



2019 Deer Habitat Improvement Partnership Initiative Grant Award Recipients and Projects Descriptions

1. Iron-Baraga Conservation District

The DNR has approved **\$15,000** for the Iron-Baraga Conservation District to focus on habitat improvement within deer wintering complexes in Iron and Baraga counties. The district plans to plant a total of 525 oaks, 3,850 white pines, 1,550 wildlife shrubs, 255 apples, and provide 780 tree protectors to participating landowners. Distribution will be based on selection criteria for location, habitat suitability, and other factors. They will be allocated on a per-share basis within six different package options, depending on the habitat focus and scale (i.e. options ranging from large-scale conifer cover to small-scale wildlife shrub plantings). The number of shares offered (50) could equal up to 50 landowners participating. The district will contribute a \$7,170 (25 percent) match. Total project value is \$22,170.

2. Chippewa-Luce-Mackinac Conservation District

The Chippewa-Luce-Mackinac Conservation District has been awarded **\$10,900** to develop a project focused on hard and soft mast plantings with 12 or more eligible landowners owning 40 or more acres. Participants will be selected based on site and access considerations. Participants will get an allotment of red oak seedlings, apple tree saplings with tree protectors, fencing and signage as well as planting guidance. The seedlings/saplings are for non-ornamental planting in remote rural/camp settings. The district will contribute a match of \$4,085.50 (27.4 percent) for a total project value of \$14,982.99.

3. Straits Area Sportsmen's Club

The Straits Area Sportsmen's Club has been approved for **\$15,000**. They plan to partner with the U.S. Forest Service's Hiawatha National Forest to brush approximately 30 acres of small opening habitats on Forest Service lands in Mackinac County. The brushing will remove encroaching woody vegetation so natural grasses and forbs can thrive. Plans also include planting multiple 8- to 10-foot-tall red oaks with protective fencing. Proposal partners include the Forest Service contributing \$10,000 in biologist and technician time to set up the project, and the Ruffed Grouse Society with \$5,000 for early successional habitat creation of 10 acres, using a grinding head machine. The club will provide a match of \$4,828 (administering the contractors etc.; \$10,000 from the Forest Service for staff time, and \$5,000 from the Ruffed Grouse Society for the cutting head machine. The total match is valued at \$19,828 (132 percent). Total project value is \$34,828.

4. Marquette County Conservation District

The Marquette County Conservation District has been approved for a **\$9,500** grant for work to improve winter habitat in U.P. critical deer wintering areas. Professional tree planting crews will plant a variety of native conifer species, including hemlock, white pine and white spruce to address thermal cover needs. Hard and soft mast needs will be addressed with plantings of red

oak and apple and/or crabapple trees. Areas of openings may be planted with a wildlife seed mixture for vegetation management. The Bays De Noc Gobblers, U.P. Whitetails-Marquette County and Michigan United Conservation Clubs (volunteer coordination) are all partners on the project. The district is providing a match of \$2,375 (25 percent) for a total project value of \$11,875.

5. U.P. Whitetails-Shawn Cannon Forestry

The DNR has awarded a grant of **\$11,200** to U.P. Whitetails and Shawn Cannon Forestry to enhance summer and spring break conditions for deer. The project will include three different sites totaling 14.8 acres in Delta and Schoolcraft Counties. Two project sites will be bulldozed with a rack, then disc, seeded, and fertilized. The third project site will only need disking, seeding and fertilizing. The project will be implemented/seeded with a wildlife mixture consisting of oats, white ladino clover, red clover, alfalfa and chicory. The work will be done by Cannon Forestry and professional contractors. U.P. Whitetails Association Inc. will cost-share 10 percent for this project. Landowners will fund the remaining 15 percent for this project. A match of \$3,738.25 (25 percent) will be provided. The total project value is \$14,953.

