

iron range resources and rehabilitation board
BIENNIAL REPORT
1984



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A342
1982/84

Pursuant to 298.22, sd 2

To the Governor and Legislature of the State of Minnesota

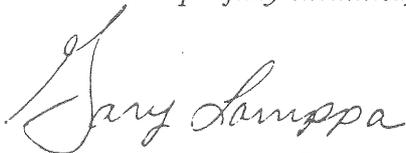
It is my pleasure to submit to the Honorable Rudy Perpich, Governor of the State of Minnesota, and the Seventy-Fourth Legislature of the State this twenty-first Biennial Report of the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board.

This report is prepared in compliance with Minnesota Statutes 1981, Section 298.22, Subdivision 2, for a period which includes fiscal years 1983 and 1984.

It is the hope of the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board that the new programs which have been instituted as well as the continuation of successful existing programs will have a long and a positive impact on employment opportunities for the citizens of northeastern Minnesota.

This report is made available to the members of the State Legislature, citizens, and public entities.

Respectfully submitted,



Gary Lamppa,
Commissioner



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PAST IRRRB COMMISSIONERS

Herbert J. Miller* July 1, 1941 - June 30, 1942
Robert E. Wilson July 1, 1942 - May 1, 1949
Ben P. Constantine May 1, 1949 - November 20, 1950
Edward G. Bayuk November 20, 1950 - April 30, 1955
Kaarlo Otava May 1, 1955 - January 4, 1961
Hyrom S. Sorenson** January 5, 1961 - February 2, 1961
A.M. DeYoannes February 3, 1961 - May 1, 1971
Robert J. Scuffy May 2, 1971 - January 10, 1975
Frank V. Ongaro January 11, 1975 - December 31, 1978
Patrick J. McGauley January 1, 1979 - December 31, 1982

*Director from July 1941 to April 18, 1942.

**Acting Commissioner

PRESENT BOARD MEMBERS

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State Representative David Battaglia, Two Harbors
State Representative Douglas Carlson, Sandstone
State Representative Mary Murphy, Hermantown
State Representative Dominic Elioff, Virginia
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State Senator Robert Lessard, International Falls
State Senator Ronald Dicklich, Hibbing, Vice Chairman
State Senator Sam Solon, Duluth
State Senator Florian Chmielewski, Sturgeon Lake
Commissioner Joseph Alexander, Department of Natural Resources

Iron Range Economic Development

The entire question of economic development is so complex that there can be no simple answer or simple solution. The only absolute in the development picture is that a combination of remedies must be sought for the current economic slump so evident in our towns and cities.

It has become increasingly apparent that dependence upon a single industry, in this region's case taconite, is neither healthy nor economically viable. For while taconite is still important—and will continue to be important—it will never again be the single industry or activity which will support the Iron Range. It cannot and will not supply the dollars we need for education, for municipalities, for social programs. Because of this, the IRRRB is addressing the whole area of economic development and concentrating on a multi-faceted approach to the region's problems.

While none of them alone will provide THE answer, certainly we must seriously consider the relative importance, in tandem, of such industries as tourism, small business ventures, and woods products. This type of mix may well provide both the treatment for our current economic ills and a vaccine against their recurrence.

What has become clear over the past few years is that the Iron Range must commit itself to an ambitious long-term economic development program. Remembering the now all too familiar boom and bust cycle, we must diversify. The only question is "how"?

The IRRRB firmly believes that this region is rich in human and

natural resources. Populated by skilled and hard-working people, blessed with institutions and an unequaled quality of life, our region possesses all the ingredients for economic success.

To use our resources, the IRRRB has developed a series of programs aimed at encouraging economic diversification. These include a Financial Assistance Loan Program to promote small business development. This program provides needed interest relief through the Board's participation in bank financing for new and expanding businesses located within the Taconite Tax Relief area. To date, IRRRB expenditures of more than \$6 million have leveraged approximately \$14.5 million private dollars, which in turn retained over 400 existing jobs and created 500 new ones.

To encourage larger industrial/commercial development, the IRRRB has established, with Legislature approval, a "state of the art" Industrial Bonding Program which is considered one of the finest in the nation. The program offers low-rate, extended-term financing for business development. To date, two major projects



exceeding \$13.5 million have created over 300 jobs.

The IRRRB Boiler Conversion Program, the purchase of a mainframe computer system for participating school districts, and increased emphasis on wood products and mineral development are other prime examples of our economic development efforts.

Tourism has received long and careful study. On the basis of research, the IRRRB believes that this industry can and will expand. We have made a start in this direction by the current renovation and expansion of the Iron Range Interpretative Center and the opening of Giants Ridge, with its Nordic Training Center.

Because of the strong emphasis being given to economic development and the allocation of funds necessary to this crucial area, less money will be available for municipal needs, and short-term sacrifices will be necessary. It is our hope and our belief that the people of our area will understand the importance of what we must do, which will affect ultimately the lives of each of us.

We are determined to succeed in restoring Minnesota's Iron Range to the stability and prosperity enjoyed throughout its distinguished history. With the cooperation of our local officials, our Legislators and the Governor, together with the Federal government, we will not only survive but we will prosper in this land we all love.



