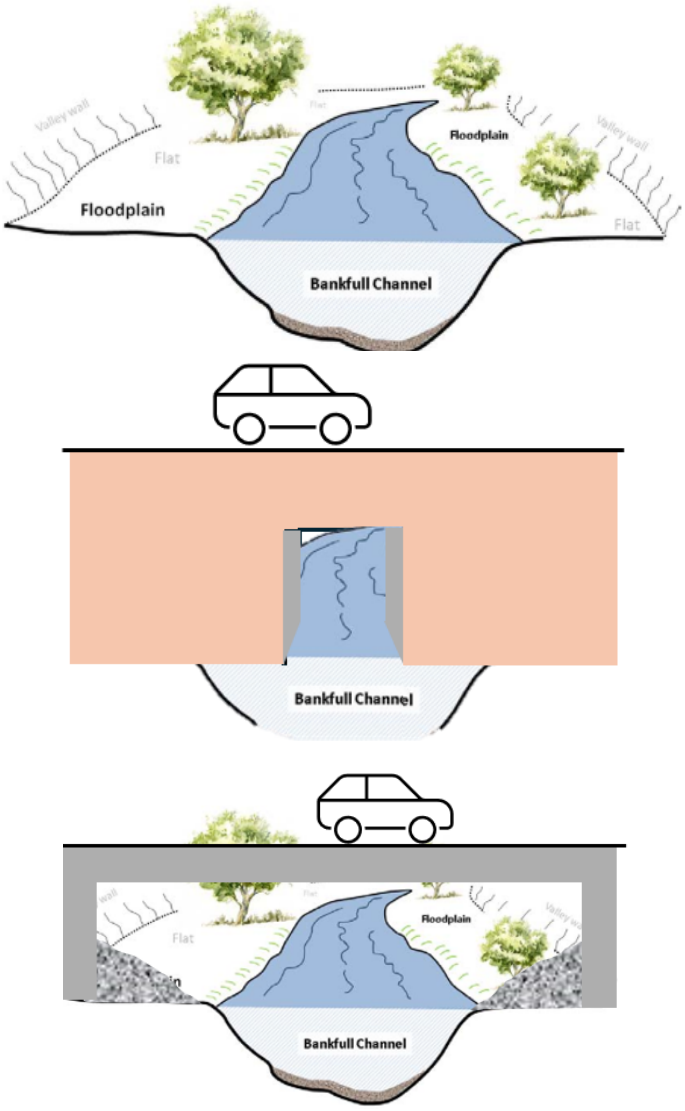
Synopsis: The proposed project is located in the Arrowhead region just outside the city limits of Grand Marais on County Road (CR) 6. Three undersized crossings carry CR 6 over Fall River, a 3.6 mile river whose waters feed directly into Lake Superior.

The undersized crossings are causing bank erosion, high stream velocities, sediment runoff into the river, and prohibiting aquatic organism passage (AOP). Replacing the crossings with larger structures is the only way the river can be restored back to its natural condition and gain increased resiliency from the impacts of climate change, flooding, and intense rain events, while also restoring needed fish habitat for naturally occurring brook trout. This project is in direct alignment with the high priority goals of restoring fish passage laid out by MN DNR Fisheries.

Project Lead:
Cook County

Project Partner:
Cook County Soil and Water Conservation District

Above: The project site location.



Above: From top to bottom: natural, existing, and proposed river crossings.

Cook County has already funded engineering and project development expenses. This is a chance for the Council to make this a habitat project instead of just a highway project. With this funding, the project is a stream restoration project, going beyond the usual culvert replacement of putting back what is currently there. The project will be shovel ready when funds are appropriated.

Location	Proposed Structure	Q2 (ft/s) (upstream-downstream)		Q100 (ft/s) (upstream-downstream)	
		Existing	Proposed	Existing	Proposed
North	14'W x 6'H box culvert	1.41-1.42	1.38-1.38	0.59-0.59	0.71-0.71
Middle	14'W x 6'H concrete box culvert	3.92-7.90	3.68-3.68	4.26-6.40	7.05-7.05
South	85' single span bridge	11.30-7.90	6.79-10.66	15.49-23.96	11.38-10.59

Above: Stream velocity data illustrates the improperly sized culverts' impact. Q2 is useful for AOP analysis and Q100 is a typical design storm event.

