

Final Abstract

Final Report Approved on May 27, 2026

M.L. 2023 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2026

Project Title: Statewide Environmental Education via PBS Outdoor Series

Project Manager: Sherece Lamke

Affiliation: Pioneer PBS

Mailing Address: 1 Pioneer Drive

City/State/Zip: Granite Falls, MN 56241

Phone: (320) 289-2915

E-mail: slamke@pioneer.org

Website: <https://www.pioneer.org/>

Funding Source:

Fiscal Year:

Legal Citation: M.L. 2023, Chp. 60, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 05b

Appropriation Amount: \$391,000

Amount Spent: \$366,716

Amount Remaining: \$24,284

Sound bite of Project Outcomes and Results

Pioneer PBS produced 26 new episodes of Prairie Sportsman, a statewide television series designed to inspire Minnesotans to connect with the outdoors and protect our valuable natural resources. Broadcast in 2024 and 2025, the two 13-episode seasons feature a wide range of topics filmed throughout the state.

Summary of Project and Outcomes

Pioneer PBS produced 26 new episodes of Prairie Sportsman, a statewide television series designed to inspire Minnesotans to connect with the outdoors and to restore and protect our valuable natural resources. Broadcast in 2024 and 2025 from late January thru May, the two 13-episode seasons were filmed at locations throughout the state and feature a wide range of topics targeted to a diverse audience. "Evergreen" episodes are produced to engage and enlighten audiences for years to come through rebroadcasts and online viewing. The two seasons feature 24 environmental science and conservation stories and 31 outdoor sports and recreation stories. In addition, 13 segments feature sustainable wild food foraging stories.

Many Environment and Natural Resource Trust Fund projects have been featured on Prairie Sportsman over the past

two seasons including stories on mobile solar panels, highway to hemp, batteries charged with renewables, cattail imposters, ridding the North of Rusties, and fighting forever chemicals. “Deep Crappie Research” was presented an Upper Midwest Emmy award and “So You Sunk”, “10,000 Youth Ice Anglers Project”, “A Superior Threat”, “Mounting a Memory”, “21 Roots”, “Connecting Kids to Nature”, “Fighting Forever Chemicals”, “Healing Purple Hearts” and “Weed Terminator” received Emmy nominations.

As part of this project, Pioneer PBS also created a website to showcase the stories on Environment and Natural Resource Trust Fund projects. “Thanks a Billion Minnesota” the half hour highlight program as well as segments from the past eight seasons totaling currently 49 videos. This webpage will continue to have documentation of ENRTF projects as we feature additional stories going forward.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

Prairie Sportsman airs on Minnesota PBS stations’ main channels, the Minnesota Channel, and online. Each episode, including rebroadcasts, airs 26 times during the year for a total of 676 airings during the two-year project. Stories are heavily promoted on social media and provided to public agencies, learning centers, outdoor and civic organizations, educational institutions and other groups for public outreach and education. Science Museum of Minnesota has requested footage this year. Prairie Sportsman's YouTube has a lifetime viewing of 646,594. Stories shared on Facebook have been viewed 428,816 times. Stories shared on Instagram have been viewed 93,532.



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2023 Approved Final Report

General Information

Date: September 15, 2026

ID Number: 2023-051

Staff Lead: Erin Barton

Project Title: Statewide Environmental Education via PBS Outdoor Series

Project Budget: \$391,000

Project Manager Information

Name: Sherece Lamke

Organization: Pioneer PBS

Office Telephone: (320) 289-2915

Email: slamke@pioneer.org

Web Address: <https://www.pioneer.org/>

Project Reporting

Final Report Approved: May 27, 2026

Reporting Status: Project Completed & Additional Update Approved

Date of Last Action: May 27, 2026

Project Completion: January 31, 2026

Legal Information

Legal Citation: M.L. 2023, Chp. 60, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 05b

Appropriation Language: \$391,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Pioneer Public Broadcasting Service to produce new episodes of a statewide public television series and an educational web page designed to inspire Minnesotans to connect with the outdoors and to restore and protect the state's natural resources.

Appropriation End Date: June 30, 2026

Narrative

Project Summary: Pioneer PBS will produce 26 new episodes of a statewide television series designed to inspire Minnesotans to connect with the outdoors and to restore and protect our valuable natural resources.

Describe the opportunity or problem your proposal seeks to address. Include any relevant background information.

This project addresses the long-term need for environmental education, engagement and tools that Minnesotans can use to restore and protect our valuable natural resources. The program's opportunity is to reach out to a statewide audience and inspire viewers to connect with the outdoors, increase their environmental science knowledge and adopt conservation practices. High-quality video programming is an enjoyable way to educate Minnesotans about research and advancements in natural resource management and sustainable agricultural practices, and how we can all improve water quality, protect wildlife habitat, promote pollinators and restore our natural world. Understanding the dangers of contaminants such as salt, lead, microplastics and polluted runoff can inspire people to make changes in their purchases and behaviors that are environmentally friendly. As background to the quality of productions that can be expected, *Prairie Sportsman* has received four Upper Midwest Emmy awards, including three for stories about conservation and wildlife research topics and one for Bret Amundson's hosting talent. Award-winning "evergreen" productions are an opportunity to promote environmental education and stewardship for years to come.