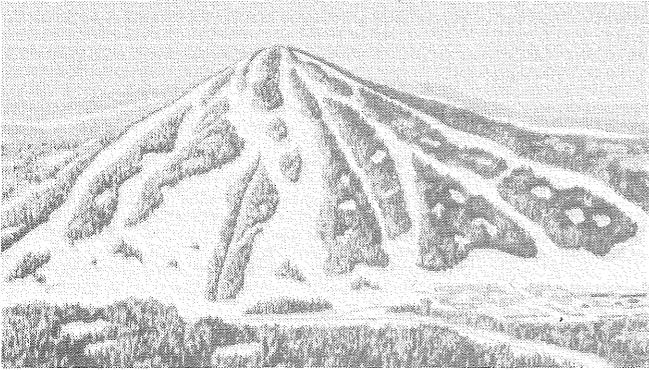
Giants Ridge

Giants Ridge, located in Biwabik, represents the newest and most complete recreational ski facility in the United States. Opened in November 1984, the area has been hailed as the best throughout downhill and cross country ski areas in the Upper Midwest. With 8 downhill runs and nearly 40 kilometers of cross country trails, Giants Ridge offers a wide range of skiing and experience for the beginner, intermediate and advanced Alpine and Nordic enthusiast. But Giants Ridge is more than a recreational facility for the amateur weekend skier.

Giants Ridge has been selected as the new Midwest Nordic Training Facility for the United States Ski Association (USSA). In September, ground was broken for the ultra modern Nordic facility, which houses 50 athletes. Future Olympic and international competition hopefuls will enjoy the best in sports medicine care and weight training facilities.

A major portion of Giants Ridge sits in the midst of the state's Superior National Forest. Ski runs start at the top of the Laurentian Divide and overlook the Embarrass River and Wynne and Sabin Lakes. The entire Giants Ridge complex encompasses approximately 1300 acres, 60 of which are devoted to downhill runs. Approximately 1000 acres is set aside for cross-country trails. The remaining 240 acres hold a new ski chalet, the Nordic facility, and allow for future expansion.





Giants Ridge is a result of the realization that a shrinking local industry demands alternative economic growth if the Iron Range is to survive. It is a tangible step toward increasing tourism in the region for the betterment of all segments of the economy. The Ridge is planned as a year-round facility.

Facilities for camping, tennis, boating, water sports and language programs are in the planning stages, with the ultimate goal of making the area a first-rate training ground for American athletes, whatever their field of endeavor.

Iron Range Interpretative Center

Since its opening in the summer of 1977, the Iron Range Interpretative Center has captured the imagination of close to three-quarters of a million visitors.

Through a series of informative and dramatic exhibits, the Center has made Iron Range history come alive for scores of tourists and residents. Its unique location on the rim of the Glen Mine adds a sense of history to the story of mining laid out within the Center through a blend of audio-visual techniques, artifacts, graphics and participatory activities. The Center has also managed to capture, distill and preserve the rich heritage of the immigrants from 43 nations who settled the Iron Range. It stands as a monument to them and to the land they settled and tamed.

Because of its increasing popularity and its contribution to both the history and the humanity of northern Minnesota, the Center is presently undergoing a major expansion, due for completion in the Spring of 1986. All those associated with the project were saddened by the decision to close the Center until completion of the expansion project. However, everyone associated with plans and with the coming reality of the new complex are excited by the \$7 million transformation and confident that the "new" Iron Range Interpretative Center will be one of the most modern, dynamic and popular tourist attractions in the United States.

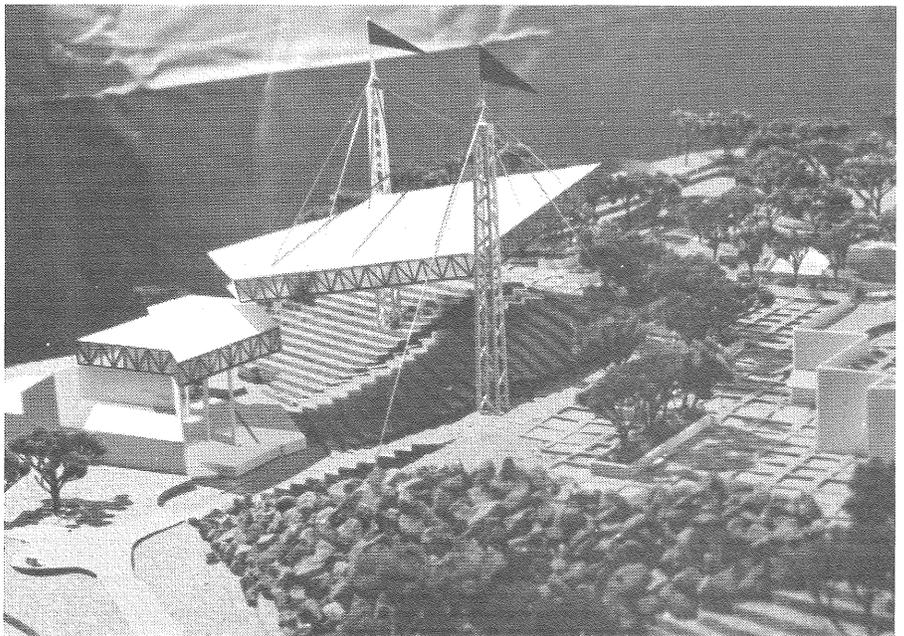
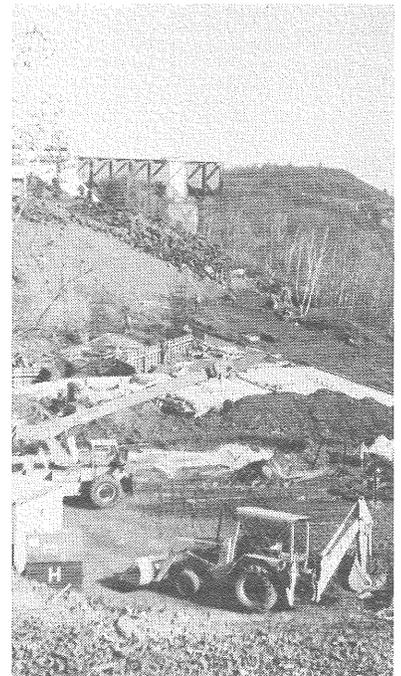
THE NEW LOOK

Construction is well underway on a variety of additions to the seven

year old Center. These include a Control Building, which will be adjacent to a new parking area and which will provide a central visitor entrance point to the complex.

A 3,400 seat amphitheatre will accommodate a wide variety of events, including concerts, lectures and festivals.

A new Science and Energy Center will concentrate on high tech, including computers, biotechnology, medical technology, communications, energy, food and agriculture. Interactive exhibits will invite the exploration and participation of visitors. The energy plant used to heat the entire project will itself be an exhibit. The Science and Energy Center will have as its primary focus job training and retraining, fostering an interest in science and an understanding of it. Additional educational and community uses of the facility are planned.



The former parking lot at the Center will be converted into a park, featuring a reflective pool area during the summer and outdoor recreation for the winter months.

Projects still under consideration include a steam locomotive operation, Old Towne (a restoration of an old mining town on the south side of Glen Mine), a hotel and convention center, which would include a golf course, a craft center located in Old Towne, and a water attraction situated in the open pit.

THE CENTER'S FUTURE ECONOMIC IMPACT

Upon its completion, professionals estimate that attendance at the Iron Range Interpretative Center could grow to 350,000 visitors per year, with a resultant significant economic impact on the surrounding region. Together with other attractions in the Center, it would form the nucleus of one of the country's most exciting and popular tourist destinations. With the addition of a first-rate hotel, Minnesota's Iron Range could be in a position to bid for convention business, an economic element which is missing at the present time.

The reopening of the complex in the Spring of 1986 is eagerly awaited by the administration and staff of the Center. It is also a source of anticipation and pride to the residents of the region who see it as yet another step in the development of the tourism industry in northeastern Minnesota.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

As in the past, attendance at the Iron Range Interpretative Center was far from a seasonal affair. A series of interesting, informative and just plain fun programs were scheduled, and each was well attended.

Antique Car Show
Old-fashioned Christmas
Polkafest
Bluegrass Festival

In addition to these special activities, the Center's staff conducted numerous workshops, seminars and demonstrations. These were well received and achieved their goals of informing, educating and entertaining.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Since its inception, the Center has been aware of its responsibility to students of all ages. Continuing its custom, the Center allowed free entrance to student groups, made staff available to present special seminars and continued a program which brought the Interpretative Center into schools throughout the area.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Much of what has been accomplished over the past seven years would not have been possible without the devoted and wholehearted contributions of the Center's staff of volunteers. Whether staffing the tourist information booth, conducting tours or assisting in traffic control, our volunteers have been effective and much appreciated ambassador of goodwill.

Minnesota Ethnic Days

Known from one end of the state to the other, and beyond, Ethnic Days continued to be a powerful tourist draw.

The twelve day celebration features the music, dance, foods, culture and heritage of many nations, with each day devoted to a different ethnic group.

The high caliber of the entertainment, programming and cuisine have made Ethnic Days a celebration of which all Minnesotans can be proud.



Public Information Division

ANCHOR LAKE TOURIST INFORMATION CENTER

Tourism development in northeastern Minnesota has been a major emphasis of the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board for the past fifteen years.

There is no better way to promote tourism traffic into a region than by making those visitors feel welcome.

This is the goal of the Anchor Lake Tourist Information Center and it has met with great success. This facility, located on U.S. Highway 53, 12 miles south of Eveleth, continues to be one of the strongest Travel Information Centers in the state system.

Midway through the biennium Anchor Lake recorded its half-millionth visitor. In the next biennium that figure will be doubled. Total visitorship now stands at 780,216. Over 500,000 brochures have been distributed. Nearly 100,000 maps have helped our visitors with directions. Our tourists have come from all 50 states and 36 foreign countries.

The Anchor Lake Travel Information Center is operated by a skilled staff of specialists. Open daily, summer hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. During the fall, winter and spring months information is dispensed by 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

THE IRON TRAIL

The public information division has launched a new campaign of promotion and advertising for the many tourism opportunities in northeastern Minnesota.

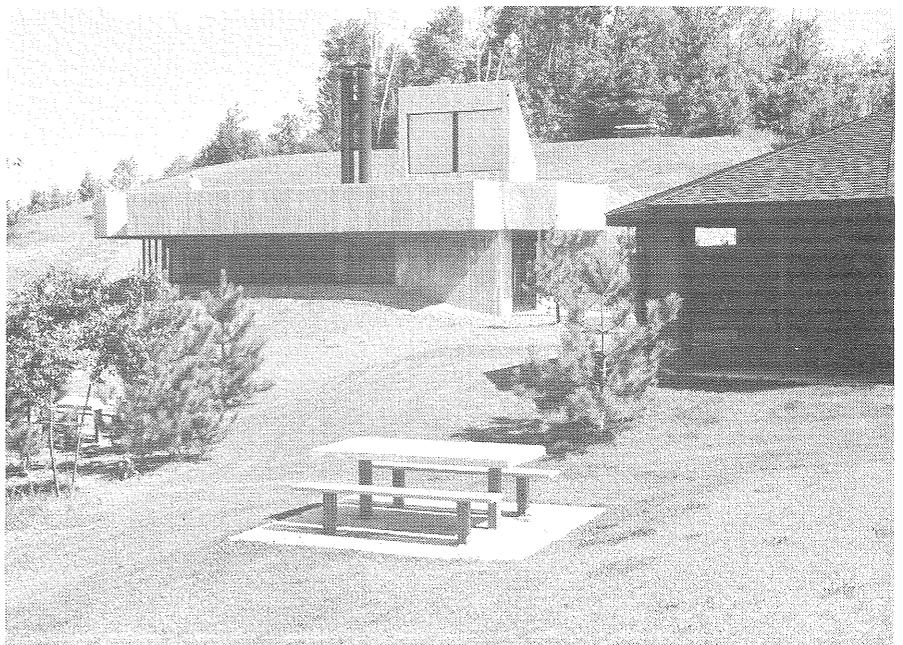
Keying on the multi-million dollar investments into the Iron Range Interpretative Center and the Giants Ridge Recreation Ski Area, the program is designed to foster a "destination image" for the Iron Range.

