

Conservation Partners Legacy Grants - Online Applications

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Project Summary

Project Name and Contact

Project Name:	Rat Root River Log Jam Removal	Project Manager:	Justin Berg
Organization Name:	Rainy Lake Sportfishing Club/Koochiching SWCD	Title:	District Technician
		Phone:	218-283-1175
		Email:	justin.berg@koochichingswcd.org
Organization Type:	Non-Profit		
Mailing Address 1:	Courthouse, 715 4th St.		
Mailing Address 2:			
City:	International Falls		
State:	MN		
Zip Code:	56649		

Project Location Summary

Primary County:	Koochiching	Secondary Land
Nearest City:	Ericksburg	Ownerships:
Project Site Name:	Rat Root River	
Primary Land Ownership:	Public Water	

Project Activity Summary

Primary Activity:	Enhancement	Primary Habitat Type:	Fish, Game or Wildlife Habitat
Additional Activities:			
Total Project Sites:	264	Additional Habitats:	Forest
Total Project Acres:	55		

Project Funding Summary

Total Grant Amount	\$22,500
Requested:	
Total Match Amount	\$2,250
Pledged:	
Additional Funding:	
Total Project Cost:	\$24,750
Estimated Project Completion Date:	2012-10-31

Summary

The Rainy Lake Sportfishing Club (Club) has partnered with the Koochiching Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) to address the increase in number of log jams along the Rat Root River as well as the decline of the walleye spawning run. The Club was organized to assist in the enhancement of the fisheries resources on Rainy Lake, Rainy River and their tributaries and has invested considerable time and treasure in the last several years to identify problems that have led to the decline of the Rat Root River system with regard to fish habitat. Primary activities include log jam removal to improve access, walleye spawning bed protection, and water quality improvement in an ongoing effort to improve fish habitat in these waters.

Problem Statement

Rat Root River provides walleye spawning and nursery habitat for walleye traveling upstream from

Rainy Lake. Spawning sites on the Rat Root River have been degraded by sediment and Rat Root Lake has become so shallow that walleye may have difficulty reaching spawning grounds located upstream during low water levels. The Rat Root River has a very high occurrence of log jams which impede flows, trap sediment and block fish migration. These large log jams impound and slow the water behind them, causing sediment to drop out and cover walleye spawning substrate and other important aquatic habitat. Aerial photos from 1940 to 2008 show the frequency of log jams has increased dramatically in recent years. Increased sedimentation of Rat Root Lake may be impeding walleye spawning movements in the early spring. Sandy Verry reviewed aerial photographs of the area just downstream from the town of Ericsburg and found evidence of the river building many point bars which were then cut off. "Most of this sediment came from the slumps in areas cleared for agriculture right up to the channel edge" (Verry, 2008). Mr. Verry concluded that sedimentation downstream of Ericsburg probably began with slumps and flood flows in the flood of record in 1916. This began filling the upper end of Rat Root Lake, but was not enough to seriously impair walleye spawning movements. Additional sedimentation in the 1937 to 1954 period filled portions of Rat Root Lake enough to severely limit the space available for walleye migration. "Then, as now, only a foot or so of water is available during the mid-April to mid-May walleye spawning run" (Verry, 2008).

Project Objectives

Remove channel blocking log jams from the main stem of the Rat Root River from the Galvin Line Bridge (Township 69N, Range 24W, Section 11) upstream to State Highway 217 (Township 68N, Range 23W, Section 6), a distance of approximately 15 miles. Removing the large, channel blocking log jams will improve fish passage for all species present in the Rat Root River, including walleye and northern pike. Removing the jams will also improve flow and sediment transport, resulting in improved water quality, benthic productivity and fish habitat.

Methods

Sandy Verry, chief hydrologist with the Ellen River Partners, identified at least six major, channel blocking log jams in the West Branch of the Rat Root River in 2008 and recommended they be removed. His work also indicated that minor log jams occurred approximately every 300 feet along the Rat Root River. The Conservation Corps will utilize their own equipment to remove approximately 264 log jams.

Project Timeline

Time Frame	Goal
3/1/11 - 10/31/12	Log Jam Removal

Identify short and long term maintenance and management work required to sustain this project and source(s) of funding

Work needed	Who is responsible	Funding source
Annual survey and removal of new log jams	RLSFC/MN DNR	RLSFC
Establish and maintain riparian buffers	SWCD	SWCD/MN DNR
Convert forest to longer lived species within the watershed	SWCD	SWCD/MN DNR

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Project Information

Answer each of the following questions in 1000 characters or less; descriptions/definitions are available in the [Criteria and Scoring Table](#).

1. Describe the local support for this project.

The Rainy Lake Sportfishing Club (RLSC) is a co-sponsor of the project, whose members support efforts to improve access walleye spawning habitat in the Rat Root River. The Koochiching County Board of Commissioners voiced their support for the project during a Board meeting on August 10th. Koochiching County SWCD is a co-sponsor of the project. The few local landowners in the project area are supportive.

2. Describe the degree of collaboration for this project.

The Rainy Lake Sportfishing Club and the Koochiching SWCD have worked closely with local DNR Fisheries staff to develop the current proposal. DNR Fisheries has been monitoring the walleye spawning run on the Rat Root River since 1991. The Rat Root River is a tributary to Rainy Lake. A walleye tagging study began in 2010 showed the importance of the spawning habitat in the Rat Root to all of Rainy Lake when tag returns were reported from the North Arm of Rainy Lake, which lies in the Province of Ontario. RLSC hired a consultant (Sandy Verry of Ellen River Partners LLC) in 2008 to evaluate the Rat Root River and identify potential actions to improve walleye spawning activity.

3. Describe any urgency associated with this project.

Annual DNR monitoring of walleye spawning activity in the Rat Root River in recent years suggests a decreasing trend in abundance of spawning fish. The size of the run has diminished greatly since the 1930's according to records kept at a DNR egg-take site at the mouth of Rat Root Lake. The walleye presently spawning in the Rat Root River are relatively old and there is some concern about lack of recruitment by younger -aged fish to this spawning site. Funding this project now will improve fish passage, increasing the amount of spawning sites available to returning fish. Removing log jams will also improve flows and sediment transport. Walleye require clean gravel, rock and rubble to spawn on. The large, channel blocking log jams in the Rat Root River impede flows, resulting in increased sediment deposits which may then cover walleye spawning substrates, rendering them useless. Mr. Verry recommended that the large, channel blocking log jams be removed.

4. Discuss if there are multiple benefits resulting from your project, identifying those species, habitats, etc.

Removing the large, channel blocking log jams will improve fish passage for all species present in the Rat Root River, including walleye and northern pike. Removing the jams will also improve flow and sediment transport, resulting in improved water quality, benthic productivity and fish habitat. "Sediment has several forms and sources, but of greatest concern in streams and rivers are the fine inorganic particles that either flow with the current (causing turbidity) or that are deposited on the streambed, causing loss of benthic productivity and fish habitat" (Waters, 1995).

5. Discuss the habitat benefits resulting from your project.

See above. The proposed work will improve fish passage and access to potential new spawning sites located upstream. The quality of these sites is unknown, but a DNR electrofishing survey done in 2010 found walleye congregated below log jams that were present at the time. Some of these jams were removed, and the fish immediately dispersed upstream. In the short-term, removing the log jams will allow additional surveys and assessments further upstream, which could lead to additional habitat improvement projects in the future (e.g. placement of spawning rock if found to be a limiting factor).

6. Describe how your project is consistent with sound conservation science.

The Project involves removing enough wood from the stream channel to provide fish passage and improve flows. This is not an attempt to remove all wood from the river , for the benefits of wood in aquatic systems is well-known. The Rat Root River has a great abundance of wood, and the proposed removal is not expected to have a negative impact on the aquatic ecosystem.

7. Indicate if your project is adjacent to protected lands, describing those lands (ownership, public access, etc.)

Most of the land adjacent to the Rat Root River in the project area is publicly owned County Forest .

8. Discuss if there is full funding secured for this project and the sources of funding.

The Rainy Lake Sportfishing Club has sufficient resources to provide dollars for the required matching funds. The Club has shown its commitment to the Rat Root River by spending over \$10,000 to hire Sandy Verry and Arro of the North Surveying to collect information required to develop this proposal. DNR Fisheries will continue to provide technical support and guidance for the project from their local Area budget.

9. Discuss if CPL Grant funds will supplement or supplant existing funding. Discuss how these CPL funds will impact your organization's current budget.

No funding is available from other sources to do this project at the present time.

10. Describe public access at project site for hunting and fishing, identifying all open seasons.

The Galvin Line and Highway 217 bridges that mark the upper and lower boundaries of the project area provide carry-in access to this stretch of the Rat Root River. Several public access sites are located downstream, the nearest being Watson Landing near Ericsburg. Since the Rat Root River flows into Black Bay of Rainy Lake, all the access points on Rainy Lake provide access as well. The adjacent county lands are open to public hunting and trapping during all open seasons and the waters of the Rat Root are open to fishing during open seasons (see Minnesota DNR Hunting and Fishing regulation booklets for more information). This stretch of the Rat Root River would be used more by all outdoor enthusiasts if navigation was improved by removing the log jams.

11. Describe the sustainability of your project.

Although all streams and rivers contain a certain amount of wood, the Rat Root River has a very high occurrence of log jams. Possible causes include dutch elm disease, which resulted in a large scale die-off of elm trees adjacent to the river, land use changes in the watershed, floods, and conversion of forests from longer lived conifers to hardwoods. Once log jams are cleared, some regular maintenance will be required. If done annually, it should be simple to keep the channel clear and prevent the formation of the large, channel blocking jams that currently exist. Koochiching County SWCD has committed to working with landowners and land managers in the watershed to maintain appropriate riparian buffers along the Rat Root River. The Rainy Lake Sportfishing Club has made a 50-year commitment to the Rat Root River and will assist with annual maintenance. DNR Trails and Waterways may help maintain a clear channel for navigation once it is established, if time and budgets allow.

12. Discuss use of native vegetation (if applicable).

N/A

13. Discuss your budget and why it is cost effective.

The budget was developed using estimates of the frequency of occurrence of the log jams, an estimate of how many log jams could be removed in a day, and the daily cost of the CCM Crew, etc. Much will depend on the actual frequency and size of jams encountered when the work begins, as well as the effectiveness of the crew in removing them. Regardless, the removal project will begin at the downstream end and proceed upstream as far as the money goes. Even if the upstream boundary (Highway 217) is not reached, each additional mile of stream that is opened up will provide benefits.

14. Describe your organization's ability to successfully complete this work, including experience in the area of interest and ability to successfully implement the

proposed project. Include descriptions of your most recent grant experience and if the expected outcomes were achieved.

The SWCD has been successful in receiving a MPCA Surface Water Assessment Grant (SWAG) to conduct water monitoring activities for 2010 and 2011. The SWCD has over 35 years experience assisting landowners with erosion control measures, executing state cost-share contracts, and carrying out lead activities outlined in the Koochiching Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan. RLSFC also has a history of working cooperatively with DNR on habitat improvement and other projects to benefit the Rainy Lake fishery.

