

Request for Funding

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council Fiscal Year 2015 / ML 2014

Program or Project Title: Fisheries Habitat Protection on Strategic North Central Minnesota Lakes

Funds Requested: \$8,392,800

Manager's Name: Paula West

Title: Executive Director

Organization: Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation

Street Address: PO Box 455

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Organization Web Site: www.leechlakewatershed.org

County Locations: Aitkin, Cass, Crow Wing, and Hubbard.

Ecological Planning Regions:

- Northern Forest

Activity Type:

- Protect in Easement
- Protect in Fee

Priority Resources Addressed by Activity:

- Habitat

Abstract:

Approximately 2,000 acres of critical shoreland and forested parcels in the watersheds of strategic North Central Minnesota lakes (tullibee lakes) will be permanently protected to insure availability of high quality fish habitat to sustain a healthy sport fishery in Minnesota.

Design and Scope of Work:

A recent survey of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reported 32 percent of Minnesotans participated in sport fishing, contributing \$2.4 billion to the state economy in 2011. Sport fishing is a powerful economic engine in Minnesota and important to its resident's quality of life. Sustaining a strong angling heritage revolves largely around protecting fisheries habitat necessary for healthy sport fish populations in the near- and long-term future with resurging shoreland development pressures and looming climate changes. This project will focus on fisheries habitat protection on lakes that have the best biological integrity for a sustained sport fishery in lights of these changes. These lakes are known collectively as "tullibee lakes."

Tullibee (also known as cisco) is the preferred forage fish for the production of quality walleye, northern pike, muskellunge, and lake trout. They require cold, well-oxygenated waters, conditions most common in lakes with deep water and functioning watersheds. Tullibee populations are the "canary in the coalmine" for three significant collective threats to Minnesota's sport fishery: shoreline development, watershed health, and climate warming. As average summer temperatures have increased, tullibee declines have already been observed in some lakes. Deep, cold water tullibee lakes that have high quality, well-oxygenated waters and natural, undisturbed land cover along the shorelines and within their watersheds will have the best chance to sustain tullibee populations in

the face of these threats and will serve as a “refuge” for the tullibee if annual temperatures increase.

Minnesota DNR Fisheries researchers studied tullibee lakes and designated 68 lakes in Minnesota as the primary “refuge lakes” for tullibee that need protection. Thirty-eight (38) of these refuge lakes—or 58%—are located in Hubbard, Crow Wing, Cass, and Aitkin counties. Many are also Minnesota’s premier recreation lakes. The next 10 years are a critical window of opportunity to protect some of the “best of the best” sport fishery lakes in Minnesota. While recent economics slowed shoreland development, realtors now report a resurgence of shoreland property sales. Growth will be driven by retiring baby boomers and technology that allows landowners to live, work, and play from the same location. With land values sure to rise in the region, now is the time to protect these refuge tullibee lakes and maximize the effectiveness of this fisheries habitat protection project.

Scope of Project:

Fee title acquisition and conservation easements will be used to achieve permanent conservation of fisheries habitat on strategic parcels primarily in the watersheds of the 38 tullibee refuge lakes in Hubbard, Cass, Crow Wing, and Aitkin counties. Shoreland parcels and private forested parcels within these lake’s watersheds will be targeted for protection. A project team, including DNR Fisheries Habitat Coordinator and county SWCD, will develop a set of strategic criteria for parcel identification and use the best available data (state and county) to prioritize projects and maximize outcomes. The new 2013 Minnesota DNR Fish Habitat Plan will provide strategic guidance.

As the plan states, **fish habitat in lakes is largely affected by shoreline disturbance and the quality of the water as determined by its oxygen levels and nutrient content.** Shoreline disturbance reduces physical habitat (shore and aquatic vegetation, woody structure in the lake, and bottom substrates) that fish need for food production, spawning, and cover from predation. The oxygen and nutrient levels of the water are largely determined by land disturbance in the nearshore zone and within the lake’s watershed. Run-off from disturbed land can contribute oxygen-depleting nutrients which are especially harmful to sensitive species like tullibee that need high oxygen levels. Nutrient-laden runoff also causes algae to grow on bottom spawning substrates; the algae consume oxygen needed for survival of fish eggs. Lakeshore development decreases a lake’s ability to function as a healthy ecosystem for sport fish and their forage, not only by allowing increased runoff, but also through physical fish habitat alteration by lakeshore owners. Land conservation keeps the physical habitat intact and prevents runoff that contributes to poor water quality habitat.

Fisheries research has shown that healthy watersheds with intact forests are fundamental to good fish habitat. If a lake’s watershed has less than 25% land disturbance and 75% or more of its landscape remains forested and permanently protected, the lake has a high probability of sustaining a healthy lake ecosystem to support fish. The undisturbed forest cover allows water to infiltrate into the ground rather than running off directly to the lake. Projects that can simultaneously reduce shoreline development and watershed disturbances can yield the greatest conservation return. The 38 refuge tullibee lakes in North Central Minnesota all have less than 25% land disturbance in their watersheds and already have some degree of watershed protection. With strategic effort, it is feasible to reach permanent 75% watershed protection for many of these refuge tullibee lakes.