MEDIA AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

The Public Information division is charged with the responsibility to keep the media and public informed of the workings of the IRRRB.

Utilizing news releases, news conferences, purchased multi-media advertising and promotion, the division has maintained a high visibility for the Agency's many activities.

Brochures and support materials were produced for the Hill Annex Mine Tours, the Iron Range Interpretative Center and Giants Ridge Ski Area. Slide-tape programs were produced for a number of activities.



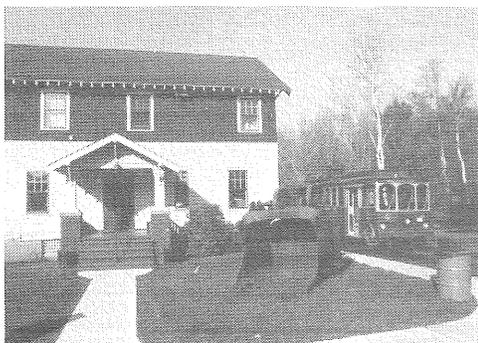
Hill Annex Mine Tours

It is unique. The only tour available to an open-pit natural ore mine in all the country is to be found at Hill Annex. Visitors may look upward at a sheer pit wall from 618 feet down or view the scenery from the top of a 170 foot stockpile.

The tour goes beyond these experiences. Located in the old mine clubhouse, for tourists to see, are mining artifacts and audio-visual materials. Bus tours are conducted by miners who actually worked in the mine. Displays have been and are being updated.

Four tours are conducted daily, seven days a week, from Memorial Day through September. Thousands have taken the tour and have been most enthusiastic about the experience. This is truly an exciting part of tourism on the Iron Range.

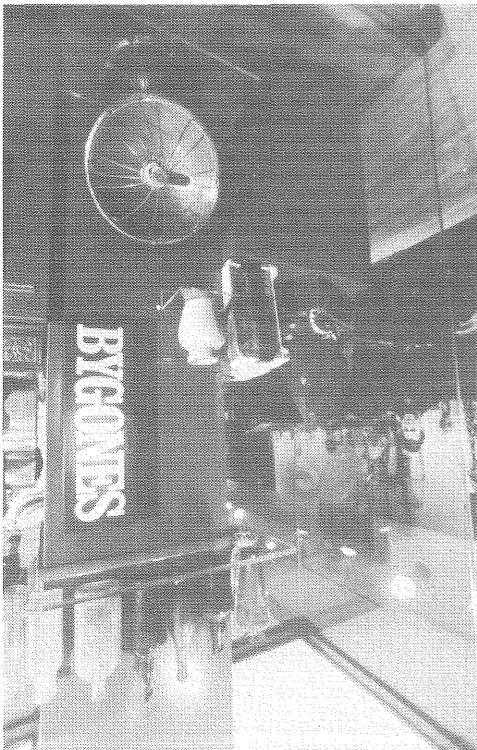
“Miners Day” is held each summer to commemorate miners on the Iron Range. This is a community event, spilling beyond the mine to a community park. Thousands have attended this festivity.



HILL ANNEX MINE

The headquarters for the Mineland Reclamation program is the impressive Hill Annex Mine in Calumet. Turned over to the IRRRB in 1979, the old natural ore mine is on 640 acres of state land. It was last actively mined in 1978.

A mineland reclamation demonstration area is also centered at the site. Daily mine tours are popular with tourists in summer months.



Research & Beautification

AIDS TO GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY

Ever increasing, peat research and utilization are important issues. The personnel of the division have assisted government and industry with information about this valued resource.

The division supervisor is a member of the Peat Advisory Committee and of the Governor's Interagency Peat Task Force. Both provide input for the development of a comprehensive peat policy in the state.

For over twenty years, the division has provided worldwide aid to current and prospective developers who would utilize peat in agriculture, horticulture, and fuel.

Increased attention has been focused on the gasification studies underway at Wilderness Valley.

