

FEB 22 1995

December 31

LCMR WORK PROGRAM 1991

I. Private Forest Management Oak Regeneration - Forestry 17

Program Manager: James L. Brooks
Address: MN DNR - Division of forestry
2300 Silver Creek Road NE
Rochester, MN 55906
Phone: (507) 280-5580

- A. M.L. 91, Ch 254, Art 1, Sec 14, Subd: 7(e)
Appropriation: \$200,000
Balance: \$ 0 (as of Dec 31)
This project has been extended until 12/31/93

This appropriation is to the Commissioner of natural resources to increase technical assistance to private forest landowners in southern Minnesota for oak regeneration.

- B. Compatible data: Not applicable
C. Match Requirement: Not required

It is the intention of the DNR to use this LCMR grant as evidence of the state's commitment to private land management in order to procure additional funds from federal or local sources. Likely sources include the Focused Funding Initiative of the United States Forest Service (USFS) and the proposed National Forest Stewardship Program.

II. Narrative

The goal of this project is not to increase the harvesting levels, but to provide technical advice that will promote oak regeneration on more of the acres now being harvested. The oak resource in Minnesota is currently being harvested at an annual rate exceeding 50 million board feet. In specific areas, such as southern Minnesota, the annual harvest level exceeds annual growth by a 2:1 ratio. This serious difference between annual growth and harvest is a concern not only to forest and wildlife managers but also to primary and secondary forest products industries as well as private landowners.

The problem is not strictly over-cutting, but a lack of attention during harvesting to foster regeneration of the stand. Mature oak trees are removed during a harvest, but without professional technical advice, the opportunity to regenerate oak is greatly diminished. Since much of the oak harvest is occurring on non-industrial private forest lands, education and technical assistance must be available to these landowners to encourage planning, pre-sale, harvesting, and post-sale techniques that enhance oak regeneration.

III. Objectives

- A. Provide technical assistance to non-industrial private landowners to increase regeneration of oak in pre- and post-harvest areas.
A1. Narrative: By assessing the forest in pre- and post-harvest areas, foresters will be able to recommend management and harvesting practices that will increase the amount of oak regeneration. Forest management planning and integrated resource management, tree planting, timber sale layout, timber marking, weeding, and release of young seedlings are some elements of this activity.

- A2. Procedures: Up to four forestry personnel will be employed by the DNR, and will be stationed (tentatively) at Caledonia, Preston, Lewiston, and Cambridge. The number of people assigned to this proposal will depend on the availability of matching funds. Each of these foresters, under the direction of the District Forester, will provide assistance on an additional 1,000 acres of oak regeneration per year. During the management plan phase, foresters will also educate landowners on a one-on-one basis regarding the economic and biological importance of the oak resource.

NOTE: Ongoing efforts of current DNR staff toward this objective will continue. This proposal will increase the activity.

A3. Budget

LCMR Funds	
a. Amount Budgeted:	\$200,000
b. Balance:	\$ 0 (as of Dec 31)

A4. Timeline for Products/Tasks

	July 91	Nov 91	Jan 92	Jun 92	Jan 93	June 93	Dec 93
Assign up to four foresters	*****	*****					
Provide technical assistance to landowners (40 acres/wk/forester)	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****
Final assessment							*****

- A5. Status: Two foresters were hired by the Division of Forestry in early December, 1991. They are stationed at the Lewiston and Faribault DNR offices, but work in the oak resource region-wide.

Through June 30, 1993, 1,848 landowners has been assisted include 613 field assists. Other accomplishments include 4,520 acres of woodland stewardship plans for 75 owners; 195 acres of timber sale assistance; 93 acres of timber stand improvement; 518 acres of planting and 339 acres of site preparation for natural regeneration. In addition, these foresters participate in 32 landowner field days and training sessions.

The LCMR project was extended through December 31, 1993, using existing monies. Forestry staff are working to extend the project further as required by rider language in the recent appropriations law language. The two foresters have been continued in state employment through general funding and are now classified employees. The work continues to meet the original objectives of the LCMR project.

1991 PROJECT ABSTRACT

For this period ending December 31, 1993.

This project was supported by Minnesota Future Resources Fund (M.S. 116.13).

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Legal Citation: M.L. 91, Art 1, Sec 14, Subd: 7(d)

Appropriation Amount: \$200,000.00

Statement of Objectives

Assess privately-owned oak forests in southeastern Minnesota for needed pre- and post-harvest regeneration needs. Implement technical assistance efforts to increase the regeneration of oak on identified sites through good planning, problem assessment and implementation of cost-sharing assistance. Improve the knowledge base of private woodland owners to facilitate better stewardship and management decisions.

Results

A total of 1,848 landowners were assisted in some way. 613 of these benefitted from a field contact. A total of 4,520 acres of woodlands were planned for in detailed plans. Operationally, 195 acres of timber harvest was planned, over 850 acres of oak was regenerated - nearly two-thirds by direct planting and 93 acres of oak was improved through timber stand improvement practices.

The project was extended through December 31, 1993, to fully utilize existing funds.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

The field foresters assigned to this project provided outreach to 18 separate groups of landowners through technical field-day sessions.

The legislature has indicated their continuing interest in this project through rider language in the 1994-1996 Biennial Appropriations Bill which requires that the project continue. We have taken steps to comply with this mandate even though a specific appropriation for this was not made.



STATE OF
MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PHONE NO.

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REGIONAL FORESTRY OFFICE
2300 SILVER CREEK ROAD NE
ROCHESTER, MN 55906

FEB 22 1995

February 21, 1995

Tammie Wishard
Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources
65 State Office Building
100 Constitution Avenue
St. Paul, MN

JRV
DGF
SAT
TW
MLK

Dear Ms. Wishard:

Enclosed please find the final report for the Private Forest Management Oak Regeneration Program which ended December 31, 1993. This report includes the accomplishments for the final 6 months which were attended by LCMR.

I am sorry for the confusion on this matter. I did not understand that this report was needed as a "final report" and was filed shortly after June 30, 1993.

If you have questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

James Brooks
Regional Forest Supervisor

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Enclosure

c Tom Kroll

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER