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**Name of Organization:** Door County Land Use Forum, Inc.

**Type of Organization:** Other

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**Project Title:** Decision Support - Containing Wildlife Habitat Loss

**Project Category:** Habitat (Ecological) Protection and Rest

**Rank by Organization (if applicable):** 0

**Total Funding Requested (\$):** 43,500 **Project Duration:** 1 Years

**Abstract:**

Wisconsin's Door Peninsula, like many areas that attract tourism and second homebuyers, experiences difficulty responding to the pressures & problems associated with growth, such as loss of open space, agricultural lands, and habitat for wildlife. The economic and social impacts of rising real estate values, low wage jobs, and shortage of affordable housing are a few local issues that further compound the burden on the community's sustainability.

The objective of this research / outreach project is to engage a cross section of the community's citizens with a series of facilitated processes designed for making assumptions and available knowledge more precise, explicit and open to critique. We will address the critical issue of the increased loss open space, farmland and wildlife habitat from a systemic or holistic perspective.

Facilitated citizen interactions will be supported with dynamic modeling techniques and computer simulations. These models and simulations will be utilized to create scenarios to examine the long term impacts on loss of open space and habitat for wildlife posed by alternative policy choices.

**Geographic Areas Affected by the Project**

**States:**

- |                                    |                                     |              |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Illinois  | <input type="checkbox"/>            | New York     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Indiana   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Pennsylvania |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Michigan  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Wisconsin    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Minnesota | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Ohio         |

**Lakes:**

- |  |                          |           |
|--|--------------------------|-----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Superior            | <input type="checkbox"/> | Erie      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Huron               | <input type="checkbox"/> | Ontario   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michigan | <input type="checkbox"/> | All Lakes |

**Geographic Initiatives:**

- |  |                                  |                                     |                                      |   |
|--|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greater Chicago | <input type="checkbox"/> NE Ohio | <input type="checkbox"/> NW Indiana | <input type="checkbox"/> SE Michigan | <input type="checkbox"/> Lake St. Clair |
|--|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|

**Primary Affected Area of Concern:** All AOCs

**Other Affected Areas of Concern:**

***For Habitat Projects Only:***

**Primary Affected Biodiversity Investment Area:** Door County Peninsula

**Other Affected Biodiversity Investment Areas:**

**Problem Statement:**

What can the region do to change this troubling trend of increased loss of open space? Where are time, attention, and resources best applied? Such questions are particularly challenging because the complexity of relationships and cross discipline connections preclude normal problem solving methods from becoming any more than short-term solutions leading back to the same problem and at times to unintended consequences. The capacity for communities and its decision-makers to proactively respond to growth and development for the most part has been limited to short term fixes. Land use planning and policy development have reached levels of complexity, such that traditional methods and tools are no longer effective.

The continuing loss of open space and wildlife habitat is manifested in a series of dynamic systemic complexities for which little is understood by average citizens. Understanding the relationships that control the behaviors impacting land conversions and the key factors that are driving the system constitute a most challenging and significant problem for communities across the country.

**Proposed Work Outcome:**

Does the system behavior display patterns or trends? Can these be linked to systemic feedback and interactions that are not obvious with preliminary examinations? Even more significantly, can we then use our systemic understanding to affect the way systems behave?

The project's implementation strategy will include a series of facilitated small group work sessions designed to draw out peoples' understanding of recent trends and the dynamic relationships among sectors of the community that create these trends.

Two teams of citizens will provide project oversight and management:

- 1) a five member development team is now engaged with preplanning and logistics in preparation for introductory system dynamics training and work session programs, and
- 2) an advisory team of 8 to 10 people, composed of various professionals and semi professionals from the community will work with the system dynamists and facilitators in providing data and logistical assistance.

The initial one day workshop will seek participation from a cross section of citizens (20). This will be followed by development of several conceptual models and a series of causal diagrams, including computer simulation models acceptable for public presentation and critique.

Over a nine month period, twelve to fifteen small work sessions, with different groups of people, will be conducted to enhance interaction and participation . These sessions will be used to bring additional reference data and insight into the simulation models.

The resulting clarity derived from each succeeding process allows deliberations and discussions to become more focused on the systemic behavior governing or driving the loss of open space and wildlife habitat. Additional visibility is gained about how system makeup such as land use policy and regulation, etc., impacts land conversion. Interactions among stakeholders and translation of the underlying assumptions about how loss of habitat occurs, combined with factual data, will help build consensus among decision-makers and citizens.

The implications are that: intense, focused energy to develop a deeper understanding of this issue will lead to better decisions and subsequent policies that could stabilize, if not reverse, the upward trend of open space and wildlife habitat loss.

The true value is not in the resulting models or casual diagrams, but rather in the interactive processes that helps make assumptions and knowledge more precise, explicit and open to critique.

<b>Project Milestones:</b>	<b>Dates:</b>
Project Start	06/2000
Workshop Planning Complete	06/2000
Community Workshop (one day)	06/2000
Conceptual Graphs & Models Complete	08/2000
Begin Outreach Workshop Series	09/2000
Complete 2nd Series of Comm Workshops	03/2001
Final Simulations for Public Use Compl.	05/2001
Project End	06/2001

Project Addresses Environmental Justice

**If So, Description of How:**

Project Addresses Education/Outreach

**If So, Description of How:**

Plans envision an outreach to more than 240 people, composed of elected officials, land use planners, local and state agency personnel, non-government organizations, environmental groups, farm organizations and general citizenry. Consideration will be given to use of local public access television to broaden awareness.

The Land Use Forum has a collateral pilot project in K12 education underway with a local school district to provide instruction in system dynamics and computer simulation modeling for teachers, students and citizens. Early success and positive results with this project has prompted the school board to approve the addition of system dynamics as part of the regular curriculum next fall. Our plans include active roles for the K12 education participants in the proposed project.

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**Project Budget:**

	<b>Federal Share Requested (\$)</b>	<b>Applicant's Share (\$)</b>
<b>Personnel:</b>	1,500	1,000
<b>Fringe:</b>	0	0
<b>Travel:</b>	4,000	2,000
<b>Equipment:</b>	0	0
<b>Supplies:</b>	2,000	1,000
<b>Contracts:</b>	36,000	8,000
<b>Construction:</b>	0	0
<b>Other:</b>	0	0
<b>Total Direct Costs:</b>	43,500	12,000
<b>Indirect Costs:</b>	0	0
<b>Total:</b>	43,500	12,000
<b>Projected Income:</b>	0	0

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**Funding by Other Organizations (Names, Amounts, Description of Commitments):**

Door County Stewardship Council \$12,000

This group is the formulation of a local partnership of grassroots organizations along with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The funds provided come from monies allocated to build capacities for the community to collaborate and work together in resolving natural resource and land use issues.

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**Description of Collaboration/Community Based Support:**

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The following group of organizations (partners) will participate at various levels as the project develops.

Sturgeon Bay School District  
Door County Environmental Council  
The Nature Conservancy  
Door County Land Trust  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Lakeshore Basin  
Planning Department - County of Door  
University of Wisconsin - Green Bay - Department of Public Affairs  
Prescott College, AZ - Sustainability and Global Change Program Office  
Door Property Owners, Inc.  
Gibraltar Preservation Council  
Northeast Wisconsin Sustainable Agricultural Network

Each of these partners will participate in planning logistics and the work sessions