6. Wildlife Unlimited of Iron County

Wildlife Unlimited of Iron County has been awarded **\$4,595** for their project which will maintain 10 food plots and hunter walking trails totaling 21.9 acres. The plots and trails were established with previous Deer Habitat Improvement Partnership Initiative grants and as part of the DNR's Gold Mine Grouse Enhanced Management Site. Additionally, 15 5-foot apple trees will be planted at five plots with protective fencing. Projects are part of a Mentored Youth Hunting Program for WUIC. Plots will be planted using clover mix and mowed in late summer as needed. The group is contributing a match of \$1,531.50 (25 percent). The total project value is \$6,126.

7. Gogebic Conservation District

The Gogebic Conservation District has been awarded **\$2,585** towards their project to maintain forest openings and walking trails within the Devils Creek-Chaney Lake deer wintering complex (Mosinee Grouse Enhanced Management Site) in Gogebic County. The projects include mowing of previously Deer Habitat Improvement Partnership Initiative grant-funded established trails and plots, with some reseeding. Plans are for 3 acres of reseeding and about 12.3 acres of mowing, within a 10.3-mile road/trail system. The district will contribute a match of \$1,157.50 (31 percent), with a total project value of \$3,740.50.

8. Gogebic Conservation District

The Gogebic Conservation District has been awarded **\$3,639** to plant abandoned or blocked forest trails and openings on county forests lands within the Little Girls Point deer wintering complex to a clover-treefoil mix. The forest trails and roads to be planted cover 2.33 miles in length and a total of about 4.24 acres. The district will provide a match of \$1,600 (31 percent), with the total project valued at \$5,239.

9. Alger Conservation District

The DNR has awarded **\$6,800** to the Alger Conservation District. The district will work with two Alger County private landowners in four areas in need of habitat improvement, plus a local unit of government and a local school district. They plan to pursue a planting strategy which will help establish: summer, fall, and winter forage; strategically placed wildlife openings and escape cover; and improved winter habitat on approximately 20 acres of land open to public use and/or adjacent to additional thousands of acres of publicly-owned land and commercial forest reserve land. The district plans to plant four sites with white pine, red oak, hazelnut and crabapple seedlings and saplings. At an additional site several acres will be planted with a clover-mix. The match from the district totals \$3,208.00 (29 percent). The total project value is \$11,378.60.

10. Schoolcraft Conservation District

The DNR has been awarded the Schoolcraft Conservation District **\$10,566** for work on Weyerhaeuser Commercial Forest Act lands, at seven project sites, to establish small wildlife food plots totaling about 8.09 acres. Plots are to be mechanically and chemically treated and then planted with a clover-rye mix and fertilized. In addition, adjacent to each site, eight apple and/or oak saplings with protectors will be planted. The match for this project is \$3,522 (25 percent). The total value of the project is \$14,088.09.

11. Whitetails Unlimited of Ontonagon County

Whitetails Unlimited of Ontonagon County has been awarded **\$6,915** to refresh and plant a 10-acre portion of a fallowed agriculture field owned by a private landowner, bounded by Forest Service lands and situated within the East Branch deer wintering complex as a spring break out area. The group plans to produce a large site sign. Cost share includes financial support and mowing of sites in August. A match of \$2,305 (25 percent) will be provided. The total project value is \$9,220.

12. Keweenaw Land Trust

The DNR has awarded a **\$3,300** grant to the Keweenaw Land Trust to improve habitat within the recently established Abbaye Peninsula Grouse Enhanced Management Site. This work will be done in an area that was previously a large captive cervid operation that was depopulated year ago. KLT recently removed the high fence. They want to open it up to the public to provide grouse and deer hunting opportunities. The project will improve habitat in the Abbaye Peninsula GEMS by clearing and seeding approximately a half-mile of vegetated hunter walking trail to a clover mix; another mile of hunter walking trails will be brushed and mowed. As part of the project match, the trust will pay for, and install, a kiosk, plus provide funding the overall project administration. The Ruffed Grouse Society is a partner on this project. The match totals \$1,500 (31 percent); with the total project value at \$4,800.

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