

ABSTRACT

1993 Project Abstract

FOR THE PERIOD ENDING JUNE 30, 1995

This project was supported by the MN Future Resources Fund

TITLE: Enhanced Recreational Opportunities for Southeast Asian Ethnic Communities

PROGRAM MANAGER: Josée Cung

ORGANIZATION: Department of Natural Resources

LEGAL CITATION: M.L. 93, Ch.172, Sec.14, Subd. 10(t)

M.L. 94, Ch.623, Art.2, Sec.6, Subd. 10(t)

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$300,000

Statement of Objectives

Through outreach to four SEA communities and the development of working partnership with their leaders and organizations, informational and educational activities were scheduled to teach, using bilingual communications, Southeast Asian Minnesotans about the state's natural resources, various outdoors and recreational opportunities and their management. At the same time, a cultural training package was developed to orientate and sensitize agency staff and the general public about the state's newest immigrants, their backgrounds, and the differences between American and SE Asian natural resources traditions and practices.

Overall Project Results

1. Outreach and Partnerships: the four SEA communities with a 1994 estimated population of about 71,000, and consisting of Hmong (35,000), Vietnamese (18,000), Lao (10,000) and Cambodians (8,000), have been reached, and a total of 23 community organizations, including a youth-serving agency, have established formal working relationships with the project.

2. Community Information and Education: working with its partners and their leaders, the project organized and completed a series of orientation and educational sessions that included community meetings, training workshops and tours of various outdoor and recreational facilities. Topics covered were focussed on fish and game laws, but also addressed issues of fish contamination, understanding and observing posted signs, trespassing, littering and hunting and fire safety. A summer youth program component implemented under this objective served an estimated 800-1000 inner-city SEA youth. These young people participated in a series of activities that included fishing and naturalist education, overnight camping experience and orientation to natural resource career opportunities.

3. Bilingual Communication Exchanges Development: the project instituted the use of bilingual staff who were assigned to provide language translation assistance to both DNR field professionals and instructors of educational activities. The project also completed the revision and translation into specific SEA languages of two sets of educational materials, primarily the hunting and fishing rules and regulations, and the hunting and gun safety training manual.

4. Cultural Training: a cultural training package on SEA cultures was developed, and a total of 52 sessions were offered to DNR professional staff, sportsmen and environmental groups, with an estimated 1800-2000 individuals participating. Results of the training have been better understanding and a means to ease tension between different user groups in rural communities in SE Minnesota.

Project Results Use and Dissemination: the project's unique approach to community outreach and its culturally sensitive service delivery model have been shared with staff of several public agency units interested in SEA populations (e.g. Agriculture, Health, Ramsey and Dakota Counties). Information about what has been learned and accomplished has been presented to three statewide conferences. The project has also generated tremendous interest and support from the SEA communities. DNR field officers reported decreased incidence of fish and game laws violation, while at the same time, more SE Asians are taking advantage of the state's recreational opportunities, and have better understanding of the concepts and practices of managed natural resources, protection and conservation.

Date of Report: July 10, 1995

LCMR Final Workprogram Update Report.

I. Program Title: Enhanced Recreational Opportunities for Southeast Asian Ethnic Communities.

Program Manager: Josée Cung
Address: Department of Natural Resources
500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155
Phone: (612) 297-4745

A. Legal Citation: M.L.93 Chpt.172, Sec.14, Subd.10 (t)

Total Biennial LCMR Budget: \$300,000
Balance : \$ 36,348

This appropriation is from the future resources fund to the Commissioner of Natural Resources to provide community education, develop bilingual communication exchanges, and cultural and sensitivity training with community members and natural resource professionals.

B. LMIC Compatible Data Language: not applicable.

C. Status of Match Requirement: not applicable

II.- Narrative: This program is to address the cultural and language problems experienced by Southeast Asian communities in their use of natural resources. DNR will work with community leaders to provide community education, develop bilingual communications exchanges, and hold cultural and sensitivity training for DNR and other natural resources professionals.