What is your proposed solution to the problem or opportunity discussed above? Introduce us to the work you are seeking funding to do. You will be asked to expand on this proposed solution in Activities & Milestones.

Broadcast in 2024 and 2025 from late January to mid-May, the two 13-episode seasons will be filmed at locations throughout the state and feature a wide range of topics that appeal to diverse, changing demographics as well as traditional viewers. In addition to environmental education, *Prairie Sportsman* promotes fun ways to connect with the outdoors that are intended to inspire people of all ages, demographics and socioeconomic backgrounds to replace screen time with outdoor time, which is the path to environmental stewardship. Each season will include at least 13 segments on research, natural resource management and agricultural practices that benefit the environment. Episodes will also include outdoor sports and recreation stories and special features on citizen scientists, artists, chefs and others connecting with nature in innovative ways. In addition, the project will create easy online access to stories featuring ENRTF-supported projects. All Minnesota PBS stations air *Prairie Sportsman* including Pioneer, KSMQ (Austin), Lakeland PBS (Bemidji and Brainerd), tptLife (Twin Cities), WDSE (Duluth) and the MN Channel, carried by all Minnesota PBS stations and *Prairie Public TV* in Fargo. Minnesota's outdoors and conservation accomplishments are also showcased on all PBS stations airing *Prairie Sportsman* in Wisconsin, Iowa, South Dakota and Wyoming.

What are the specific project outcomes as they relate to the public purpose of protection, conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the state's natural resources?

This project provides a statewide television and online audience with inspirational and educational environmental science and conservation content. Individual segments contained within this project's 26 episodes will be produced as stand-alone videos, distributed online and made available to public agencies, learning centers, outdoor organizations, civic organizations and educational institutions, with branded online access to stories about ENRTF-funded projects. This extends each segment's "evergreen" public education and outreach value for years to come. For example, past segments have been included in educational programs of the National Eagle Center, Minnesota DNR, wildlife associations, schools and colleges, lake associations and others.

Project Location

What is the best scale for describing where your work will take place?

Statewide

What is the best scale to describe the area impacted by your work?

Statewide

When will the work impact occur?

During the Project and In the Future

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Produce, promote and distribute 26 episodes with a minimum of 26 environmental education segments

Activity Budget: \$376,000

Activity Description:

The 26 new episodes will be distributed via Minnesota PBS stations and online. Each 13-episode season will include a minimum of 13 environmental education segments on research, natural resource management or agricultural practices that benefit the environment. Episodes will also include outdoor sports and recreation stories that inspire Minnesotans to connect with the outdoors, and special features on citizen scientists, artists, chefs and others connecting with nature in innovative ways. Broadcast in 2024 and 2025 from late January to mid-May, the two 13-episode seasons will be filmed at locations throughout the state and feature a wide range of topics that appeal to diverse, changing demographics as well as traditional viewers.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Produce 13 episodes with 13 environmental education segments for the 2024 season	May 31, 2024
Create individual segments to distribute via DVDs, website and social media	June 30, 2024
Produce 13 episodes with 13 environmental education segments for the 2025 season	May 31, 2025
Create individual segments to distribute via DVDs, website and social media	June 30, 2025

Activity 2: Design branded web page featuring stories on ENRTF-funded projects

Activity Budget: \$15,000

Activity Description:

Create online, branded access to stories featuring Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund projects with engaging text and graphics. Promote the web access through social media, e-newsletters and other communications.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Design web page with ENRTF branding/logo linked to Prairie Sportsman website	December 31, 2023
Create descriptions and images for 2024 stories featuring ENRTF projects	May 31, 2024
Promote stories on social media	December 31, 2024
Continue branding, linking and promoting 2025 ENRTF stories	June 30, 2025

Dissemination

Describe your plans for dissemination, presentation, documentation, or sharing of data, results, samples, physical collections, and other products and how they will follow ENRTF Acknowledgement Requirements and Guidelines.

This project provides a statewide television and online audience with inspirational and educational environmental science and conservation content. Individual segments contained within this project's 26 episodes will be produced as stand-alone videos, distributed online and made available on DVD, thumb drive or other accessible format to public agencies, learning centers, outdoor organizations, civic organizations and educational institutions, with branded online access to stories about ENRTF-funded projects. This extends each segment's "evergreen" public education and outreach value for years to come. For example, past segments have been included in educational programs of the National Eagle Center, Minnesota DNR, wildlife associations, schools and colleges, lake associations and others. Major funding from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust will be acknowledged through voice over and the ENRTF logo at the beginning and end of every Prairie Sportsman episode. The logo preceded by the text "Major funding provided by" will appear at the end of every segment distributed through the PBS video platform online, on social media and on DVDs. The ENRTF logo is also included on all Prairie Sportsman communications, including our website, e-newsletter and other communications.