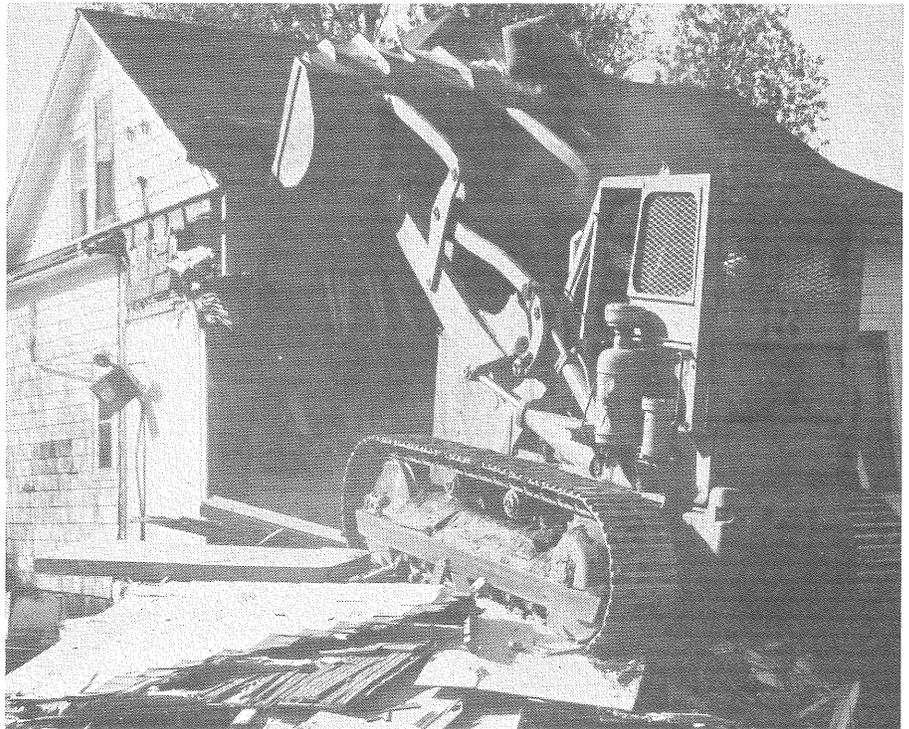
During the biennium, the division has conducted educational seminars and has attended peat symposiums and seminars. Division staff have participated in the Agency's speakers bureau and have been active in many forms of public relations programs.

BUILDING DEMOLITION PROGRAM

Now in its twelfth year of operation, this program continues to be one of the most successful ever conducted by the IRRRB. Thousands of abandoned and dilapidated buildings have been razed in communities from Crosby to Grand Marais. A waiting list for services of the program exists. Following such demolition, new construction and other

improvements have generally followed completing the positive process.

Under the program, residents can have their buildings removed at no direct cost. The IRRRB furnishes equipment and manpower. Should a project be too extensive for the program, grants to accomplish beautification have been given to communities.





TRAILS PROGRAM

To accomplish its primary goal of fostering economic growth through the promotion of winter tourism, the Trails Program developed winter recreational trails for snowmobiling and cross-country skiing throughout the biennium. The program has complemented efforts of existing private and volunteer organizations as well as governmental units to realize this objective. Forms of assistance have varied from providing consulting services to helping with the actual physical construction and maintenance of trails.

Some trail funding has been provided to assist resorts in the expansion of their typical business season. Thus, the program acts with the agency's Financial Assistance Loan Program in the facilitating of resort rehabilitation.

Yet another accomplished goal of the program has been to assist various groups in the promotion of special winter events by grooming the trails associated with such events.

Mineland Reclamation

Dramatic and positive changes have been produced through the works of the Mineland Reclamation Division of the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board during the past two years.

New projects have been instituted and work has continued on progressive works begun in previous bienniums. Trees have been planted in areas previously devoid of vegetation, areas previously dangerous are now being used by the public, erosion problems have been brought closer to stabilization. Throughout, the staff has exercised creativity and wise stewardship.

In each succeeding year, the scope of the vision of needful and possible works for the Division grows. Growth chambers for trees, wind energy systems, tourism and recreational projects demand and receive attention. Mineland reclamation projects, initially limited to state lands, are now in process with city, township and county lands as well as lands leased by various governmental agencies from the mining industry and actual mining industry lands.

The Mineland Reclamation division looks back with pride on past accomplishments and forward with eagerness to future challenges.

REVEGETATION

Revegetation plays a crucial role in mineland reclamation. It produces an aesthetically pleasing appearance, controls erosion and hinders dust pollution. Four techniques, practiced by the division, continue to be effective. They are: tree planting and transplanting, tree seeding, grass seeding, fertilizing and mulching.



GROWTH CHAMBER

Container trees continue to be successful. They are easier to plant, have a far superior survival rate, and afford a longer planting season. Our growth chamber produces these trees. Housed in the basement of the Hill Annex Mine clubhouse, its energy efficient and sophisticated operation delivers a capability of producing 160,000 seedlings annually. Jack pine is the primary tree provided. Work is ongoing in efforts to develop the ideal tree for this purpose in this region. In addition to jack pine, approximately twenty other trees and shrubs are grown.

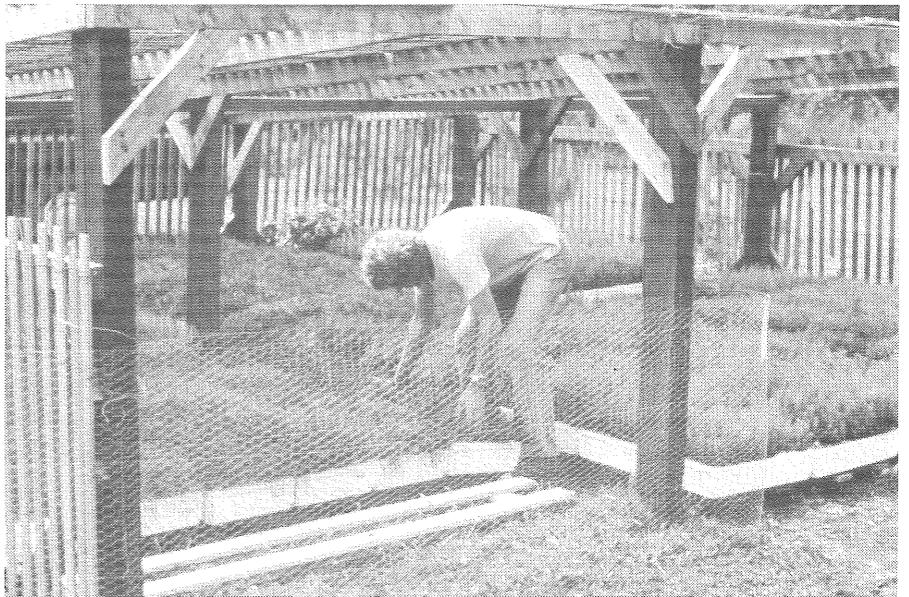
PLANTING PROGRAM

Utilizing containerized trees produced in the Division's growth center, bare-root trees, larger trees in areas needing immediate screening, the Division's plantings were most extensive during the biennium. Grass covers in areas of erosion or to provide a vegetative cover for a number of reasons, a combination of grasses and trees proved effective as did hydromulching (a slurry of seed and fertilizer covered by mulch). The survival rate of larger trees, planted by the Vermeer tree planter has been excellent.

