



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2024 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2024-028

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

Project Manager Information

Name: Kelly Amoth

Organization: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

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Project Basic Information

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.

Funds Requested: \$258,000

Proposed Project Completion: June 30, 2026

LCCMR Funding Category: Environmental Education (C)

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

Narrative

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.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Youth Summer Fishing Camp Outreach

Activity Budget: \$95,000

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.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Grow partner participation to 12 organizations	June 30, 2025
Distribute 400 kits to youth	August 31, 2025
Grow partner participation to 15 organizations	June 30, 2026
Distribute 600 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.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Conduct school outreach with 10 schools	May 31, 2025
Attend 2 youth water festivals	September 30, 2025
Attend 3 youth water festivals	June 30, 2026
Conduct school outreach with 15 schools	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.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
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

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

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: Kelly Amoth

Job Title: State Program Administrator Intermediate

Provide description of the project manager's qualifications to manage the proposed project.

Kelly Amoth has been a program coordinator with the Get the Lead Out program since September 2020. With a 15 year career as an environmental educator and naturalist in Minnesota, she has been building partnerships with naturalists and teachers for during her time with the program. While the program staff was unable to do in-person outreach, she created virtual outreach and taught over 1000 students in her first year with the program in grades 4-12. Kelly also started the summer camp outreach portion of the program and grew its reach from 186 kits distributed at 14 camps in 2021 to 322 kits distributed at 26 camps in 2022. With more in-person school outreach opportunities in 2022, Kelly developed an interactive game for students to talk about the issue of lead fishing tackle and how loons ingest tackle.

Organization: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Organization Description:

The work of this project will be in the Resource Management and Assistance division of the MPCA. The goal of the

division is to build capacity to transform the knowledge and actions of Minnesotans to prevent or minimize negative impacts of their actions on public health and the environment in a way that benefits the environment, economy and society by offering an array of tools and resources, and manage agency rulemaking.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
1 Program Coordinator		Coordinate the activities of the Get the Lead Out program			34%	2		\$185,500
							Sub Total	\$185,500
Contracts and Services								
							Sub Total	-
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
	Tools and Supplies	Flambeau tackle kits (1000)	Used for the lead-free starter kits given to youth					\$2,000
	Tools and Supplies	3 inch waterproof sticker (10000)	Promotional item shared at events and used to label lead-free tackle kits					\$2,000
	Tools and Supplies	Tin Split shot	Used for sample packs and starter kits					\$10,000
	Tools and Supplies	Compostable bags (20000)	Used for sample packs					\$900
	Tools and Supplies	Lead-free sample pack cardstock (20,000)	Used for sample packs					\$4,000
	Tools and Supplies	Lead-free jigs in various sizes and colors (30,000)	20,000 will be put in lead-free sample packs; remaining jigs will be in lead-free starter kits					\$15,000
	Tools and Supplies	Tungsten worm weights	Used in lead-free starter kits and sample packs					\$17,000
	Tools and Supplies	Sample pack assembly	Sample pack assembly					\$14,600
	Tools and Supplies	Tungsten ice jigs (1000)	For winter season lead-free sample packs					\$1,500
	Tools and Supplies	Temporary loon tattoos (40000)	Will be given out at outreach events to youth					\$5,000
	Tools and Supplies	Mailer Boxes (100)	Sent to partners as a lead collection kit					\$500
							Sub Total	\$72,500

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	\$258,000

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				
			State Sub Total	-
Non-State				
			Non State Sub Total	-
			Funds Total	-

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

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

Alternate Text for Visual Component

Get the Lead Out fact sheet...

Administrative Use

Does your project include restoration or acquisition of land rights?

No

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

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 design, construction, or renovation of a building, trail, campground, or other capital asset costing \$10,000 or more?

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?

No

