



PROJECT 5-2 Fish Passage in Lake Superior Tributaries

Background: There is a need to identify areas of man-made fish blockage and restore them so fish can move freely, increasing stream connectivity.

Problem Statement: Need to allow for fish passage around man-made structure such as culverts, dams, etc.

Goals: The goal of this proposal is to develop designs for fish passage structures in a number of North Shore streams where passage is impeded on a seasonal and sometimes annual basis. We have already identified three major North Shore streams where fish passage is a major obstacle (Highway 61) in the area accessible to migratory fish such as coaster brook trout, steelhead, salmon and a number of additional species (Ostazeski 2005, MNDNR Report). In order of priority, streams that need attention include: Devil Track, Silver and Sucker. We are in presently completing a fish passage design for the Talmadge River and know there are inland portions of many tributaries to Lake Superior that are also impacted by man-made barriers, road-crossings, etc. This proposal will fund preliminary design of fish passage devices for streams known to be impacted and assess the inland portions of important streams to determine if there is additional fish passage work that is required. Once the designs are complete and the materials and costs for the projects are known, proposals will be submitted to implement construction of the fish passage structures.

Priority: High

Task Duration: 2-3 years

Potential Mechanism: LSOHC

Potential Partnering Organization(s): USFWS, TU, LSSA, AFF

Estimated Cost: \$ 240,000 over 2 years

Comments: More detailed project description available. Turned into other funding sources as well.

Special Considerations: Once plans are completed there is a need to fund the actual implementation.

Accomplishments: MN DNR received a \$100,000 grant from LSOHC to complete designs for fish passage, which are expected to be completed by the end of 2012.

Measure(s) of Success: Number of blockages that are identified and restored so fish can pass freely.

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*Vision Statement: Maintain, protect, and restore healthy cold water ecosystems with relatively stable flows
and a diversity of habitat for fish and wildlife to enhance our quality of life.*