

Roving Crew Funding

Date: 1/3/2024

To: Mark Johnson, Executive Director
Dave Hartwell, Chair, Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

From: Greg Hoch, Prairie Habitat Supervisor, Division of Fish and Wildlife

This memo provides an update to the previously submitted funding schedules for the DNR Roving Crews. As previously communicated, spending had to be adjusted during the pandemic, and more information is now known about the residual funding impacts.

At the January 20, 2020 Council meeting DNR staff gave a presentation on the DNR Roving Crew, which led to DNR submitting a stand-alone Roving Crew proposal. In calendar year 2020, the DNR submitted a two-year Roving Crew funding proposal for ML21. Because of Covid related concerns for tax revenue, the DNR reduced the request to one year of funding. During FY22, we continued to spend down the older grassland enhancement appropriations and used the ML21 Roving Crew appropriation to fund the Crews in FY23. It was our hope to have utilized all of the older appropriation funds before FY23. We applied for and were funded for a two-year Roving Crew appropriation in ML23. Our initial plan was to use these funds in FY24/25. However, with work being restricted, hiring freezes, etc. during Covid, we still had a relatively large sum of funds remaining from older appropriations as of July 1, 2023. For FY24, the current year, we funded the Roving Crews off the older unspent grassland enhancement appropriations. (Remember that we had a large amount of unencumbered funds in late summer 2023.)

By funding the Roving Crews with older appropriations in FY24, we will have most, if not all, of the older grassland enhancement funds effectively utilized by July 1, 2024. At that date, we will fund the Crews with the ML22 appropriation to cover FY25/26. As of July 1, 2024, the Roving Crews will be fully integrated into the new two-year funding model. Below is a summary of the above narrative with our proposed future funding schedule. We feel confident this will be an efficient and effective use of the Outdoor Heritage Fund and will maximize the accomplishments with these dollars. Please contact us if you have any questions.

Date of request submitted to LSOHC	Legislative funding year	Date OHF funds available for use	Period of use of funds
May 2020	ML21	7/1/21	7/1/22 to 6/30/23 (FY23)
	Old approps		7/1/23 to 6/30/24 (FY24)
May 2022	ML23	7/1/23	7/1/24 to 6/30/26 (FY25-26)
May 2024	ML25	7/1/25	7/1/26 to 6/30/28 (FY27-28)
May 2026	ML27	7/1/27	7/1/28 to 6/30/30 (FY29-30)
May 2028	ML29	7/1/29	7/1/30 to 6/30/32 (FY31-32)
May 2030	ML31	7/1/31	7/1/32 to 6/30/34 (FY33-34)
May 2032	ML33	7/1/33	7/1/34 to 6/30/36 (FY35-36)