

1995 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 1997

This project was supported by Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (MS 116P.02)

Title: Leopold Education Project

Project Manager: Russell Sewell

Organization: Pheasants Forever, Inc.

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Legal Citation: ML 1995, Ch. 220, Sec. 19, Subd. 6(a)

Appropriation Amount: \$100,000.00

Statement of Objectives The first project objective was to provide LEP facilitator training to the staffs of environmental learning centers throughout the state. Secondly, the project was to produce an LEP promotional video and registration materials which were to be distributed statewide. Utilizing trained facilitators from the first objective and promotional materials from the second, the final objective was to coordinate and conduct sixteen-hour, LEP facilitator workshops for 170 educators in all regions of the state.

Overall Project Results This project resulted in 232 Minnesota educators being directly trained in the award winning *Lessons in a Land Ethic* curriculum of the Leopold Education Project. Educators from all geographic areas of the state received materials and training that not only allow them to use the curriculum within their personal educational setting, but to share it with their peers by conducting their own LEP in-service workshop. The outreach as a result of this project is limitless. The use of this curriculum with young people benefits the future of Minnesota and its resources through creating a real, personal relationship between youngster's and the land, leading to an ecologically literate citizenry. Furthermore, each of the trained participants are now kept in touch with the LEP through E-mail, the quarterly LEP newsletter, *Strides*, and direct contact. Already, LEP in-service workshops have been conducted and are being scheduled by those trained through this project. The promotional materials produced through this project have resulted in an extensive list of those interested in attending an LEP workshop in Minnesota. The LEP will continue to grow in Minnesota in large part due to the strong network of Minnesotans trained in this project. While the number of students reached with this project is not quantified, it has the potential to reach each and every student in the state.

Project Results Use and Dissemination LEP - LCMR workshops were received extremely well throughout the state. Many participants travelled extensively, often >200 miles, to attend a workshop. Waiting lists were taken at several regional sites due to the large response. Workshop evaluations rated overall satisfaction of participants at 3.7 on a scale of 1-4 (4=very good, 1=poor). Many expressed their gratitude personally to Pheasants Forever and the LCMR for a quality workshop and for receiving classroom sets of materials so that they could implement the LEP and the land ethic message into their classrooms immediately.

Date of Submission: July 1, 1997

LCMR Final Work Program Update Report

I. Project Title and Project Number: Leopold Education Project-Curriculum, M1 -1.

Program Manager: Russell W. Sewell
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A. Legal Citation: M.L.95 Chpt. 220, Art. 1, Sect. 19, Subd.6(a)

Total biennial LCMR appropriation: \$100,000

Balance: \$0

This appropriation is from the trust fund to the Office of Environmental Assistance for an agreement with Pheasants Forever, Inc. to provide teacher training in the use of the Leopold Education Project conservation ethics curriculum. This appropriation must be matched by at least \$50,000 of non - state money.

B. Status of Match Requirement:

Match required: \$50,000
Amount Committed: \$50,000
Match Spent: \$216,693.69

II. Project Summary:

The Leopold Education Project (LEP) is an innovative, interdisciplinary conservation ethics curriculum targeted for grades 6 through 12. The LEP increases students' environmental awareness and informs them of how to make responsible choices for our planet, while simultaneously employing important social and collaborative skills. The LEP is unique in that it uses a classic environmental literary work, Aldo Leopold's *A Sand County Almanac* to reach students and develop an interest, understanding and respect for the land mechanism.

The LEP strives to instill a land ethic that invokes the use of three primary areas of reflective and reasonable learning: content knowledge, creative thinking, and critical thinking. Simply put, LEP's goal is to instill a love, respect and admiration for the land, leading to an ecologically literate citizenry with an intense consciousness of the land. The outcomes of this project will be the training of 200 Minnesota educators as LEP facilitators. These educators will then be able to not only use the curriculum in their classrooms but also conduct in-service LEP workshops for other educators in their communities. This project will develop a funding and support mechanism for environmental education throughout Minnesota by developing partnerships between conservation organizations and their local schools.

III. Final Work Program Summary:

July 1, 1997

Objective A.

November 5-8, 1995 provided LEP facilitator training at Gunflint Lodge to the staffs of:

Deep Portage Environmental Learning Center
Laurentian Environmental Learning Center
Minnesota Zoo
North Woods Environmental Learning Center
International Wolf Center
Agassiz Environmental Learning Center
Shetek Environmental Learning Center
Heron Lake Environmental Learning Center
Heritage Park Nature Center
Quarry Hill Nature Center
Forest Resource Center

These ELC sites served as regional headquarters for further LEP facilitator training as specified under objective C. Twenty ELC staff (plus 10 educators included in objective C) attended. We worked with ELC staff to coordinate dates, locations, and logistics for workshops included in objective C.