15. Discuss how your project supports landscape level plans. Use additional sources for information if needed or available.

The Local Management Plan for the Littlefork and Rat Root Rivers of 1995 called for "removal of log jams that are shown to be a barrier to fish movement" and to "minimize negative impacts to water quality and fish habitat". The Plan also makes reference to maintenance of filter strips and vegetation along river banks to reduce erosion and protect water quality. The current proposal is consistent with the direction of this Plan, completed in 1995 by local citizens. Similar language can be found in the Koochiching County Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan. The Koochiching County Forest Management Plan recommends all timber harvesting activities within the watershed follow the MN Forest Resource Council (FRC) Guidelines to protect water quality (riparian buffers).

16. Discuss how your project supports species plans. Use additional sources for information if needed or available.

While Rainy Lake has a diverse fishery, walleye are the dominant species in terms of angler use and their prominence within the fish community. The MN DNR Fisheries Lake Management Plan for Rainy Lake calls for a healthy, self-sustaining walleye population. As a tributary to Rainy Lake, the Rat Root River and the walleye spawning habitat it provides has an important role in maintaining a healthy walleye fishery on Rainy Lake. Removing log jams from the Rat Root River will provide additional walleye spawning habitat by improving access to upstream spawning areas.

17. Discuss how your project conforms to the Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan.

The Rat Root River Project is consistent with the recommendations of the Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan to "protect critical shorelands of streams" and "protect and restore critical in-water habitat of lakes and streams".

18. Discuss how your project conforms to the State Wildlife Action Plan (if applicable).

As identified in the State Wildlife Action Plan, the primary reason for decreasing wildlife populations in Minnesota is habitat loss and degradation. This project will directly benefit walleye spawning habitat as well as many other fish species inhabiting the Rat Root River. Providing better habitat for these fish species will also have economic benefits for the local fisheries and attract more users to the area. As stated in the Plan, recovery of species is much more costly than addressing habitat needs for those species.

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Site Information

*you may group your project sites together as long as land ownership, activity and habitat information is the same for the land manager

Land Manager

Name:	Erika Herr	Phone:	218-327-4106
Organization:	MN DNR Division of Waters	Email:	Erika.Herr@state.mn.us
Title:	Area Hydrologist		

Site Information

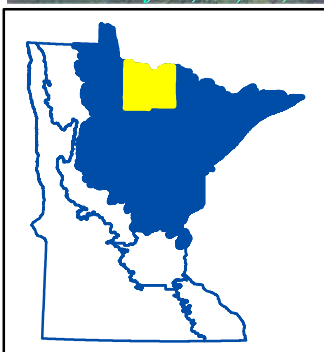
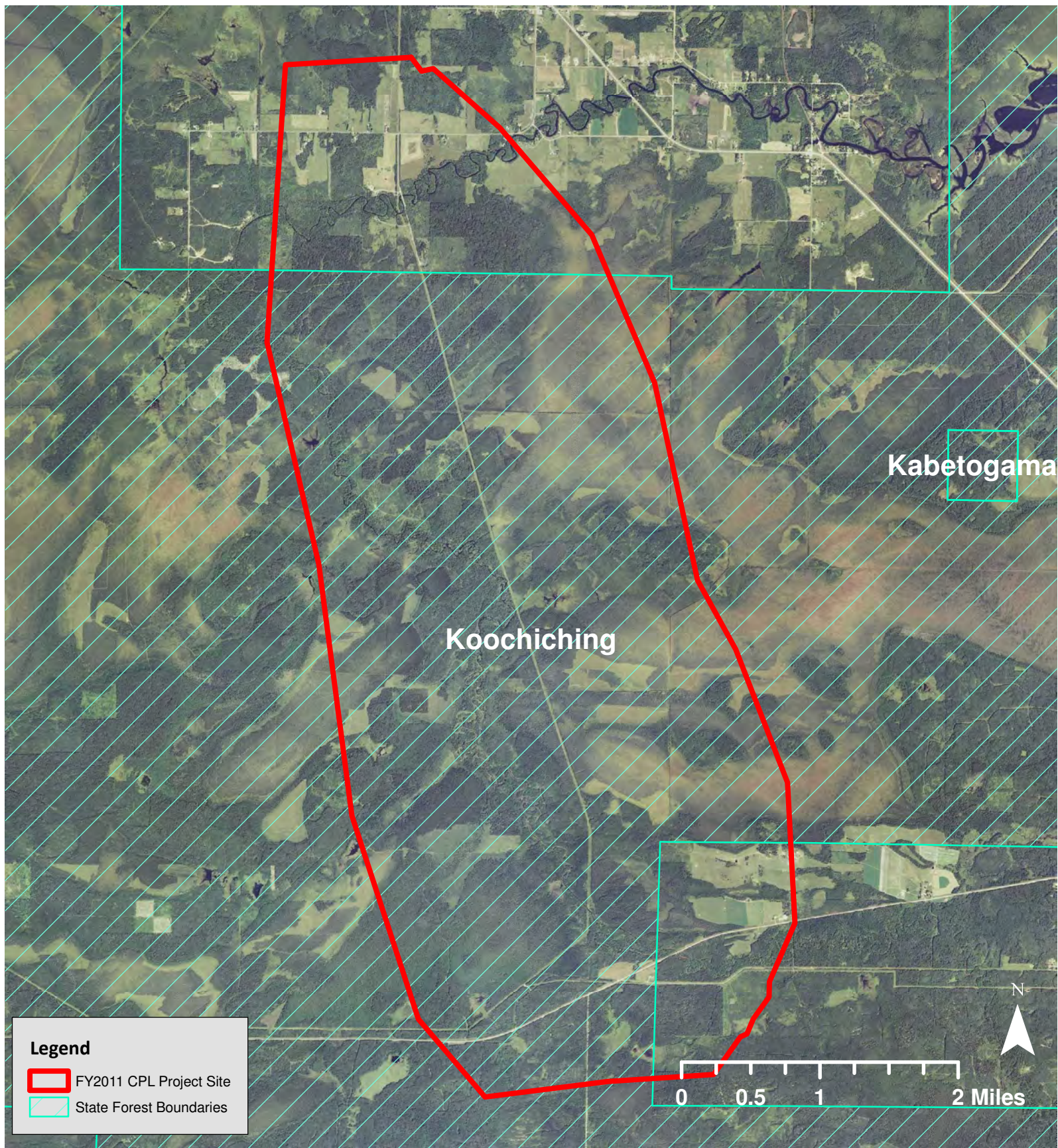
Land Ownership:	Public Water	DOW Lake #:	H-1-35
Site Name(s):	Rat Root River	Acres:	55
Activity:	Enhancement	Click here to View Site Map	
Habitat:	Fish, Game or Wildlife Habitat		