Above: Severe bank erosion occurring at the southern crossing due to an undersized crossing. The perched bottom inhibits AOP. Left is downstream and right is upstream.

Above: Views looking upstream (left) and downstream (right) at the middle and southern crossings respectively. Each show bank erosion and bankfull width not being met by the undersized crossings.

Robert Hass

From: Bobby Deschampe <robertdeschampe@grandportage.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 28, 2024 10:21 AM
To: Robert Hass
Subject: Re: LOS for Outdoor Heritage Fund project proposal

[**NOTICE:** This message originated from a non-Cook County email address. Use Caution when clicking links or opening attachments.]
Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa supports the restoration of the culverts on Fall River. We have 1854 Treaty rights to hunt, fish and gather. Clean water is critical to continue the health of the rivers and Lake Superior.

From: Robert Hass <Robert.Hass@co.cook.mn.us>
Sent: Friday, May 24, 2024 1:40 PM
To: Bobby Deschampe <robertdeschampe@grandportage.com>
Subject: LOS for Outdoor Heritage Fund project proposal

> **Caution:** This email comes from an external sender. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments. When in doubt, contact your IT Department

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From: Robert Hass
Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2024 10:33 AM
To: Bobby Deschampe <robertdeschampe@grandportage.com>
Subject: LOS for Outdoor Heritage Fund project proposal

Good morning Chairman Deschampe,

I wanted to reach out and discuss a proposal we are working on through the Outdoor Heritage Fund to replace 3 undersized crossings on County Road 6 over the Fall River just west of Grand Marais. The existing crossings are undersized and causing habitat deterioration for brook trout as well as bank erosion issues up- and down-stream. By replacing the culverts we will be able to restore the Fall River back to its natural habitat, better protect the river from future bank erosion, sediment runoff, and create a better connected habitat for fish species. We are only able to replace these crossings by securing funds through the Outdoor Heritage Fund so your support would go a long ways in helping us do so!

Please reach out and let me know if you have any questions. I attached a short 1-pager to describe the project. Feel free to just reply to this email to show your support!

Thank you,
Robbie

Robert J. Kimmel-Hass, P.E.
Highway Dept. Director/County Engineer
Cook County, Minnesota

Phone: 218-387-3014
Email: robert.hass@co.cook.mn.us

609 East 4th Avenue
Grand Marais, MN 55604

www.co.cook.mn.us

COOK **SOIL & WATER** CONSERVATION DISTRICT
- protecting and restoring soil and water resources -

May 22, 2024

Robert Hass
Cook County Hwy Dept.
609 East 4th Avenue
Grand Marais, MN 55604

Dear Mr. Hass,

Cook County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is in support of the project the Cook County Highway Department is proposing to the Lessard-Sam's Outdoor Heritage Council Outdoor Heritage Fund. The project's goal of improving aquatic habitat and fish connectivity along with providing improved water quality and climate resiliency is a benefit to the Lake Superior Basin for cold water fisheries. The Cook County Highway Department is working towards full stream connectivity in projects and working with the river systems, a more proactive approach. Cook County SWCD supports this approach. The project aligns with the activities and goals of the locally adopted Lake Superior North, One Watershed, One Plan in removing stream barriers in areas identified as priorities within the plan.

Cook SWCD has a history of successfully working with the Highway Department and will continue the collaboration in a capacity to support this project to benefit the natural resources. The river is a trout stream with culverts that were installed, not meeting bankfull width. These issues create water quality and aquatic habitat issues. The SWCD supports the efforts to improve the river connectivity and long-term stream restoration.

Thank you for considering the project and application.

Sincerely,

Ilena Hansel
District Manager

Robert Hass

From: Roger Skraba <Rep.Roger.Skraba@house.mn.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2024 5:21 AM
To: Robert Hass
Subject: Re: LOS for Outdoor Heritage Fund project proposal

[**NOTICE:** This message originated from a non-Cook County email address. Use Caution when clicking links or opening attachments.]

