



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) M.L. 2011 Work Plan

Date of Status Update:

Date of Next Status Update: 3/1/2012

Date of Work Plan Approval: 6/23/2011

Project Completion Date: 6/30/2014

Is this an amendment request? _____

Project Title: Itasca County Sensitive Lakeshore Identification

Project Manager: Jim Gustafson

Affiliation: Itasca County Soil and Water Conservation District

Address: 1889 E Highway 2

City: Grand Rapids **State:** MN **Zipcode:** 55744

Telephone Number: (218) 326-0017

Email Address: jim.gustafson@itascaswcd.org

Web Address: <http://www.itascaswcd.org>

Location:

Counties Impacted: Itasca

Ecological Section Impacted: Northern Minnesota Drift and lake Plains (212N)

Total ENRTF Project Budget:

ENRTF Appropriation \$: 160,000

Amount Spent \$: 0

Balance \$: 160,000

Legal Citation: M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 05a

Appropriation Language:

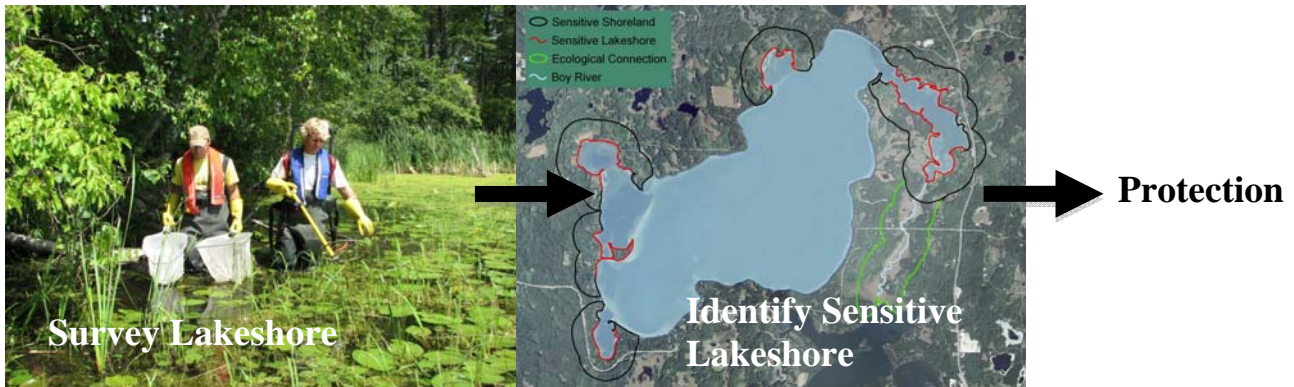
\$80,000 the first year and \$80,000 the second year are from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Itasca County Soil and Water Conservation District to identify sensitive lakeshore and restorable shoreline in Itasca County. Up to \$130,000 may be retained by the Department of Natural Resources at the request of Itasca County to provide technical assistance.

I. PROJECT TITLE: Itasca County Sensitive Lakeshore Identification

Appropriation Language: \$80,000 the first year and \$80,000 the second year are from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Itasca County Soil and Water Conservation District to identify sensitive lakeshore and restorable shoreline in Itasca County. Up to \$130,000 may be retained by the Department of Natural Resources at the request of Itasca County to provide technical assistance.

II. PROJECT SUMMARY:

The major impetus for this initiative is the need to better protect and manage functional lake ecosystems in Minnesota. There is widespread concern about the consequences of poorly planned development on water quality and fish and wildlife habitat. Given the increased demands for water and shoreland, continued habitat fragmentation, loss of species diversity, and exotic species expansion, protection of sensitive lakeshores is critical.



Data on the distribution and ecology of rare plants and animals, native plant communities, and vulnerable lakeshores are needed to prioritize actions to conserve and manage lake ecosystems. As Minnesota assesses the status of its natural resources, develops plans for priority resources, and invests millions of dollars in resource protection efforts, information that helps target conservation decisions along lakeshores will be vital. This project's intent is to deliver information specifically for that need. This county/state initiative already has:

- Developed objective, **science-based** criteria to identify sensitive lakeshores on large lakes using detailed on-site biological surveys and use of an ecological model;
- Completed detailed **biological surveys** and **identified sensitive areas** on 16 Cass County lakes, and by July 2011 will deliver interpretive products for 4% of Minnesota's largest lakes;
- Identified shoreland for **conservation easement and purchase**;
- Developed shoreland **conservation ordinances** that will provide greater protection of sensitive shoreland;
- Worked with state regulators to provide **additional safeguards** for sensitive lakeshore, including the recently promulgated Minnesota Rules, part 6280.0250 [Standards for Aquatic Plant Management Permit Issuance]; and
- Initiated a project to **restore shorelines** to more natural conditions in the Cass County lakes that sensitive lakeshore were identified [will use federal funds via a State Wildlife Grant].