Long-Term Implementation and Funding

Describe how the results will be implemented and how any ongoing effort will be funded. If not already addressed as part of the project, how will findings, results, and products developed be implemented after project completion? If additional work is needed, how will this work be funded?

Prairie Sportsman stories are "evergreen" videos and can be broadcast and used in educational settings for years to come. The program's statewide focus and high-quality content has steadily increased our audience reach. Production and other related expenses above the ENRTF grant are covered by sponsorship dollars. Although we lost three primary underwriters after COVID-19 arrived, Pioneer PBS has interest from several new sponsors that market to our expanded viewing area. These dollars will cover travel, transcripts, closed-captioning, voice work, marketing and other production expenses.

Other ENRTF Appropriations Awarded in the Last Six Years

Name	Appropriation	Amount Awarded
New Prairie Sportsman Statewide Broadcast Video Project	M.L. 2016, Chp. 186, Sec. 2, Subd. 05d	\$300,000
Prairie Sportsman Statewide Environmental Broadcasts and Videos	M.L. 2018, Chp. 214, Art. 4, Sec. 2, Subd. 05a	\$300,000

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount	\$ Amount Spent	\$ Amount Remaining
Personnel										
Executive Producer/Editor		Manage all aspects of production, including story lineup, videography, interviews, scripting, editing, graphics, post-production and communications.			22%	1.7		\$101,849	-	-
Videographer/editor		Assist with developing topics and setting up interviews and broll, scripting, videography, editing and communications.			22%	1.5		\$52,888	-	-
Graphic Designer		Create appropriate graphics and animations to support Prairie Sportsman segments.			22%	0.07		\$2,914	-	-
							Sub Total	\$157,651	\$157,651	-
Contracts and Services										
Host/Producer Bret Amundson	Service Contract	Bret Amundson will continue to serve as on-air program host, providing interviews on camera and narration. In addition, he produces sports, recreation and related conservation stories, advises on all segments and episodes, and promotes stories on social media.				1		\$77,885	\$77,885	-
Writer/Producer Cindy Dorn	Service Contract	Cindy Dorn will continue to research story topics, primarily related to environmental science and education and non-traditional outdoor sports and recreation, schedule filming, conduct interviews, script segments, oversee editing and advise on all segments and full episodes.				0.85		\$54,790	\$54,790	-
Videographer/Production Assistant	Service Contract	Assist the Host with preparation, videography and editing for				0.66		\$41,715	\$41,715	-

		outdoor sports, recreation and conservation stories.								
Editor	Service Contract	Editing segments and assembly of all shows				0.5		\$58,959	\$34,675	\$24,284
							Sub Total	\$233,349	\$209,065	\$24,284
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
Capital Equipment										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
Acquisitions and Stewardship										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
Travel In Minnesota										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
Travel Outside Minnesota										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
Printing and Publication										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
Other Expenses										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
							Grand Total	\$391,000	\$366,716	\$24,284

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
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Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	\$ Amount	\$ Amount Spent	\$ Amount Remaining
State						
			State Sub Total	-	-	-
Non-State						
Cash	Underwriting sponsorships	Covers production expenses including travel, transcripts, closed captioning, equipment, supplies, marketing, voice work and other costs.	Secured	\$90,000	\$86,543	\$3,457
			Non State Sub Total	\$90,000	\$86,543	\$3,457
			Funds Total	\$90,000	\$86,543	\$3,457

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [594453a1-f67.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

Map of Minnesota PBS stations viewing areas...

Financial Capacity

File: [d5321e7b-c7b.pdf](#)

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
Pioneer Board Letter of Support	2930317b-925.pdf

Supplemental Attachments

Capital Project Questionnaire, Budget Supplements, Support Letter, Photos, Media, Other

Title	File
Background Check Certification Form	9a929bb5-491.pdf
Pioneer Preview Jan/Feb 2025	f5650169-854.pdf
Preview Guide May/June	c2f6a066-c09.pdf
Descriptions of Season 15 and 16	500f2897-3b3.docx
links to outputs	73f394a2-c6c.docx
Impact data	82c66fd3-d72.docx

Media Links

Title	Link
Thanks a Billion Minnesota!	https://www.pioneer.org/prairiesportsman/lccmrplaylist/

Difference between Proposal and Work Plan

Describe changes from Proposal to Work Plan Stage

We have not made any changes with the exception of adding "thumb drive or other accessible format," in addition to online and DVDs, to distribute individual stories as those methods may be more practical and useful.

Additional Acknowledgements and Conditions:

The following are acknowledgements and conditions beyond those already included in the above workplan:

Do you understand and acknowledge the ENRTF repayment requirements if the use of capital equipment changes?

N/A

Do you understand that travel expenses are only approved if they follow the "Commissioner's Plan" promulgated by the Commissioner of Management of Budget or, for University of Minnesota projects, the University of Minnesota plan?