This project will protect 4-6 miles of critical shoreland and almost 2,000 acres. It includes:

- One fee-title acquisition of 105 acres on Woods Bay of Lake Roosevelt, a target tullibee lake. The DNR will have permanent ownership as an Aquatic Management Area; it is a DNR acquisition priority. One+ mile of sensitive shoreland will be protected and 105 acres open to the public for hunting, fishing, and other recreation. Wood’s Bay is the prime spawning area for recently stocked muskie. The property is listed on the Minnesota County Biological Survey because of its high biological significance and intact old growth forest canopy. It is under immediate threat of development to settle a family estate.
- 15-20 conservation easements on refuge tullibee lakes and on private forest lands within the refuge lakes’ watersheds. The project will maximize the State’s financial leverage by securing fully donated easements from willing landowners and paying up to 50% of easement value from most others. One exception is a project on Cooper Lake that will require payment of a higher ratio to acquire an easement on 850 acres of outstanding habitat and solidify 75% protection for the watershed.

Investing now in strategic fish habitat protection along the shores and within the watersheds of refuge tullibee lakes will insure a healthy, resilient sport fishery for Minnesota.

Planning

MN State-wide Conservation Plan Priorities:

- H1 Protect priority land habitats
- H2 Protect critical shoreland of streams and lakes
- H3 Improve connectivity and access to recreation
- H6 Protect and restore critical in-water habitat of lakes and streams
- H7 Keep water on the landscape

Plans Addressed:

- Long Range Plan for Fisheries Management
- Long Range Plan for Muskellunge and Large Northern Pike Management Through 2020
- Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership
- Minnesota DNR AMA Acquisition Plan
- Minnesota DNR Scientific and Natural Area's Long Range Plan
- Minnesota DNR Strategic Conservation Agenda
- Minnesota Forest Resource Council Landscape Plans
- Minnesota Sustainability Framework
- National Fish Habitat Action Plan
- Outdoor Heritage Fund: A 25 Year Framework
- State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
- Tomorrow's Habitat for the Wild and Rare
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Strategic Habitat Conservation Model
- 2013 DNR Fish Habitat Plan: Strategic Guidance Document

LSOHC Statewide Priorities:

- Address Minnesota landscapes that have historical value to fish and wildlife, wildlife species of greatest conservation need, Minnesota County Biological Survey data, and rare, threatened and endangered species inventories in land and water decisions, as well as long-term or permanent solutions to aquatic invasive species
- Are ongoing, successful, transparent and accountable programs addressing actions and targets of one or more of the ecological sections
- Ensures activities for "protecting, restoring and enhancing" are coordinated among agencies, non profits and others while doing this important work; provides the most cost-effective use of financial resources; and where possible takes into consideration the value of local outreach, education, and community engagement to sustain project outcomes
- Leverage effort and/or other funds to supplement any OHF appropriation
- Produce multiple enduring conservation benefits
- Provide Minnesotans with greater public access to outdoor environments with hunting, fishing and other outdoor recreation opportunities
- Use a science-based strategic planning and evaluation model to guide protection, restoration and enhancement, similar to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's Strategic Habitat Conservation model

LSOHC Northern Forest Section Priorities:

- Protect shoreland and restore or enhance critical habitat on wild rice lakes, shallow lakes, cold water lakes, streams and rivers, and spawning areas

Relationship to Other Constitutional Funds:

- Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund
- Environmental and Natural Resource Trust Fund
- Clean Water Fund

This project builds on two ENRTF projects: 1) A \$300,000 ENRTF project "Conserving Sensitive and Priority Shorelands in Cass County" where 3-5 miles of sensitive shoreland will be permanently protected through

donated conservation easements by willing landowners. As a collaborative project of Cass County and the Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation (LLAWF), conservation easements are placed on sensitive and critical habitat shoreland parcels identified through a DNR scientific-based assessment on 19 lakes in Cass County. The success of this project and its successor, funded by BWSR, provided impetus for the FY2012 OHF funded project: "Protecting Sensitive Shorelands in North Central Minnesota" that expanded the project to include Crow Wing and Aitkin counties, too. **2)** ENRTF funded the DNR project "Sustaining Lakes in a Changing Environment", a statewide collaborative effort to develop a system to monitor and record biological and chemical changes in sample lakes statewide. Several tullibee lakes in this proposal are included in the study. **Several projects currently funded by the Clean Water Fund directly support this project.** **1)** DNR/BWSR/County SWCD *Forest Stewardship Project for Tullibee Lake Watersheds* provides grants to private forest landowners for the development of a forest stewardship management plans on parcels not exceeding 1,920 acres in the watersheds of "refuge" tullibee lakes in Cass, Crow Wing, Hubbard, and Aitkin counties. Participating landowners in priority refuge tullibee lake watersheds will be the priority for the forest-parcel conservation easements in this proposal. **2)** The MPCA is conducting *Watershed Restoration and Protection Projects (WRAPS)* on the major watersheds in this project's geography. The WRAPs will identify impaired waters and develop a restoration plan. It is anticipated these watersheds will have few, if any, impaired waters that need restoration. Hence, implementation plans will be protection-oriented with land conservation as a key protection strategy. **3)** BWSR provides Clean Water Grants to counties for lake stewardship activities that prevent runoff to the lakes and reduce pollutant levels. Many landowners on tullibee lakes have participated in these grant programs. **The Arts/Cultural Heritage Fund** is funding Hamline University archeological excavations on the Lake Roosevelt property in this proposal. Findings thus far have identified artifacts dating back 8,000 years.

