

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Preparation of this Habitat Plan has involved many hours of work on the part of many talented people, all of whom are dedicated to better understanding and protecting the ecological diversity of the St. Louis River Area of Concern. The members of the St. Louis River Citizens Action Committee (CAC) extend their thanks to everyone who has contributed to this Plan. It is the cooperation and hard work of all these people that has made the Habitat Plan a reality.

Very special thanks go to Pat Collins, Lake Superior Habitat Coordinator with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and Chair of the St. Louis River CAC Habitat Committee; Eric Epstein, Ecological Specialist with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; CAC Executive Director Lynelle Hanson (current); Mary Harkness, Ecoregional Ecologist with The Nature Conservancy; Tony Kroska, Director of Community GIS Services; John Lindgren, Fisheries Biologist with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources; Technical Writer Nancy Nelson; CAC Executive Director Karen Plass (former); Dennis Pratt, Fisheries Biologist with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; and Carol Reschke, Plant Ecologist with the County Biological Survey of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

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Karen Plass, CAC Executive Director from 1997-2000, secured the funding to create the Habitat Plan and coordinated the early stages of the planning effort. Lynelle Hanson, current CAC Executive Director, stepped in at a critical time and brought together the information and the people necessary to successfully complete the Plan.

Tony Kroska developed the GIS layers and produced the maps of the project area. Mary Harkness spent untold hours compiling and synthesizing information from many sources as well as writing and rewriting the bulk of the document. Nancy Nelson, in addition to writing portions of the document, acted as the chief wordsmith and copyeditor throughout the project.

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Please see Appendix 1 for a list of the many people who participated in the meetings and strategy sessions that were held to gather input for this Habitat Plan, and who patiently and carefully reviewed early drafts of the Plan.

**Members of the St. Louis River CAC Habitat Committee**

Pat Collins, Chair

Lake Superior Habitat Coordinator, MN Department of Natural Resources

Carl Richards, Vice Chair

Director, MN Sea Grant, University of Minnesota, Duluth

Lynelle Hanson

Director, St. Louis River CAC

Meredith Cornett

Conservation Ecologist, The Nature Conservancy

Tom Duffus

Program Manager, The Nature Conservancy

Eric Epstein

Ecological Specialist, WI Department of Natural Resources

Richard Gitar

Wetland Specialist, Fond du Lac Reservation

Mary Harkness

Ecological Services, The Nature Conservancy

John Lindgren

Fisheries Biologist, MN Department of Natural Resources

Howard McCormick

Fisheries Biologist (Retired), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

John Powers

Environmental Consultant, KPA Consulting

Dennis Pratt

Fisheries Biologist, WI Department of Natural Resources

Carol Reschke

Plant Ecologist, MN Department of Natural Resources

Rich Staffon

Wildlife Manager, MN Department of Natural Resources

Fred Strand

Wildlife Manager, WI Department of Natural Resources

Dave Warburton

Environmental Contaminants Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**Other CAC Members Who Contributed to the Habitat Plan**

Tom Fait

Environmental Consultant, Soil & Water Environmental Consulting

Jan Green

Minnesota Ornithologists' Union Records Committee

Jeff Gunderson

Minnesota Sea Grant, University of Minnesota, Duluth

Cindy Hagley

Minnesota Sea Grant, University of Minnesota, Duluth

Robert Hildebrand

Environmental Specialist, U.S. Coast Guard

Keith Hanson

Manager, Minnesota Power

Stephen Hopkins

Lake Superior Team Leader, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Doug Jensen

Exotic Species Specialist, Minnesota Sea Grant, University of Minnesota, Duluth

Dan Kellner

Invertebrate Specialist, MN Department of Natural Resources

Nancy Larson

Binational Program Coordinator, WI Department of Natural Resources

William Majewski

City Planner (Retired), City of Duluth

Martha Minchak

Wildlife Biologist, MN Department of Natural Resources

Dick Moore

Forester, Douglas County Forestry

Ted Smith

Lake Superior Basin Coordinator (Retired), WI Department of Natural Resources

John Spurrier

Fisheries Manager (Retired), MN Department of Natural Resources

**Technical Assistance**

Mary Harkness

Ecological Services, The Nature Conservancy

Nancy Nelson

Technical Writer, North Shore Technical Communications

Tony Kroska

Director, Community GIS Services

Heather Potter

Facilitator, The Nature Conservancy

Rob Sutter

Facilitator, The Nature Conservancy