

I. Project Title and Project Number:

Enhanced Natural Resources Opportunities for Asian-Pacific Minnesotans. 6(m)

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A. Legal Citation: ML 95, Chp. 220, Sec. 20, Subd. 6(m)  
Total biennial LCMR appropriation: \$150,000.00  
Balance: \$0

Appropriation Language This appropriation is from the future resources fund to the commissioner of natural resources for the second biennium of funding for community outreach, cultural collaboration, training, and education to increase Asians participation and understanding of natural resources management. Supplemental funding must be requested and the results reported to the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources.

B. Status of Match Requirement: Not Applicable  
Match Required: N/A  
Amount Committed to Date: N/A  
Match Spent to Date: N/A

II. Project Summary:

This project seeks to increase Asian, especially Southeast Asian participation and understanding of natural resources management issues, including resources protection and conservation, through community outreach and education, cultural collaboration and training. These activities are continued from the last biennium. In the second year of the 95-97 biennium the project will secure permanent financial support from the state general fund, and become an on-going DNR educational program serving a minority group.

III. Six Month Work Program Update Summary:

This report covers the last six months of activities undertaken with appropriations from the future resources funds as recommended by LCMR. Starting on July 1, 1996 and as recommended by LCMR and approved by the Legislature at its 1996 session, the project will be converted to general funding. A total of \$150,000 has been approved for FY 1997 for the project.

IV. Statement of Objectives:

A. Community outreach and education: DNR reaches out to and connects with at least one Asian and all the four Southeast Asian (SEA) ethnic communities, and establish partnerships with their leadership to provide natural resources information and education on fishing and hunting laws and regulations, firearm safety, and other DNR educational, recreational and career opportunities.

B. Cultural collaboration and training: The project (a) coordinates internally with DNR divisions of parks, fisheries, enforcement and forestry to review and modify existing educational and recreational programming in order to more effectively serve SE Asians and one Asian group, and (b) at the same time designs and offers to non-Asian user groups i.e sportsmen, landowners a series of cultural sensitivity training sessions intended on easing community tension especially in rural areas.

C. Project permanent funding and on-going status: With the support from the Asian and Southeast Asian communities, the project will seek and secure general funding from the state legislature in order to become, beginning July 1996, an on-going minority service program of the department.

Timeline for Completion of Objectives:

	7/95	1/96	6/96
<u>OBJECTIVE A:</u>			
Community outreach & education	xxxxxx	xxxxx	xxxxxx
<u>OBJECTIVE B:</u>			
Cultural collaboration & training	xxxxx	xxxxx	xxxxxx
<u>OBJECTIVE C:</u>			
Project permanent funding & on-going status			xxxxxx

V. Objectives/Outcome:

A. COMMUNITY OUTREACH & EDUCATION:

A.1 Activity: Building on earlier pilot efforts, the project reaches out to and makes connections with one Asian and all four SEA communities and establishes partnerships with their leaders for the purpose of providing information and education on fish and game laws, firearm safety, and other natural resources, outdoor recreation and career opportunities. Information and education activities include community meetings, training workshops, field trips, site visits, camping, and presentation sessions on DNR programs and careers.

A.1.a. Context within the project: Because of Asian tradition and community dynamics the project must work with community leaders and get their active involvement by having them sponsor and champion the educational activities and motivate their followers to participate. It is anticipated that for this biennium, the project will serve one Asian community, the Chinese-American, and continues its outreach to a wider and larger SE Asian community, working with all the four groups who include the Hmong, Lao, Cambodian and Vietnamese.

A.1.b. Methods: The primary method used consists of recruiting staff of the same ethnic background than the targeted groups; and who have extensive community contacts and trust to help identify and connect with leaders and involve them in the planning and sponsoring of the informational and educational activities. Leaders also serve to give input and advice on community needs and priorities.

A.1.c. Materials: These include education aides such books, brochures, maps, posters, color slides, pictures, videos, etc. Also included are rentals of meeting and classroom facilities in the community, and buses for site visits, field trips etc. We anticipate the need to purchase for the educational activities to take place in the various communities, the following: 1) personal computer, printing equipment; 2) portable color slide projector, screen; 3) video recording, VCR equipment and tapes.

Explanation and Rationale for Purchase: During the first two years of this project, all of the most necessary training tools e.g. projector, VCR, and administrative equipment such as computer, printer, etc. were borrowed from other programs for temporary use. This arrangement has caused delays, tensions between staff and in some cases, major logistics problems. As the program moves into a more on-going status, an outright purchase rather than a rental or lease arrangement will more efficient and economical in the long term. Any equipment purchased with this appropriation will be utilized for the duration of the project and product life. Changes in use will result in the reimbursement to the appropriate fund, or account for the amount either equal to cash sale price from sale at that time or residual value to be negotiated with the LCMR Executive Director if the equipment is not sold.