Accelerates or Supplements Current Efforts:

The Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation (LLAWF) and the Minnesota Land Trust (MLT) are partners in other projects to place conservation easements on priority shorelands in North Central Minnesota. LLAWF has established relationships with regional governments, land owners, lake associations and other regional entities for effective outreach and landowner relationships and provides technical assistance to landowners. MLT is a nationally accredited land trust that is appropriate to hold and perpetually manage the easements. This proposal is a continuation of the FY2012 OHF funded project "Protecting Priority Shorelands in North Central Minnesota" for donated conservation easements in similar geography. Many of the target lakes in that project are refuge tullibee lakes allowing continued work with landowners from previous outreach efforts.

LLAWF has a long history of successful acquisitions. Since 1995 LLAWF has protected over 20 miles of critical shorelands, most of which are now in public ownership for public use and enjoyment.

The majority of financial support for both LLAWF and MLT must be raised on an annual basis. The work in this proposal allows both organizations to enhance and accelerate ongoing conservation efforts in North Central Minnesota; these grant funds will not substitute for or supplant other funding sources.

Sustainability and Maintenance:

The Lake Roosevelt fee-title acquisition will have final ownership and management by the Minnesota DNR as an Aquatic Management Area (AMA); as such it will be permanently managed according to DNR standards and procedures for public land. The Minnesota Land Trust will hold all the conservation easements acquired. The land protected through these conservation easements will be sustained through the best standards and practices for conservation easement stewardship. The Minnesota Land Trust is a nationally-accredited land trust with a very successful stewardship program that includes annual property monitoring, effective records management, addressing inquiries and interpretations, tracking changes in ownership, investigating potential violations and defending the easement in case of a true violation. Funding for these easement stewardship activities is included in the project budget.

Government Approval:

Will local government approval be sought prior to acquisition? - **Yes**

Permanent Protection:

Is the land you plan to acquire free of any other permanent protection? - **Yes**

Hunting and Fishing Plan:

Is this land open for hunting and fishing? - **Yes**

Hunting and Fishing Regulations Not Listed

Public Use:

Will the eased land be open for public use? - **No**

Permanent Protection:

Is the land you plan to acquire free of any other permanent protection? - **Yes**

Accomplishment Timeline

Activity	Approximate Date Completed
Fee title acquisition of 105 acres on Roosevelt Lake; convey to MN DNR	6/1/2015
Manage, monitor, and enforce conservation easements	Ongoing in perpetuity
Landowner outreach, consultation, technical assistance	Ongoing through June 30, 2017
Protect 1850 acres on targeted riparian parcels and forested watershed parcels	June 30, 2017

Outcomes

Programs in the northern forest region:

- Forestlands are protected from development and fragmentation *Private forest parcels < 1,920 acres with a DNR-approved Forest Management Plan will be permanently protected from development and fragmentation with a conservation easement.*
- Healthy populations of endangered, threatened, and special concern species as well as more common species *Lake Roosevelt AMA will maintain high biological integrity as already documented by MN County Biological Survey. Protected lands will provide habitat integrity for all species.*
- Improved aquatic habitat indicators *Tullibee and sport fish populations will be surveyed; water chemistry monitored; adequate oxygen levels will be maintained during summer; nutrient levels will remain low.*
- Increased availability and improved condition of riparian forests and other habitat corridors *Riparian forest lands under easement will maintain healthy habitat complexes for upland and aquatic species; forest cover will enhance water quality habitat for tullibee lakes.*
- Greater public access for wildlife and outdoors-related recreation *Fee-title acquisition open to public for hunting, fishing, and other recreation. Eased properties will protect fish habitat to insure high quality fishing opportunities.*

Budget Spreadsheet

Total Amount of Request: \$8,392,800

Budget and Cash Leverage

Budget Name	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	\$458,000	\$0		\$458,000
Contracts	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$1,000,000	\$100,000	Private Source	\$1,100,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Acquisition	\$6,200,000	\$3,200,000	Private Source	\$9,400,000
Easement Stewardship	\$365,000	\$0		\$365,000
Travel	\$17,000	\$0		\$17,000
Professional Services	\$338,300	\$0		\$338,300
Direct Support Services	\$0	\$0		\$0
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$14,000	\$0		\$14,000
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	\$0	\$0		\$0
Supplies/Materials	\$500	\$500	Private Source	\$1,000
DNR IDP	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total	\$8,392,800	\$3,300,500	-	\$11,693,300

Personnel

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Conservation Specialist/Legal Staff	1.00	3.00	\$270,000	\$0		\$270,000
Land Conservation Specialist for Fee Acquisition	0.15	1.00	\$9,000	\$0		\$9,000
Land Conservation Specialist-Conservation Easements	0.50	3.00	\$94,500	\$0		\$94,500
Project Admin/Outreach Coordination	0.33	3.00	\$84,500	\$0		\$84,500
Total	1.98	10.00	\$458,000	\$0	-	\$458,000