Robert,
I support this project. Please feel free to reference my name in any application. I will follow up with a letter of support when applicable.
Thank you for all your hard work.

Rep. Roger J. Skraba
District 3A

On May 21, 2024 10:11 AM, Robert Hass <Robert.Hass@co.cook.mn.us> wrote:
Hello Representative Skraba,

It was great meeting you during transportation day a while back and I appreciated the letter of support you wrote last year for the same funding opportunity I'm about to discuss. This year, we are proposing replacing 3 undersized culverts in the Fall River, just west of Grand Marais. These crossings are causing severe erosion and endangering the active brook trout population in the river.

Projects like this are an interesting intersection of infrastructure needs and environmental needs. Typically, what the environmental needs are can push a project over the edge financially if we're just using transportation dollars. With this funding through the Outdoor Heritage Fund though, we can meet not only our infrastructure needs but also the needs of the river and ecosystem.

Applications are due this Friday 5/24 by 4pm. If you support this application feel free to just reply to this email saying so and that will help immensely.

By securing these funds we'll be keeping more money in the pockets of Cook County taxpayers and enabling better recreational fishing experiences for those living and recreating up here.

Please reach out and let me know if you have any questions. I attached a short 1-pager describing the project as well.

Thank you,
Robbie

Robert J. Kimmel-Hass, P.E.
Highway Dept. Director/County Engineer
Cook County, Minnesota

Phone: 218-387-3014
Email: robert.hass@co.cook.mn.us

609 East 4th Avenue
Grand Marais, MN 55604

www.co.cook.mn.us

Robert Hass

From: Sen. Grant Hauschild <sen.grant.hauschild@mnsenate.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2024 12:38 PM
To: Robert Hass; Jamie Hysjulien
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] LOS for Outdoor Heritage Fund project proposal

[**NOTICE:** This message originated from a non-Cook County email address. Use Caution when clicking links or opening attachments.]
Hi Robert,

Thank you so much for the message and I'm glad to hear you are applying. I support your application, please let me know if there is anything else I can do

-Grant

Senator Grant Hauschild
District 3
Proudly representing the Arrowhead Region, East Iron Range, Two Tribal Nations, North Shore, Superior National Forest, Voyageurs National Park, Boundary Waters Canoe Area, Five Counties, and many communities across the Northland

Senate Office Building
95 University Ave W
St. Paul, MN 55103
***Email**: Sen.Grant.Hauschild@senate.mn*
***Phone:** 651.296.1789*
***Legislative Assistant**: Jamie Hysjulien*
jamie.hysjulien@senate.mn

From: Robert Hass <Robert.Hass@co.cook.mn.us>
Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2024 10:13 AM
To: Jamie Hysjulien <jamie.hysjulien@mnsenate.gov>; Sen. Grant Hauschild <sen.grant.hauschild@mnsenate.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] LOS for Outdoor Heritage Fund project proposal

Hello Senator Hauschild,

It was great catching up with you during transportation day a while back and I appreciated the discussion we had surrounding the importance of bonding bills for transportation projects. I am working on an application through the Outdoor Heritage Fund to replace 3 undersized culverts in the Fall River, just west of Grand Marais. These crossings are causing severe erosion and endangering the active brook trout population in the river.

Projects like this are an interesting intersection of infrastructure needs and environmental needs. Typically, what the environmental needs are can push a project over the edge financially if we're just using transportation dollars. With this funding through the Outdoor Heritage Fund though, we can meet not only our infrastructure needs but also the needs of the river and ecosystem.

Applications are due this Friday 5/24 by 4pm. If you support this application feel free to just reply to this email saying so and that will help immensely.

By securing these funds we'll be keeping more money in the pockets of Cook County taxpayers and enabling better recreational fishing experiences for those living and recreating up here.

Please reach out and let me know if you have any questions. I attached a short 1-pager describing the project as well.

Thank you,
Robbie

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