DEMONSTRATION AREA

Differing activities are to be found in the demonstration area.

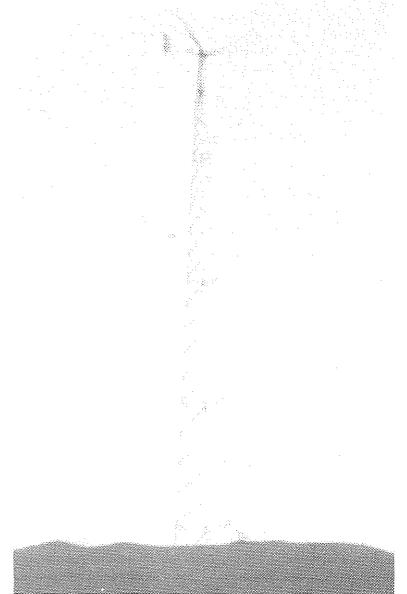
To discover the suitability of revegetation and erosion control techniques in mineland reclamation, various tests are in process at the Hill Annex Mine. These include seeding and planting differing grasses and legume seed mixes as



well as the planting of containerized tree and shrub seedlings.

Experiments to best channel water to decrease erosion through erosion blankets and determining optimum angles of slope of reclaimed pit walls are also being conducted.

Feasibility studies in wind energy continue to be conducted in the demonstration area, for wind is an inexpensive, nonpolluting and renewable energy source. The data collected from these experiments has been positive; energy costs at the complex are reduced through the operation of a wind energy system. Since many communities on the Iron Range have excellent sites for the installation of wind energy systems, it is encouraging to discover that the Hill Annex Mine is encouraging further use of this source in differing locations.



SUMMARY OF MINELAND RECLAMATION PROJECTS 1982 - 1984

1982

TREEPLANTING: 156,728 planted (including 42,000 container trees provided by the IRRRB)

Physical Reclamation Projects:

St. James Pit—Aurora
Mt. Iron stripping stockpile
Pennington Pit—Crosby
Demonstration Area—Hill Annex, Calumet
West Two Rivers Reservoir—Mt. Iron
Tailing basin vegetation study—Keewatin
Rhude and Fryberger dump—Hibbing
Oliver shop area—Hibbing
Hanna Reservoir—Keewatin
Kinney Pit—Kinney
Leonidas Project—Eveleth
Town of White stockpile—Aurora
Pioneer stockpile—Ely

1983

TREE PLANTING: 155,039 trees (including 64,200 container trees)

PHYSICAL RECLAMATION PROJECTS:

St. James pit reshaping—Aurora
Judson stockpile—Buhl
Judson-Moore stockpile—Buhl
Tailing basin study—Keewatin
Mt. Iron stripping stockpile—Mt. Iron
Pennington-Mangan Pit—Crosby
West Two Rivers Reservoir—Mt. Iron
Oliver shop area—Hibbing
O'Brien Reservoir—Keewatin
Leonidas Project—Eveleth
Demonstration Area—Hill Annex, Calumet
Yawkey—Crosby
Pennington access—Crosby
Iron Range Regional Marksman Center—Hibbing

1984

TREE PLANTING: 172,135 trees (including 150,000 container trees)

PHYSICAL RECLAMATION PROJECTS:

- Iron Range Regional Marksmanship Project—Hibbing
- O'Brien Reservoir Recreation Area—Keewatin
- Judson High Wall—Buhl
- Pennington Access—Crosby
- Kelly Lake watershed—Kelly Lake
- North Oliver shop area—Hibbing
- Miners Pit Lake—Ely
- Embarrass stockpile revegetation—Aurora
- Gilbert Pit Access and Recreation Area—Mt. Iron
- West Two Rivers Reservoir Recreation Area—Mt. Iron
- Pit wall (rip rap)—Calumet
- Embarrass Pit access—Aurora
- Sewage use development—Grand Rapids
- Fish and wildlife habitat—Mesabi and Cuyuna Range
- Wind Energy Program—Hill Annex, Calumet
- Croft Historical Park—Crosby
- Hill Annex Mine Tours—Calumet
- Fish stocking of abandoned mine pits—Mesabi and Cuyuna Range
- Water Resource Project—Mesabi Range
- Proposed mapping project—Mesabi Range
- Industrial Park—Aurora



**IRON RANGE RESOURCES AND REHABILITATION BOARD (IRRRB)
MINELAND RECLAMATION TREE PLANTING
— MESABI, CUYUNA & VERMILION RANGES —**

YEAR	BAREROOT	BAREROOT	TOTAL	CONTAINER	VERMEER	TRANS-	TOTAL	DIRECT
	TREES	TREES						
	STATE	BLANDIN	BAREROOT	TREES	TREES	PLANTS		
1978	37,700	10,000	47,700	900	-	477	49,077	10 lbs
1979	98,694	12,000	110,694	7,200	-	-	117,894	20 lbs
1980	85,200	4,000	89,200	35,275	135	1,096	125,706	10 lbs
1981	75,000	-	75,000	62,000	210	500	137,710	10 lbs
1982	114,000	-	114,000	42,000	237	491	156,728	10 lbs
1983	89,700	-	89,700	64,200	261	878	155,039	3.5 lbs
1984*	20,000	-	20,000	150,000	185	1,950	172,135	5 lbs
TOTAL	520,294	26,000	546,294	361,575	1,028	5,392	914,289	68.5 lbs

*Proposed Planting

Peat Research

Applied peat research, peat harvesting, assistance to the peat industry and boiler conversions highlighted the activities of the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board's Division of Peat Research.