Budget and Cash Leverage by Partnership

Budget Name	Partnership	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	Minnesota Land Trust	\$270,000	\$0		\$270,000
Contracts	Minnesota Land Trust	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	Minnesota Land Trust	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	Minnesota Land Trust	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Acquisition	Minnesota Land Trust	\$6,200,000	\$3,200,000	Private Source	\$9,400,000
Easement Stewardship	Minnesota Land Trust	\$365,000	\$0		\$365,000
Travel	Minnesota Land Trust	\$10,000	\$0		\$10,000
Professional Services	Minnesota Land Trust	\$154,000	\$0		\$154,000
Direct Support Services	Minnesota Land Trust	\$0	\$0		\$0
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	Minnesota Land Trust	\$0	\$0		\$0
Capital Equipment	Minnesota Land Trust	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	Minnesota Land Trust	\$0	\$0		\$0
Supplies/Materials	Minnesota Land Trust	\$0	\$0		\$0
DNR IDP	Minnesota Land Trust	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total	-	\$6,999,000	\$3,200,000	-	\$10,199,000

Personnel - Minnesota Land Trust

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Conservation Specialist/Legal Staff	1.00	3.00	\$270,000	\$0		\$270,000
Total	1.00	3.00	\$270,000	\$0	-	\$270,000

Budget Name	Partnership	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Personnel	Leech Lake Watershed Fdn	\$188,000	\$0		\$188,000
Contracts	Leech Lake Watershed Fdn	\$0	\$0		\$0
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	Leech Lake Watershed Fdn	\$1,000,000	\$100,000	Private Source	\$1,100,000
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	Leech Lake Watershed Fdn	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Acquisition	Leech Lake Watershed Fdn	\$0	\$0		\$0
Easement Stewardship	Leech Lake Watershed Fdn	\$0	\$0		\$0
Travel	Leech Lake Watershed Fdn	\$7,000	\$0		\$7,000
Professional Services	Leech Lake Watershed Fdn	\$184,300	\$0		\$184,300
Direct Support Services	Leech Lake Watershed Fdn	\$0	\$0		\$0
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	Leech Lake Watershed Fdn	\$14,000	\$0		\$14,000
Capital Equipment	Leech Lake Watershed Fdn	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	Leech Lake Watershed Fdn	\$0	\$0		\$0
Supplies/Materials	Leech Lake Watershed Fdn	\$500	\$500	Private Source	\$1,000
DNR IDP	Leech Lake Watershed Fdn	\$0	\$0		\$0
Total	-	\$1,393,800	\$100,500	-	\$1,494,300

Personnel - Leech Lake Watershed Fdn

Position	FTE	Over # of years	LSOHC Request	Anticipated Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Land Conservation Specialist for Fee Acquisition	0.15	1.00	\$9,000	\$0		\$9,000
Land Conservation Specialist-Conservation Easements	0.50	3.00	\$94,500	\$0		\$94,500
Project Admin/Outreach Coordination	0.33	3.00	\$84,500	\$0		\$84,500
Total	0.98	7.00	\$188,000	\$0	-	\$188,000

Output Tables

Table 1. Acres by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	105	105
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	1,850	1,850
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	1,955	1,955

Table 2. Total Requested Funding by Resource Type

Type	Wetlands	Prairies	Forest	Habitats	Total
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,049,300	\$1,049,300
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$7,343,500	\$7,343,500
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$8,392,800	\$8,392,800

Table 3. Acres within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	105	105
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	1,850	1,850
Enhance	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	1,955	1,955

Table 4. Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section

Type	Metro/Urban	Forest/Prairie	SE Forest	Prairie	Northern Forest	Total
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,049,300	\$1,049,300
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$7,343,500	\$7,343,500
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$8,392,800	\$8,392,800

Table 5. Target Lake/Stream/River Miles

5 miles

Parcel List

Section 1 - Restore / Enhance Parcel List

No parcels with an activity type restore or enhance.

Section 2 - Protect Parcel List

Aitkin

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Big Sandy Lake	02912224	0	\$0	No	No	No
Cedar Lake	04727231	0	\$0	No	No	No
Hill Lake	05226212	0	\$0	No	No	No
Long Lake	04625210	0	\$0	No	No	No
Nord Lake	04604226	0	\$0	No	No	No
Round Lake	04923225	0	\$0	No	No	No

Cass

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Bass Lake	14026227	0	\$0	No	No	No
Camp Olson-Cooper Lake	14028211	850	\$3,000,000	No	No	No
Deep Portage	13929207	0	\$0	No	No	No
Girl Lake	14128233	0	\$0	No	No	No
Hattie Lake	13929231	0	\$0	No	No	No
Howard Lake	14131230	0	\$0	No	No	No
Long Lake	14231233	0	\$0	No	No	No
Long Lake	14128223	0	\$0	No	No	No
Mann Lake	14029204	0	\$0	No	No	No
May Lake	14231227	0	\$0	No	No	No
Pleasant Lake	14030221	0	\$0	No	No	No
Portage Lake	14131226	0	\$0	No	No	No
Ten Mile Lake	14131206	0	\$0	No	No	No
Thunder Lake	14026209	0	\$0	No	No	No
Washburn Lake	13926209	0	\$0	No	No	No
Woman Lake	14028206	0	\$0	No	No	No

