



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2024 Approved Work Plan

General Information

ID Number: 2024-028

Staff Lead: Michael Varien

Date this document submitted to LCCMR: June 10, 2024

Project Title: Get the Lead Out: Lead-Free Fishing Tackle Education

Project Budget: \$254,000

Project Manager Information

Name: Kelly Amoth

Organization: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Office Telephone: (651) 757-2344

Email: kelly.amoth@state.mn.us

Web Address: <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/>

Project Reporting

Date Work Plan Approved by LCCMR: June 20, 2024

Reporting Schedule: June 1 / December 1 of each year.

Project Completion: June 30, 2026

Final Report Due Date: August 14, 2026

Legal Information

Legal Citation: M.L. 2024, Chp. 83, Sec. 2, Subd. 05e

Appropriation Language: \$254,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of the Pollution Control Agency to protect common loons and wildlife through education and outreach about the dangers of lead fishing tackle and promoting lead-free tackle alternatives.

Appropriation End Date: June 30, 2027

Narrative

Project Summary: Get the Lead Out is focused on protecting common loons and wildlife through education and outreach about the danger of lead fishing tackle and promoting lead-free tackle alternatives.

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

Common loons are iconic to Minnesota and Minnesotans. The current national estimate is 25% of adult common loon deaths are caused by lead poisoning. Common loons ingest fishing tackle in two ways:

- when it is attached or inside the fish they are eating
- when they pick up lost fishing tackle rather than rocks to aid in the digestion of their food

The Get the Lead Out program has been doing meaningful education through school outreach to K-12 students, youth anglers in summer fishing camps, and the public at community events. Over 75 lake associations, environmental non-profits, and government entities have joined in the education effort and have hosted lead collection events over the last two summers. In 2022, partners collected and recycled over 500 pounds of lead fishing tackle.

After running successfully from 2000-2010 at the MPCA, the program restarted in 2020 with funding from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill settlement funds and is part of a cooperative agreement with the USFWS and DNR. MPCA's current agreement ends in June 2024. LCCMR funding would ensure important program continuity.

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.

Common loon death from lead fishing tackle is preventable through angler behavioral change. This project aims to make a generational impact on youth anglers statewide through education about lead-free fishing tackle and the danger lead poses to wildlife and human health. In the past three years, the program has formed strong partnerships with K-12 teachers, summer camp instructors, and lake association members. We realize there is more work to do and areas of the state to reach through outreach and education.

The program has created lead-free tackle starter kits, which have been given to youth at summer fishing camps. The goal of this tackle kit is to start youth off as lifelong lead-free anglers. Building off the performance benefits and popularity of tungsten, the program will also commit to engaging with ice anglers during the winter, many of whom have already made the switch.

Fishing is part of the cultural identity for many Minnesotans and a quarter of the state's adult population has a fishing license. The overall goal of this project is to support anglers of all ages in making the switch to lead-free fishing tackle.

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?

Lead is highly resistant to corrosion, so any lead lost in Minnesota waters not only poses a risk to wildlife but is also pollution. This project will work to protect Minnesota's natural resources through education about responsible and environmentally friendly angling practices and promote the use of lead-free tackle. With youth as a primary audience, the education of this project will also focus on being good stewards of the environment and will discuss taking action to protect the state's natural resources.

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

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Youth Summer Fishing Camp Outreach

Activity Budget: \$91,000

Activity Description:

The program has partnered with nature centers and county parks and recreation programs for the past three years to provide education about lead-free angling to youth ages 6-15 enrolled in summer fishing programs and give them starter kits of lead-free fishing tackle. Whether the youth are avid anglers or only fish for the few days of their camp, the program is committed to starting them off with lead-free tackle. Each visit includes a short informational presentation about the danger of lead tackle to wildlife and depending on the age of the campers an interactive game about how loons ingest lead fishing tackle. Partners will receive an evaluation at the end of the summer to share feedback.