N/A

Does your project have potential for royalties, copyrights, patents, sale of products and assets, or revenue generation?

No

Do you understand and acknowledge IP and revenue-return and sharing requirements in 116P.10?

N/A

Do you wish to request reinvestment of any revenues into your project instead of returning revenue to the ENRTF?

N/A

Does your project include original, hypothesis-driven research?

No

Does the organization have a fiscal agent for this project?

No

Do you understand that a named service contract does not constitute a funder-designated subrecipient or approval of a sole-source contract? In other words, a service contract entity is only approved if it has been selected according to the contracting rules identified in state law and policy for organizations that receive ENRTF funds through direct appropriations, or in the DNR's reimbursement manual for non-state organizations. These rules may include competitive bidding and prevailing wage requirements

Yes, I understand

Work Plan Amendments

Amendment ID	Request Type	Changes made on the following pages	Justification For Amendment Request (word limit 75)	Date Submitted	Approved	Date of LCCMR Action
1	Project Manager	Previous Manager: Cindy Dorn (cdorn@pioneer.org) New Manager: Sherece Lamke (slamke@pioneer.org)	My writer/producer position is a contract position. This will transfer grant management responsibilities to the Pioneer PBS General Manager, who is better situated to manage this responsibility.	September 30, 2024	Yes	October 1, 2024
2	Amendment Request	• Project Collaborators - Project Manager Info • Other • Budget - Personnel • Budget - Professional / Technical Contracts	Budget adjustment with the resignation of my lead producer. Dylan Curfman (lead producer) resigned as of 11/15/2024 Cera Cordova (videographer/editor) hired a few months into the project, at a lesser rate than anticipated Host will pick up some editing and adding a contracted editor to help complete the last 6 months of this project.	November 15, 2024	Yes	November 26, 2024
3	Amendment Request	• Budget • Budget - Personnel • Budget - Professional / Technical Contracts	Budget adjustment for staff departures and re-hirings. Increase in prior amendment; to resume duties with new Executive Producer/Editor by June, to increase duties of Editor contracted to complete Season 16 with the departure of 2nd staff videographer/editor; addition of a staff graphic designer to assist contracted editor (covering 2 editors) in completing season editing on schedule. EP duties covered by Pioneer PBS personnel, not charged to LCCMR project until the position is filled.	January 22, 2025	Yes	January 27, 2025
4	Amendment Request	• Budget • Budget - Personnel	Writer/Producer retired as of 3/1/2025, so project is able to hire the new EP/Editor a	March 5, 2025	Yes	March 18, 2025

		• Budget - Professional / Technical Contracts	little earlier than originally planned. Also a slight increase in graphics to complete season 16. Season has delivered 6 episodes for air to date and remains on target to hit all outcome goals.			
5	Completion Date	Previous Completion Date: 06/30/2025 New Completion Date: 06/30/2026	Staff changes mid year caused some delays.	August 13, 2025	Yes	August 14, 2025
6	Completion Date	Previous Completion Date: 06/30/2026 New Completion Date: 01/31/2026	We have completed the work for this grant and would like to submit the final report.	January 12, 2026	Yes	February 4, 2026

Additional Status Update Reporting

Additional Status Update March 30, 2026

Date Submitted: May 22, 2026

Date Approved: May 22, 2026

Overall Update

The process for deciding on stories is in the update on Activity 1.

The challenges between Season 15 and 16 was some inevitable staff turnover. In the last biennium long time producer Cindy Dorn retired, and stayed on for a few more years to write and produce some of the segments, turning things over to long time videographer editor Dylan Curfman. Dylan determined between Season 15 and 16 that he wanted to pursue other opportunities so host Bret Amundson increased his workload and worked with an experience freelance editor and the Station's production director to finish up Season 16, while starting the job hunt for the next phase of Prairie Sportsman. The station hired Jason Page, who hit the ground running, connecting with researchers, working through ideas with Bret. But a family tragedy had Jason have to make a painful decision to resign to care for his parents. Thankfully the other strong finalist for the position was still interested and Tom Desch joined the team. He completed the work on this project and has transitioned quickly into the next biennium project.

Activity 1

This activity was previously marked complete.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Activity 2

This activity was previously marked complete.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Dissemination

While no one asked for DVDs this biennium, we did see an increase in online viewing. People are finding the segments and putting them to great use.

While our focus is reaching every Minnesotan. We also share the program to surrounding states for free. North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, Wyoming, Michigan and now Indiana all find value in broadcasting these stories, hopefully driving tourism to Minnesota.

Additional Status Update Reporting

Additional Status Update March 30, 2026

Date Submitted: March 30, 2026

Date Approved: April 10, 2026

Overall Update

Adding details requested for further update on the biennium.

Activity 1

No one asked for DVDs this biennium. We saw increases in views on our online platforms though, so people are finding and utilizing the programs.