Objective B:

Produced LEP video and registration materials. Distribution of said materials continued throughout the project period.

Objective C:

Ten educators attended the facilitator training held at Gunflint, Nov. 5-8. LEP facilitator training workshops were conducted in conjunction with the following regional sites utilizing ELC staff trained in objective A.

Deep Portage Resource Center
August 6-8, 1996
20 Participants

Nerstrand-Big Woods State Park - Quarry Hill Nature Center
October 3-4, 1996
22 Participants

Agassiz Environmental Learning Center
October 4-6, 1996
9 Participants

Camp Widjiwagan - North Woods Environmental Learning Center
October 26-28, 1996
14 Participants

Shetek Environmental Learning Center
November 8-9, 1996
24 Participants

Minnesota Zoo
December 12-14, 1996
33 Participants

Heritage Park Nature Center
January 30-31, 1997
39 Participants

Forest Resource Center, Lanesboro
April 7-8, 1997
27 Participants

Minnesota Zoo
May 2-3, 1997
14 Participants

A total of 212 Minnesota educators were trained in the LEP for objective C surpassing the stated goal of 170. Workshops covered every region of the state providing opportunities for all Minnesota educators to attend a workshop.

Overall, the project trained 232 Minnesota educators in the Leopold Education Project, surpassing the stated goal of 200. Participants were provided a complete set of curricula materials and a classroom set of 30 student texts. The outreach of this project to Minnesota's future land stewards has the potential to reach every school system in the state with the sound, LEP conservation ethics curriculum, resulting in an ecologically literate citizenry. Furthermore, each participant is now kept in touch with the project and apprised of new curricula materials through the LEP quarterly newsletter, *Strides*, as well as direct contact with LEP staff and in the future through an LEP state coordinator. LEP in-service workshops have been conducted (e.g. Lawndale ELC) and are being planned throughout the state by those who attended the LEP - LCMR workshops. LEP workshops will be conducted for Minnesota educators on an ongoing basis throughout the state as a result of this two-year project.

IV. Statement of Objectives:

- A. Provide LEP facilitator training to the staffs of five regional environmental learning centers (ELCs).
- B. Produce LEP video and registration materials and begin distribution to educators within each region. Distribution will utilize conservation organization's contacts and direct mailings and will commence at least six months prior to each regional workshop.
- C. Coordinate and conduct with each ELC staff a sixteen hour, LEP educator workshops for teachers from their regions.

Timeline: 7/96 8/96 10/96 11/96 12/96 1/97 2/97 5/97

Objective A: Train ELC Staffs XXXXXXXXXX

Objective B: Promotion and Registration XX

Objective C: Conduct Facilitator Workshops XX

V. Objectives/Outcomes:

A. Train ELC Staffs as LEP facilitators

A.1 Activity: Conducted one - 28 hour LEP facilitator training workshop for ELC staffs

A.1.a. Context within project: Selected and provided training to regional ELC's which furnished workshop sites for subsequent LEP workshops (Objective C) and established trained staff for continuance and future focus of the project and its goals.

A.1.b. Methods: Eleven ELC sites were selected as regional LEP centers, covering the NE, NW, Central, SE, SW, and the metro area of Minnesota. The PF Conservation Education staff provided LEP instruction to ELC staff members in the LEP project's curriculum materials, goals and methodology.

A.1.c. Materials: LEP curriculum sets were provided for each participant consisting of the following: *Lessons in a Land Ethic* teacher's guide, *A Prophet for all Seasons* videotape, and *A Sand County Almanac* student text. In addition, each participant received an LEP facilitator's manual, LEP task cards and associated handouts.

A.1.d. Budget

Total Biennial LCMR Budget: \$16,163.00

LCMR Balance: \$0

MATCH: \$50,776.22

MATCH BALANCE: \$0

A.1.e Timeline 7/95 8/95 9/95 10/95 11/95

PRODUCT #1 X
(LEP workshop for ELC staffs)

A.1.f. Work Program Update: November 5-8, 1995 provided LEP facilitator training and LEP materials at Gunflint Lodge to 20 members of ELC staffs. These ELC sites served as regional headquarters for LEP facilitator workshops conducted in objective C.

B. Title of Objectives/Outcome: Awareness, Promotion and Registration

B.1. Activity: Production and distribution of LEP video detailing goals and uses of the project. Promotion of LCMR - LEP project through mailings via a network of conservation and education organizations.

B.1.a. Context within the project: Created an awareness of the LCMR - LEP project and led to registration for LEP workshops in objective C.

B.1.b. Methods: A 12-minute video was produced at the ELC training session. This video and accompanying promotional materials and registration forms were delivered through a network of cooperating conservation and professional organizations and ultimately to educators.

