

1999 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2001

TITLE: Bear Center

PROJECT MANAGER: Wayne Sames

ORGANIZATION: Department of Natural Resources

ADDRESS: DNR, OMBS, Box 10, 500 Lafayette Rd., St. Paul, MN 55155-4010

WEB SITE ADDRESS: wayne.sames@dnr.state.mn.us

FUND: Future Resources Fund

LEGAL CITATION: ML 1999, Ch. 231, Sec. 16, Subd. 11(d) Bear Center

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$20,000

Overall Project Outcome and Results

The goal of this project was to develop a business plan, marketing study, facility pre-design, and exhibit design for a proposed bear center. Following an RFP process to determine the most suitable proposal for the bear center, the grant was awarded to Big Bear Country, Inc. to produce information to be used in the planning, marketing, and pre-design of the Big Bear Country Education Center in Northome, Minnesota. Big Bear Country, Inc. hired a consultant to complete a business plan and marketing study and an engineering consultant to produce the facility pre-design. Before completion of the facility design, however, the Minnesota Science Museum's exhibit "Bears: Imagination and Reality" (which was the focal point of the proposed bear education center) was sold to another party.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

Project results have been distributed to Big Bear Country, Inc. members and have been made available to individuals upon request. Area entrepreneurs have requested project results. Copies of the reports are kept in the project file at the DNR and are available for inspection on request.

Date of Report January 6, 2003

Date of Next Status Report: Final Report

Date of Work Program Approval: November 1, 1999

Project Completion Date: June 30, 2001

LCMR Final Work Program Report

I. PROJECT TITLE: Bear Center

Project Manager: Wayne Sames, Supervisor

Affiliation: Department of Natural Resources

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Telephone Num,ber: (651) 296-1567 **E-Mail:** wayne.sames@dnr.state.mn.us

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Budget Status:

	Funds Requested	Funds Used	Grant Amount Remaining
Business Plan	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	-0-
Marketing Study	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	-0-
Fac. PreDesign	\$10,000.00	\$3,500.00	-0-
Exhibit Design	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	-0-
Total:	\$20,000.00	\$13,500.00	\$6,500.00

A. Legal Citation: ML 1999, Chap.231, Sec. 16, Subd. 11(d) Bear Center

\$20,000 is from the future resources fund to the commissioner of natural resources for a grant to a bear center to develop a business plan, marketing study, facility predesign, and exhibit design.

B. Status of Match Requirements: No match required.

II. and III. FINAL PROJECT SUMMARY:

Following an RFP process to determine the most suitable proposal for the bear center, the grant was awarded to Big Bear Country, Inc. to produce information to be used in the planning, marketing, and construction of the Big Bear Country Education Center in Northome, Minnesota. As a result Big Bear Country, Inc. was able to hire a consultant to complete a business plan and marketing study and an engineering consultant to produce the facility pre-design. Before completion of the facility design, however, the Minnesota Science Museum's exhibit "Bears: Imagination and Reality" (which was the focal point of the proposed bear education center) was sold to another party.

IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS:

Feasibility Study: A feasibility study was completed on February 16, 2000. It includes information on Northome's regional economic conditions, tourism trends, the bear center proposal, and various projections for the bear center, including tourism benefits, revenue estimates, attendance estimates and joint marketing opportunities.

Business Plan: A business plan was prepared which includes sections on a the bear center funding plan, programming, the facility space program, capital budget, operating budget, projections, success factors, construction schedule, staffing needs, audience, and promotion and marketing.

Pre-Design Submittal: The pre-design document, dated April 2000, includes sections on project contacts and consultants, a pre-design summary statement, project background narrative, financial information, ongoing facility operating expenditures, project schedule information, and project description.

V. DISSEMINATION:

Copies of the above mentioned reports are kept in the project file at the DNR and are available for inspection on request.

VI. CONTEXT:

No subsequent state funding has been provided for this project.

VII. COOPERATION: The plans called for the City of Northome to own the proposed facility and lease it to the Big Bear Country, Inc., a 501©(3) nonprofit organization. Plans also anticipated a partnership with the Chippewa National Forest staff to provide environmental education programs. Additional educational programs and opportunities were anticipated through a proposed partnership with Bemidji State University.

VIII. LOCATION: The proposed location was Northome, Minnesota.