A.1.d. Budget: \$90,000  
Total Biennial LCMR Budget:  
LCMR Balance: \$0  
MATCH: N/A  
MATCH BALANCE: N/A

A.1.e. Timeline: At least one Asian community, specifically the Chinese-American, and 8-10 additional SEA groups will be reached and enrolled as partners, and each partner will sponsor at least 2-3 educational activities for their members during the 24-month period. Deliverable products include numbers of: (1) partners enrolled; (2) community meetings; (3) workshops; (4) field trips/site visits; (5) camping; (6) presentation sessions.

	7/95	1/96	6/96
<u>PRODUCT #1</u>	xxxxxxxx	xxxxxx	xxxxx
Partners			
<u>PRODUCT #2</u>	xxxxxxxx	xxxxxx	xxxxx
Community meetings			
<u>PRODUCT #3</u>		xxxxxxx	xxxxx
Workshops			
<u>PRODUCT #4</u>		xxxxxx	xxxxxx
Field trips/site visits			
<u>PRODUCT #5</u>		xxxxxxx	xxxxx
Camping experiences			
<u>PRODUCT #6</u>			
Presentation sessions	xxxxx	xxxxxx	xxxx

A.1.f. Workprogram Update:  
During the period between January 1 to June 30, 1996, activities that took place and the results achieved included:

a. Partners: eleven new SEA community groups in the St. Paul/Minneapolis area joined the project as partners. They are: (1) Center for Asian Pacific Islanders; (2) Vang Council of Minnesota; (3) Hmong Media & Arts Society; (4) Hmong Pacific Association, (5) Lowland Lao Veterans Association of MN, (6) Phyllis Wheatley's SEA Program, (7) Association of Vietnamese Former Political Detainees, (8) Adalbert Church's Vietnamese New Immigrant Congregation, (9) Dakota Extension/SEA Program, (10) Metropolitan Mental Health/New SEA Immigrants Services Program, and (11) Ron Hubbs Center for Lifelong Learning/New Immigrant English Language Training Program.

A highlight of this reporting period is the outreach to and attention given to a fast growing group of newly-arrived immigrants from Vietnam and the refugee camps. The majority of them are Vietnamese veterans and their families who recently have been allowed to emigrate to this country under a special humanitarian program on account of their involvement in the Vietnam war and their long incarceration in communist re-education camps. The other members of this new immigrant group are Hmong citizens who have spent the last 10-15 years in SE Asian holding camps and are only now coming over because these facilities are closing down. Current estimates of these Vietnamese new immigrants are between 3,000 and 4,000. The first of them arrived here less than four years ago, and presently, every month at least a dozen more families arrive to make a new life in Minnesota. In the Hmong community, about 300-400 new families have recently arrived from the camps, and at least another 600 families are expected from now to the end of 1996. Because of their military background and their experience and familiarity with life in the outdoor, there is great interest within this new immigrant group for outdoor recreational activities such as fishing and hunting. There is also a great lack of awareness and knowledge of the state game and fish laws, and therefore a great need for education in this area.

In the last six months of this workprogram, outreach and connections have been established with leaders of this new population group, and educational activities on the topic of game and fish laws, have been planned and scheduled for these new citizens (see below).

**b. Community meetings:** in the last six months, there have been altogether eleven community meetings with SE Asians, including the new immigrants and other minority groups. The purposes of these meetings were: to share information about, and promote the program, its goals and objectives; to network with agencies serving minority and immigrant populations; to hear and assess community needs and priorities.

**c. Workshops:** twelve workshops were conducted as follows:

<u>AUDIENCE</u>	<u>TOPICS</u>
Lowland Lao (3 workshops)	Fishing/hunting rules & regulations. Attendance: 450
Vietnamese (2 workshops)	Fishing (including contamination issues)and Mushrooms/Other edible plants. Attendance: 100
New Immigrant Vietnamese (3 workshops)	Fishing rules & regulations and contamination issues. Attendance: 330
Hmong (2 workshops)	Fishing/hunting rules & regulations. Attendance: 450
Cambodian (2 workshops)	Fishing rules & regulations and contamination issues Attendance: 80

**d. Field trips/site visits:** a total of 32 field trips to state parks and DNR-managed natural resources facilities (e.g. hatchery, caves, etc.) have been planned for the summer months of June, July and August 1996. Of these trips, 12 are to provide fish and aquatic quality

education, 8 are focused on wildlife and naturalist program, 4 on fish hatchery education, and 7 on environmental education with specific emphasis on protection and stewardship concepts. Estimated total participation is 1,600 persons, and these include children/youth, adults and elders.