B.1.c Materials: LEP brochures & mailers (\$5000.00), Postage (\$1800.00), Video production and duplication on a contractual basis (\$7000.00).

B.1.d. Budget

Total Biennial LCMR Budget: \$8,497.00

LCMR Balance: \$0

MATCH: \$63,570.87

MATCH BALANCE: \$0

B.1.e Timeline

7/95 8/95 9/95 10/95 11/95 12/95 5/97

PRODUCT #1

XX

(LCMR LEP video)

Product #2

XX

(Promotion and registration)

B.1.f Work Program Update: Produced LEP video and registration materials. Distribution of said materials continued throughout the project period.

C. Title of Objective/Outcome: Conduct regional LEP educator workshops.

C.1. Activity: Teacher workshops

C.1.a. Context within the project: Major focus of project to train 170 Minnesota educators as LEP facilitators. Scholarships for travel, instruction and substitute teacher costs were provided.

C.1.b. Methods: Teachers were contacted through the conservation education network (e.g. SEEK). Subsequent registrations and scholarship applications were taken until two weeks prior to the workshop. PF and ELC staffs conducted intensive (most were overnight) 16 contact hour LEP workshops training educators to be LEP instructors and facilitators. Optional graduate college credit was available. Each participant received classroom sets of curriculum materials. Since completing the training, participants receive the LEP newsletter, *Strides*, which updates them on new developments and opportunities in the LEP. In

addition, LEP facilitators are provided with continued assistance in planning and conducting LEP in-service workshops and are invited to the annual LEP workshop.

C.1.c. Materials: LEP curriculum sets were provided for each participant consisting of the following: *Lessons in a Land Ethic* teacher's guide, *A Prophet for all Seasons* videotape, and *A Sand County Almanac* student text. In addition each participant received an LEP facilitator manual, LEP task cards and associated handouts.

C.1.d. Budget

Total Biennial LCMR Budget: \$75,340.00

LCMR Balance: \$0

Match: \$102,346.60

Match Balance: \$0

C.1.e. Timeline

3/96 5/96 10/96 1/97 4/97 6/97

LEP Teacher Workshop	X	X	X	X	X	X
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C.1.f. Work Program Update: Ten workshops conducted at 9 regional sites resulting in 212 Minnesota educators being trained in the Leopold Education Project and facilitation. Participants were provided with all a complete set of curricula materials (*Lessons in a Land Ethic* Teacher's Guide, LEP Facilitator Manual, *A Prophet for All Seasons* videotape, Task Cards, and associated handouts) as well as a classroom set of *A Sand County Almanac* by Aldo Leopold, the student text. Sites were located regionally (NW, SE, SW, central, metro, NW, and N. central) to provide educators across the state with a workshop opportunity. The goal of training 170 educators through LEP workshops was met and surpassed for objective C.

VI. Evaluation: Evaluation of the LEP is conducted through both post workshop participant evaluations and subsequent teacher critique of using the LEP within their classrooms. The evaluations will be summarized and reported in the final reports. In addition, the continued conductance of workshops by trained facilitators will be indicative of the program's success. This project has the potential to impact a majority of Minnesota school systems and their students with the goal of creating ecologically literate citizens.

VII. Context within field: The LEP is unique in the field using critical thinking skills in an interdisciplinary curriculum to teach environmental ethics. Its lessons are well adapted to a variety of educational settings and it complements existing environmental education curricula such as Project WILD.

VIII. Budget context: The LEP project is an ongoing environmental education outreach of Pheasants Forever, Inc. Within the two year period Pheasants Forever, Inc., is planning a revision of existing teacher's guide and the additional completion and publication of an elementary curriculum entitled *Land Ethics Curriculum*. These projects are outside the funding realm of this proposal.

IX. Dissemination: Project results will be published in magazine articles and through presentations at conferences and symposiums.

X. Time: The LEP is an ongoing project. Future developments and revisions will take place as the project matures in Minnesota. Funding for the project comes from Pheasants Forever, Inc., and other non-profit sources and no additional LCMR monies will be sought for this segment of the project.

XI. Cooperation

- 1) Five regional environmental learning centers.
- 2) 51 - Minnesota PF chapters
- 3) 90 existing Minnesota LEP facilitators.
- 4) Minnesota Conservation organizations (i.e. MWA, Ruffed Grouse Soc., MNDHA, Audubon, Nature Conservancy, etc..)
- 5) Educator organizations (i.e. unions etc.)

XII. Reporting Requirements: Semiannual six-month Work Program reports will be submitted not later than January 1, 1996, July 1, 1996, January 1, 1997 and a final six-month Work Program update and final report by June 30, 1997.

XIII. Required attachments:

1. Qualifications:
2. Project Staffing Summary: