

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

MEMO: **Agenda Item #8**
DATE: October 7, 2021
SUBJECT: Initial Development Plans (IDP)
PRESENTER: Jamie Gangaware, DNR Wildlife Operations & Development Supervisor
 Jennifer Olson, DNR IDP Coordinator

Suggested Procedure:

A motion to fund the IDP Coordinator position under an appropriation to DNR, but separated from the HA08 is currently recommended within the Chairs' Recommendations to be taken up under Agenda Item #9 as part of the Council's allocation selections.

Background:

Today's presentation by DNR, and subsequent Council discussion, of the Initial Development Plan (IDP) process is to explore providing greater transparency in funding of the DNR IDP Coordinator position. The IDP Coordinator position was initially funded within the ML2019/FY2020 DNR WMA & SNA Acquisition, Phase XI appropriation with \$195,000 for .8 FTE for 3 years. The current ML2022/FY2023 DNR WMA & SNA Acquisition, Phase XIV proposal seeks extended funding of \$270,000 for .8 FTE for 3 years.

What are IDP (Initial Development Plan) costs?

IDP costs are expenses associated with the development of parcels of land conveyed to the DNR. There are two types of IDP monies:

Facility costs: These can include cultural resource review, boundary signing, posting/fencing, signage, access & parking lots, well sealing/site cleanup/engineering, fleet, and PT seasonal labor for facility costs only on partner led IDPs.

Habitat Improvement costs: These include traditional restoration and enhancement expenses like seeding, burning, shearing, & plantings – these are usually larger habitat improvement activities tied to a specific parcel are would be eligible for the “additional 5 years” under the current appropriation availability language.

All programs utilizing IDP funds stay open with continued reporting until the IDP monies are all spent, but no later than the availability of appropriations as defined in the applicable session law.

Why do we have IDP?

IDP “facility costs” have primarily been completed by the DNR as the end holder of the land. IDP facility and habitat costs are designed to cover initial development of parcels of land conveyed to the DNR

helping bring the condition of the land parcel to a baseline of acceptable facility status and habitat health. IDP funding availability is provided in appropriation law in each OHF funding bill under:

“Subd. 7. Availability of Appropriation

Money appropriated in this section may not be spent on activities unless they are directly related to and necessary for a specific appropriation and are specified in the accomplishment plan approved by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council. Money appropriated in this section must not be spent on indirect costs or other institutional overhead charges that are not directly related to and necessary for a specific appropriation. For acquiring real property, the amounts in this section are available until June 30, 2025. Money for restoration or enhancement is available until June 30, 2026. Money for restoration and enhancement of land acquired with an appropriation in this article is available for four years after the acquisition date with a maximum end date of June 30, 2029. ...”

How much has been spent to date for all IDP funds?

\$1,161,100 has been spent to date, as reported in final reports submitted to the OHF. It is important to note that IDP funds in the beginning of the OHF were mainly paid for from DNR’s general budget until the IDP budget category was set up allowing partners to transfer program monies to DNR for the completion of specific activities on OHF conveyed lands.

There is an estimated \$3,362,700 currently budgeted in ML 2015 to ML 2021 accomplishment plans. Unspent program partner IDP monies are turned back to the OHF upon program and IDP completion.

Attachments:

- DNR IDP Informational Handout