Land Manager

Name:	Kevin Peterson	Phone:	218-286-5220
Organization:	MN DNR Division of Fisheries	Email:	Kevin.Peterson@state.mn.us
Title:	Area Fisheries Manager		

Site Information

Land Ownership:	Public Water	DOW Lake #:	H-1-35
Site Name(s):	Rat Root River	Acres:	55
Activity:	Enhancement	Click here to View Site Map	
Habitat:	Fish, Game or Wildlife Habitat		



CPL FY11-071
Rat Root River Log Jam Removal
Rainy Lake Sportfishing Club/
Koochiching SWCD
Koochiching County
LSOHC Northern Forest Planning Section



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Organization's Fiscal Contact Information

Name:	Pam Tomevi	Street Address 1:	Courthouse, 715 4th St.
Title:	District Coordinator	Street Address 2:	
Email:	pam.tomevi@koochichingswcd.org	City:	International Falls
Phone:	218-283-1174	State:	MN
		Zip Code:	56649

Budget Subtotals

Budget Item	Grant	Match	Total		
Personnel	\$2,000		\$2,000		
Contracts	\$20,275	\$1,975	\$22,250		
Fee Acquisition with PILT					
Fee Acquisition without PILT					
Easement Acquisition					
Easement Stewardship				In-kind Total	Cash Total
Travel (in-state)	\$225	\$275	\$500	\$0	\$2,250
Professional Services					
DNR Land Acquisition Cost					
Equipment/Tools/Supplies					
Additional Budget Items					
Total:	\$22,500	\$2,250	\$24,750		

Details

Personnel

Name	Title / work to be completed	Amount	Grant/Match	In-kind/Cash
Pam Tomevi	Financial/grant administration	\$500	Grant	
Justin Berg	Monitoring/evaluation	\$500	Grant	
Justin Berg	Project/ contractor management	\$1,000	Grant	
Totals	Grant: \$2,000 Match: \$0	Total: \$2,000		

Contracts

Contractor Name	Contracted Work	Amount	Grant/Match	In-kind/Cash
Conservation Corps/Other	Log Jam Removal	\$20,275	Grant	
Conservation Corps/Other	Log Jam Removal	\$1,975	Match	Cash
Totals	Grant: \$20,275 Match: \$1,975	Total: \$22,250		

Travel (in-state)

Use	Purpose	Amount	Grant/Match	In-kind/Cash
Site visits	Mileage	\$225	Grant	
site visits	Mileage	\$275	Match	Cash
Totals	Grant: \$225 Match: \$275	Total: \$500		

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Project Review and Approval

A Project Review and Approval Form must be completed by each Land Manager named within the Site Info tab and Land Managers only need to complete one form for all sites they manage. Submitting this form fulfills the following requirements:

- Provides the results of the Natural Heritage Database Review,
- Allows for technical review of the project by the Land Manager, and
- Verifies that the public agency approves the work to be done (or acquisition) on land they manage.

You, as the applicant, are responsible for meeting with the Land Manager and receiving a completed Project Review and Approval Form. This form must contain an original signature from the Land Manager and you must upload it below as a PDF.

Each project will require at least one Project Review and Approval form. You may attach up to 4 forms on this page, but if you need more room you may attach up to three more on the "Additional Info" tab. If your project is working under 3 Land Managers, you must receive and submit a form from each manager.

No late Project Review and Approval Forms will be accepted. Applications lacking any necessary approval forms will be deemed incomplete and not considered for funding.

Answer the following questions, then attach the form(s)

Yes **Natural Heritage elements were found within my project site(s):**

Name the site(s) and their associated Land Managers:

Site: Rat Root River Land Managers: Erika Herr/Kevin Peterson

Name the elements found:

Discuss any interaction or impact to these elements and the recommended mitigation / avoidance measures you will take within your project to protect these elements:

Niether of these two species will be directly impacted by our project. However, if one is to be found while working on-site, avoidance measures will be taken to ensure they are not disturbed. Very few data exists for the [REDACTED] and is not expected to be found within our work area of the public water.