Producers have built a repour with researchers and outdoor recreation businesses that generate ideas. Producers also review the LCCMR funded projects list each year. Producers make contact with people on the subjects, do pre interviews and identify who would be good on camera, and discuss with the full Prairie Sportsman team as story ideas come together for each year. Things considered are; geographic diversity across the State, new voices, new science/research to share with a wider audience, people to speak for the story, images that can help cover the story and present it in its best light.

Season 15/16 taped in; Ely, Duluth, Granite Falls, Wood Lake, New Ulm, Morris, Wabasha, Finlayson, Waseca, Willmar, St Paul, International Falls, Tower, Osseo and Rochester, Kittson, Roseau, Lac qui Parle and Winona Counties, St Croix, Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers, Redwood, Horseshoe, Como, Big Stone, and Mille Lacs Lake, Sauk River chain of lakes, and Lake Superior, Gunflint Trail, Whitewater State Park, Northwest Angle, Blue Mound Park, Beltrami Island State Forest, Northwestern and Southwestern Minnesota and more.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Activity 2

This activity was previously marked complete.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Dissemination

Our first Prairie Sportsman page continues to be branded with the Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund logo. All stories linked on the page carry the funding language required in all platforms. This page showcases the stories, identifies the crew, including how to contact the person at the station who manages the grant. The webpage also identifies awards the stories win, and the Minnesota stations that carry Prairie Sportsman, and the stations beyond Minnesota who carry it. North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Wyoming, Illinois, Michigan and recently an Indiana station has signed on. Showcasing for the Midwest how Minnesota cares for its natural resources.

We added to this webpage in the last biennium a link to an LCCMR webpage where all stories that stem from LCCMR funded projects are added to this page for one stop shopping for the valuable impact of these funds. Our first link is the "Thanks a Billion Minnesota" special that clearly shows the impact of these funds. This page currently houses 49 stories.

Status Update Reporting

Final Status Update March 17, 2026

Date Submitted: March 30, 2026

Date Approved: April 10, 2026

Overall Update

Prairie Sportsman seasons 15 and 16 have been completed. All 26 episodes have broadcast over the air, shows and segments shared via the Prairie Sportsman YouTube channel, and via the PBS App and the Pioneer PBS's Prairie Sportsman webpage. We have also completed creating a special webpage featuring all LCCMR funded projects we've showcased via Prairie Sportsman.

Completed segments include; Improvements made for Minnesota fishing, a Mayo doctor prescribing the outdoors to reduce stress, Alclair Outdoors, researchers testing weed termination, enjoying Lake of the Woods, spiny waterfleas, Arrowhead Ultra 135 winter race, Project Get Outdoors, Danny Thompson managing land for deer, MN DNR crappie barotrauma study, problems with dumping baitfish, converting wind energy into green ammonia, St Jude Bass Classic, advances in controlling AIS in MN, pheasants stewardship, grouse hunting in Beltrami Island State Forest, restoration of Lake Redwood, St Croix fishing, battling invasive carp on rivers, Northern MN Elk chase, removing toxic PFAS from Minnesota's environment, sub gauge pheasant hunt, taxidermist Carl Arhnt, recovering a vehicle from a frozen lake, mobile solar panels, Piechowski Fishing family, Empowering Youth with Disabilities, Jennifer Pudenz, researching cyanobacteria threats, old dog hunt, student anglers, storing renewable energy, nature's healing benefits, invasive rusties & more

Activity 1

Season's 15 and 16 have been completed, aired and posted online. See above for details on segments created.

Prairie Sportsman Season 15 and 16 have been viewed via the Pioneer PBS website 5,820 times. The show has been streamed via YouTube and PBS Apps 437,811 times. The YouTube channel has 2,414 subscribers. Top segments include;

1. So you Sunk... - 183,871 views (Dec. 23, 2025 posted) (Facebook added another 76.5 views)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UThPFRoKcIk>

2. Deep Crappie Research - 9,484 views (Jan 5, 2025 posted)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=caoxriJIYiw>

3. How to Safely Identify and Enjoy Honey Mushrooms - 8,693 (Jun 9, 2024 posted)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DvonLISiC4I>

4. Warrior Walleyes and Invasive Rusties - 4,730 (Feb 16, 2025 posted - includes LCCMR

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SOPf0HEMyjc>

5. Harvesting Wild Bergamot - 3,275 views (Jun 23, 2024)

6. Northern Elk Chase - 1,849 views (Jan 28, 2024)

Prairie Sportsman Facebook page has 5,442 lifetime followers with 252,544 views in 2025. Instagram has 1,042 followers with 73.5k views.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Activity 2

A website has been created for Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund projects. We will continue to add future Prairie Sportsman stories in future years to this site.

The LCCMR playlist has been viewed 1,201 times. We will continue to promote this page and drive additional viewership to these important stories.

(This activity marked as complete as of this status update)

Dissemination

This project provides a statewide television and an online audience with inspirational and educational environmental science and conservation content. We have completed 26 new episodes of Prairie Sportsman, broadcast and posted segments on YouTube and on the PioneerPBS website. We have completed a webpage featuring ENTRF stories from the series and promoted it through our social channels. We have featured interviews with Host Bret Amundson in our Preview Guide.