Crow Wing

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Bertha Lake	13728219	0	\$0	No	No	No
Big Trout Lake	13728223	0	\$0	No	No	No
Borden Lake	04428215	0	\$0	No	No	No
Clear Lake	12728233	0	\$0	No	No	No
Crooked Lake	04528216	0	\$0	No	No	No
Island Lake	13727205	0	\$0	No	No	No
Kenney Lake	04428202	0	\$0	No	No	No
Kimball Lake	13728226	0	\$0	No	No	No
Lower Hay Lake	13729225	0	\$0	No	No	No
Ossawinamakee Lake	13628204	0	\$0	No	No	No
Pelican Lake	13628227	0	\$0	No	No	No
Pig Lake	13728221	0	\$0	No	No	No
Portage Lake	04528229	0	\$0	No	No	No
Roosevelt Lake	13826208	105	\$1,000,000	No	Full	Full
Star Lake	13728226	0	\$0	No	No	No
Tame Fish Lake	04528212	0	\$0	No	No	No
Whitefish Lake	13728207	0	\$0	No	No	No

Hubbard

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?	Hunting?	Fishing?
Big Mantrap Lake	14233232	0	\$0	No	No	No
Big Sand Lake	14138228	0	\$0	No	No	No
Eleventh Crow Wing Lake	14132215	0	\$0	No	No	No
Kabekona Lake	14332230	0	\$0	No	No	No
Ninth Crow Wing Lake	14032206	0	\$0	No	No	No
Spearhead Lake	14534223	0	\$0	No	No	No

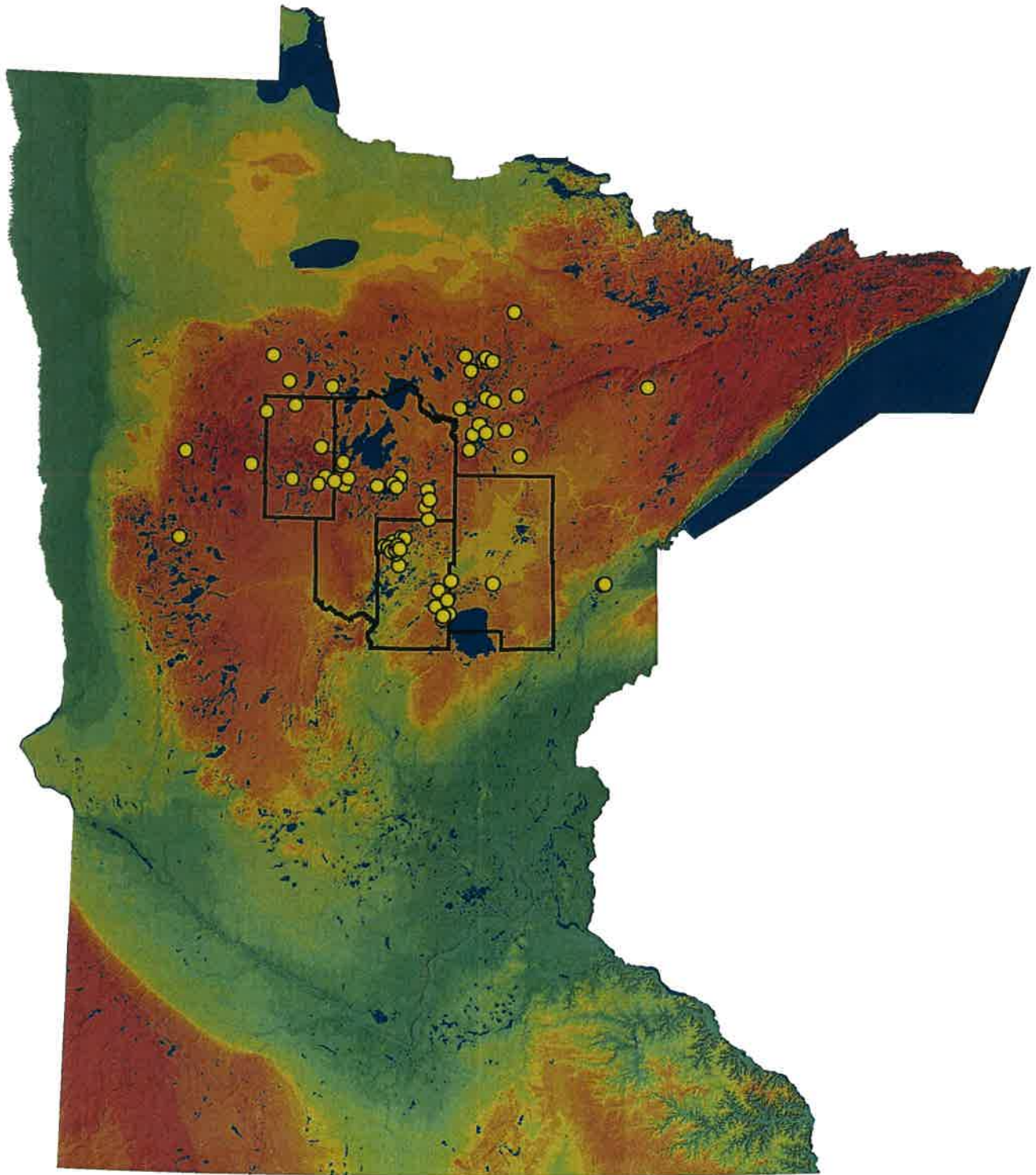
Section 2a - Protect Parcel with Bldgs

No parcels with an activity type protect and has buildings.