Project Review and Approval Forms

[Uploaded Form 1](#)

[Uploaded Form 2](#)

CPL Project Review and Approval Form

REVIEWER INFORMATION:

Land manager/ easement holder name:

Agency:	MN DNR
Title:	Area Hydrologist
Phone:	218-327-4106
Email:	erika.herr@state.mn.us

PROJECT INFORMATION:

Project Name:	Rat Root River Log Jam Removal
Contact Person:	Justin Berg/Tom Worth
Organization:	Kooch Co/Rainy Lake Sportfishing Club
Email:	

Please check the appropriate boxes:

☒ I have read the application and discussed this proposed project

with the above listed Organization Contact Person.

☐ For work on easements, the private landowner has been contacted and has given support and approval for this project.

I have performed a Natural Heritage Database review and found:

☐ this project to have no features within one mile.

☒ this project to have features within one mile, but project is not likely to adversely affect those features. I have listed the features below and recommended the following minimization strategy:

<div></div>

☐ this project is likely to adversely affect Natural Heritage features. I feel that this project is important and should be forwarded to DNR Ecological Resources staff for further review.

☐ I do not have access to the Natural Features database and will forward this completed form to DNR by Friday, August 27th 2010 to CPL Staff at LSCPLGrants.DNR@state.mn.us to complete the Natural Heritage Review.

I have discussed what role my office will be expected to have in this project and find that the project, as described will require:

☐ minimal or no involvement from my office for completion.

CPL Project Review and Approval Form

- ☒ a commitment of involvement by staff that is reasonable and can be accomplished with current staffing levels and workload.
- ☐ an amount of staff involvement that cannot be committed during the project time period with current staffing levels. Unless additional staffing can be committed from other offices, Divisions or appropriate partners, I feel this project cannot be completed within the project timeline to our desired standards.
- ☒ I have discussed permits and applications that the applicant may be responsible for using the Working on DNR Lands and Working on Public Lands, or Working on Private Lands documents.

CPL Project Review and Approval Form

For Acquisitions Only:

- ☐ This project is for an acquisition to be transferred to a public agency by applicant:
- ☐ I have discussed any required Initial Development (facilities, habitat, etc.) work that is required before the transfer with the applicant.
 - ☐ I have discussed all applicable costs of those developments and what party is responsible for those costs.

Complete the following cost tables (required work to bring to agency standards).

Habitat Development	# Acres	Cost/ Acre	Total	Funding Source	Applicant is responsible for:
Prairie Grassland					Choose
Forest/ Woody Cover					Choose
Wetland					Choose
Totals					

Facility Development	Cost	Funding Source	Applicant is responsible for:
Boundary Survey			Choose
Posting/ Fencing			Choose
Wood Routed Sign			Choose
Access Roads and Trails			Choose
User Facilities, Access, Parking Lots			Choose
Well Sealing/ Site Clean-up			Choose
Total			

Upon final review of this project:

- ☒ I find this project to be consistent with sound conservation science. This work will benefit area fish, game and wildlife by restoring, enhancing or protecting forests, wetlands, prairies and habitat and is consistent with the management or stewardship plan for this land. (APPROVAL)
- ☐ I find that this project does not follow the management or stewardship plan for this land and does not fit within the long range goals for this land at this time on the local level. (DECLINE)
- ☐ I find that this project should be sent up to a higher level within the agency for further review and decision. I have forwarded the Project Planning Form and this Review and Approval Form for further review to:

Name:

Phone:

☒ By checking this box and signing my name below I certify that I have met with the above applicant and discussed the proposed project and have provided feedback to the applicant. I understand I must provide this document as a PDF with my original signature on it to the applicant to submit a complete application.

Name:

Erika S. Hen

Date:

9-15-10

Comments: Natural Heritage Database review was completed by the DNR Division of Ecological and Water Resources. Work in the Rat Root River is regulated by the DNR Division of Waters and I have discussed the possibility of the need for a DNR public waters work permit with the project proposer. Though no Public Waters Work Permit application has been submitted, this is a restoration project that will improve fish habitat that has the support of DNR Fisheries and seems to meet the conditions that would allow a permit under MR 6115.0215.

CPL Project Review and Approval Form

REVIEWER INFORMATION:

Land manager/ easement holder name: Kevin E. Peterson

Agency: MN DNR

Title: Area Fisheries Supervisor

Phone: 218-286-5220

Email: kevin.peterson@state.mn.us

PROJECT INFORMATION:

Project Name: Rat Root River Log Jam Removal

Contact Person: Justin Berg/ Pam Tomevi

Organization: Kooch. SWCD

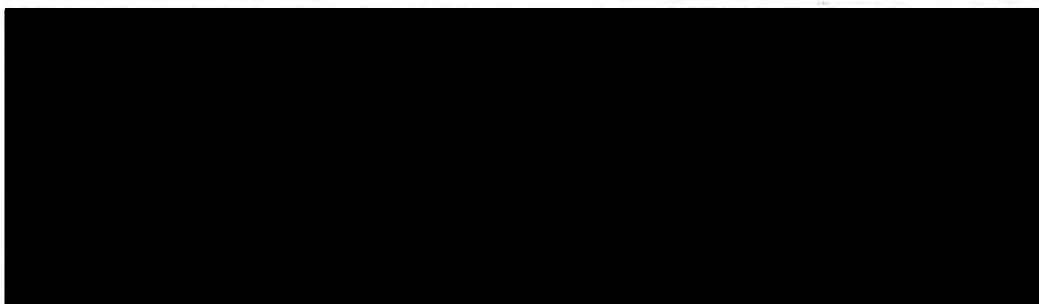
Email:

Please check the appropriate boxes:

- ☒ I have read the application and discussed this proposed project with the above listed Organization Contact Person.
- ☐ For work on easements, the private landowner has been contacted and has given support and approval for this project.

