



EasyGrantsID: 83745

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation – America’s Ecosystem Restoration Initiative: America the Beautiful Challenge 2024, Pre-Proposal

Title: Ganawendan zaaga’iganan genawenimigoyaang — Take care of those lakes that take care of us — in the 1836 and 1842 Ceded Territories in Michigan

Organization: Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy

## Grant Request Information

### Title of Project

Ganawendan zaaga’iganan genawenimigoyaang — Take care of those lakes that take care of us — in the 1836 and 1842 Ceded Territories in Michigan

### Project Description

This project will protect climate-resilient cool- and cold-water lakes and key species such as oгаа (Walleye), odoonibiins (Cisco), adikameg (Lake Whitefish), name (Lake Sturgeon), manoomin (Wild Rice), and other beings that are important from a biodiversity, cultural, and ecosystem perspective in the Ceded Territories in Michigan. It will implement voluntary, permanent conservation easements on at least 1,500 acres of private lands surrounding five priority lakes and at least 500 best management projects on or near lake shorelines. It will 1) prevent nutrient pollution and decrease fragmentation of natural lands; 2) reduce current nutrient loading, improve functionality and aesthetic beauty of shorelines by implementing best management practices for lakes; 3) catalyze an ethic of stewardship that will spread through direct outreach and a peer-to-peer social marketing campaign among lakefront property owners; and 4) serve as a model for a statewide MI Healthy Lakes stewardship program.

### Abstract

Michigan’s inland lakes provide diverse ecosystem services for rights-holders and stakeholders. For example, tribal fishers harvest oгаа (Walleye) and other giigoonyag (fishes) in the Ceded Territories, and about half of Michigan’s \$4.2-B recreational angling industry occurs on inland lakes. These lakes support the existence of Threatened beings (species) such as odoonibiins (Cisco), name (Lake Sturgeon), manoomin (Wild Rice), and other rare inland lake beings (e.g., adikameg, Lake Whitefish) that are important from a biodiversity, cultural, and ecosystem perspective. Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy; Department of Natural Resources; Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission; and Keweenaw Bay Indian Community will cooperatively work with local land conservancies, individual landowners, and others to build climate resilience by protecting inland lakes from declining water quality, warming temperatures, and increased human shoreline and watershed development. Private land voluntary permanent conservation easements will be implemented within the lakesheds of the five highest-priority lakes in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula to protect priority waterfront properties and prevent nutrient loading from any future development as well as increase connectivity and reduce fragmentation. Shoreline BMP projects will capture and infiltrate stormwater, increase native plant coverage and woody habitat, and stabilize shorelines through bioengineering.

### Project Location Description

Voluntary conservation easements on private lands within the lakesheds of five highest-priority lakes in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. BMP projects on or near inland lake shorelines in the



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Organization: Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy  
1836 and 1842 Ceded Territories in both Michigan’s Upper Peninsula and northern Lower Peninsula.

Total Amount Requested \$5,000,000.00  
Matching Contributions Proposed \$556,000.00

Proposed Grant Period 10/01/2024 - 09/30/2028

Organization Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy  
Organization Type State or Local Government  
City, State, Country ”  
Primary Contact LOIS MARINANGELI  
Position/Title State Administrative Manager 15  
Phone and E-mail Ext: ; MARINANGELIL@MICHIGAN.GOV

**Additional Contacts**

Role	Name



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### Matching Contributions

<b>Matching Contribution Amount:</b>	\$50,000.00
<b>Type:</b>	Cash
<b>Status:</b>	Pledged
<b>Source:</b>	EGLE Water Resources Division
<b>Source Type:</b>	Non-Federal
<b>Description:</b>	State of Michigan General Funds for staff time spent on project implementation

<b>Matching Contribution Amount:</b>	\$100,000.00
<b>Type:</b>	Cash
<b>Status:</b>	Pledged
<b>Source:</b>	Property Owners
<b>Source Type:</b>	Non-Federal
<b>Description:</b>	Cost-share of property owner installation of shoreline best management practices

<b>Matching Contribution Amount:</b>	\$60,486.00
<b>Type:</b>	In-kind
<b>Status:</b>	Pledged
<b>Source:</b>	Partner organizations
<b>Source Type:</b>	Non-Federal
<b>Description:</b>	Staff time spent on project- e.g. Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, Michigan State University Extension, and others

<b>Matching Contribution Amount:</b>	\$345,514.00
<b>Type:</b>	In-kind
<b>Status:</b>	Pledged
<b>Source:</b>	Property Owners
<b>Source Type:</b>	Non-Federal



# NFWF

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Organization: Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy

<b>Description:</b>	Conservation easement bargain sale costs from land conservancies or property owners
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<b>Total Amount of Matching Contributions:</b>	\$556,000.00
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# NFWF

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Organization: Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy

The following pages contain the uploaded documents, in the order shown below, as provided by the applicant:

Upload Type	File Name	Uploaded By	Uploaded Date
ATBC Pre Proposal Narrative Template 2024	Project Narrative Ganawendan iniw zaagaiganan genawenimigoyaang - Take care of those lakes that take care of us.pdf	MARINANGELI, LOIS	04/04/2024
Other Documents	DRAFT_Project_Map_Ganawendan iniw zaagaiganan ge-ganawenimigoyaang - Take care of those lakes that take care of usV2.pdf	MARINANGELI, LOIS	04/04/2024
Other Documents	Demographics ATBC 83745 _.pdf	MARINANGELI, LOIS	04/04/2024
Letters of Support	ATBC 83745 letters of support.pdf	MARINANGELI, LOIS	04/04/2024

The following uploads do not have the same headers and footers as the previous sections of this document in order to preserve the integrity of the actual files uploaded.



# NFWF

## 2024 America's Ecosystem Restoration Initiative: America the Beautiful Challenge – Pre-Proposal Project Narrative Ganawendan iniw zaaga'iganan genawenimigoyaang — Take care of those lakes that take care of us — in the 1836 and 1842 Ceded Territories in Michigan

**Grant Category:** Implementation Grant

### 1. What are the primary project outcomes (the intended result of the project) and why is this project needed?

Ojibwe Tribal members (who, from a Western perspective, are citizens of a sovereign nation) rely on giigoonyag (fish plural) and manoomin (wild rice) to meet subsistence, cultural, and spiritual needs. Tribes continue to retain their relationship with giigoonyag and manoomin. Tribes uphold their responsibility to take care of these gifts by protecting nibi (water) now and for the next seven generations. This is rooted in the Seventh Generation philosophy shared by many Indigenous North American Nations, to be mindful seven generations into the future. The Ojibwe in what is now known as the United States are the seventh generation of those early leaders who signed treaties with the U.S. government that guaranteed them the rights to hunt, fish, and gather in the Ceded Territories. So, Anishinaabeg (natives) must work to nurture and sustain a healthy and thriving natural environment to ensure that these foods and medicines are protected and sustained seven generations into the future. These stewardship responsibilities to sustain and nurture a healthy and thriving natural environment into the next seven generations are particularly important as climate change and increased watershed development degrades manoomin and fish habitat and water quality.

Inland lakes in Michigan provide a diversity of ecosystem services for rights-holders and stake holders. For example, in the Ceded Territories, tribal fishers harvest ogaa (Walleye) and other giigoonyag. Statewide, about half of Michigan's \$4.2-B recreational angling industry occurs on inland lakes. These lakes support the existence of Threatened beings (species) such as odoonibiins (Cisco, name (Lake Sturgeon), manoomin (Wild Rice), and other rare inland lake beings (e.g., adikameg, Lake Whitefish) that are important from a biodiversity, cultural, and ecosystem perspective.