The primary focus of this project is to identify priority areas in northern Minnesota for shoreland reclassification and potential purchase or conservation easement, as well as provide interpretive products to shoreland property owners and state and local governments, and assist with regional planning efforts.

III. PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

Project Status as of March 2012:

Project Status as of November 2012:

Project Status as of March 2013:

Final Report Summary:

IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1: Assessment of at least 20 Itasca County Lakes

Description: Sensitive lakeshore assessments will target a minimum of 20 high priority lakes in northern Minnesota selected by Itasca County. Two approaches from Minnesota’s Sensitive Lakeshore Survey Protocol will be used. First, detailed on-site biological survey work will be completed on a few selected lakes. Second, **a new, fast, more efficient method** based on the protocol’s Rapid Assessment Model will be used to identify sensitive lakeshores on the remaining high priority lakes. Itasca County can then use this model on any of their moderate to large lakes.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:

ENRTF Budget: \$130,000
Amount Spent: \$0
Balance: \$130,000

Activity Completion Date:

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
<i>1. Loon Nesting Surveys will be enhanced and completed on selected lakes</i>	Nov 2012	\$10,000
<i>2. Aquatic Animal and Plant Surveys completed on selected lakes</i>	June 2013	\$70,000
<i>3. Compile available geomorphic GIS data and loon nesting data for use with the Rapid Assessment Model</i>	Feb 2013	\$10,000
<i>4. Identify sensitive lakeshores for all high priority lakes selected</i>	June 2013	\$40,000

Activity Status as of March 2012:

Activity Status as of November 2012:

Activity Status as of March 2013:

Final Report Summary:

ACTIVITY 2: Identify Restorable Shorelines and Guide Conservation

Description: By working cooperatively with lake associations and other groups to identify restorable shorelines, improve capacity of project outputs to effectively inform state and local government decisions that impact the conservation and management of lake ecosystems. Itasca County Environmental Services will engage in updating zoning and ordinances to provide higher standards for new developments and additional protection to sensitive shoreland.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 2:

ENRTF Budget: \$30,000
Amount Spent: \$0
Balance: \$30,000

Activity Completion Date:

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. Restorable shoreline identified for selected lakes	June 2013	\$8,000
2. Work with lake associations, riparian property owners, and others to deliver targeted conservation and restoration efforts to sensitive lakeshores	June 2013	\$8,000
3. Engage in land use planning and zoning	June 2013	\$14,000

Activity Status as of March 2012:**Activity Status as of November 2012:****Activity Status as of March 2013:****Final Report Summary:****V. DISSEMINATION:**

Description: Sensitive Lakeshore reports for public dissemination will be produced for lakes surveyed, and these reports will be posted on the DNR website. Public presentations will be made explaining the details of these reports. Itasca County will hold public hearings on shoreland reclassifications, and all required processes for public input, review and comment will be adhered to, including the rights afforded to challenge such ordinance and zoning district changes.

Status as of March 2012:**Status as of November 2012:****Status as of March 2013:****Final Report Summary:****VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:****A. ENRTF Budget:**

Budget Category	\$ Amount	Explanation
Personnel: DNR	\$118,000	0.9 FTE Wildlife Biologist 0.1 FTE Botanist (DNR)
Personnel: Itasca Co. SWCD	\$16,000	0.2 FTE SWCD staff
Personnel: Itasca Co. Env. Serv.	\$14,000	0.2 FTE Itasca C. Environ. Serv. staff
Equipment/Tools/Supplies: DNR	\$2,000	Biological sampling equipment and supplies (e.g., nets, GPS units, supplies for voucher specimens)
Travel Expenses in MN: DNR	\$10,000	Lodging expenses for Biological Survey crew and fleet expenses (DNR)
TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET:	\$160,000	

\$130,000 will be retained by the DNR and Itasca County will receive \$30,000 for staff time.