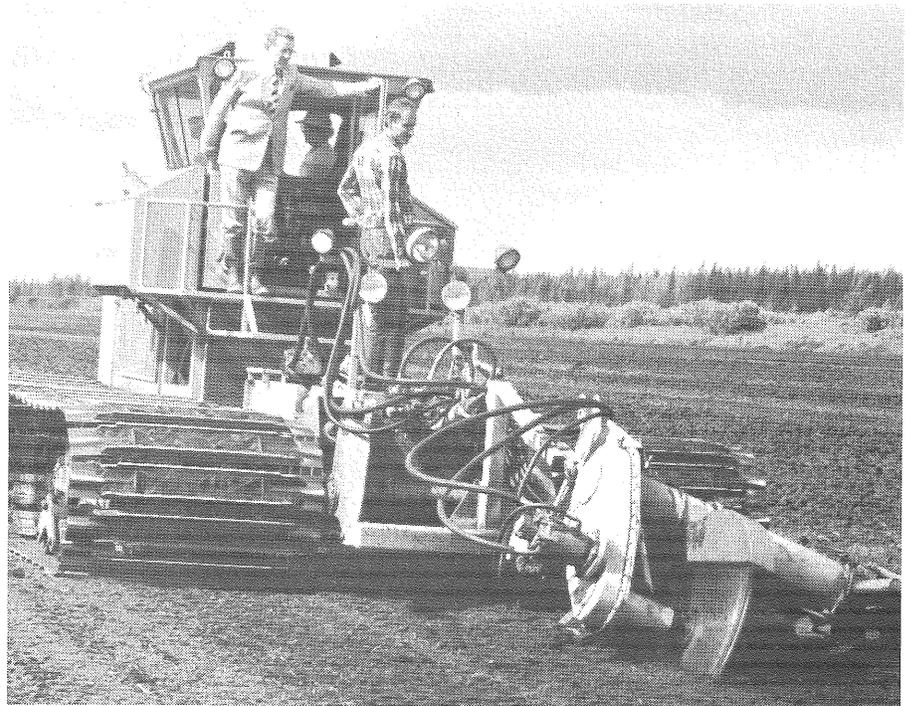
PEAT HARVESTING

The goal of the division this biennium was to prove, once and for all, that a viable peat operation in Minnesota was possible. The applied research was directed at three primary areas of concern:

1. Demonstrating proven European methods for milled and sod peat for utilization in this region.
2. Acquisition of actual cost and production figures for a Minnesota peat fuel operation.
3. Accomplish a test burn in area boilers to determine efficiency of existing boilers and to determine reprofit requirements for boiler conversions.

The harvesting operation was conducted at the Wilderness Valley Farm Peat Research Station near Zim, Minnesota. It began in 1983 and continued in 1984. The experiment showed that the Zim bog produced a greater yield than European harvests. In 1984 a total of 14,000 tons of milled peat were harvested and 2,000 tons of sod peat.

Direct burning tests were conducted in Aitkin, Minnesota, at the Hill Wood Products in Cook, at the Keewatin, Minnesota school, and at the new elementary school in Mountain Iron, Minnesota. The test showed problems in existing boilers that were not originally designed to be fueled by peat. Improvements to the boilers increased the efficiency of the operation.



BOILER CONVERSIONS

The division was deeply involved in an effort to convert municipalities and school districts to alternate forms of energy. Using the funding capability of the 2002 Fund, the agency participated in 22 boiler conversions. This was accomplished through a grant program initially and, later, a loan program.

Conversions were predominantly from oil/natural gas to some form of biomass material. Green chips (wet wood) wood or peat pellets were among the most common.

In all, a total of \$4,647,579 was funded for the program. A total of \$1,352,955 were in the form of outright grants and the balance, \$3,296,623 were in loans that would be paid back through the energy savings. The pay-back period varies from 4-10 years.

ASSISTANCE TO PRIVATE INDUSTRY

For over twenty years, the division has provided world-wide aid to current and prospective developers interested in utilizing peat in agriculture, horticulture and fuel.

During the biennium a \$1 million loan was negotiated with Great Lakes Peat Products. The loan was matched by a \$1.4 million investment by Great Lakes Peat to develop a peat-for-fuel operation.

Initially the firm leased 20,000 acres of peatland west of Cotton, Minnesota. Currently approximately 160 acres are under production. The intent of the operation is to develop a market for fuel peat.



The Iron Range Research Center

The Iron Range Research Center opened to the public in the fall of 1980 and is completing its fourth full year of operation. The first two years were mainly devoted to program development, establishment of policies, acquisition of microfilm standard reference works and equipment. During the next biennium the IRRC completed these initial projects and embarked on activist programs designed to collect, catalog, make available to the public and disseminate throughout the area and state, the story of the history and culture of this unique area known as the Iron Range. The Research Center's five-person staff, while responsible for certain areas in day-to-day operation, is highly versatile and able to assist other divisions of IRRRB, area organizations and residents, as well as "fill in" as the need requires.