**B. CULTURAL COLLABORATION & TRAINING**

**B.1 Activity:** An internal coordination effort will be made to select, review and undertake a modification of existing programs for better relevance to Asian and SE Asian needs and background. The project will connect and cooperate with divisions of enforcement, fish and wildlife, parks and forestry to modify and simplify relevant existing information and education programs to serve particular Asian communities. Targeted programs include MinnAqua for fish and water quality education, Project Wild and Learning Tree. The division of Enforcement’s firearm safety and hunter education programs are also selected to be reviewed and adapted to include bilingual communication exchanges and hands-on training.

**B.1.a. Context with the project:** DNR is increasingly interested in having diversity in their program participation and enrollment. This project is well positioned for assisting the department’s units achieve this goal because of its outreach and linkages with Asian and SEA organizations, groups and individuals, knowledge of community needs and interests, and clientele base.

**B.1.b. Methods:** Project staff with cultural expertise and a ready and willing clientele connects and works with Fish and Wildlife, Parks, etc. program coordinators on the review, adaptation or modification and repackaging of existing program curricula to ensure their appropriateness and relevance to educational needs and backgrounds. This project assists with the program delivery by advertizing it in the community and actively involved in the enrollment and educational activities providing language translation and other support services.

**B.1.c. Materials:** They include books, brochures, magazines, printed handouts, flyers, newspapers, written articles, photographs, pictures, educational and training outdoor recreational equipment such as fishing gears, nets, etc.

**Explanation and Rationale for Purchase:** As the program plans to expand to cover topics beyond fish and game laws to include other natural resources issues, additional printed training aides e.g. books, etc. and equipment e.g. fishing nets and gears are needed, primarily for hands-on demonstration, reference and lending to community groups. Any equipment purchased with this appropriation will be utilized for the duration and product life. Changes in use will result in the reimbursement to the appropriate fund, or account for the amount either equal to cash sale price from sale at that time or residual value to be negotiated with the LCMR Executive Director if the equipment is not sold.

B.1.d. Budget: \$35,000  
Total Biennial LCMR Budget:  
LCMR Balance: \$0  
Match: N/A  
Match Balance: N/A

B.1.e. Timeline:

	7/95	1/96	6/96
<u>PRODUCT #1</u> MinnAqua education	xxxxx		xxxxx
<u>PRODUCT #2</u> Project Wild		xxxxx	
<u>PRODUCT #3</u> Project Learning Tree		xxxxx	
<u>PRODUCT #4</u> Firearm Safety & Hunter Ed	xxxx	xxxx	xxxxxxxxx

B.1.f. Workplan Update: Activities that took place were:

- a. **MinnAqua education:** through internal coordination and joint planning, SEA youth continue to be enrolled in MinnAqua aquatic and fish education activities at state parks. A total of 23 MinnAqua educational sessions have been planned for the three summer months of June, July and August 1996.
- d. **Firearm Safety and Hunter Education:** in the last six months of the project, the six Hmong volunteer instructors recruited last year took the initiative to coordinate with the two major Hmong organizations, Lao Family Community Center in St. Paul and Southeast asian Community Council in Minneapolis, to convene and offer three firearm safety training sessions to Hmong youth and adults. Two sessions took place in Minneapolis and one in St. Paul. A total of 100 adults and youth enrolled and attended, of these 75 successfully completed and passed the Minnesota Firearm Safety examination. Each session includes 12 hours of classroom training and one hour of range shooting.

B.2. Activity: The current curriculum for cultural and sensitivity training on SEA countries, people and their traditional approaches to natural resources management and use will be updated, expanded and offered in the form of 1-2 hour sessions to DNR professional staff, sportsmen groups, landowners and other citizen organizations. Training goals are to bridge the cultural gap that exists between different user groups and to ease community tension especially in rural areas.

B.2.a. Context within the project: The public lacks knowledge and understanding about Asians in general and Southeast Asian Minnesotans in particular. With more Southeast Asians resettled here and their use of the state natural resources increasing, and due to their unfamiliarity with the Minnesotan outdoor traditions and practices, there have been many cases of community problems and tensions.

B.2.b. Methods: Members of SEA leadership or community organizations are recruited to be speakers or make presentation on their respective cultures and traditional practices in natural resource management and use. Training sessions are scheduled in communities with high potential for tensions or conflicts, and are followed by educational activities aimed at bringing the two parties together through setting up a buddy, mentoring or exchange volunteer system.