<https://www.pioneer.org/prairiesportsman/>

<https://www.pioneer.org/prairiesportsman/lccmrplaylist/>

<https://www.youtube.com/@PrairieSportsman> with 2.1k subscribers and 626,099 views to date.

Press Releases for Season 16:

<https://www.pioneer.org/blogs/pressroom/food-plots-for-pheasants-and-sub-gauge-hunt-sunday-may-11-at-730-pm/>

<https://www.pioneer.org/blogs/pressroom/taxidermy-and-vehicle-recovery-sunday-may-4-at-730-pm/>

<https://www.pioneer.org/blogs/pressroom/camouflage-face-paints-and-mobile-solar-sunday-april-27-at-730-pm/>

<https://www.pioneer.org/blogs/pressroom/prairie-sportsman-piechowski-fishing-and-protecting-water-sunday-april-20-at-730-pm/>

<https://www.pioneer.org/blogs/pressroom/prairie-sportsman-action-trackchairs-and-empowering-youth-with-disabilities-sunday-april-13-at-730-pm/>

<https://www.pioneer.org/blogs/pressroom/prairie-sportsman-women-adventurers-and-lake-superior-threats-sunday-april-6-at-730-pm/>

<https://www.pioneer.org/blogs/pressroom/prairie-sportsman-wings-north-and-old-dog-hunt-sunday-march-30-at-730-pm/>

<https://www.pioneer.org/blogs/pressroom/student-anglers-and-lac-qui-parle-upgrades-sunday-march-23-at-730-pm/>

<https://www.pioneer.org/blogs/pressroom/10000-youth-ice-anglers-and-agbased-products-sunday-march-16-at-730-pm/>

<https://www.pioneer.org/blogs/pressroom/lighthouse-boats-and-storing-renewable-energy-sunday-march-9-at-730-pm/>

<https://www.pioneer.org/blogs/pressroom/agates-and-natures-healing-benefits-sunday-february-23-at-730-pm/>

<https://www.pioneer.org/blogs/pressroom/prairie-sportsman-continues-its-16th-season-on-sunday-feb-23-at-730-pm/>

<https://www.pioneer.org/blogs/pressroom/prairie-sportsman-premieres-its-16th-season-on-sunday-feb-16-at-730-pm/>

Status Update Reporting

Status Update October 1, 2025

Date Submitted: October 1, 2025

Date Approved: October 14, 2025

Overall Update

This project provides a statewide television and online audience with inspirational and educational environmental science and conservation content. Individual segments contained within this project's 26 episodes are produced as stand-alone videos, distributed online and made available to public agencies, learning centers, outdoor organizations, civic organizations and educational institutions, with branded online access to stories about ENRTF-funded projects. This extends each segment's "evergreen" public education and outreach value for years to come. For example, past segments have been included in educational programs of the National Eagle Center, Minnesota DNR, wildlife associations, schools and colleges, lake associations and others.

The 26 episodes have been completed, are in the process of archiving. We had some staff turnover and so for consistency are having some transitions between staff to best assure the ongoing success of Prairie Sportsman as we launch the new project/seasons.

Activity 1

The 26 episodes of Prairie Sportsman for this project have been completed and are all available online. We are in the process of archiving and setting up the new project. Staffing issues in the second year of the project caused some delay in completion and wrap up, but we are on schedule to wrap up by the end of the year as amended.

Activity 2

The website has been created: <https://www.pioneer.org/prairiesportsman/lccmrplaylist/> and we are in the process of making sure all the segments from season 16 are included. We will wrap this up by the end of the year as amended.

Dissemination

All 26 episodes created of inspirational and educational environmental science and conservation content are available over the air, over our website and YouTube channels. They are shared statewide. These are made available on thumb drive or other accessible format to public agencies, learning centers, outdoor organizations, civic organizations and educational institutions, with branded online access to stories about ENRTF-funded projects. This extends each segment's "evergreen" public education and outreach value for years to come. For example, past segments have been included in educational programs of the National Eagle Center, Minnesota DNR, wildlife associations, schools and colleges, lake associations and others. Major funding from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust was acknowledged through voice over and the ENRTF logo at the beginning and end of every Prairie Sportsman episode. The logo preceded by the text "Major funding provided by" appears at the end of every segment distributed through the PBS video platform online, on social media and any format it is shared on. The ENRTF logo is also included on all Prairie Sportsman communications, including our website, e-newsletter and preview guides.

Additional Status Update Reporting

Additional Status Update August 14, 2025

Date Submitted: August 14, 2025

Date Approved: October 14, 2025

Overall Update

Per LCCMR staff guidance, additional update not required.

Activity 1

Per LCCMR staff guidance, additional update not required.

Activity 2

Per LCCMR staff guidance, additional update not required.