III.- Statement of Objectives:

- A. Collaborative community information and education
B. Bilingual communication exchanges
C. Cultural and sensitivity training.

IV.- Objectives:

A. Title of Objective: Collaborative Community Information and Education

A.1.Narrative: In partnership with Southeast Asian organizations, DNR will develop and organize a series of workshops in the community to give information on and teach Hmong and other Southeast Asian users about hunting and fishing regulations, firearms safety training, new recreational opportunities, and careers in natural resources.

A.2.Procedures: Hmong and other Southeast Asian organizations in the metro and out-state areas will be identified and invited to become program partners. Formal working relationships will be established. As partners, these organizations will host and help convene at least one information and education workshop in their community. Workshops will focus on specific topics, e.g. hunting and fishing rules and regulations, firearms safety training and other programs, new recreational locations, and natural resources careers. Meetings in the metro area will be followed by small meetings with individual organizations and focussed on specific issues and by on-site visits to selected state recreational areas for orientation and hands-on information on signs, rules and regulations applicable to each area.

A.3. Budget:

- a. Amount budgeted: \$155,200
b. Balance : \$ 0

A.4. Timeline:

Table with 5 columns (7/93, 1/94, 6/94, 1/95, 6/95) and 4 rows (Develop partnerships, Community workshops, Small Meetings, On-site Orientation Visits) showing activity markers (xxx, xxxx) across time periods.

A.5. Status:

At the closing of its two years, the project successfully achieved this objective with the following results:

- 1. In community outreach: the project relied on its two full-time and 3-4 part-time/seasonal staff to identify, contact and reach out to all and each known formal or informal groups within the staff's respective community, with the results that now all the four Southeast Asian communities have been connected with the project. These communities are:
a. the Hmong whose population is estimated at over 30,000, were the first group to be served and the focus of the project's educational efforts due to their intensive involvement in hunting and fishing;
b. the Cambodians, who do not hunt, but the majority of them are engaged in fishing and make game fish their daily meals;
c. the lowland Lao who both hunt and fish;
d. the Vietnamese who are interested mostly in fishing only.

2. In partnership development: the extensive outreach work with the four communities has resulted in a series of formal partnerships with the following community groups:

- a. Hmong community: twelve organizations in the Twin Cities, one group in Marshall and one in Winona.
b. Cambodian community: four organizations, two in the Twin Cities, one in Rochester and one in Mankato.

- c. Lao community: five organizations, four in the twin Cities, one in Worthington.
- d. Vietnamese community: one agency.
- e. the SEA Coalition for Youth and Families, serving all four communities

3. Educational Activities: working in collaboration with its partners, the project scheduled and held close to 200 orientation and educational sessions that included community meetings, training workshops, and on-site orientation visits to DNR managed field facilities. These activities took place either at the partners' meeting facilities, community centers of public housing complexes, wildlife management areas, state parks, state forest lands, public hunting access areas, fishing spots or camping grounds. Topics covered were: fishing and hunting rules and regulations; fishing education and contamination issues; understanding and observing posted signs; trespassing; littering; campground overcrowding; forest fire safety; different types of public lands and their respective permitted and non-permitted activities; career opportunities.

4. Summer youth program: this component was piloted in Summer 1994 and carried in full in Summer 1995 in collaboration with the SEA Coalition for Youth and Families which is a consortium of eight SEA youth-serving agencies in the Twin Cities. Recreational and educational activities were planned and scheduled during the past two summers. Participants were primarily inner-city young people who have been identified as either at risk for criminal activities or already adjudicated by the court system. The activities that took place included:

- a. fish and aquatic education through the DNR MinnAqua program;
- b. junior naturalist education including orientation and exposure to environmental education concepts through and in cooperation with DNR Parks division;
- c. overnight camping experience at various state parks including those located in Northern Minnesota also through cooperation with DNR Parks;
- d. fishing rules and regulations;
- e. orientation to natural resources and DNR career and youth internship program opportunities.

