

December 20, 1995

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LCMR Work Program 1993 (FINAL REPORT)

I. RIM - Fisheries Acquisition for Angler Access and Habitat Development

Program Manager: Dirk Peterson
Department of Natural Resources
Section of Fisheries - Box 12
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155
(612)296-0789

A. Legal Citation: M.L. 93 Chpt.172, Sect.14, Subd.12h

Total Biennial LCMR Budget: \$300,000 Remaining: \$2,500

This appropriation is from the trust fund to the Commissioner of Natural Resources to accelerate the Reinvest In Minnesota Program. \$50,000 is for trout stream easements, \$50,000 is for warmwater stream easements and \$200,000 is for aquatic management areas acquisition.

B. LMIC Compatible Data Language: Not applicable

C. Status of Match Requirement: No match required

II. Narrative

Provide increased angler access and fisheries habitat development by accelerating easement and fee title acquisition of land adjacent to streams and lakes. Emphasis will be placed on trout stream easement acquisition, warmwater stream easement acquisition, and acquisition of critical fisheries habitats.

III. Statement of Objectives

- A. Acquire 3 miles of trout stream easements for angler access and habitat development (\$50,000).
- B. Acquire 3 miles of warmwater easements for angler access and habitat development (\$50,000).
- C. Acquire 200 acres of Aquatic Management Areas (\$200,000).

IV. Objectives

A. Acquire 3 miles of trout stream easements for angler access and habitat development. Priorities for trout stream acquisition are based on the fisheries value of the stream and parcels are purchased when landowners are willing to sell. Potential miles of easement acquisition are located in the following counties:

| COUNTY | MILES | COUNTY | MILES |
|------------|-------|------------|-------|
| Aitkin | 1.0 | Becker | 9.3 |
| Beltrami | 1.7 | Benton | 3.0 |
| Carlton | 179.7 | Carver | 1.5 |
| Cass | 4.0 | Chisago | 2.0 |
| Clearwater | 1.0 | Cook | 17.4 |
| Crow Wing | 3.7 | Dakota | 20.5 |
| Douglas | 5.0 | Fillmore | 135.8 |
| Goodhue | 9.7 | Houston | 88.1 |
| Hubbard | 47.4 | Itasca | 0.5 |
| Lake | 81.8 | Mower | 1.8 |
| Olmsted | 13.8 | Otter Tail | 1.0 |
| Pine | 57.0 | Rice | 1.2 |
| St. Louis | 210.8 | Scott | 2.3 |
| Stearns | 11.0 | Wabasha | 30.7 |
| Winona | 94.2 | | |

A1. Narrative: Purchase easements on designated trout streams for angler access and habitat improvement projects.

A2. Procedures: Contact private landowners with potential sites for angler access and habitat improvement and offer to purchase at fair market land values.

A3. Budget:
a. Amount Budgeted: \$ 50,000
b. Balance: 0

A4. Timeline: July 93 Jan 94 June 94 Jan 95 June 95

A5. Status: Acquisition completed. Parcels acquired are:

| Project | Parcel | County | Mi/Ac |
|-----------------|--------|-----------|-----------|
| Mill Creek | 9 | Fillmore | 0.35/5.5 |
| Mill Creek | 10 | Fillmore | 0.41/6.5 |
| Money Creek | 6 | Winona | 0.47/7.6 |
| Whitley's Creek | 1 | Crow Wing | 0.27/4.3 |
| Whitley's Creek | 11 | Crow Wing | 0.04/0.7 |
| TOTAL | | | 1.54/24.6 |

A6. Benefits: Angling opportunities would be expanded on trout streams. Perpetual easements would provide fish habitat protection of sensitive riparian zones and permit access for habitat improvement projects.

B. Acquire 3 miles of warmwater stream easements for angler access and habitat development. Individual project proposals will be evaluated in this pilot effort to determine potential for angler success.

B1. Narrative: Purchase easements on quality warmwater streams for angler access and habitat improvement projects.

B2. Procedures: Contact private landowners with potential sites for angler access and habitat improvement and offer to purchase at 90% of appraised land values.