A spreadsheet will be used to track the progress of this milestone. The document will track partners, summer camps, ages of youth, number of kits distributed, and number of youth taught. The information from this document will be included in the yearly summary report.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Research and contact organizations about participation in outreach program	September 30, 2024
Begin planning summer 2025 outreach	January 31, 2025
Assemble starter kits for summer outreach	May 31, 2025
Grow partner participation to 12 organizations	June 30, 2025
Distribute 1000 kits to youth	August 31, 2025
Begin planning summer 2026 outreach	January 31, 2026
Assemble starter kits for summer outreach	May 31, 2026
Grow partner participation to 15 organizations	June 30, 2026
Distribute 2000 kits to youth	June 30, 2026

Activity 2: Youth School Program Outreach

Activity Budget: \$75,000

Activity Description:

Building off established relationships with K-12 teachers statewide, the program will offer free outreach about the Get the Lead Out program. Curriculum connections to the program have included: natural resources issues, water pollution, water quality, lead in chemistry, the water cycle, ornithology, and environmental issues. Outreach will be presented either virtually or in person.

The program will also participate in day-long water festivals around the state. Examples of these festivals include, The Children’s Metro Water Festival, Water Summit (Grand Rapids), and the Water Festival (Chisago County). Outreach at these water festivals will include the program’s interactive activity, which focuses on how loons ingest lead fishing tackle and the danger it poses to their health.

The goal of this activity is to educate 2000 K-12 students during the duration of this project.

A spreadsheet will be used to track the progress of this milestone. The document will track schools, water festivals, grade level students, and number of youth taught. The information from this document will be included in the yearly summary report.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Contact organizers of fall water festivals about participation	July 31, 2024
Attend MnCOSE conference to promote school outreach program	November 30, 2024
Contact organizers of spring water festivals about participation	February 28, 2025
Conduct school outreach with 20 classrooms	May 31, 2025
Attend 2 youth water festivals	September 30, 2025
Attend MnCOSE conference to promote school outreach program	November 30, 2025
Contact organizers of spring water festivals about participation	February 28, 2026
Attend 3 youth water festivals	June 30, 2026
Conduct school outreach with 25 classrooms	June 30, 2026

Activity 3: Adult Angler Education and Outreach

Activity Budget: \$88,000

Activity Description:

The Get the Lead Out program has successfully built partnerships with organizations statewide to further the reach of the message. With this funding, outreach to adult anglers will continue mainly through the partnerships with lake associations. Lake association members will continue to receive education and training from program staff about this issue to feel empowered to speak to people in their communities. The program will support the efforts of lake associations by providing materials for them to hold lead fishing tackle collection events, writing articles for newsletters, and giving presentations to members. The program will working to increase participation from lake associations in all parts of the state with a targeted focus on associations south of the Twin Cities.

A spreadsheet will be used to track the progress of this milestone. The document will lake association partners, number of collection events, and pounds of lead collected. The information from this document will be included in the yearly summary report.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Collect data and feedback from lake association partners	September 30, 2024
Send materials to lake association partners	May 31, 2025
Collect data from lake association partners about collected lead	September 30, 2025
Send materials to lake association partners	May 31, 2026
Grow lake association partnerships to 100	June 30, 2026
Present to 10 lake associations yearly	June 30, 2026
Collect and recycle 1000 pounds of lead fishing tackle by lake associations	June 30, 2026

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.

As an education and outreach program, Get the Lead Out will continue to share information about the danger of lead to wildlife with audiences statewide through tabling at community events, sports shows, and fishing programs. The program will also continue to share samples of lead-free fishing tackle with members of the public through small sample packs and small starter kits. The program will also dissemination efforts through the LCCMR funding to leadership at the MPCA.

Program materials, our fact sheet, sample pack card stock, and insert in the starter kits, will be edited to include the ENRTF logo. The program has two social media platforms, Facebook and Instagram, we will tag ENRTF in posts about the work of the program through the funding of this project. For presentations we will attribute funding to ENRTF and acknowledge the fund through including the logo on the title slide.

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?

The success of the Get the Lead Out program to date has been through building meaningful partnerships with organizations and citizens statewide. At the conclusion of this project, the goal is that education about lead-free fishing tackle will continue either at the MPCA or through empowered partners. Future funding of this program will be pursued through federal, state, local government units, and other sources.