A.6. Benefits: Southeast Asian community members will be involved in designing culturally appropriate public information and education activities for their communities. These programs will help members learn, understand, and utilize information, thus increasing their compliance with laws and regulations. They will successfully complete firearm safety training, learn about new places to recreate and receive information on natural resources career opportunities. Strong working relations will develop between DNR and its ethnic constituents.

B.- Title of Objective: Bilingual Communication Exchanges Development

B.1. Narrative: DNR will initiate bilingual oral & written communication exchanges when working with Southeast Asian communities by creating intern opportunities and hiring part-time bilingual community liaisons. Workshop and other informational and educational materials will be in English and Hmong, and at reading levels no higher than 4th grade, and have more emphasis on visuals than on words.

B.2. Procedures: DNR will recruit and use bilingual Southeast Asian interns and part-time community liaison staff to provide language translation and community outreach at all community information and education meetings, and on-site orientation visits. Interns and community liaisons will be assigned to field activities working side-by-side with DNR Wildlife Managers and Conservation Officers during summer, before and during hunting and fishing seasons, and during week-ends year-round.

B.3. Budget:
 a. Amount budgeted: \$118,500
 b. Balance : \$ 20,486

B.4. Timeline : on going
 7/93 1/94 6/94 1/95 6/95
 xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx-->

B.5. Status:
 The project successfully accomplished this objective through implementing the following steps:

1. Use of part-time and seasonal bilingual personnel of SE Asian background and drawn from the respective community, specifically:
 - a. a Hmong seasonal community liaison person was hired to provide language translation and assigned to assist wildlife managers and field conservation officers at wildlife management areas during fishing and hunting openers and seasons; last year, to respond to the high level of Hmong hunting and fishing activities during summer and fall, two more seasonal Hmong part-time helpers were hired for the project to provide language translation for DNR field staff;
 - b. through a contract agreement with the United Cambodian Association and Lao Assistance Center, the project's partners, the project shared the services of the respective agency's Cambodian and a lowland Lao community liaison persons to reach out to their community and assist with the language translation as well as helping with planning and coordinating activities with Cambodian and Lao groups.
2. SE Asian interns: last summer through this project, two interns from SE Asian background were recruited and assigned to the DNR MinnAqua fish education and park naturalist programs serving SE Asian youth and senior citizens.
3. Development of bilingual materials: two sets of educational materials, specifically, (a) the hunting and fishing rules and regulations, and (b) the hunting and safety training manual, have been revised with the help of selected members of the three affected SEA communities (Cambodian, Hmong & Lao), and translated into Cambodian (fishing regulations), Hmong (hunting, fishing and safety training manual) and Lao (hunting and fishing regulations). These materials are ready to be printed in both English and the respective SEA language, and to be distributed for training and general use by the three communities.

B.6. Benefits: More effective communications will develop between DNR staff and its Southeast Asian ethnic constituents. Southeast Asian-American citizens will gain better understanding of regulated natural resource concepts, and be more able to conform to standard conservation practices. DNR professionals will have the resources to effectively intervene and resolve conflicts among different ethnic user groups.

C: Title of Objective: Cultural and Sensitivity Training

C.1. Narrative: Cultural and sensitivity training will be offered to DNR professionals, and outside sportsmen groups and other interested organizations. Focus of the training will be on the differences between Minnesota and Southeast Asian countries in terms of philosophy, concepts, values, and approaches to natural resources use and management.

C.2. Procedures: At least two 2-4 hours training sessions will be planned and scheduled both in the metro area and out-state for DNR staff. In addition, at least one or two sessions will be offered to outside sportsmen groups or other citizens' organizations. Southeast Asian speakers will be invited to participate to talk on the natural resources traditions and practices in their respective countries, share experiences they have encountered in Minnesota, and discuss problems and conflicts with suggestions for solutions.