B3. Budget:
a. Amount Budgeted: \$ 50,000
b. Balance: \$ 0

B4. Timeline: July 93 Jan 94 June 94 Jan 95 June 95

B5. Status: Project parcels acquired are

| Project | Parcel | County | Mi./Ac. |
|----------------|--------|----------|------------|
| Mississippi R. | 1 | Morrison | 0.20/3.8 |
| Wilcox Landing | 1 | Wabasha | 1.29/140 |
| TOTAL | | | 1.49/143.8 |

B6. Benefits: Angling opportunities would be expanded on warmwater streams. Perpetual easements would provide fish habitat protection of sensitive riparian zones and permit access for habitat improvement projects.

C. Acquire 200 acres of Aquatic Management Areas. Individual project proposals will be evaluated to determine potential for protecting critical habitats. Candidate sites may include trout streams and warmwater streams.

C1. Narrative: Purchase land adjacent to lakes and streams for access to, protection and development of critical fisheries habitats.

C2. Procedures: Contact private landowners with potential sites for access, protection and development of critical riparian fish habitats and offer appraised land values.

C3. Budget:
a. Amount Budgeted: \$ 200,000
b. Balance: \$ 2,500

C4. Timeline: July 93 Jan 94 June 94 Jan 95 June 95

C5. Status: Parcels acquired are:

| Project | Parcel | County | Mi/Ac |
|----------------|--------|-----------|------------|
| Woman Lake | 1 | Cass | 0.02/0.5 |
| Pickwick Creek | 6 | Winona | 1.09/17.4 |
| Pickwick Creek | 3 | Winona | 1.43/22.9 |
| Sucker River | 27,28 | St. Louis | 0.43/6.9 |
| W. Rachel Lake | 1 | Douglas | 0.10/4.5 |
| Middie Creek | 9 | Wabasha | 0.28/4.5 |
| Miller Creek | 7 | Wabasha | 0.38/91.6 |
| TOTAL | | | 3.73/148.3 |

303 168.4 316.7
276

C6. Benefits: Long term integrity of fisheries resources will be protected by securing land parcels adjacent to critical habitats.

V. Evaluation: Project benefits will be measured as miles of angler opportunity acquired and acres of critical habitat protected.

VI. Context: Stream angling and management have received increasing attention in recent years. To provide additional angling opportunities, access needs to be secured for fishermen and fisheries management to restore and improve fish habitats. Trout streams are considered precious by the public and are highly vulnerable to degradation. Easements provide perpetual protection of the riparian zone as well as angler

access. Easements also provide access for DNR personnel and constituent cooperators to participate in habitat improvement projects. Minnesota has 2600 miles of trout streams of which 800 miles run through private lands. With 190 miles of easements secured, an ongoing program of acquisition is necessary to meet long-term goals.

Fishing for walleye, smallmouth bass and channel catfish has increased on warmwater streams. Historically, acquisition has centered on access to roughfish barriers and low-head dams. This project will initiate a pilot effort to purchase access to popular streams for fishing and fisheries management. Easement acquisition also protects sensitive riparian areas from degradation. The 1992 Legislature authorized Aquatic Management Areas (AMA's) as part of the Outdoor Recreation System. Designed to protect critical fisheries habitats, efforts will be made to acquire sensitive riparian areas, undeveloped shorelines adjacent to important aquatic plant beds, fish spawning areas and other critical sites. This LCMR funding provides a strong start to maintain quality fisheries habitat for the future.

VII. Qualifications:

Dirk Peterson
Fisheries Program Coordinator
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

B.S. Winona State University, 1976, Biology.

Fisheries Program Coordinator, Minnesota DNR, St. Paul, 1992 to present.

Federal Aid Coordinator, Minnesota DNR, St. Paul, 1989-1992.

Adjunct Faculty, Biology Department, Mankato State University, Mankato, 1988-1989.

Area Fisheries Supervisor, Minnesota DNR, Waterville, 1984-1989.

Fisheries Specialist, Minnesota DNR, Waterville, 1982-1984.

Aquatic Biologist, Minnesota DNR, Detroit Lakes, 1979-1982.

Fisheries Specialist, Minnesota DNR, St. Paul, 1978-1979.

Fisheries Technician, U.S. Forest Service, Isabella, MN, 1978.

VIII. Reporting Requirements: Semiannual status reports will be submitted not later than Jan. 1, 1994, June 30, 1994, Jan. 1, 1995, June 30, 1995, and a final status report by December 31, 1995.