

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Newton Creek and Hog Island Inlet system are within the St. Louis River Area of Concern on Lake Superior. Historical releases resulted in sediment and a flood plain soil contaminated with petroleum related compounds and lead in the Creek and Inlet. The purpose of this Legacy Act request for remediation is to remove 40,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment and soil, which will restore aquatic habitat and make the Inlet safe and healthy for recreational activities.

Newton Creek begins near the Murphy Oil Refinery, in Superior, Wisconsin, and flows approximately 1.5 miles to Hog Island Inlet of Superior Bay. The Inlet is a 17-acre shallow, protected embayment with emergent vegetation connected to Superior Bay by a 50 foot-wide channel. Once contaminated sediments are remediated, Hog Island Inlet will provide valuable sheltered productive shallow water habitat. This project would implement a Lake Superior Lakewide Management Plan (LaMP) priority – cleanup of contaminated sites (Lake Superior Binational Program, 2000).

An investigation in 1995 (WDNR, 1995), concluded that ecological impacts to Newton Creek and Hog Island Inlet were severe. In 1997, Murphy Oil made improvements to their wastewater treatment facility, and remediate contaminants in the upstream impoundment area and Segment A of Newton Creek. In 2003, the DNR removed and disposed of 5000 yards of contaminated sediment and flood plain soils from of Newton Creek, in Segments B-K. This project will complete the remediation of the Hog Island Inlet and Newton Creek System.