Explanation of Use of Classified Staff: DNR staff are unclassified.

Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$3,500: N/A

Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) funded with this ENRTF appropriation: 1.4 per year

B. Other Funds:

Source of Funds	\$ Amount Proposed	\$ Amount Spent	Use of Other Funds
Non-state			
	\$	\$	
State			
Game & Fish Fund	\$30,000	\$	Personnel and supplies for biological surveys
Nongame Funds	\$20,000	\$	Personnel and supplies for biological surveys
Heritage Funds	\$50,000	\$	Personnel and supplies for biological surveys
Water Rec Funds	\$40,000		Personnel and supplies for biological surveys
TOTAL OTHER FUNDS:	\$140,000	\$	

VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners: Itasca County, Environmental Services Department, Don Dewey, Administrator; Itasca County, Soil and Water Conservation District, Jim Gustafson, Manager; DNR, Ecological and Water Resources, Paul Radomski, Scientist.

B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy: Data on the distribution and ecology of rare plants and animals, native plant communities, and vulnerable lakeshores are needed to prioritize actions to conserve and manage lake ecosystems. As Minnesota assesses the status of its natural resources, develops plans for priority resources, and invests millions of dollars in resource protection efforts, information that helps target conservation decisions along lakeshores will be vital. This project delivers information specifically for that need.

This project is related to the LCCMR funded project on 'Intra-Lake Zoning to Protect Sensitive Lakeshores' [ML 2007, Chap. 30, Sec. 2, Subd. 5(h) and MN Laws 2008, Chapter 367, Section 2, Subd. 4(e)]. Similar work in Crow Wing County has been initiated with a State Wildlife Grant (federal funds). Over the long-term, a mix of funding sources will be explored to conduct future sensitive lakeshore assessments in lake-rich counties around the state.

C. Spending History:

Funding Source	M.L. 2005 or FY 2006-07	M.L. 2007 or FY 2008	M.L. 2008 or FY 2009	M.L. 2009 or FY 2010	M.L. 2010 or FY 2011
ENRTF		\$110,000 Subd. 5(h)	\$125,000 Subd. 4(e)		
Federal – State Wildlife Grants			\$500,000		
State – Heritage, Game & Fish			\$500,000		

VIII. ACQUISITION/RESTORATION LIST: N/A

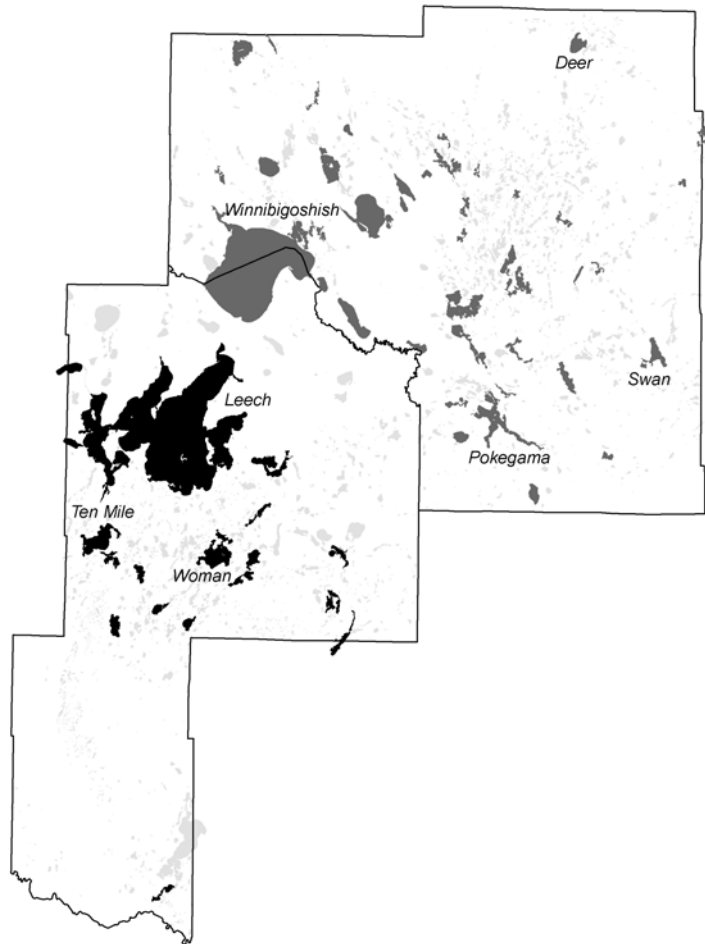
IX. MAP(S): attached.