Dissemination

Per LCCMR staff guidance, additional update not required.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update April 1, 2025

Date Submitted: March 5, 2025

Date Approved: March 18, 2025

Overall Update

Prairie Sportsman is on target to reach all outcome goals. We broadcast Season 15's 13 episodes in 2024 and so far have aired 3 episodes and delivered an additional 2 ready for air. We have delivered these to the other Minnesota Public Television Stations, so all are able to be seen Statewide. A website has been created showcasing the LCCMR funded organizations featured on Prairie Sportsman through 2024 and will be adding the 2025 segments as well.

<https://www.pioneer.org/prairiesportsman/lccmrplaylist/>

Despite some staffing turnover we have been able to keep all things on track for the Season 16 season to be broadcast and all elements delivered as planned.

Activity 1

Prairie Sportsman completed Season 15, 2024, as defined. The segment on the DNR's study of crappie populations won an Upper Midwest EMMY! Work is well underway for Season 16 for 2025 with the first 3 episodes airing and the rest on target for their airdates. Some highlights of the current season are; Huellas Latinas, connecting the Spanish speaking community to the great outdoors in Minnesota. A segment on the Research Institute in Duluth on how they're ridding northern waters of the invasive rusty crawfish. We learn about how researchers are eliminating invasive cattail. We visit Project Get Outdoors as they highlight the healing benefits of spending time in nature. We take viewers on a tour of the Northwest Angle of the Lake of the Woods. We investigate the research on flow batteries and how that can help renewable energy in Minnesota. We get on the ice with a field trip of 5th graders as they go ice fishing for the first time. We learn about the master plan for the future of Lac qui Parle. We tag along for a hunting trip featuring old dogs. With so much more to come!

Activity 2

We've created a website at <https://www.pioneer.org/prairiesportsman/lccmrplaylist/> that showcases stories from Prairie Sportsman with projects that were supported by LCCMR, along with the half hour broadcast special "Thanks a Billion Minnesota" which also featured stories of the great work LCCMR has done for the State of Minnesota. We will continue to upload the relevant segments from Season 16, airing in 2025.

Dissemination

We have completed the website showcasing stories we've done on ENTRF funded projects. As promised it includes the ENTRF logo

<https://www.pioneer.org/prairiesportsman/lccmrplaylist/>

There are 1,005 active users of the site who have viewed segments 1,049 times.

All completed and to be completed episodes of Prairie Sportsman include the ENTRF logo as does the Prairie Sportsman page on the Pioneer PBS website.

<https://www.pioneer.org/prairiesportsman/>

Shows as far back as 2009 are still getting new views.

Shows have been streamed 1,618 times via computer/smart tv and mobile devices

We have aired 3 of the 13 episodes for 2025, they will be airing weekly through mid May. They are shared with the other Minnesota Public Television Stations so the entire State is able to enjoy the great work of the ENTRF funds through

Prairie Sportsman. We also make the content available for free to public television stations outside of Minnesota and so far stations in Wisconsin, Iowa, South Dakota, Wyoming, Michigan and Illinois have requested the 2024/2025 seasons.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update October 1, 2024

Date Submitted: November 6, 2024

Date Approved: November 6, 2024

Overall Update

The 2024 season of Prairie Sportsman is complete. As of Oct 1, all 13 episodes in the 2024 season have been broadcast by Pioneer PBS and have aired on all Minnesota PBS stations. Episodes and individual stories are also available online and promoted heavily through social media, e-newsletters and promotional materials. Segments were filmed in locations throughout the state and feature a wide range of topics. The season includes 13 environmental education segments. Most of these stories feature Environment and Natural Resource Trust Fund projects, as recommended by LCCMR, as noted in the last report. The 2024 season also includes 13 sports and recreations stories, many with a conservation focus, and an eight-part series on sustainable wild food foraging. The 2025 season is well underway with shooting nearly complete and editing beginning for the 13 episodes that will air beginning in January 2025. 13 environmental education segments, sports and recreation stories and more sustainable wild food foraging. Topics include Enhancing Habitat and Diversity in Cattail-Dominated Shorelines, Huellas Latinas, Student Angler Championship in Big Stone, Cyanobacteria threat to Lake Superior, Carp Solutions, Mobile Solar Panels, Renewable Energy Flow Batteries, Mille Lacs Clean Up the Lake Project and more.

Activity 1

The 2024 season included 13 environmental education segments; all of these stories have aired and are available online. Other Prairie Sportsman stories feature ways to connect with the outdoors through sports and recreation; many of these segments have a conservation focus. The season also includes a series on sustainable wild food foraging. Every episode and individual stories are available online and acknowledge major funding by ENRTF. After each season is complete, links to individual stories are heavily promoted on social media. For example, since April, Prairie Sportsman's Facebook has reached 74,595 people. The top 5 stories include ENRTF focused Spiny Invaders with 18.4k views, The Original Brookies with 12.8k, Little Critter Copper Control with 7.3k, Spring Fed Hatcheries with 7k and Little Fish, Big Problems with 6.9k. Prairie Sportsman's YouTube channel was viewed 159,465 times from July 1, 2023 to September 30, 2024 with an additional 2001 views via the PBS Video App from July 1, 2023 to June 30th, 2024. The Prairie Sportsman webpage has 1,264 active users. The Prairie Sportsman YouTube channel has 1.36k subscribers. Prairie Sportsman's 2024 season yielded 8 Regional EMMY nominations.