Section 3 - Other Parcel Activity

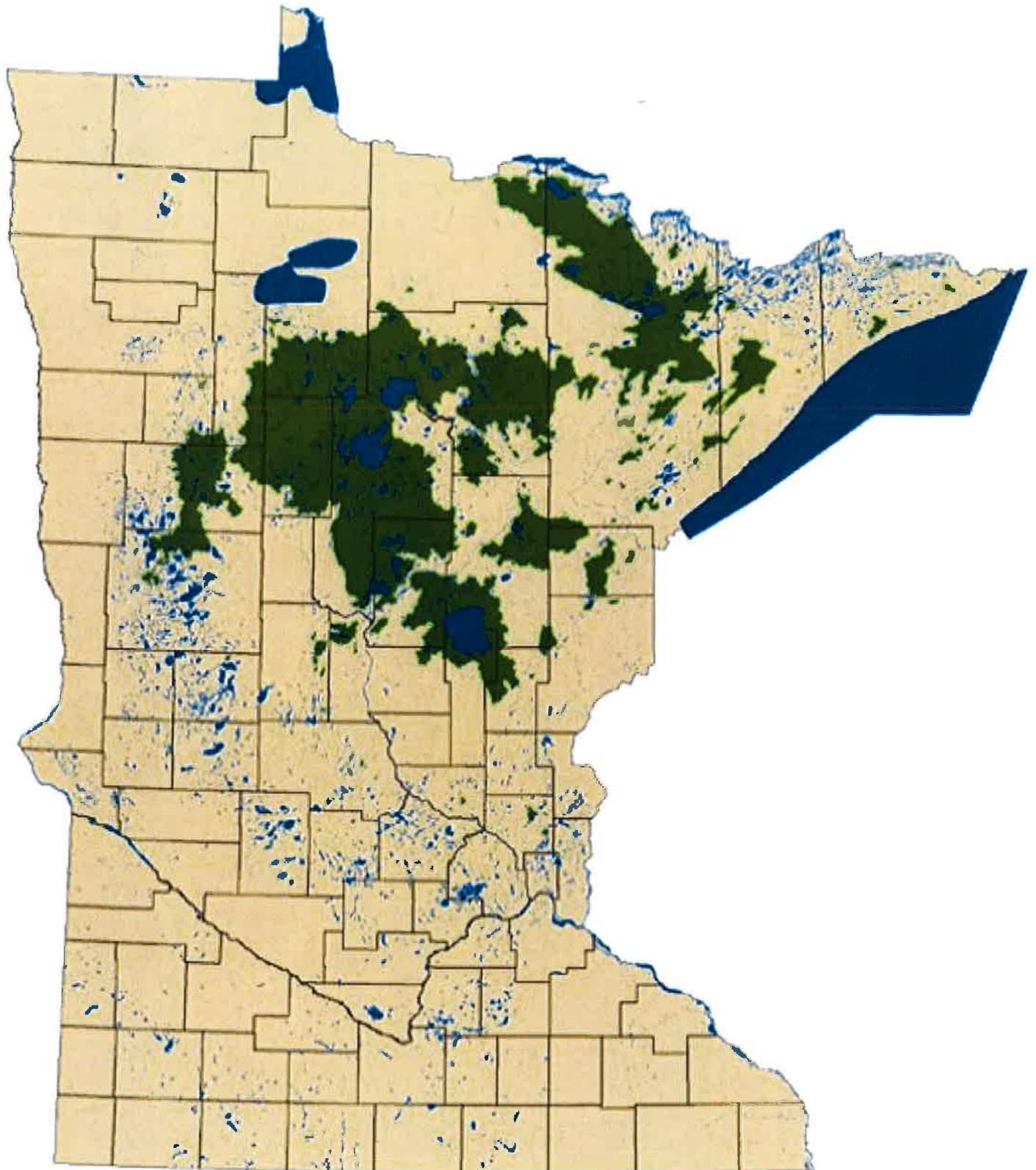
No parcels with an other activity type.

High Quality Tullibee Lakes Targeted for Protection



Lakes identified by DNR Fisheries that are good candidates for protecting important populations of cisco (tullibee) through watershed protection efforts in the proposed project geography of Aitkin, Cass, Crow Wing, and Hubbard counties.

Undisturbed Watersheds with Inadequate Ownership Protection



Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

500 Lafayette Road • St. Paul, MN • 55155-40



June 7, 2013

Ms. Paula West
Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation
P.O. Box 455
Hackensack, Minnesota 56452-0455
westcom@brainerd.net

Dear Ms. West:

Please accept this letter of support for your proposed Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund project, "Fisheries Habitat Protection on Strategic North Central Minnesota Lakes." This proposal has excellent alignment with the Department of Natural Resources' Division of Fish and Wildlife's recently completed "Fish Habitat Plan." The plan recognizes the key relationships between fish habitat and the protection of lake watersheds, and the importance of maintaining undisturbed shorelines as key locations for fish spawning and rearing. Your proposal to protect undisturbed lakeshore and private forest parcels in the watersheds of targeted lakes follows the approach that is advocated by our Fish Habitat Plan, where habitat quality for fish is maintained and related benefits of clean water can be enjoyed by the recreating public.

Targeting protection efforts toward lakes inhabited by cisco will help to preserve this sensitive and important species. Maintaining clean water in these lakes is critical to the continued persistence of cisco as preferred forage for large predators such as walleye and muskellunge, and as a unique fishery for anglers. With threats such as climate change already affecting coldwater species such as cisco, steps to minimize additional stressors as you have proposed would be beneficial.