B.2.c. Materials: These include books, brochures, flyers, magazines, pictures, videos, color slides, maps, and cultural materials such as art and handicraft works.

B.2.d. Budget: \$25,000  
Total Biennial LCMR Budget:  
LCMR Balance: \$  
Match: N/A  
Match Balance: N/A

B.2.e. Timeline:

	7/96	1/96	6/96
<u>PRODUCT #1</u> Training sessions for DNR	xxxx	xxxxx	xxxx
<u>PRODUCT #2</u> Training sessions for sportsmen groups	xxxx	xxxxx	xxxxx
<u>PRODUCT #3</u> Training sessions for other citizen groups		xxxxx	xxxxxx

B.2.f. Workplan Update: During the period between January 1 and June 30, 1996, project staff gave a total of four one-hour presentations on SE Asian cultures as they relate to natural resources and Minnesota's SEA populations. The audiences were:

- (1) DNR: - Bureau of Engineering. Attendance: 40  
          - Region II administrative and field staff. Attendance: 60  
          - Division of Parks/Naturalists Conference. Attendance: 150  
(2) Public Schools: Harding Junior and Senior students. Attendance: 200

C. PROJECT PERMANENT FUNDING AND ON-GOING STATUS:

C.1. Activity: This step includes assembling and organizing all project data with focus of results achieved and demonstrated benefits to both DNR and the served population into a report to be presented with the Asian and SEA community’s active support to LCMR and the Legislature.

C.1.a. Context within the project: In August 1994 LCMR recommended the conversion of this project to general funding.

C.1.b. Methods: We want to involve the SEA community in this effort as a means to familiarize them with the legislative and project funding processes, and to ensure the community’s sense of ownership of the program.

C.1.c. Materials: none

C.1.d. Budget: none  
Total Biennial LCMR Budget:  
LCMR Balance: none  
Match: N/A  
Match Balance: N/A

C.1. e. Timeline: Both the data assembling and organizing and community mobilizing will begin right at the project’s start and will be on-going.

	7/95	1/96	6/96
<u>PRODUCT #1</u> Data Assembling & Organizing	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx		
<u>PRODUCT #2</u> Community mobilizing & involvement	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx		
<u>PRODUCT #3</u> Project permanent status			x----->

C.1.f. Workplan Update:

In August 1995 the Legislature approved LCMR’s recommendation for converting this project to general fund beginning FY 1997. As of July 1996, the project becomes an on-going program of the DNR with general funding appropriated by the Legislature.

VI. Evaluation: Besides the semi-annual and final reports to LCMR, evaluation of the project will be made through monthly updated records of organizations, groups and individuals

participating in the project, numbers of activities taken place and their achieved results.

VII. Context within field: LCMR recommended and the Legislature approved \$300,000 for this project for the 93-95 biennium. In 1995 LCMR recommended \$150,000 for one year continuation of this project for FY 1995-96 with instruction for seeking supplement funding for the second and subsequent years from general fund. Funding for the second year of the 1995-97 biennium has been obtained for the continuation of this project. A total of \$150,000 has been approved by the Legislature for FY 1996-97.

Legal Citation: M.L. 93 Chpt. 172, Art. 1, Sec. 14, Subd. 10(t)

The project was the first of its kind in the state in terms of its approach to addressing a language and cultural problems in the area of natural resources use and management  
This workprogram is the continuation and an expansion of the earlier effort, targeting at a wider and larger minority population to include youth, and expanding to a broader range of topics or issues beyond game and fish laws.

VIII. Budget context: The project was recommended by LCMR and funded by the Legislature for the 93-95 biennium. For the 95-97 biennium LCMR has recommended partial funding with supplemental funds to be requested from general funding. A request was submitted to the Governor’s Office in the form of an initiative for an additional \$75,000 to be used during the first year of the biennium, and a total of \$225,000 for the second year ending on June 30, 1997. That request was not approved.

IX. Dissemination: Documentation and reports of project design, activities and results are kept in files and will be shared to natural resources or environment related and social services public and private agencies interested in minority service delivery models for purpose of duplication or education. These include federal, other state and local government units or programs. Project staff are also available to share the expertise and experience gained from implementing this project. Supporters, participating Asian agencies and members of SEA communities have opportunity to have access and utilize the project’s resources and results for information and education purposes.

X. Time: It is expected that the project will become an on-going minority program of the department once permanent general funding is approved.

XI. Cooperation: Major co-operators include: the Organization of Chinese Americans in MN; community organizations of the four Southeast Asian communities; DNR divisions of Fish and Wildlife, Enforcement, Parks and Forestry.

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