However, a warming climate and increased human development along the shorelines and in the watersheds of lakes threaten these critical resources. For example, the nutrient-absorbing wetlands have declined by 24-68% in the watersheds of the five highest priority lakes in this proposal. On shorelines, mowed lawns to lake edges replace natural vegetation; hardened shorelines and increased stormwater runoff result in habitat loss, increased sediment, and nutrient pollution – all leading to declines in fish, amphibians, birds, and other wildlife. Odoonibiins, adikameg, name, and ogaa rely on oxygen rich bottom waters to survive. Although lakes naturally thermally stratify during summer, often causing the cool and cold bottom-waters to slowly lose oxygen, climate change compounds this process through increased water temperatures and duration of stratification. This loss of oxygenated, cool- and cold-water habitats threatens the extirpation of odoonibiins, adikameg, name, and ogaa within lakes across their ranges. This effect is exacerbated by nutrient pollution from human development on shorelines and in the watersheds of these lakes. In addition to negative impacts to fish populations, nutrient pollution and climate change also threaten manoomin through warmer temperatures decreasing seed production, changes in precipitation prevent growth in a certain locations, and nutrient loading decreases water clarity and light penetration affecting plant growth and seed production. These threats have caused the species to be high risk according to the [Aanji-bimaadiziimagak o'ow aki](#) (Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment).

Fortunately, there are approaches that reduce nutrient pollution and mitigate climate change effects to protect diverse cool- and cold-water lake communities. The project team identified priority lakes within the 1836 and 1842 Ceded Territories in Michigan (hereafter, "Ceded Territories") that will likely serve as refugia for priority beings, and will implement two overarching strategies to resist the effects of climate change utilizing the [Resist-Accept-Direct framework](#) identified by the [National Fish, Wildlife & Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy](#). First, this project will prevent future increases of nutrient pollution and help decrease fragmentation of natural lands through voluntary conservation easements. Assessments of these lakes' watersheds (i.e., lakesheds) by the [Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership's Conservation Planner](#) and [US Forest Service Watershed Condition Classification](#) indicate that healthy, forested ecosystems already exist in these locations and require protection. Payment for protection of these ecosystem services through conservation easements will ensure that lakes meet modeled lakeshed protection thresholds for cold-water fishes in five Ceded Territory lakes. Second, the project will reduce current nutrient loading, improve functionality and aesthetic beauty of shorelines by implementing best management practices (BMPs; e.g., rainwater gardens, native plantings) for lakes throughout the Ceded Territories. These activities will also catalyze an ethic of stewardship that will spread through both direct outreach and a peer-to-peer social marketing campaign among lakefront property owners.

This project will be a model for a statewide MI Healthy Lakes stewardship program in Michigan. There is major interest from sovereign tribal nations, State and Tribal managers, and stakeholders for a protective lake stewardship program, so the momentum and success created by this project is likely to catalyze and inform implementation of a statewide program into the future.

### 2. What are the major project activities that will lead to the outcomes provided above (project actions and timeline/workplan)?



# NFWF

Voluntary permanent conservation easements on at least 1,500 acres of private lands will be implemented within the lakesheds of the five highest-priority lakes (Otter Lake, Lake Independence, Portage Lake, Lake Gogebic, and Lake Michigamme) to protect properties with river/stream and lake frontage. Local land conservancies will complete conservation easements through purchase of development rights meeting all or many of the following criteria: 1) Natural landcover in the lakeshed is high; 2) Lake is [modeled](#) to support resilient odonibiins populations if the lakeshed's natural land cover is protected; 2) Populations of adikameg present; 3) Lake is a Class 3 (climate resilient) ogaa lakes per [Michigan's Walleye Management Plan](#); 4) The proportion of the lakeshed with natural landcover is close to the proportion required to protect coldwater fisheries in a warming climate based on [landscape models](#); and 5) Lake has a completed Conservation Priority Mapping process to maximize water quality benefits. Many potential easements have already been identified, the majority will be initiated within the first project year, and costs will be approximately 40% of the request. Nutrient load prevention will be assessed with the Environmental Protection Agency's Region 5 Model Pollutant Load Reduction Spreadsheet.

In addition, at least 500 voluntary BMP projects tailored to each lakefront property will be implemented to reduce phosphorus and sediment loading, improve nearshore habitat, and increase social norms for natural shorelines on and off reservation lands in the Ceded Territories. This project aims to create a model MI Healthy Lakes program that expands and improves on successful Healthy Lakes Programs in the region (e.g., Wisconsin has implemented 1,600 BMPs on over 900 properties). First, grant-funded staff will implement an outreach campaign to advertise the program, prioritizing lakes that meet any of the five criteria above. Properties will be evaluated based on shoreline assessments from existing Nonpoint Source Pollution Watershed Management Plans, a MiCorps Score the Shore assessment, or completed [MI Shoreland Stewards](#) surveys which identify critical areas for improvement and recommend property-specific BMPs to reduce nutrient pollution and improve nearshore habitat. Property owners will work with program staff to identify appropriate BMPs from a menu of options including rainwater diversion, rain garden, rock infiltration, bioengineered shoreline, woody habitat installation, native plant garden, and tree planting. Properties will be selected for funding based on the criteria above to maximize the functional lift. Benefits will be tracked for each BMP using pollution load reduction estimates. Property owners will sign a maintenance agreement for BMPs for a minimum of 10 years and complete a post-project MI Shoreland Stewards survey to enable quantification and evaluation of program benefits. The BMP program will conduct outreach and begin installation of most BMPs in years one through three of the four-year grant, simplify permitting with categorical exclusions and bundling of similar projects, and use approximately 44% of the requested funds. This project will implement BMPs for stormwater runoff in the Ceded Territories on an estimated 1,170 acres of land near lake shorelines while planting 146,000 native plants including 500 native trees and/or shrubs.

Progress toward BMP and easement installation will be monitored relative to an expected schedule and using the identified metrics. This will facilitate our [climate-smart conservation cycle approach](#), which will enable adaptation to unforeseen challenges.

### 3. Select which Program Priorities listed in the RFP will be addressed by the project?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Benefit At-Risk Fish, Wildlife, and Plant Species         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engage Local Communities                                       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expand Habitat Connectivity                               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support Tribally Led Conservation and Restoration Priorities   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deliver Conservation and Restoration Across Jurisdictions | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contribute to Local or Tribal Economies                        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Provide a Range of Ecosystem Services                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contribute to Workforce Development                            |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strengthen Ecosystem and Community Resilience             | <input type="checkbox"/> Advance the Restoration and Resiliency Framework and Keystone Initiatives |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expand Public and Community Access to Nature              |  |

### 4. How will the project outcomes or activities contribute to the priorities selected above?

**Benefit At-Risk Fish, Wildlife, and Plant Species:** This project will protect Threatened odonibiins, name, and manoomin as well as ogaa and adikameg, all of which have low or declining populations across their ranges as a result of climate change and impacts from development of natural lands. The project directly aligns with multiple strategies in [Michigan's Wildlife Action Plan](#).

**Expand Habitat Connectivity:** Nibi (water) does not stay within lakes or jurisdictional boundaries and requires a watershed management approach. This program addresses the hydrological connectivity of nibi at watershed and landscape scale. Shoreline development such as seawalls and mowed lawns to the water's edge present a barrier for amphibians, turtles, amphibious mammals, and other beings, cutting off access to habitats used for feeding, nesting, basking, and other life cycle needs. The project will reconnect lakes to their shorelines and uplands by removing or reducing the effects of shoreline hardening and revegetating the land along lake shorelines. Conservation easements will also provide connectivity of protected lands along riparian corridors, which are critical for both fish and wildlife.



# NFWF

**Deliver Conservation and Restoration Across Jurisdictions:** Through a collaborative team, the project will be the first of its kind to implement landscape-scale lakeshed restoration and protection across the entire Ceded Territories, with collaboration and implementation across numerous jurisdictions of tribal sovereign nations, state and federal agencies, and 45 counties.