Thank you for the opportunity to review your proposal. If you have further questions, please contact Habitat Consultant Brian Nerbonne at 651-259-5205 or brian.nerbonne@state.mn.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "E. Boggess". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Edward K. Boggess, Director
Division of Fish and Wildlife
DNR Building – 500 Lafayette Road
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155-4020
651-259-5180

ekb/bn/jls

www.dnr.state.mn.us

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A Fish Habitat Partnership

1601 Minnesota Drive, Brainerd, MN 56401

28 May 2013

LSOHC Committee:

I am writing this letter of support on behalf of the Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership, one of 18 Fish Habitat Partnership recognized by the "National Fish Habitat Partnership" (NFHP) to state our support for the project proposal being submitted to the LSOHC by the Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation, entitled "Fisheries Habitat Protection on Strategic Lakes in N. Central Minnesota."

The mission of our partnership is to "work together to protect, rehabilitate and enhance sustainable fish habitats in glacial lakes of the Midwest for the use and enjoyment of current and future generations." The goals outlined in the proposal state that the project will "protect strategic parcels in the watersheds of priority Cisco (tullibee) lakes of N. Central Minnesota using a suite of land conservation tools to insure sustainable physical and water quality fish habitat consistent with the MN DNR Fish Habitat Plan." Our mission coincides very nicely with the goals of this proposal, and thus we want to extend this letter of support to the applicant. The methods of protection in the proposal include a suite of different options, which will make the proposal more effective than if just one method were being proposed. In addition, this proposal will address habitat concerns for a fish species that is known to be vulnerable from the standpoint of changes in climate (warming water temperatures).

Our Partnership area includes portions of eight states. Our geographic extent includes the area of MN where these lakes are found in N. Minnesota.

The Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership was approved as a partnership under NFHP in 2009. The Mission of NFHP is to "protect, restore and enhance the nation's fish and aquatic communities through partnerships that foster fish habitat conservation and improve the quality of life for the American people."

This project fits this mission perfectly, and the goals of NFHP also will align well with the designation:

- 1) Protect and maintain intact and healthy aquatic systems
- 2) Prevent further degradation of fish habitats that have been adversely affected.
- 3) Reverse declines in the quality and quantity of aquatic habitats to improve the overall health of fish and other aquatic organisms
- 4) Increase the quality and quantity of fish habitats that support a broad natural diversity of fish and other aquatic species

Please give this proposal your strongest consideration.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call me to discuss this letter of support. My phone number is 218-833-8618. My e-mail is Katie.haws@state.mn.us

Sincerely,

Katherine V. Haws

Katherine V. Haws
Coordinator



June 12, 2013

Mr. Bill Becker, Executive Director
Lessard-Sames Outdoor Heritage Council
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
State Office Building, Room 95
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Letter of Support – Fisheries Habitat Protection on Strategic Lakes in North Central Minnesota

Dear Mr. Becker:

On behalf of the North Central Regional Landscape Committee, I would like to express our full support for the “Fisheries Habitat Protection on Strategic Lakes in North Central Minnesota” project.

The Committee is one of six regional committees supported by the Minnesota Forest Resources Council (MFRC), the state agency responsible for implementing the Minnesota Sustainable Forest Resources Act of 1995. In 2004, the Council approved the North Central Landscape Plan, a regional forest management plan developed by the Committee, to guide the sustainable use, protection and management of forest resources in the region. This project will be a significant and major step in implementation of the goals in our Plan through the protecting of sensitive and/or undeveloped shorelines and retaining large contiguous blocks of forestland. In implementing this project, the Committee will encourage and support efforts by partners to work closely with counties with respect to their policies on balancing the amount of publicly owned lands. Further, this project supports the implementation of the 25-Year LSOHC Implementation Vision for Forest Habitat developed jointly by the MFRC and the Minnesota Forest Resources Partnership (MFRP).

For more information about the MFRC, the landscape program and our landscape plan, please see the Council’s website at www.frc.state.mn.us. I would be happy to discuss the Committee’s efforts and this project further at your convenience. You can reach me by calling 218-824-1115. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jacob A. Frie". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "J" and "F".

Jacob Frie
Chairman
North Central Regional Landscape Committee

Minnesota Muskie and Pike Alliance

Working to Preserve, Promote and Advance Muskie and Pike Angling, Education and Research in Minnesota

John Underhill

Aaron Meyer

Co-Chairmen

Paula West, Executive Director
Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation
PO Box 455, Hackensack, MN 56452

John Underhill
Co-Chair Minnesota Muskie and Pike Alliance
2360 15th Ave NW Rochester, MN. 55901

To whom it may concern;

The Minnesota Muskie and Pike alliance supports the land acquisition proposed on Lake Roosevelt to create the Woods Bay Aquatic Management Area and shoreline protection. We understand the value and importance land protection plays in the quality of our water and the habitat; both the aquatic and terrestrial environments benefit. It creates more recreation and provides continued opportunity for all sportsmen and women along with our outdoor and hospitality industry. This acquisitions benefit will always outweigh the cost of the purchase over time. This is a great opportunity for the people of Minnesota and those who visit our great state

We appreciate the consideration for this important acquisition.