X. RESEARCH ADDENDUM: N/A

XI. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

Periodic work plan status update reports will be submitted not later than March 2012, November 2012, and March 2013. A final report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 1, 2013 as requested by the LCCMR.

Sensitive Lakeshore Identification past study lakes and potential Itasca County study lakes. The 17 lakes in Cass County (shaded) are part of recently completed LCCMR-funded study; shaded lakes in Itasca County are potential study lakes.

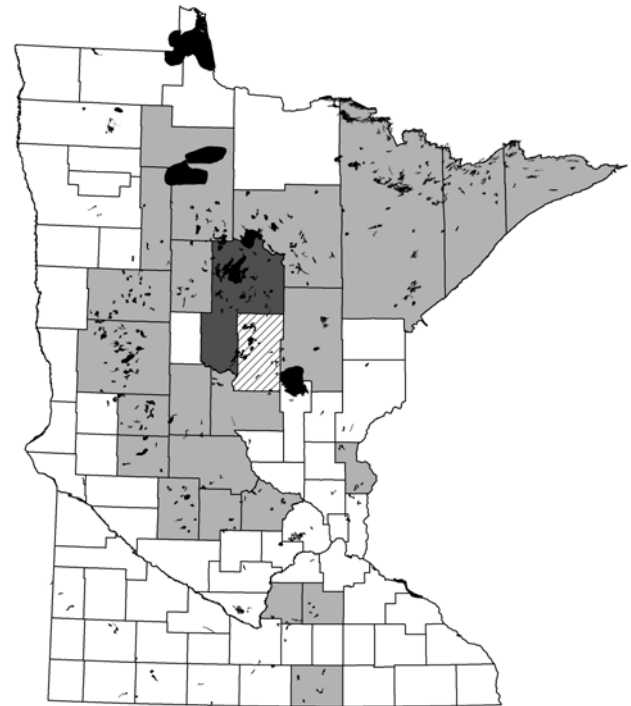


Itasca County Large Lakes:

Number = 45
 Shoreline in Private Ownership = 70%
 Private Shoreline Miles = 420
 Total Lake Acreage = 76,000

Potential counties for sensitive lakeshore assessments and protection. Cass County (dark shaded) is part of recently completed study. Crow Wing County (diagonal hatch) surveys are ongoing. Light-shaded counties have the greatest number of lakes >850 acres in size.

Example of product: Ten Mile Lake, Cass County, with identified Sensitive Shoreline (dark line) and Potential Resource Protection Districts (diagonal hatch).



Attachment A: Budget Detail for M.L. 2011 (FY 2012-13) Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Projects

Project Title: <i>Itasca County Sensitive Lakeshore Identification</i>								
Legal Citation: <i>Fill in your project's legal citation from the appropriation language</i>								
Project Manager: <i>Jim Gustafson</i>								
M.L. 2011 (FY 2012-13) ENRTF Appropriation: \$160,000								
Project Length and Completion Date: <i>2 years, June 2013</i>								
Date of Update: <i>Fill in the date of report submission</i>								

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Activity 1 Budget	Amount Spent	Balance	Activity 2 Budget	Amount Spent	Balance	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
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BUDGET ITEM	<i>Assessment of at least 20 Itasca County</i>			<i>Identify Restorable Shorelines and Guide</i>				
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Personnel (Wages and Benefits)								
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0.9 FTE Wildlife Biologist (DNR)	98,000	0	98,000		0	16,000	98,000	98,000
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0.1 FTE Botanist (DNR)	20,000	0	20,000		0	14,000	20,000	20,000
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Itasca County SWCD staff (0.2 FTE)				16,000	0	16,000	16,000	16,000
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Itasca County Environmental Services staff (0.2 FTE)				14,000	0	14,000	14,000	14,000
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Equipment/Tools/Supplies	2,000	0	2,000				2,000	2,000
Biological supplies, such as nets and other field equipment								

Travel expenses in Minnesota	10,000	0	10,000				10,000	10,000
Lodging for Biological Survey crew and fleet expenses (DNR)								

COLUMN TOTAL	\$130,000	\$0	\$130,000	\$30,000	\$0	\$30,000	\$160,000	\$160,000
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