

LARE grants targeted for sediment control

KPC NEWS SERVICE

INDIANAPOLIS — Lake and River Enhancement grants to fund sediment or logjam removal has been approved for six counties.

Six counties will be able to improve their waterways thanks to \$583,700 in grants awarded by Indiana Department of Natural Resources Director Cameron F. Clark through the LARE program.

LARE grants are administered through DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife. Funding will support six projects this year.

"We look to fund projects that will improve public accessibility to Indiana waterways and lakes," said Mark Reiter, Division of Fish & Wildlife director. "Improved access will increase recreation opportunities for boaters, anglers, paddlers, and others who love our waters."

The six projects were chosen through a competitive process from applications submitted by local sponsors, who agree to share at least 20 percent of the cost.

To view a complete list of logjam and sediment removal funding projects

from 2019-2020, visit wildlife.IN.gov/3304.htm.

One grant is for developing a sediment removal plan, which is the first step in any LARE dredging project. Four projects include actual sediment removal following at least a year of planning. Projects to dredge lake inlets or boating access channels receive the highest priority for LARE funding. Whole-lake dredging is generally too expensive for any entity to address.

The final grant is for logjam removal in a waterway. To qualify for LARE funding, a logjam must consist of more than just one or two trees. Logjams are massive amounts of debris that block the channel and may be causing erosive cutting of new channels in the stream.

LARE grants are funded through the LARE fee paid by boat owners annually when they register their boats with the Bureau of Motor Vehicles. This user-funded program benefits boaters all over the state. The grants allow for the completion of projects that

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would be difficult for local organizations to fund on their own.

Learn more about LARE at wildlife.IN.gov/2364.htm.

The local grants include:

- Sediment removal at Jones and Tamarack lakes in Noble County, \$74,000
- Sediment removal at Lake Wawasee, Kosciusko, \$150,000
- Sediment removal plan, Lime Lake, Steuben, \$7,500.