**Provide a Range of Ecosystem Services:** The project will provide a range of ecosystem services that support subsistence fish harvest as a critical tribal lifeway. Shoreline BMPs will provide habitat for birds, amphibians, turtles, insects, and other beings, including many that rely on healthy shorelines as the interface between land and water. Shoreline BMPs and lakeshed easements will increase carbon sequestration and storage in support of the Michigan the Beautiful implementation of the [30x30 Initiative](#) and the [MI Healthy Climate Plan](#). Improved water quality will increase the recreational value, shoreline property value, and attainment of coldwater designated uses on these lakes. Many of these lakes are in high priority watersheds identified by the Nonpoint Source Pollution Program to protect designated uses and by the [Forests to Faucets 2.0](#) program to protect drinking water sources and reduce purification costs. Where possible, easements will include access for fishing, hunting, gathering, and other public uses.

**Strengthen Ecosystem and Community Resilience:** Improved water quality will protect habitats to ensure resilient cool- and cold-water fishes in these lakes. According to the Nature Conservancy's [Resilient River](#) assessment, 89% of subwatersheds in the 5 priority lakesheds identified by this proposal were ranked as slightly above or above average.

**Expand Public and Community Access to Nature:** The project will execute voluntary easements; where possible these easements will include access for fishing, hunting, gathering, and other public uses.

**Engage Local Communities:** Collaborative co-development of this project by Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) and Keweenaw Bay Indian Community (KBIC) ensures that local tribes responsible for stewarding inland lake natural resources are guiding project goals from the outset, and all tribes in the proposed area will have the opportunity to collaborate during implementation. Collaboration with regional land conservancies ensures that voluntary easements will promote local community goals. Engagement of lake associations through the Michigan Lakes and Streams Association (MLSA), Michigan State University Extension (MSUE), and Michigan Waterfront Alliance (MWA) will promote voluntary shoreline BMPs through locally-trusted lake associations. The project will hold at least 30 meetings, workshops, webinars, and newsletters targeting over 5,000 shoreline and lakeshed property owners.

**Support Tribally Led Conservation and Restoration Priorities:** The GLIFWC [Aanji-bimaadiziimagak o'ow aki](#) (Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment Version 2) evaluated the climate change vulnerability of 66 beings in the Ceded Territories using Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Scientific Ecological Knowledge interdependently. It identifies odoonibiins as the most vulnerable swimmer; adikameg, ogaa, and manoomin were Highly-to-Extremely Vulnerable and Name was Less-Moderately Vulnerable. This means the range and abundance of all these beings in the geographic areas are likely to decline.

**Contribute to Local or Tribal Economies:** Tribes rely on gifts from the creator to meet subsistence, spiritual, ceremonial, and cultural needs that are rarely bought and sold. [Aanji-bimaadiziimagak o'ow aki](#) provides examples of how giigoonyag and manoomin play a prominent role in Ojibwe lifeways and are part of their identity. Ogaa is featured prominently in many traditional stories, which illustrates how Ojibwe people have depended on fishing as a means of survival. Manoomin is considered a special gift from the Creator that spiritually and culturally ties them to this plant. According to Ojibwe oral tradition, centuries ago the Ojibwe were instructed to find the place where "the food grows on the water", leading them to their tribal lands where manoomin was found in abundance. In addition to these cultural values, protection of the lake ecosystems will protect the recreational economies that they generate. Investment of \$1.25 M in shoreline BMPs will directly benefit local [Certified Natural Shoreline Professionals](#), [native plant distributors](#), and other landscaping and restoration companies that will implement most of the BMPs.

**Contribute to Workforce Development:** [Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership](#) partners, including the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), MSUE, and others, operate the CNSP program to train contractors in shoreline bioengineering practices. This project will dramatically increase the experience level of CNSPs as they implement this training. This project will also employ six interns, with a preference for students affiliated with tribal colleges, to assist with outreach and implementation, and create at least two full-time, well-paying jobs contracted by EGLE.

## 5. How will the project address established plans (e.g., management, conservation, species recovery), Indigenous Knowledge, or an identified conservation planning need or gap?

Michigan's Wildlife Action Plan prioritizes Inland Cisco Lakes and Littoral Zones, which this project directly benefits. Phosphorus reduction directly supports the Water Quality conservation outcome outlined in the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's [Great Lakes Business Plan](#), and many project lakesheds are Lake Sturgeon and Brook Trout Issue Priority Areas. Native plants will be consistent with existing [MNSP](#) and [GLIFWC](#) guidance. GLIFWC's [Dibaginjigaadeg Anishinaabe Ezhitwaad](#) (A Tribal Climate Adaptation Menu) identifies strategies that are addressed by this project including partnership in local and landscape-level management





(Strategy 3.6); improved hydrology (4.1), riparian areas (4.2), water quality (4.3), and stormwater retention (14.2); reduced effects from anthropogenic disturbances (5.4); and maintenance of priority at-risk and culturally important beings and communities (7.2). It addresses [Michigan Inland Lakes Partnership's](#) (MILP) Strategic Plan Goal 3 (Promoting Collaborative Protective Management). All five priority lakesheds for easements include areas ranked as "Highest Priority" within the [Midwest Conservation Blueprint](#).

**6. Who are the partners working on this project and what is their contribution to the project? (e.g., organizations, agencies, landowners, community groups)**

EGLE will implement the program in partnership with the project leads from GLIFWC, KBIC, and Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR). GLIFWC and KBIC will serve as liaisons to tribal communities across the Ceded Territories, ensuring collaboration and support in all phases of the project. Through EGLE, the team will subaward contracts to regional land conservancies to implement lakeshed conservation easements that are existing priorities for those organizations and match the criteria identified above. EGLE will directly administer the model MI Healthy Lakes BMP program in partnership with the project leads. To promote the program, project leads will collaborate through the Michigan Inland Lakes Partnership, which has a 16-year track record of success, the with partners such as Michigan State University Extension, Michigan Lakes and Streams Association, Michigan Waterfront Alliance, Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership, and others. Where appropriate, shoreline BMPs will be implemented by Certified Natural Shoreline Professionals who completed training and certification for best shoreline conservation practices.

**7. Who was or will be engaged in project development and implementation (beyond the project partners)? (e.g., communities, user groups, affected/impacted constituencies, and stakeholders) And how will they or were they engaged?**

In addition to financial considerations, lake shoreline development is a product of the information, attitudes, and beliefs that lakefront property owners hold regarding shoreline management. This project will implement an outreach campaign targeting lakefront property owners through in-person meetings, presentations to lake associations, and door-to-door campaigns on priority lakes promoting natural shorelines using existing [promotional](#) and [technical](#) materials. Local land conservancies implementing voluntary conservation easements will develop the agreements based on existing relationships with key stakeholders in those communities. These easements will be approved by the project leads, ensuring that relevant tribal interests are considered.

**8. What is the demographic information of the engaged community(ies)? Use table below, only one factor needed per community. (i.e., you do not need to provide Race/Ethnicity, poverty rate, low income %, and annualized unemployment rate for every community, rather you only need to provide ONE of any of the factors listed below).**

Community(ies)	Race/Ethnicity %	Poverty Rate	Low Income %	Annualized Unemployment Rate
45 Michigan Counties in the Ceded Territories	34% minority; >21,000 Native American		53%	5.5%
3 tribal communities listed in supplemental materials		22.9%		5.2%

**9. Is this project connected to another ATBC 2024 proposal? If yes, please provide the 5-digit Easygrants ID number. No.**

**10. Did you apply to any other currently open NFWF RFP with this project? If yes, please provide the program name and a 5-digit Easygrants ID number. No.**

**11. Did you include additional uploads (e.g., letters of support, photos)? If yes, please list them. Include an optional cover page for your uploads to provide more information. Check the Tip Sheet for upload size limits and file type requirements.**

Attachments include: a map of the project area and priority lakes; supplemental demographic data; and a cover page and letters of support from: GLIFWC; KBIC; DNR Fisheries Division and Office of Public Lands; Michigan Inland Lakes Partnership; Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership; Michigan Wetlands Association; Michigan State University Extension, Michigan Lakes and Streams Association; and Michigan Chapter of North American Lake Management Society.

**12. Anything else we should know?**

This project implements multiple complementary strategies for resilient lakes through water quality and shoreline habitat improvements. We strongly feel all components are necessary; however, the grant budget is modular and some components (i.e., BMP budget or lakeshed easements) can be reduced or removed from the grant if required for a competitive full proposal.

**Ganawendan iniw zaaga'iganan ge-ganawenimigoyaang  
— Take care of those lakes that take care of us —  
in the 1836 and 1842 Ceded Territories in Michigan**

**Legend**

-  Priority lakes for best management practices
-  Priority lakesheds for conservation easements
-  1836 & 1842 Ceded Territories
-  1836 & 1842 Ceded Territories (disputed)
-  Michigan counties

This map shows priority lakes and lakesheds where conservation easements and shoreline best management practices (e.g., rain gardens) will be targeted in the 1836 and 1842 Ceded Territories in Michigan. Priority lakes and lakesheds were selected based on the presence of culturally important cool- and cold-water beings/species including odoonibiins (Cisco), oгаа (Walleye), adikameg (Lake Whitefish), name (Lake Sturgeon), and manoomin (wild rice). This project is estimated to implement 500 best management practices (~1,170 acres) near lake shorelines, plant 500 native trees and 146,000 native plants, and conserve 1,500 acres through voluntary conservation easements on nibi- (water) adjacent private properties.



# Ganawendan iniw zaaga'iganan genawenimigoyaang — Take care of those lakes that take care of us — in the 1836 and 1842 Ceded Territories in Michigan

Supporting demographic information

## Tribal Community demographic information

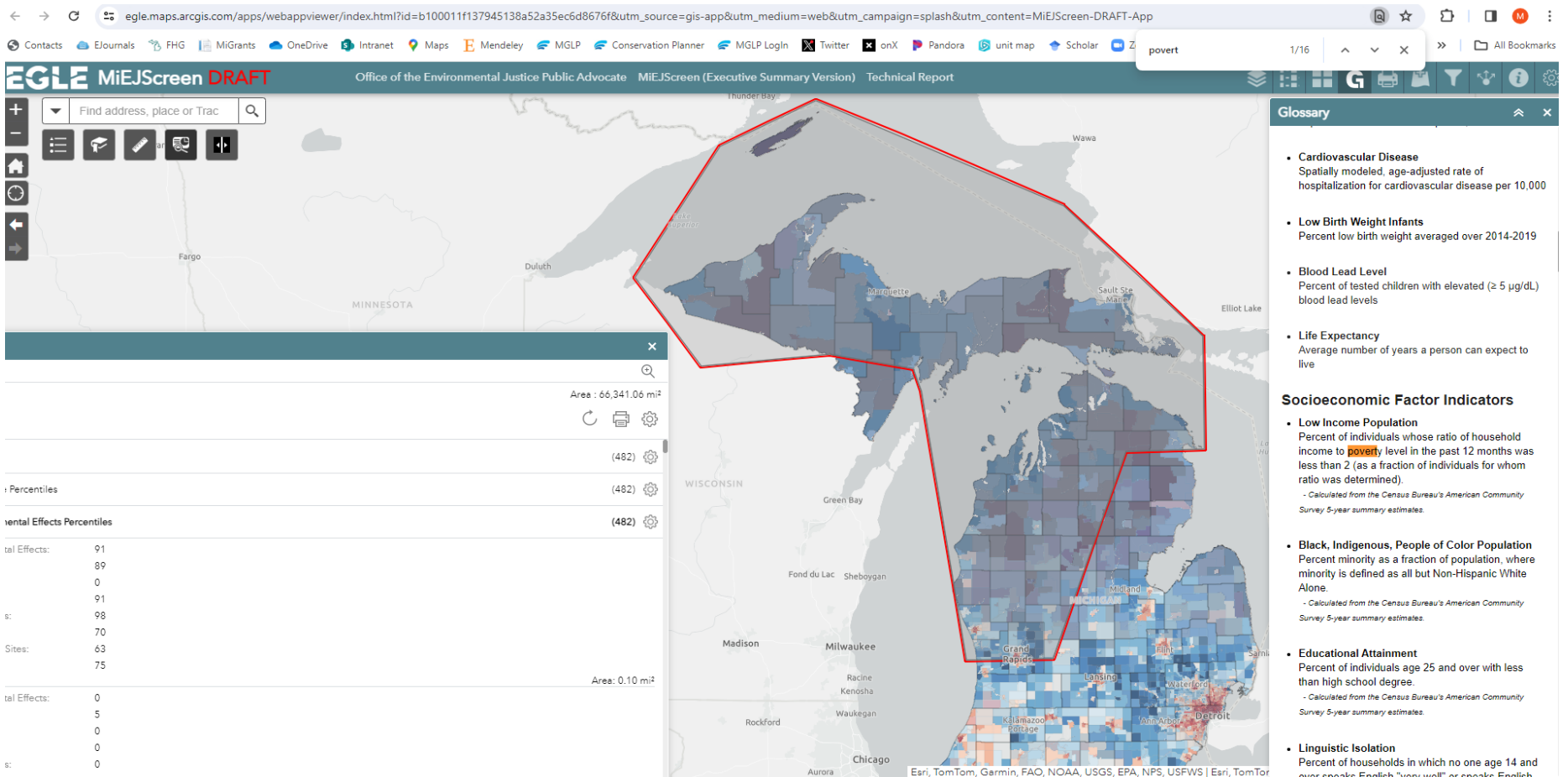
Tribal Community	Population	Poverty Rate	Unemployment Rate
Bay Mills Reservation and Off-	1,199	23.40%	7.80%
L'Anse Reservation and Off-	3,544	13.10%	4.70%
Lac Vieux Desert Reservation, MI	180	32.20%	3.10%
Hannahville Indian Community and Off-Reservation Trust Land, MI	Need to consult with tribe first before reporting these numbers.		
Sault Ste. Marie Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, MI	Need to consult with tribe first before reporting these numbers.		
Little Traverse Bay Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, MI	Need to consult with tribe first before reporting these numbers.		
Grand Traverse Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, MI	Need to consult with tribe first before reporting these numbers.		
Little River Reservation and Off-	Need to consult with tribe first before reporting these numbers.		
* Percentage of Families and People Whose Income in the Past 12 Months is Below the Poverty Level			
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018-2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates			

	Total Population	Average Poverty Rate	Average Unemployment Rate
<b>Tribal Communities in 1836 and 1842 Ceded Territories in Michigan</b>	<b>4,923</b>	<b>22.90%</b>	<b>5.20%</b>

# Demographic information across 45 counties within 1836 and 1842 Ceded territories

Data Source: Michigan Environmental Justice Screening Tool <https://www.michigan.gov/egle/maps-data/miejscreen> population data within polygon 1836 and 1842 Ceded territories

45	Race/Ethnicity %	Poverty Rate	Low Income %	Annualized Unemployment Rate
45 Counties in the Ceded Territories in Michigan	33.85% minority, 21,000 of which are Native American		53.451143	0.0555151





GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY  
LANSING



PHILLIP D. ROOS  
DIRECTOR

April 4, 2024

Rachel Dawson  
Program Director, National Programs  
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
1133 Fifteenth Street, NW, Suite 1000  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Rachel Dawson:

SUBJECT: America the Beautiful Challenge Proposal #83745

The following letters of support (attached) have been provided for National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Proposal #83745 “Ganawendan iniw zaaga’iganan genawenimigoyaang — Take care of those lakes that take care of us — in the 1836 and 1842 Ceded Territories in Michigan.”