I have performed a Natural Heritage Database review and found:

- ☐ this project to have no features within one mile.
- ☒ this project to have features within one mile, but project is not likely to adversely affect those features. I have listed the features below and recommended the following minimization strategy:



- ☐ this project is likely to adversely affect Natural Heritage features. I feel that this project is important and should be forwarded to DNR Ecological Resources staff for further review.

☐ I do not have access to the Natural Features database and will forward this completed form to DNR by Friday, August 27th 2010 to CPL Staff at LSCPLGrants.DNR@state.mn.us to complete the Natural Heritage Review.

I have discussed what role my office will be expected to have in this project and find that the project, as described will require:

- ☐ minimal or no involvement from my office for completion.
- ☒ a commitment of involvement by staff that is reasonable and can be accomplished with current staffing levels and workload.
- ☐ an amount of staff involvement that cannot be committed during the project time period with current staffing levels. Unless additional staffing can be committed from other offices, Divisions or appropriate partners, I feel this project cannot be completed within the project timeline to our desired standards.

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Wood Routed Sign			Choose
Access Roads and Trails			Choose
User Facilities, Access, Parking Lots			Choose
Well Sealing/ Site Clean-up			Choose
Total			

Upon final review of this project:

- ☒ I find this project to be consistent with sound conservation science. This work will benefit area fish, game and wildlife by restoring, enhancing or protecting forests, wetlands, prairies and habitat and is consistent with the management or stewardship plan for this land. (APPROVAL)
- ☐ I find that this project does not follow the management or stewardship plan for this land and does not fit within the long range goals for this land at this time on the local level. (DECLINE)
- ☐ I find that this project should be sent up to a higher level within the agency for further review and decision. I have forwarded the Project Planning Form and this Review and Approval Form for further review to:

Name:	Phone:
-------	--------

☒ By checking this box and signing my name below I certify that I have met with the above applicant and discussed the proposed project and have provided feedback to the applicant. I understand I must provide this document as a PDF with my original signature on it to the applicant to submit a complete application.

Name: Tim E. Oltman Date: 9/15/10

Comments: Removing the large, channel- blocking log jams will improve fish passage for all species present in the Rat Root River, including walleye and northern pike. Removing the jams will also improve flow and sediment transport, resulting in improved water quality, benthic productivity and fish habitat. The objective is to remove enough wood from the stream channel to provide fish passage and improve flows. This is not an attempt to remove all wood from the river. The Rat Root River has a great abundance of wood, and the proposed removal is not expected to have negative effects on the aquatic ecosystem. Removing the log jams will have the added benefit of improving navigation on this stretch of the Rat Root River, providing access for anglers, hunters, trappers and other recreational users.

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Additional Information

List any additional details about your project here. Include your organization's history or charter to receive private contributions for local conservation or habitat projects. This is not required.

Supplemental Documents

If you / your project does not need to upload any of these documents, you may leave these upload boxes empty.

Upload additional information here, limited to Partner Commitment Letters, Letters of Support, Easement information, etc. You may email easement information only if it exceeds size limit while trying to submit the application; all other supporting documentation must be uploaded. Reference CPL Application # and name when emailing (provided upon application submission) or your email will be returned. Send emails to

LSCPLGrants.DNR@state.mn.us

[Uploaded Document 1](#)

[Uploaded Document 2](#)

[Uploaded Document 3](#)

[Uploaded Document 4](#)



RAINY LAKE SPORTFISHING CLUB
P.O. BOX 888
INTERNATIONAL FALLS, MN 56649

June 10, 2010

Rainy Lake Sportfishing Club is committed to the restoration of the Rat Root River

The Club is actively engaged in building partnerships to further a 50 year commitment toward improving the Rat Root fishery. The Club's intent is to leverage funds to obtain working capital to restore and enhance the fishery habitat, curtailing erosion and placing spawning rock. The Rat Root is a major tributary to Rainy Lake and has a significant role in the fishery for the Lake.

REGULAR MEETING OF THE KOOCHICHING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Held on Tuesday, August 10, 2010; 9:25 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioners Adee, McBride, Hanson, Lepper, Pavleck

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

000 A representative from the Rainy Lake Sportfishing Club along with representatives from the MN DNR Fisheries Division and the Koochiching Soil and Water District presented a proposed plan to improve three walleye spawning areas in the Rat Root River supported by a \$255,000 funding application to the Lessard-Sams Foundation. The plan involves erosion repair on portions of three county roads to help stop silting in the river but repair cost is part of the plan's funding request. They are looking to start the work in 2011 if their funding is improved. The DNR fisheries representative stated that the DNR started a walleye tagging program and as a point of interest, 369 walleyes were tagged in the Rat Root River and some of those walleyes were found in the north arm of Rainy Lake, showing that improving fisheries in the Rat Root River benefits all of Rainy Lake. The County Engineer also stated that the DNR after acquiring right of way from private property would be looking to the County to use Highway Equipment to assist in developing a public access to the Rat Root River at the Junction of County Roads 145 and 97. The County Engineer stated he was in support of the projects.

2010/08-18 Motion by Pavleck, seconded by Lepper to support the Rat Root River Fisheries Improvement Plan and Public Access Project as presented by the Rainy Lake Sportsfishing Club and DNR to include erosion repairs on three segments of County Roads 97 and 145 and utilization of County Highway equipment for establishment of a public water access at the junction of County Roads 145 and 97 as recommended by the Highway Engineer. Voting yes: Adee, McBride, Hanson, Lepper, Pavleck. Motion carried.



Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

392 Highway 11 East
International Falls, MN 56649
218-286-5220
Email: kevin.peterson@state.mn.us

September 15, 2010

Pam Tomevi/Justin Berg
Koochiching County SWCD
715 4th Street
International Falls, MN 56649

Dear Pam and Justin:

Thank you for your efforts to put together a Conservation Partner Legacy Grant project proposal to remove log jams from the Rat Root River. As a tributary to Rainy Lake, the Rat Root River plays an important role in maintaining a healthy, self-sustaining walleye fishery on Rainy Lake. A recent tagging study shows the importance of Rat Root River walleye spawning habitat to all of Rainy Lake. A number of walleye that were tagged in the Rat Root River during April of 2010 were later reported from the North Arm of Rainy Lake, which lies in the Province of Ontario (walleye tag returns were also received from Black Bay and the South Arm in Minnesota waters). Sadly, the number of walleye returning to spawn in the Rat Root River has been declining since the 1930's. Annual monitoring of the spawning run done by the International Falls Fisheries station during the past two decades suggests this trend is continuing. Many factors have likely contributed to the decline in the walleye spawning run, including water level management, floods, overharvest by sport and commercial anglers, land use changes and forest harvesting activities.

Log jams in the Rat Root River have long been a concern of many in this area. A Local Management Plan for the Littlefork and Rat Root Rivers completed by local stakeholders in 1995 recommended removal of the log jams to improve fish passage and flow. Former State Senator Bob Lessard made an inquiry in 1999 to then Fisheries Chief Ron Payer if something couldn't be done to improve the Rat Root River to restore the walleye spawning run. A study

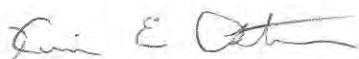


funded by the Rainy Lake Sportfishing Club in 2008 documented the high rate of occurrence of log jams in the Rat Root River. Consultant Sandy Verry of Ellen River Partners, LLC recommended removal of the large, channel-blocking log jams to improve flows and sediment transport. Log jams in the Rat Root River have hampered our efforts to sample spawning fish, making it difficult or impossible to reach the spawning areas with our electrofishing boat.

For all the reasons cited above, the International Falls DNR Area Fisheries Office supports the proposal to remove log jams from the Rat Root River. Successful completion of the project will improve fish passage and flow, result in additional and improved walleye spawning habitat. Removing the log jams will also improve navigation for anglers, hunters, trappers, and other recreational users and DNR Fisheries sampling crews. Improved navigability will also provide better access to the public lands that lie adjacent to this 15 mile stretch of the Rat Root River.

The International Falls DNR Areas Fisheries Office will continue to monitor the walleye spawning run in the Rat Root River. The tagging study began in 2010 will continue for at least two more years and continue to provide information on walleye movements for many years to come. This project could lay the ground work for future studies and projects to benefit water quality, aquatic habitat, and the walleye fishery. This Project Proposal has been a collaborative effort between our office, The Rainy Lake Sportfishing Club, and Koochiching County SWCD. I look forward to continuing this partnership and will continue to provide guidance, technical support, and other assistance as our Area budget and staff time allows.

Sincerely,



Kevin E. Peterson
Area Fisheries Supervisor

C: Timothy Mackay, Rainy Lake Sportfishing Club President
Tim Goeman, Regional DNR Fisheries Manager
Erika Herr, DNR Division of Waters
Scott Kelling, DNR Parks and Trails



Rainy Lake Sportfishing Club

Minutes – Wednesday, September 15, 2010

**** CALL TO ORDER:** President Tim MacKay called the meeting to order @ 7:00 PM

**** GUESTS:** Justin Berg, Kevin Peterson and Dick Lorette

Dick Lorette was here to invite the Rainy Lake Sportfishing Club to participate in Sportsman's Expo to be held at the Evangelical Covenant Church April 9, 2011.

**** MINUTES:** It was moved by Dick Schaak and seconded by Darrell Ruelle to approve the minutes of the last regular board meeting as read. Motion carried.

**** GAMBLING:** It was moved by Steve Lindberg and seconded by Sally Schaak to approve the gambling report and pre allowable expenses as presented. Motion carried.

Approval of Pre-allowable expenses:

Trustar FCU	FICA-Fed-Medicare	\$404.80
Trustar FCU	Check copies	\$25.00
Border Bar	Site rent	\$800.00 - \$1400.00
Viking Bar	Site rent	\$50.00 - \$500.00
K-Mart or Quill	Office Supplies	\$100.00
MN Dept of Revenue	MN W/H – State Fee	\$100.00
Kelly Kittelson	Payroll	\$1256.60
Triple Crown Gaming	Pull Tabs/Supplies	\$1000.00 – \$4000.00
Midcontinent	Internet	\$54.99
Choice Storage	Storage	\$40.00
United Fire Group	Insurance	\$73.00
Central Gaming Services	Machine rent	\$116.88

It was moved by Dick Schaak and seconded by Ron Jean to approve Kelly Kittelson to attend continuing education in Bemidji with expenses not to exceed \$150.00 for travel and per diem to be paid through gambling funds. Motion carried.

It was moved by Steve Lindberg and seconded by Sally Schaak that the RLSFC support the Rat Root River Walleye Spawning Enhancement Grant with 10% matching funds of up to \$2500.00 to be paid for through gambling funds. Motion carried.

It was moved by Darrell Ruelle and seconded by Dick Schaak that the club reimburse gambling \$1234.52 for advertising error for the Fishing Derby held February 28, 2010. Motion carried.

It was moved by Steve Lindberg and seconded by Darrell Ruelle to authorize up to \$3000 to get the Spot on 53 started with pull tabs, permit premises fee and cash bank. Motion carried.