Activity 2

Executive Producer Dylan Curfman implemented a link to featured LCCMR stories on the Prairie Sportsman web page. 44 stories are included on the site including the half hour special called Thanks a Billion Minnesota!
<https://www.pioneer.org/prairiesportsman/lccmrplaylist/>

Dissemination

All Minnesota PBS stations are airing Prairie Sportsman including Pioneer PBS, KSMQ (Austin), Lakeland PBS (Bemidji and Brainerd), tptLife (Twin Cities), PBS North (Duluth) and the MN Channel, carried by all Minnesota PBS stations and Prairie Public TV in Fargo. Minnesota's outdoors and conservation accomplishments are also showcased on South Dakota PBS, Iowa PBS, Wyoming PBS, PBS Wisconsin, WQPT in Illinois and WKAR and WNMU in Michigan. Prairie Sportsman promotes a link to stations air dates and times on its website: <https://www.pioneer.org/prairiesportsman/show-times/>. The ENRTF logo and major funding acknowledgement is included at the beginning and end of each Prairie Sportsman episode, on individual segments available online via prairiesportsman.org, Facebook and YouTube, in the Prairie Sportsman newsletter and any print or online communication about the program. After the season ends, all individuals

featured in Prairie Sportsman stories will receive an email offering complimentary thumb drives containing their story to use for public outreach and education.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update April 1, 2024

Date Submitted: April 11, 2024

Date Approved: May 10, 2024

Overall Update

The 2024 season of Prairie Sportsman is nearly complete. As of April 11, nine of 13 episodes in the 2024 season have been broadcast by Pioneer PBS and are scheduled to air on all Minnesota PBS stations. Episodes and individual stories are also available online and promoted heavily through social media, e-newsletters and promotional materials. Segments were filmed in locations throughout the state and feature a wide range of topics. The season includes 13 environmental education segments. Most of these stories feature Environment and Natural Resource Trust Fund projects, as recommended by LCCMR, including the risks of dumping unused baitfish in water, tracking and netting invasive carp, making “green ammonia” fertilizer from hydrogen generated by wind energy, designing a robotic weed terminator powered by solar energy, launching Project Get Outdoors to connect kids with nature, removing PFAS from contaminated soils, tracking invasive spiny waterfleas, developing genetic controls that could eradicate invasive species, and a segment showing ways individuals can help restore and protect our environment. The 2024 season also includes 13 sports and recreations stories, many with a conservation focus, and an eight-part series on sustainable wild food foraging.

Activity 1

The 2024 season includes 13 environmental education segments; all of these stories have been produced or are in production and nine have aired. The season’s 13 environmental education stories showcase advances in conservation practices and methods to control invasive species, agricultural innovations powered by wind and solar, the importance of volunteering to protect our natural world, and kids learning outdoors. Other Prairie Sportsman stories feature ways to connect with the outdoors through sports and recreation; many of these segments have a conservation focus. The season also includes a series on sustainable wild food foraging. Every episode and individual stories are available online and acknowledge major funding by ENRTF. After each season is complete, links to individual stories are heavily promoted on social media. For example, last season’s stories that featured ENRTF funded projects received more than 79,000 views on Facebook; the top five include “The Trail Minnesota Forgot” (28.2K views) “Rock Snot Invasion” (14.3K), “Sopping Up Road Salt”(10.4K), “Research on the River” (6.7K) and “Yards for the Bees” (6.5K).

Activity 2

After the 2024 season is complete, Executive Producer Dylan Curfman will design a branded link to all ENRTF stories on the Prairie Sportsman website. A status update on this activity will be included in the next report.

Dissemination

All Minnesota PBS stations are airing Prairie Sportsman including Pioneer PBS, KSMQ (Austin), Lakeland PBS (Bemidji and Brainerd), tptLife (Twin Cities), PBS North (Duluth) and the MN Channel, carried by all Minnesota PBS stations and Prairie Public TV in Fargo. Minnesota’s outdoors and conservation accomplishments also showcased on South Dakota PBS, Wyoming PBS and will be scheduled on PBS Wisconsin and Iowa PBS. Prairie Sportsman promotes a link to stations air dates and times on its website: <https://www.pioneer.org/prairiesportsman/show-times/> The ENRTF logo and major funding acknowledgement is included at the beginning and end of each Prairie Sportsman episode, on individual segments available online via prairiesportsman.org, Facebook and YouTube, in the Prairie Sportsman newsletter and any print or online communication about the program. After the season ends, all individuals featured in Prairie Sportsman stories will receive an email offering complimentary thumb drives containing their story to use for public outreach and education.