**Matching Contributions**

- Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission

**Significant Partners**

- Keweenaw Bay Indian Community
- Michigan Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Division
- Michigan Department of Natural Resources Office of Public Lands
- Michigan Inland Lakes Partnership
- Michigan State University Extension
- Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership
- Michigan Wetlands Association
- Michigan Lakes and Streams Association
- Michigan Chapter of North American Lake Management Society

If you have any further questions regarding this matter, please contact me at 517-243-4735 or [LeSageS@Michigan.gov](mailto:LeSageS@Michigan.gov). Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sarah LeSage, Planning and Policy Coordinator  
Executive Section  
Water Resources Division

**Attachments**

# GREAT LAKES INDIAN FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION

P.O. Box 9 • Odanah, WI 54861 • 715-682-6619 • FAX 715-682-9294

[www.glifwc.org](http://www.glifwc.org)

## • MEMBER TRIBES •

### MICHIGAN

Bay Mills Community  
Keweenaw Bay Community  
Lac Vieux Desert Band

### WISCONSIN

Bad River Band  
Lac Courte Oreilles Band  
Lac du Flambeau Band

Red Cliff Band  
St. Croix Chippewa  
Sokaogon Chippewa

### MINNESOTA

Fond du Lac Band  
Mille Lacs Band



April 4, 2023

Rachel Dawson, Programs Director  
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
1133 Fifteenth Street NW, Suite 1100  
Washington, DC 20005

**Re: Ganawenim iniw zaaga'iganan genawenimigoyaang — Take care of those lakes that take care of us — in the 1836 and 1842 Ceded Territories in Michigan (EasyGrants Proposal ID # 83745)**

Boozhoo Director Dawson,

Staff of the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) are aware of the Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership's application for funding through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's America the Beautiful Challenge for the proposal titled *Ganawenim iniw zaaga'iganan genawenimigoyaang — Take care of those lakes that take care of us — in the 1836 and 1842 Ceded Territories in Michigan* (EasyGrants Proposal ID # 83745). GLIFWC is a natural resource agency exercising delegated governmental authority from 11 federally recognized Indian tribes in Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin.<sup>1</sup> Staff provide management recommendations that are biologically sound and culturally appropriate, and they will ensure indigenous knowledge guides the preproposal. The proposed funding will complement GLIFWC's ongoing efforts described above and will help GLIFWC member tribes to ensure that treaty obligations are fulfilled, implement court decrees regarding these rights, and exercise tribal sovereignty by engaging in intertribal co-management and co-management with the state of Michigan and federal agencies to protect treaty-reserved resources.

This letter of support and commitment provides background on the cultural and lifeway significance of the giigoonyag (fish plural) and manoomin (wild rice) and the significant historic and ongoing efforts to preserve and restore inland lakes and wetlands that sustain the Anishinaabeg (original people), all our natural beings, and the Michigan ceded territory's quality of life and economy that is highly dependent on recreation and tourism.

Many ceded territory giigoonyag and manoomin waters have been harvested by the Anishinaabeg for centuries. The Anishinaabe have a spiritual relationship with these beings and see harvesting as a distinct part of the Ojibwe culture. GLIFWC member tribes depend on healthy lakes and value engagement in the shared caretaking (co-stewardship) of these waters. A warming climate that increases human development along shorelines and in watersheds of these lakes, threatens these

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<sup>1</sup> GLIFWC member tribes are: in Wisconsin – the Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin, Sokaogon Chippewa Community of the Mole Lake Band, and Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians; in Minnesota – Fond du Lac Chippewa Tribe, and Mille Lacs Band of Chippewa Indians; and in Michigan – Bay Mills Indian Community, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, and Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians.

critical resources and poses challenges for tribal members exercising their off-reservation treaty rights to meet cultural and spiritual needs. Anishinaabeg ceremonial, subsistence, and economic uses today are increasingly impacted by external threats.

In collaboration with Tribal elders and knowledge holders, the Wisconsin and Michigan DNRs, Michigan EGLE and University research partners, GLIFWC has been a globally recognized leader in off-reservation walleye biological monitoring and wild rice caretaking and restoration since its inception. Upon request from member tribes, GLIFWC also provides technical support to on-reservation efforts. In 2018, following ceremony and consultation with Tribal elders and Knowledge holders of its member tribes, GLIFWC's Climate Change Team identified manoomin as highly to extremely vulnerable to climate change. In 2023, GLIFWC's Climate Change program released Version 2 of its Vulnerability Assessment report affirming this finding and determining odoonibiins (cisco) as the most vulnerable swimmer, adikameg (lake whitefish) and ogaa (walleye) as highly-to-extremely vulnerable to climate change, and name (lake sturgeon) as moderately vulnerable to climate change.<sup>2</sup> The long-term trend in lake temperature in the region has been warming, threatening the habitat and abundance of many swimmers in these lakes. The additional threat of climate change to already scarce manoomin waters is of concern. These reasons support taking care of those lakes that take care of us.

For Ojibwe people, ties to the natural world are such that damage to natural resources results in damage to tribal culture. Conversely, restoration and protection of natural resources can restore, protect, and enhance the ability of tribes to exercise and sustain cultural identity, beliefs, and traditions. When natural resources fail to be used by Ojibwe people in accordance with their culture and traditions, those resources will no longer be provided by the Creator. Therefore, the ultimate act of stewardship for tribal members is the exercise of the natural resource harvest that is at the heart of their lifeway, as guaranteed by treaty and as implemented in a modern-day context by the tribes. The degradation of native ecosystems poses a serious threat to the continued exercise of these rights and the traditional lifeways they sustain. Implementing federally funded projects that support restoration and protection of these lakes an example of the US Fish and Wildlife Service upholding its federal treaty obligations and trust and responsibility to tribes.<sup>3</sup>

Since 1984, GLIFWC has supported its member tribes in management of off-reservation treaty rights implementation and harvest. GLIFWC has led off-reservation fisheries and wild rice restoration efforts and provides responsible harvest recommendations for state and tribal harvesters to preserve this important place that Anishinaabeg depend on. Staff will work with partner agencies through a consensus-based decision-making process to ensure that lake and watershed caretaking activities funded by this proposed grant are consistent with Tribal management goals and that indigenous knowledge and scientific knowledge guide these efforts.

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<sup>2</sup> GLIFWC Climate Change Team. 2023. Aanji-bimaadiziimagak o'ow aki. Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, Odanah, Wisconsin. 332 p.; Tribal Adaptation Menu Team. 2019. Dibaginjigaadeg Anishinaabe Ezhitwaad: A Tribal Climate Adaptation Menu. Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, Odanah, Wisconsin. 54 p.

<sup>3</sup> Exec. Order No. 14,072, 87 Fed. Reg. 24851 (April 22, 2022), Strengthening the Nation's Forests, Communities, and Local Economies; Order No. 3,403, (November 15, 2021), Joint Secretarial Order on Fulfilling the Trust Responsibility to Indian Tribes in the Stewardship of Federal Lands and Waters

**Match commitment between October 1, 2025 and September 30, 2029:**

- 640 hours of in-kind support valued at \$20,486.40.
  - Aaron Shultz, Ph.D., Climate Change Inland Fisheries Biologist
- An additional 640 hours of in-kind support contributed by other GLIFWC Biologists, Policy Analysts, and support staff, valued at approximately \$20,000.
- We confirm that this contribution has not been used to meet any other federal program match or cost share requirements. Non-match commitment and ongoing efforts.