**** TREASURERS REPORT:** It was moved by Sally Schaak and seconded by Tom Worth to approve the treasurers' report as presented. Motion carried.

**** CORRESPONDENCE:** None

**** COMMITTEE REPORTS:** The third reading of the By-Laws change will be tabled till October so that Tim MacKay can send email to board members highlighting Article III Section 5 for the board to review.

**** PROJECTS:** Dick Schaak and Don Hale will start working on the Senior Fish House.

**** ACTIVITIES/INFORMATION:** There were 120 kids at the Kids Fishing Derby, a fun time was had by all.

**** PROGRAMS:** None

**** GOVERNMENTAL INFORMATION:** Tom Worth reported on the water levels.

**** OTHER BUSINESS:** None

**** MOTION TO ADJOURN:** It was moved by Tom Worth and seconded by Darrell Ruelle to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

ATTENDANCE: Tim MacKay, Steve Lindberg, Darrell Ruelle, Tom Worth, Sally Schaak, Dick Schaak, Ronna MacKay, Ron Jean, and Kelly Kittelson,

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 20, 2010
7:00 p.m. the Spot

Conservation Partners Legacy Grants - Online Applications

Jamie Gangaware

Admin

[List Applications](#)

[Summary Spreadsheet](#)

[Log Out](#)

☒ Project Summary ☒ Project Info ☒ Site Info ☒ Budget Info ☒ Review & Approval ☒ Additional Info ☒ Application Submission

Final Application Submission

This completes your CPL Grant Application. Please take the time to revisit the previous sections and make sure you have entered everything completely and correctly. Once you hit the submit button below, you will not be able to return to this application to make changes.

I certify that I have read the Conservation Partners Legacy Grants Program Request for Proposal, Program Manual and other program documents, and have discussed this project with the appropriate public land manager, or private landowner and easement holder.

I certify I am authorized to apply for and manage these grant and match funds, and the project work by the organization or agency listed below. I certify this organization to have the financial capability to compete this project and that it will comply with all applicable laws and regulations.

I certify that all of the information contained in the application is correct as of the time of the submission. If anything should change, I will contact CPL Grant Staff immediately to make corrections.

I certify that if funded I will give consideration to and make timely written contact to Minnesota Conservation Corps or its successor for consideration of possible use of their services to contract for restoration and enhancement services. I will provide CPL staff a copy of that written contact within 10 days after the execution of my grant, should I be awarded.

I certify that I am aware at least one Project Review and Approval form is required for every application and I must submit all completed forms by uploading them into this application. I have attached one form as necessary for each different Land Manager within my project.

I am aware that by typing my name in the box below, I am applying my signature to this online document.

Signature:

Justin Berg

Organization / Agency:

**Koochiching Soil &
Water Conservation
District**

Title:

District Technician

Date:

0010-09-16

FY2011 Round 1 Technical Review Comments and Scoring, Regional and Divisional Directors Comments

Proj ID	Organization Name	Project Name	Technical Review Committee Scoring Comments	Amtount Requested	Score	Technical Review Committee Final Rank Comments	Regional Comments	Meets Regional Plan?	Rank	Region	Division Director's Comments
71	Rainy Lake Sportfishing Club/Koochiching SWCD	Rat Root River Log Jam Removal	Questions about removal of sediments, amount of log removal, who determines what and which logs are removed--woody component is also important to stream. Will removal increase amount of sediment added to spawning areas below? Looks like Fisheries comments mostly answer this. Will focus be on the large jams, or just start working their way upstream? Would prefer large jams to be the priority. Lots of work for a small amt of money requested--will enough get done, or will they be back for more \$\$? What will happen to cut logs--will they be pulled out, float downstream??	\$22,500	101	how prioritize. Work plan needs work, more details. Fisheries sounds willing to work with them. Only project in NE for this habitat.		Y		1	ok to fund, pretty small dollar amount, see where they get/ how much benefit is obtained before funding more projects like this in the future.

	1)Amount of Habitat	2)Local Support	3)Degree of Collaboration	4)Urgency	5)Multiple Benefits	6)Habitat Benefits	7)Sound Conservation Science	8)Adjacent to Protected Lands	9)Full Funding of Project	10)Supplants Existing Funding	11)Public Access for Hunting and Fishing	12)Sustainability	13)Use of Native Plant Materials	14)Budget and Cost Effectiveness
	7.00	6.00	7.00	3.00	6.00	7.00	6.00	4.00	2.00	10.00	9.00	7.00	1.00	3.00
	7.00	6.00	7.00	6.00	5.00	7.00	7.00	8.00	4.00	7.00	8.00	7.00	5.00	6.00
	2.00	7.00	7.00	3.00	7.00	5.00	3.00	3.00	1.00	8.00	5.00	2.00	1.00	2.00
	7.00	7.00	7.00	5.00	6.00	7.00	7.00	6.00	8.00	5.00	6.00	5.00	4.00	5.00
AVERAGES	5.75	6.50	7.00	4.25	6.00	6.50	5.75	5.25	3.75	7.50	7.00	5.25	2.75	4.00

TOTAL SCORE	101.25
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15)Capacity to Successfully Complete Work	16)Supports Existing Landscape Level Plans	17)Supports Species Plans	18)Conforms to Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan	19)Conforms to State Wildlife Action Plan
4.00	5.00	6.00	7.00	6.00
6.00	5.00	6.00	5.00	5.00
2.00	1.00	5.00	3.00	5.00
3.00	5.00	6.00	6.00	5.00
3.75	4.00	5.75	5.25	5.25