C.3. Budget:

- a. Amount budgeted: \$26,300
- b. Balance : \$15,862

C.4. Timeline :

	7/93	1/94	6/94	1/95	6/95
Training	xxxxx	xxxxx	xxxxx	xxxxx	xxxx

C.5. Status:

There has been great interest and demand for the one-hour or longer cultural training package on SEA cultures that has been developed and offered to DNR professional staff, private citizen groups and environmental or natural resources related organizations in the metro and outstate areas, primarily in Southeast and Southwest Minnesota. A total of 52 cultural training sessions were conducted, with between 1800-2000 citizens participating.

The training consisted of a formal presentation on the state's SEA populations, their cultural backgrounds and their traditional concepts and practices in natural resources. The presentation was followed by a color slide show and a demonstration of traditional hunting and fishing techniques and equipment of the cultures presented. Occasionally, the session also included an arts and crafts exhibit with oral explanations from the staff, a film showing on the role of the Hmong on the American side in the Vietnam war, and personal testimonies or stories by community members.

C.5. Benefits: DNR and other natural resources professionals will learn about other natural resources cultures and traditions, and thus become more aware of the difficulties faced by Southeast Asian users. DNR professionals also will gain skills to work more effectively with Southeast Asian ethnic communities. Southeast Asians will have opportunities to share their cultures and experiences. Better relationships will develop between user groups of diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds.

V.- Evaluation: Specially designed forms and instruments will be used to monitor and evaluate the following indicators of success: level and nature of partnership and collaboration that will be generated from the project between DNR and its program partners; numbers of Southeast Asian groups and individuals reached by the project, and participating in community information and education meetings and on-site visits; assessment of Southeast Asian community's response to the approach used and impact on Southeast Asian users as a result of information given; categories and numbers of non-Southeast Asian individuals and groups attending cultural training, and their feedback. A final evaluation will be conducted at the project's completion and a report prepared.

VI.- Context:

A. This project is the first of its kind for DNR. Currently DNR does not have full-time staff or budgetary resources to provide information and education programming as described above to Southeast Asian communities. If successful, this program has the potential to become a model for more effective services to other ethnic constituents.

B. Southeast Asians are the fastest growing segment of Minnesota's population. First resettled in Minnesota in the mid-1970s, they now number close to 57,000. Southeast Asian Minnesotans, in particular the Hmong, are heavy users of natural resources, but are unfamiliar with the concept of regulated resources. The majority of these new Minnesotans live in urban areas from which they disperse to a few intensively used sites for recreation, causing conflicts with other user groups. Traditional public information and involvement approaches have failed. Wide cultural gaps exist between DNR, the general public and this ethnic group. Leaders of the Southeast Asian communities have expressed interest in working with DNR to address this issue.

C. It is anticipated that this project needs to be extended to beyond its initial two years, and thus plans will be made to seek additional LCMR financial support for the 1995-1997 biennium.

VII.- Qualifications:

1. Program Manager: Josée Cung

a) B.A. in Political Science (Sydney University, Australia), M.A. in Economic Project Evaluation & Analysis (U.N. Asian Institute, Thailand) and training in Management (College of St. Thomas, St. Paul) & Leadership Skills (U of MN). Was Community Development Associate at United Way Minneapolis for 5 years.

b) Serves on numerous community organizations' board, was on Governor's State Advisory Council for Refugees for 6 years. Has close contacts with minority groups, is a member of one Southeast Asian community.

2. Cooperators/Other Investigators

a) Hmong-American Veterans Association (HAVA), Hmong American Partnership (HAP), Lao Family Community Center and Intercultural Mutual Assistance Association (Rochester).

b) All four are non-profit and registered social services organizations with mission of working with Hmong-Americans to assist them become contributing members of society.

VIII.- Reporting Requirements:

Semiannual status reports will be submitted not later than Jan. 1, 1994, July 1, 1994, Jan. 1, 1995 and a final status report by June 30, 1995.