Recent efforts supported by GLIFWC and its member tribes in manoomin caretaking, education and outreach include:

- EPA Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) funding in response to manoomin stewardship. Includes co-chair responsibility with WDNR in State-Tribal Manoomin Committee.
- BIA Circle of Flight 638 dollars (approx. \$35,000-\$40,000 annually) to support Manoomin caretaking.
- Annual Camp Onji-Akiing, natural resources youth camp hosted by GLIFWC law-enforcement.
- Annual Manoomin Camp (Keweenaw Bay Indian Community)
- Bad River Band Youth and Community Rice Knocker Workshop Outreach Event
- St Croix Youth Summit (includes 5 classrooms)
- 2023 Upper Peninsula Food Summit (100 participants)
- GLIFWC Quarterly publication Mazina'igan, reaches binational audience with distribution of 18,000 print copies.

There is an urgent need for funding to expand collaborative and research efforts between MNSP, EGLE, Michigan State Extension, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, Lac Vieux Desert Tribe, GLIFWC, and others reflected in this grant proposal. Questions can be directed to Aaron Shultz, Ph.D., Climate Change Inland Fisheries Biologist, at [aaronshultz@glifwc.org](mailto:aaronshultz@glifwc.org), or James Rasmussen, Policy Analyst, at [jrasmussen@glifwc.org](mailto:jrasmussen@glifwc.org).

Thank you for your consideration.



Jason Schlender  
Executive Administrator

Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission



# KEWEENAW BAY INDIAN COMMUNITY

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**Keweenaw Bay Tribal Center**  
**16429 Beartown Road**  
**Baraga, Michigan 49908**  
**Phone (906) 353-6623**  
**Fax (906) 353-7540**

2024 TRIBAL COUNCIL

DOREEN G. BLAKER, President  
RODNEY LOONSFOOT, Vice President  
SUSAN J. LAFERNIER, Secretary  
ELIZABETH "LIZ" JULIO, Assistant Secretary  
THEODORE "AUSTIN" AYRES, Treasurer

ROBERT "R.D." CURTIS, JR.  
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DALE F. GOODREAU  
HOPE E. LARAMORE  
SAM LOONSFOOT  
TONI J. MINTON

March 25, 2024

**To:** Rachel Dawson, Program Director  
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
1133 Fifteenth St., NW, Suite 1000  
Washington, DC 20005

**Re:** Ganawenim iniw zaaga'iganan genawenimigoyaang — Take care of those lakes that take care of us — in the 1836 and 1842 Ceded Territories in Michigan (EasyGrants Proposal ID # 83745)

Dear Ms. Dawson,

This letter is in support of the America the Beautiful Challenge Grant Preproposal entitled "Ganawenim iniw zaaga'iganan genawenimigoyaang — Take care of those lakes that take care of us — in the 1836 and 1842 Ceded Territories in Michigan." This project will initiate lake protective stewardship on high-priority cool- and cold-water lakes in Michigan's Ceded Territories. Specifically, it will implement over 500 voluntary best management practices along the shorelines of lakes to shift landowner attitudes around private lake shorelines, improve water quality and nearshore habitats, and support climate-resilience. Furthermore, the project will complete voluntary easements through local land conservancies in the watersheds of high-priority lakes to protect the lakes from nutrient pollution that threatens cool- and cold-water fishes.

The Keweenaw Bay Indian Community is the successor in interest of the L'Anse and Ontonagon Bands of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, signatories to the 1842 Treaty with the Chippewa (7 Stat. 591), and the 1854 Treaty with the Chippewa (10 Stat. 1109). Our Integrated Resources Management Plan (IRMP; adopted February 12, 2003) vision is to "live in harmony while enhancing and sustaining the resources of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community for the Seventh Generation." KBIC's traditional territory is composed of several hundred inland lakes and thousands of miles of rivers, streams, and creeks. The area is also adjacent to Lake Superior and encompasses hundreds of miles of coastal and shoreline habitats. We strongly feel as though this project will lend protective and long-term power to many of our Fisheries and Wildlife Management Objectives, with particular focus on systems supporting cool- and cold-water fish species, and wild rice.

We look forward to continued work on this project with many of our partners, including Michigan Department of Energy, Environment, and Great Lakes, Department of Natural Resources, Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, and others. KBIC will strive to assist with efforts toward protective management focusing on climate-resilient, cool- and cold-water lakes in the Ceded Territories in Michigan.

Sincerely,



Doreen G. Blaker  
President

**LAKE SUPERIOR BAND OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS**  
"Home of the Midnight Two-Step Championship"



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
LANSING



M. SCOTT BOWEN  
DIRECTOR

April 1, 2024

Rachel Dawson, Program Director  
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
1133 Fifteenth St., NW, Suite 1000  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Dawson:

Re: Ganawenim iniw zaaga'iganan genawenimigoyaang — Take care of those lakes that take care of us — in the 1836 and 1842 Ceded Territories in Michigan (EasyGrants Proposal ID # 83745)

I am writing this letter in support of the America the Beautiful Challenge Grant pre-proposal entitled “Ganawenim iniw zaaga'iganan genawenimigoyaang — Take care of those lakes that take care of us — in the 1836 and 1842 Ceded Territories in Michigan.” This project will initiate lake protective stewardship on high-priority cool- and cold-water lakes in Michigan’s Ceded Territories. Specifically, it will implement over 500 voluntary best management practices along the shorelines of lakes to shift landowner attitudes around private lake shorelines, improve water quality and nearshore habitats, and support climate-resilience. Furthermore, the project will complete voluntary easements through local land conservancies in the watersheds of high-priority lakes to protect the lakes from nutrient pollution that threatens cool- and cold-water fishes.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Fisheries Division’s Strategic Plan Goal One is to “Ensure healthy aquatic ecosystems and sustainable fisheries”, which this project accomplishes by building resilience for high-priority cool and cold-water fisheries through water quality protection and nearshore habitat restoration. These activities directly address the DNR’s Wildlife Action Plan focal areas of Inland Lake Cisco and Littoral Zones. The cool and cold-water focal species for this project are threatened (Cisco, Lake Sturgeon, Wild Rice), rare (Lake Whitefish), or declining (Walleye) in Michigan’s inland lakes. Furthermore, these species represent culturally and economically important resources for recreational and subsistence harvest.

For these reasons, DNR Fisheries will commit to supporting the successful completion of this project if it is funded. Specifically, staff with statewide inland lake habitat conservation, climate change conservation planning, and Wildlife Action Plan experience will participate with the project team to assist Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy in direction of all phases of the project alongside the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission and Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, and others.

Sincerely,

Randall M. Claramunt, Chief  
Fisheries Division  
231-622-3820



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
LANSING



M. SCOTT BOWEN  
DIRECTOR

April 03, 2024

Rachel Dawson, Program Director  
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
1133 Fifteenth St., NW, Suite 1000  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Dawson:

**SUBJECT: Ganawenim iniw zaaga'iganan genawenimigoyaang — Take care of those lakes that take care of us — in the 1836 and 1842 Ceded Territories in Michigan (EasyGrants Proposal ID # 83745)**

We are writing this letter in support of the America the Beautiful Challenge Grant Preproposal entitled “Ganawenim iniw zaaga'iganan genawenimigoyaang — Take care of those lakes that take care of us — in the 1836 and 1842 Ceded Territories in Michigan.” This project will initiate lake protective stewardship on high-priority cool- and cold-water lakes in Michigan’s Ceded Territories. Specifically, it will implement over 500 voluntary best management practices along the shorelines of lakes to shift landowner attitudes around private lake shorelines, improve water quality and nearshore habitats, and support climate-resilience. Furthermore, the project will complete voluntary easements through local land conservancies in the watersheds of high-priority lakes to protect the lakes from nutrient pollution that threatens cool- and cold-water fishes.