John Underhill

Co-Chair Minnesota Muskie and Pike Alliance

John Underhill

MINNESOTA
MUSKIE & PIKE
ALLIANCE



Roosevelt and Lawrence Area Lakes Association

June 4, 2013

Paula West, Executive Director
Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation
PO Box 455, Hackensack, MN 56452

Dear Paula,

As we discussed earlier this spring I outlined for the Board of Directors of Roosevelt and Lawrence Area Lakes Association ("RALALA") the LLAWF proposal to petition the Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council for funding to acquire the Eggers property on Woods Bay of Roosevelt Lake and to donate the land to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources ("DNR") to create an Aquatic Management Area ("AMA"). At our board meeting on May 28, 2013 the board of RALALA enthusiastically voted to support this proposed project and to have me communicate that support to your organization and any other persons or entities that may want to know our position on the matter.

The mission of RALALA is to protect, preserve and improve the environmental condition of Roosevelt, Lawrence, Leavitt and Smokey Hollow Lakes, especially by protecting and preserving the condition of these lakes and their watersheds to ensure the continued existence of a safe, enjoyable and sustainable natural resource for future generations. We cannot think of any projects that would better fit the long-term objectives of our organization than this one.

The Eggers property includes nearly a mile of untouched pristine natural shoreline on a secluded bay on the west shore of Roosevelt Lake. Those of us who have homes on Roosevelt Lake or who have visited this lake for fishing or other recreational outings do not have to be told by the DNR that this Woods Bay property constitutes "sensitive shoreland." It still is, like the shoreland of many of Minnesota's northern lakes once were, completely wild and unspoiled. It would be a travesty to allow this very special and increasingly rare mile of shoreland to be developed. Everything we have seen suggests to us that this shoreland is critical to the continued quality of the water in our lakes and the fish and other aquatic populations in this watershed. It is the home and breeding grounds of fish, waterfowl, and predators of various kinds. By any measure it is certainly a critical piece of property to the environment of this area.

The Eggers family has held and zealously protected this land throughout the past seven decades during which most of Minnesota's lakeshore (including nearly all the lakes in our area) became heavily developed with cabins, resorts and other "improvements". We are all the beneficiaries of that steadfast commitment on the part of the Eggers family to preserve this lakeshore as it has been for many thousands of years.

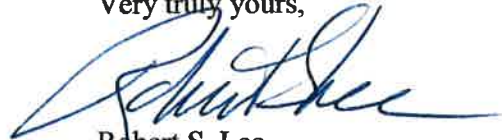
We understand, however, that the surviving family members no longer feel that they have the continuing ability to own and preserve the property in its pristine condition. Thus, we strongly agree with the family that is time for the Eggers property to be moved to State

ownership, and for the State to continue to preserve it on a permanent basis for future generations of Minnesotans to view and enjoy.

We are unsure how best to assist you in the effort to make this project a reality. RALALA is willing to devote time and resources to make it happen. Feel free to contact me for any assistance you think we may be able to provide. We do have an Environmental Quality Initiative Fund to which the public can make donations. I am sure this project would fit within the scope of that fund. Although existing funds are committed to our ongoing fight against the transmittal of aquatic invasive species into the lakes in our area, perhaps we could commence a new fundraising effort here locally to help defray the costs of the project, funneling the donations through this fund to the LLAWF or wherever the funding is needed. We should discuss the possibilities when you have the time.

Please forward this letter to whoever you think should know about our support.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert S. Lee", written in a cursive style.

Robert S. Lee
President



Friday, June 08, 2013

Paula West, Executive Director
Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation
PO Box 455
Hackensack, MN 56452

Dear Paula West.

Anglers for Habitat would like to go on record as strongly supporting the **Fisheries Habitat Protection on Strategic Lakes in North Central Minnesota** initiative and LSOHC funding proposal. From our perspective there are three key issues involved:

Minnesota must protect its high quality Cisco lakes. These lakes are rich in tullibee and provide forage fish for Minnesota's primary sport fishery of Walleye, Pike, Muskie, and Lake Trout. They are also the "canary in the coal mine" indicator of changes in the fish populations of these lakes. Because Cisco lakes are deep and clear, they will be able to sustain tullibee even after climate warming. Hence, protecting the habitat of these lakes and their water quality will be important to a sustained fishery. The clock is ticking on the collision of shoreline development, aquatic habitat reduction, climate changes and our ability to maintain and improve a sustainable fishery here in Minnesota.

Lakeshore development is strongly associated with the loss of natural aquatic fish habitat. We are seeing new development on shorelines that were once seen as undevelopable due to overgrowth of emergent and submerged vegetation. Mucky shorelines choked with cattails, lily pads, wild rice and other fish habitat were previously ignored as targets for new development. An alarming trend of now developing these shorelines can be seen. Along with the removal of natural plants to create the proverbial sandy "grandchildren" beaches, this clear cutting of habitat opens the door to invasive AIS plants colonizing those areas. Aquatic plant habitat is as important to our world class fishery here in Minnesota as prairies and forests are to our wildlife.

Fisheries and aquatic habitat projects need equal consideration from the LSOHC. A key issue for consideration is that 43% of Minnesota's residents participate in fishing and hunting; of that 32% participate in fishing. We are one of the leading states in hunting and fishing participation. A commonly heard misrepresentation of the LSOHC is about the lack of funding for fisheries projects. We believe that this has more to do with the lack of aquatic proposals submitted. It is our hope that this proposal will receive strong consideration for funding.

Sincerely

Lance Ness

Lance Ness, President

Anglers for Habitat is a non-profit alliance of anglers dedicated to the preservation and improvement of aquatic habitat, clean water and fishing in Minnesota.