

September, 1992

LCMR Work Program 1993

*Not yet approved by Commission 9/21/93*

**I. Project Title: Establishing Goose Nesting Sites in Northern Minnesota and Relocation of Giant Canada Goslings (12-1).**

Program Manager: Robert D. Nylen  
Agency Affiliation: Geese International  
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12(i)

A. Legal Citation: M.L.93 Chpt. \_\_\_\_, Art. \_\_\_\_, Sect. \_\_\_\_, Subd. 12(i).

Total Biennial LCMR Budget: \$21,000  
Balance:

(13 i) Appropriation Language as drafted 7/27/92: This appropriation is from the Future Resources Fund to the Commissioner of Natural Resources for a contract with Geese International, Inc. to manufacture and place 160 permanent goose nesting sites in the Squaw Lake and Baudette areas and to purchase a 4-wheel drive vehicle capable of towing a trailer for 400 goslings. This appropriation must be matched by \$31,890 from Geese International, Inc.

B. LMIC Compatible Data Language: Not Applicable.

C. Status of Match Requirements:

Match Required: \$31,890  
Funds Raised to Date: Through fundraisers and raffles Geese International has raised \$5,000 to date. Corporate sponsors are being sought for the remaining funds.

II. Narrative: Purchase a 4-wheel drive vehicle for towing a trailer of 400 goslings. The goslings are captured by the Minnesota DNR and relocated by Geese International throughout Minnesota. 160 permanent nesting sites will be manufactured and placed in the Baudette and Squaw Lake areas.

III. Statement of Objectives: (1) To purchase a vehicle for gosling relocation to improve hunting and wildlife management; (2) to increase the survival rate of the geese released by Geese International in the Squaw Lake and Baudette areas.

**IV. Objectives:**

A. Title of Objective: Purchase of Vehicle for Gosling Relocation.

A.1. Narrative: The trailers used to transport goslings are heavy-duty tandem units. They need to travel over rough terrain. Typical vehicles owned by Geese International volunteers are not suitable for pulling the weight nor the unit to the designated release sites.

A.2. Procedures: Solicit bids from the local automobile dealers and purchase a suitable vehicle for the needs as previously described.

A.3. Budget:

a. Amount budgeted: \$30,000  
Geese International \$18,000  
LCMR \$12,000  
b. Balance:

A.4. Timeline: Vehicle would be purchased in July of 1993 or as soon as funds become available, but within the budget timeline.

A.5. Status:

A.6. Benefits: As goslings are captured in the metro area or elsewhere a vehicle suitable to the task of pulling heavy trailers with high wind resistance would be available for the immediate transport of goslings. This will assure low mortality of the birds and guarantee rapid distribution to pre-selected sites in Northern Minnesota. It will also enhance hunting opportunities and open up more remote release sites for birds. The number of geese will be reduced in the metro area.

B. Title of Objective: Geese Nesting Sites

B.1. Narrative: 160 permanent goose nesting sites (80 floating and 80 free standing) will be manufactured and placed in the Squaw Lake and Baudette areas. Records will be kept on these selected sites.

B.2. Procedures: Proven nesting site designs will be evaluated and selected. Installation will be at pre-approved DNR sites, by chapter members of Geese International. Members will fill out a card and mail it to Geese International headquarters with nesting information at these sites to build a data base.

B.3. Budget:

a. Amount Budgeted: \$22,500  
Geese International \$13,500  
LCMR \$9,000  
b. Balance:

12(i).1

B.4. Timeline:

7/93	1/94	6/94	1/95
80 floating sites XXXXXXXXXXXX		80 freestanding XXXXXXXXXXXX	

B.5. Status:

B.6. Benefits:

The survival rate of goslings will be enhanced, which will lead to improved hunting opportunities. There will be a decreased predator depredation. Nesting sites will decrease the loss of goslings which would have been reared in natural sites and vulnerable to fluctuating water levels and other phenomena. The number of geese being domesticated in the metro area will be decreased and consequently will result in more geese in the Greater Minnesota area.

V. Evaluation:

A. The vehicle project will be very basic to evaluate. Our target will be to have a 100% response rate when the DNR notifies us of birds to be transported. If the birds do not have to be held at the DNR Carlos Avery holding pens for any considerable length of time, but transported in an "as available" situation, then the project can be termed successful.

B. Upon completion of the installation of the sites and after the nesting season is completed, visual inspection will be made and an attempt will be made to document the successfully hatched goslings. If a nesting site is utilized by adults, and goslings are hatched, the project will be termed successful.

VI. Context:

A. Typically the average Geese International transport volunteer does not own a vehicle that can pull a trailer requiring either a 2" or a 2 5/16" trailer ball as well as sufficient engine horsepower to meet the relocation needs. The number of birds transported in 1991 was 1,250, and in 1992, 2,350. The numbers being relocated increase annually and suitable equipment is needed to meet the demand.

The trailers have either been donated to Geese International or are owned by G.I. members. The vehicle to be purchased would replace volunteer ones that are oftentimes either not available or unsuitable for the job.

Since Geese International's inception in 1984, when only 16 birds were relocated, the program has benefited by the use of volunteers and their personally owned equipment. This organization has not previously benefited from LCMR funding for its

programs. Future requests to LCMR would be based on expansion, and needs of the organization's programs.

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B. To date we are not aware of any large scale program of installing nesting sites. A few sites have been built and placed by Geese International members at their own expense. Reports have been filed by members of sitings of destroyed nests and eggs. The phenomena of fluctuating water levels reduces the number of successful hatches.

The nesting sites will offer a safe area for successful incubating and hatching by adult geese.

Funding has not been previously requested from the LCMR. Upon evaluation of the program possible expansion will be considered and if deemed appropriate future funds may be requested.

VII. Qualifications:

1. Program Manager: Robert D. Nylén
  - a. The manager is currently the Executive Director of Geese International. His background is 26 years in various management positions with a diploma from the University of Minnesota. He has been involved in purchasing of large capital equipment items for 21 years.
  - b. Executive Director and full time employee of Geese International. Responsible for all operations of the organization and reports to the Board of Directors.

VIII. Reporting Requirements:

A. Although this is a one time only funded purchase, a timely report will be made to the DNR as our state contract agency, and specifically to our liaison person. As otherwise necessary, semiannual status reports will be submitted no later than January 1, 1994, July 1, 1994, January 1, 1995, and a final status report June 30, 1995.

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