The Michigan the Beautiful initiative aims to collaboratively conserve, connect, and restore Michigan's lands and waters as part of the journey toward a thriving Michigan. Our focus is on fostering support of conservation work with a broad swath of Michiganders and empowering them to act on conservation themselves. This project directly fits those objectives by empowering landowners with the technical and financial assistance needed to bring conservation to their backyards. Furthermore, this project will positively impact carbon sequestration and storage, clean water, and wildlife climate resilience.

For these reasons, as the lead agency coordinating Michigan the Beautiful efforts, we are writing to provide enthusiastic support for this project, which aligns closely with our work. We hope you will consider funding this proposal in full and we look forward to staying connected with our partners as they carry out this important work.

Sincerely,

Patrick Mohney, Senior Lands Program Manager  
Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Executive Division, Office of Public Lands

cc: Ms. Sarah LeSage, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy  
Mr. Joe Nohner, Michigan Department of Natural Resources



*The Michigan Inland Lakes Partnership...promoting collaboration to advance stewardship of Michigan's inland lakes.*

March 26, 2024

Rachel Dawson, Program Director  
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
1133 Fifteenth St., NW, Suite 1000  
Washington, DC 20005

Re: Ganawenim iniw zaaga'iganan genawenimigoyaang — Take care of those lakes that take care of us — in the 1836 and 1842 Ceded Territories in Michigan (EasyGrants Proposal ID # 83745)

Dear Ms. Dawson,

I am writing this letter in support of the America the Beautiful Challenge Grant Preproposal entitled “Ganawenim iniw zaaga'iganan genawenimigoyaang — Take care of those lakes that take care of us — in the 1836 and 1842 Ceded Territories in Michigan.” This project will initiate lake protective stewardship on high-priority cool- and cold-water lakes in Michigan's Ceded Territories. Specifically, it will implement over 500 voluntary best management practices along the shorelines of lakes to shift landowner attitudes around private lake shorelines, improve water quality and nearshore habitats, and support climate-resilience. Furthermore, the project will complete voluntary easements through local land conservancies in the watersheds of high-priority lakes to protect the lakes from nutrient pollution that threatens cool- and cold-water fishes.

The Michigan Inland Lakes Partnership's mission is to promote collaboration to advance stewardship of Michigan's lakes. We are a partnership of many organizations, including two of the organizations on the grant application team (Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy; and Michigan Department of Natural Resources).

This project fits the collaborative model we support, specifically, engaging state and local agencies, Native American Nations, outreach institutions (universities and educational institutions), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), businesses, industries, and citizens in a collaborative effort to ensure the quality, sustainability, and ecological diversity of lakes, while considering society's needs. We support efforts to research, monitor, evaluate and regulate ecosystem impact sources, such as nutrient enrichment, exotic species, soil erosion, consumptive uses, overcrowding and others, to develop and promote proactive, sustainable, and science-based management practices. Further we encourage systems of voluntary and regulatory management approaches. The best management practices and easements that will be supported by this project fit our goals. Specifically, our Strategic Plan prioritizes protective actions that support conservation of Michigan's high-quality lakes. For these reasons, the Michigan Inland Lakes Partnership is writing to provide its enthusiastic support for this project, which aligns closely with our mission and strategy.

**MICHIGAN INLAND LAKES PARTNERSHIP**

Dr. Jo A. Latimore, Facilitator | Michigan State University · 480 Wilson Rd Rm 13 · East Lansing, MI 48824  
(517) 432-1491 <http://michiganlakes.msue.msu.edu>

To support the successful completion of this project, the Michigan Inland Lakes Partnership has agreed to serve as an advisory body for the project if funded. In this role, we will provide input to the grant project team on project implementation. This input may include reviewing criteria for priority locations, reviewing and providing feedback on grant selection criteria and grant handbook for best management practices, promoting the grant program, and reviewing and providing feedback on best management practice fact sheets, technical guidance, and other materials.

We look forward to working with the Michigan Department of Energy, Environment, and Great Lakes, Department of Natural Resources, Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, and others to complete this project and catalyze protective management for climate-resilient, cool- and cold-water lakes in the Ceded Territories in Michigan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jo A. Latimore". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jo A. Latimore, Ph.D.  
latimor1@msu.edu

March 25, 2024

Rachel Dawson, Program Director  
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
1133 Fifteenth St., NW, Suite 1000  
Washington, DC 20005

Re: Ganawenim iniw zaaga'iganan genawenimigoyaang — Take care of those lakes that take care of us — in the 1836 and 1842 Ceded Territories in Michigan (EasyGrants Proposal ID # 83745)

Dear Ms. Dawson,

I offer my full support for the America the Beautiful Challenge Grant Preproposal entitled “Ganawenim iniw zaaga'iganan genawenimigoyaang — Take care of those lakes that take care of us — in the 1836 and 1842 Ceded Territories in Michigan.” This project will initiate lake protective stewardship on high-priority cool- and cold-water lakes in Michigan’s Ceded Territories. Specifically, it will implement best management practices in over 500 projects along lakeshores to shift landowner attitudes around private lake shorelines, improve water quality and nearshore habitats, and support climate-resilience. Furthermore, the project will complete voluntary easements through local land conservancies in the watersheds of high-priority lakes to protect the lakes from nutrient pollution that threatens cool- and cold-water fishes.

The overarching goals of this proposed project fits well with Michigan State University Extension’s Center for Lakes and Streams’ mission to “advance the conservation and stewardship of Michigan’s inland lakes and streams through engagement, education, and research.” Lakes are largely surrounded by small private residential shoreline lots. As such, conservation efforts to increase climate resiliency and protect lake habitats requires working with individual property owners and then connecting their improved properties together. This proposed project greatly enhances Michigan’s lake protection efforts by not only boosting outreach to property owners, but by also breaking down the monetary barrier of implementing best practices that riparian landowners often have.

To support the successful completion of this project, MSU Extension Center for Lakes and Streams will help facilitate outreach and communications between the project team and lake stakeholders (e.g., riparians, lake associations, shoreline landscapers, local governments) throughout the 1836 and 1842 Ceded Territories in Michigan. This will entail promoting and advertising the proposed project in our current and future statewide programs and written communications. We will also weave messaging from the proposed program into our existing lake conservation outreach efforts.

We look forward to working with the Michigan Department of Energy, Environment, and Great Lakes, Department of Natural Resources, Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, and others to catalyze protective management for climate-resilient, cool- and cold-water lakes in the Ceded Territories in Michigan.

Sincerely,



Erick Elgin, M.S.  
Aquatic Ecologist  
Michigan State University Extension



**MSU EXTENSION**

Newaygo County  
4747 W 48th St.  
Fremont, MI 49412

231-924-0500  
msue.msu.edu



*Working together to protect, rehabilitate, and enhance sustainable fish habitats in glacial lakes of the Midwest for the use and enjoyment of current and future generations*

March 28, 2024

Rachel Dawson, Program Director  
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
1133 Fifteenth St., NW, Suite 1000  
Washington, DC 20005

Re: Ganawenim iniw zaaga'iganan genawenimigoyaang — Take care of those lakes that take care of us — in the 1836 and 1842 Ceded Territories in Michigan (EasyGrants Proposal ID # 83745)

Dear Ms. Dawson,

I am writing this letter in support of the America the Beautiful Challenge Grant Preproposal entitled “Ganawenim iniw zaaga'iganan genawenimigoyaang — Take care of those lakes that take care of us — in the 1836 and 1842 Ceded Territories in Michigan.” This project will initiate lake protective stewardship on high-priority cool- and cold-water lakes in Michigan’s Ceded Territories. Specifically, it will implement over 500 voluntary best management practices along the shorelines of lakes to shift landowner attitudes around private lake shorelines, improve water quality and nearshore habitats, and support climate-resilience. Furthermore, the project will complete voluntary easements through local land conservancies in the watersheds of high-priority lakes to protect the lakes from nutrient pollution that threatens cool- and cold-water fishes.

The Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership (MGLP) is a regional fish habitat partnership under the National Fish Habitat Partnership that brings together local, state, federal, and tribal agencies with other scientists, managers, outreach staff, lake professionals, and stakeholders. The MGLP’s mission is to “Work together to protect, rehabilitate and enhance sustainable fish habitats in glacial lakes of the Midwest for the use and enjoyment of current and future generations.” The proposed project addresses a major gap in funding and management, with very little existing resources available for protective lake management. This proposal’s protective lake management approach to build climate resilience for cool- and cold-water habitats through restoration of shorelines and protection of watersheds addresses 2 key action points in the MGLP’s Strategic Plan.

For these reasons, the MGLP is writing to provide its strong support for this project, which aligns closely with our mission and will catalyze protective management for climate-resilient, cool- and cold-water lakes in the Ceded Territories in Michigan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Hiebert". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right from the end of the name.

John Hiebert

Steering Committee Chair – Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership



March 26, 2024

Rachel Dawson, Program Director  
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
1133 Fifteenth St., NW, Suite 1000  
Washington, DC 20005

Re: Ganawenim iniw zaaga'iganan genawenimigoyaang — Take care of those lakes that take care of us — in the 1836 and 1842 Ceded Territories in Michigan (EasyGrants Proposal ID # 83745)

Dear Ms. Dawson,

The Michigan Wetlands Association (MWA) is writing this letter in support of the America the Beautiful Challenge Grant Preproposal entitled “Ganawenim iniw zaaga'iganan genawenimigoyaang — Take care of those lakes that take care of us — in the 1836 and 1842 Ceded Territories in Michigan.” This project will initiate lake protective stewardship on high-priority cool- and cold-water lakes in Michigan’s Ceded Territories. Specifically, it will implement over 500 voluntary best management practices along the shorelines of lakes to shift landowner attitudes around private lake shorelines, improve water quality and nearshore habitats, and support climate-resilience. Furthermore, the project will complete voluntary easements through local land conservancies in the watersheds of high-priority lakes to protect the lakes from nutrient pollution that threatens cool- and cold-water fishes.

MWA’s mission is to represent professionals working in all aspects of wetlands regulation, restoration, and research in the state of Michigan. The MWA is dedicated to the protection and restoration of wetlands and associated ecosystems through science-based programs, education and stewardship. This project’s goals and objectives align with MWA’s mission. For these reasons, MWA is writing to provide its enthusiastic support for this project, which aligns closely with our work.

We look forward to working with the Michigan Department of Energy, Environment, and Great Lakes, Department of Natural Resources, Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, and others to complete this project and catalyze protective management for climate-resilient, cool- and cold-water lakes in the Ceded Territories in Michigan.

Please contact me with any questions via email at [mwapresident@miwetlands.org](mailto:mwapresident@miwetlands.org)

Sincerely,

Todd Losee  
President  
Michigan Wetlands Association.





## Michigan Lakes and Streams Association, Inc.

Rachel Dawson, Program Director  
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
1133 Fifteenth St., NW, Suite 1000  
Washington, DC 20005

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Re: Ganawenim iniw zaaga'iganan genawenimigoyaang — Take care of those lakes that take care of us — in the 1836 and 1842 Ceded Territories in Michigan (EasyGrants Proposal ID # 83745)

March 25, 2024

Dear Ms. Dawson,

I am writing this letter in support of the America the Beautiful Challenge Grant Preproposal entitled "Ganawenim iniw zaaga'iganan genawenimigoyaang — Take care of those lakes that take care of us — in the 1836 and 1842 Ceded Territories in Michigan." This project will initiate lake protective stewardship on high-priority cool- and cold-water lakes in Michigan's Ceded Territories. Specifically, it will implement over 500 voluntary best management practices along the shorelines of lakes to shift landowner attitudes around private lake shorelines, improve water quality and nearshore habitats, and support climate-resilience. Furthermore, the project will complete voluntary easements through local land conservancies in the watersheds of high-priority lakes to protect the lakes from nutrient pollution that threatens cool- and cold-water fishes.

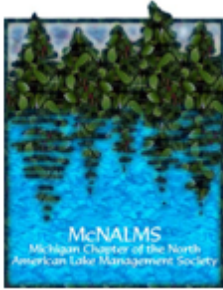
Michigan Lakes and Streams Association, Inc. is a state-wide, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and protection of Michigan's vast treasure of inland lakes and streams. We achieve our mission by supporting riparian associations as well as the collective and individual education and conservation initiatives of our members which include lake associations, concerned citizens, commercial, and non-profit businesses as well as our public and private collaborative partners. We are very excited to work with our state agency and tribal partners to promote this program and help bring lake associations and waterfront property owners to the table.

We look forward to working with the Michigan Department of Energy, Environment, and Great Lakes, Department of Natural Resources, Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, and others to complete this project and catalyze protective management for climate-resilient, cool- and cold-water lakes in the Ceded Territories in Michigan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melissa DeSimone".

Melissa DeSimone  
Executive Director, Michigan Lakes and Streams Association



# Michigan Chapter North American Lake Management Society

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PO Box 4812, East Lansing, MI 48826

March 25, 2024

Rachel Dawson, Program Director  
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
1133 Fifteenth St., NW, Suite 1000  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Dawson,

We are writing this letter in support of the America the Beautiful Challenge Grant Preproposal entitled "*Ganawenim iniw zaaga'iganan genawenimigoyaang — Take care of those lakes that take care of us — in the 1836 and 1842 Ceded Territories in Michigan*" (Easy Grants Proposal ID #83745). This project will initiate lake protective stewardship on high-priority cool- and cold-water lakes in Michigan's Ceded Territories. Specifically, it will implement over 500 voluntary best management practices along the shorelines of lakes to shift landowner attitudes around private lake shorelines, improve water quality and nearshore habitats, and support climate-resilience. Furthermore, the project will complete voluntary easements through local land conservancies in the watersheds of high-priority lakes to protect the lakes from nutrient pollution that threatens cool- and cold-water fishes.

The Michigan Chapter of the North American Lakes Management Society's (McNALMS) mission is to promote understanding and comprehensive management of Michigan's inland lake ecosystems. McNALMS is organized exclusively for educational and scientific purposes as related to water resource management, including:

- To encourage the cooperation and interaction of professionals and citizens to address the various problems impacting Michigan's lakes.
- To provide a forum for sharing of information and experiences in scientific, administrative, financial, legal, and legislative aspects of lake and watershed management.
- To foster development of local lake restoration and protection programs in accordance with appropriate management strategies and techniques.
- To promote wise management of Michigan's lakes by sharing information among government agencies, other professional groups, academia, and lake users; and by increasing public awareness of laws and policies designed to protect lakes and watersheds.
- To work collaboratively in partnership with state and local agencies, educational institutions, and other interest groups to collectively promote issues of concern and the management of lakes.

McNALMS is writing to provide its enthusiastic support for this project, which aligns closely with our mission and goals. To support the successful completion of this project, McNALMS will communicate project information and results to its members and affiliates.

We look forward to working with the Michigan Department of Energy, Environment, and Great Lakes, Department of Natural Resources, Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, and others to complete this project and catalyze protective management for climate-resilient, cool- and cold-water lakes in the Ceded Territories in Michigan.

Sincerely,

Ralph Bednarz,  
on behalf of the McNALMS Board and Officers