Other ENRTF Appropriations Awarded in the Last Six Years

Name	Appropriation	Amount Awarded
Pilot Program to Optimize Local Mechanical and Pond Wastewater-Treatment Plants	M.L. 2018, Chp. 214, Art. 4, Sec. 2, Subd. 04a	\$700,000
Reducing Municipal Wastewater Mercury Pollution to Lake Superior	M.L. 2019, First Special Session, Chp. 4, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 04h	\$250,000
Increasing Diversity in Environmental Careers	M.L. 2019, First Special Session, Chp. 4, Art. 2, Sec. 2, Subd. 05d	\$250,000
Groundwater Contamination Mapping Project - Phase II	M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 6, Sec. 2, Subd. 03f	\$800,000
Developing Strategies To Manage PFAS In Land-Applied Biosolids	M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 5, Sec. 2, Subd. 04d	\$1,404,000
Wastewater Pond Optimization Implementation	M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 5, Sec. 2, Subd. 20a2	\$700,000
Chloride Pollution Reduction	M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 5, Sec. 2, Subd. 20a4	\$500,000
Increasing Diversity in Environmental Careers	M.L. 2022, , Chp. 94, Art. , Sec. 2, Subd. 05h	\$500,000
Replacing Failing Septic Systems to Protect Groundwater	M.L. 2022, , Chp. 94, Art. , Sec. 2, Subd. 10h	\$2,000,000
Pig's Eye Landfill Task Force	M.L. 2022, , Chp. 94, Art. , Sec. 2, Subd. 10j	\$800,000

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
							Sub Total	-
Contracts and Services								
Minnesota Diversified Industries (MDI)	Professional or Technical Service Contract	Assembly of lead-free sample packs (30,000 sample packs during the project)				0.3		\$25,000
							Sub Total	\$25,000
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
	Tools and Supplies	5,000 Lead-free Starter Tackle Kits (Amount includes: the tackle kit, 5-6 jigs/kit, tin split shot, 1 inch bobber, tungsten bullet weight, 6 hooks in 3 sizes, tungsten ice jig, printing of the sticker for the lid, and printing for the insert about the contents)	Will be given out to youth primarily at fishing camps					\$102,000
	Tools and Supplies	30,000 Lead-Free Sample Packs (Amount includes: tin split shot, compostable bags, printing of cardstock, lead-free jigs, tungsten worm weights, and tungsten ice jigs)	These sample packs contain 5-6 pieces of lead-free tackle and are given out to the public at events, program partners, and lake association partners.					\$117,000
	Tools and Supplies	Outreach supplies (Amount includes printing of waterproof stickers, temporary tattoos, t-shirts. Also includes outreach materials for program partners.)	These items will be given out at public programs, school outreach programs, and given to partners to share.					\$10,000
							Sub Total	\$229,000
Capital Expenditures								
							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	\$254,000

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
State				
In-Kind	HF 2310, Art 1, Sec 2, Subd 7, (v)	Personnel	Secured	\$185,500
			State Sub Total	\$185,500
Non-State				
			Non State Sub Total	-
			Funds Total	\$185,500

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [4c5b8f4e-e09.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

Get the Lead Out fact sheet...

Supplemental Attachments

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

Title	File
Template for Activity and Milestone Tracking	53aca84c-75a.xlsx

Media Links

Title	Link
Getting Lead Out of Fishing Tackle	https://www.pca.state.mn.us/air-water-land-climate/getting-lead-out-of-fishing-tackle

Difference between Proposal and Work Plan

Describe changes from Proposal to Work Plan Stage

The only changes made to the initial proposal was an adjustment in the budget given the difference between the requested amount and the allocated amount.

I have also added in information in the Activities and Milestone section about tracking of the program, and attached a tracking spreadsheet. To address the question on budget, no other funds are going to be contributed to the activities of this project. (12/20/2023)

Changes were made to the Youth School Outreach Program activities to number of classrooms rather than number of schools. (05/23/2024)

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 agree travel expenses must 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

Does your project include the pre-design, design, construction, or renovation of a building, trail, campground, or other fixed capital asset costing \$10,000 or more or large-scale stream or wetland restoration?

No

Do you propose using an appropriation from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund to conduct a project that provides children's services (as defined in Minnesota Statutes section 299C.61 Subd.7 as "the provision of care, treatment, education, training, instruction, or recreation to children")?

No