ADMINISTRATION

On January 1, 1984, administrative control of the Iron Range Research Center was assumed by the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board through an agreement negotiated with the Minnesota Historical Society. The close-working relationship of the Iron Range Research Center and the Minnesota Historical Society has continued with the designation of the Iron Range Research Center as the only government records repository in the state other than the official archives.

In March 1984, a three-person team from similar centers conducted a review of the Iron Range Research Center facilities, goals and methods.

The resulting report, which is available for public inspection, offered a wealth of valuable insights and advice on the present status and future course of the Iron Range Research Center.

FACILITIES AND PATRON USAGE

The Iron Range Research Center facilities include a Reading Room with microfilm and fiche readers and printers, an oral history room, a complete photo-laboratory, an archives capable of storing 10,000 square feet of documents, a graphics area and a conference/class room with audio-visual equipment. The entire facility is humidity and temperature controlled and contains the latest in fire prevention and security devices.

Iron Range Research Center usage is basically of two types; patrons who use the library-archival facilities and those who use the conference room, which is open to the public for meetings. Total attendance for the past biennium numbered more than 11,000 persons.



LIBRARY FUNCTIONS

The Iron Range Research Center has collected and continues to acquire available printed and filmed, books, articles, newspapers, censuses, theses and dissertations, periodicals and other materials germane to the Iron Range area. Included in these collections are maps, Polk directories, Immigration records, videotapes, films and even organizational records and passport applications from foreign countries.

The Iron Range Research Center is an active member of the North Country Library Cooperative, Inter-Library loan, other library organizations and several genealogical societies. Collections include more than 1,500 volumes and nearly 3,000 rolls of microfilm, most of which pertain to the Iron Range region.

ARCHIVAL FUNCTIONS

The archival collections of the Iron Range Research Center are divided into two main areas, private and public collections. Private collections consist of manuscripts (letters, diaries, etc.), photographs, scrapbooks, oral histories and other original, unpublished materials. Public records consist of city and township, school board, commission records, and of course, the records of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board.

In 1984 the Iron Range Research Center received a \$23,000 grant from the National Historic Preservation Records Commission in Washington to survey, collect and assist Iron Range municipalities in the retention, storage and transfer of valuable records to the Iron Range

Research Center archives. This eighteen-month project is partially funded by Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board and is well-received by the Range municipalities.

Collections now available at the Iron Range Research Center include more than 100 public record sets, 200 manuscripts, 5,000 photographs and 1,200 hours of oral history tapes dealing with all facets of Iron Range life.

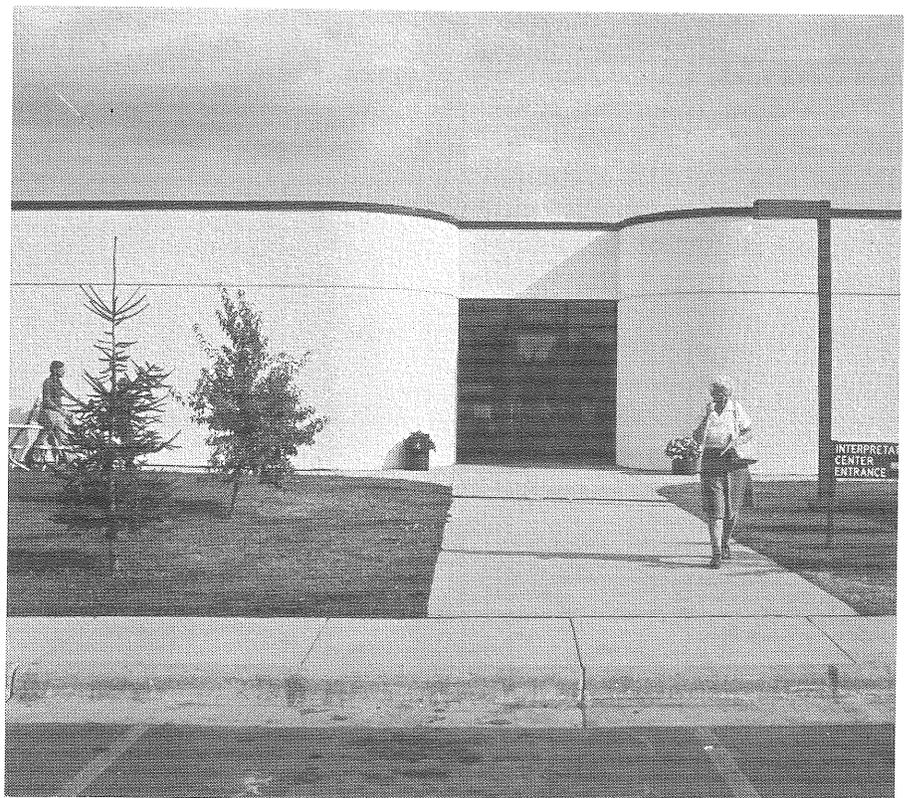


COMMUNITY INTERACTION

It is in this area perhaps, that the Iron Range Research Center has been most active. During the biennium the Iron Range Research Center has sponsored two, two-day history conferences, two genealogical conferences, a number of thematic seminars and lectures and assisted several organizations in area events. A product of this activity has been a series of exhibits which have been shown throughout the state including the 50th Anniversary of the Civilian Conservation Corps, the centennial of iron mining, Buhl-Kinney school system and others.

FUTURE GOALS

The Iron Range Research Center intends to actively pursue the development of programming and collecting throughout the Iron Range area. Additionally, the Commissioner will appoint a citizen advisory board of Iron Range residents to critique and assist the Iron Range Research Center in the development and achievement of long-range planning and goals. This facility is "dedicated to the immigrant peoples of the Iron Range" and will continue to live up to that promise.



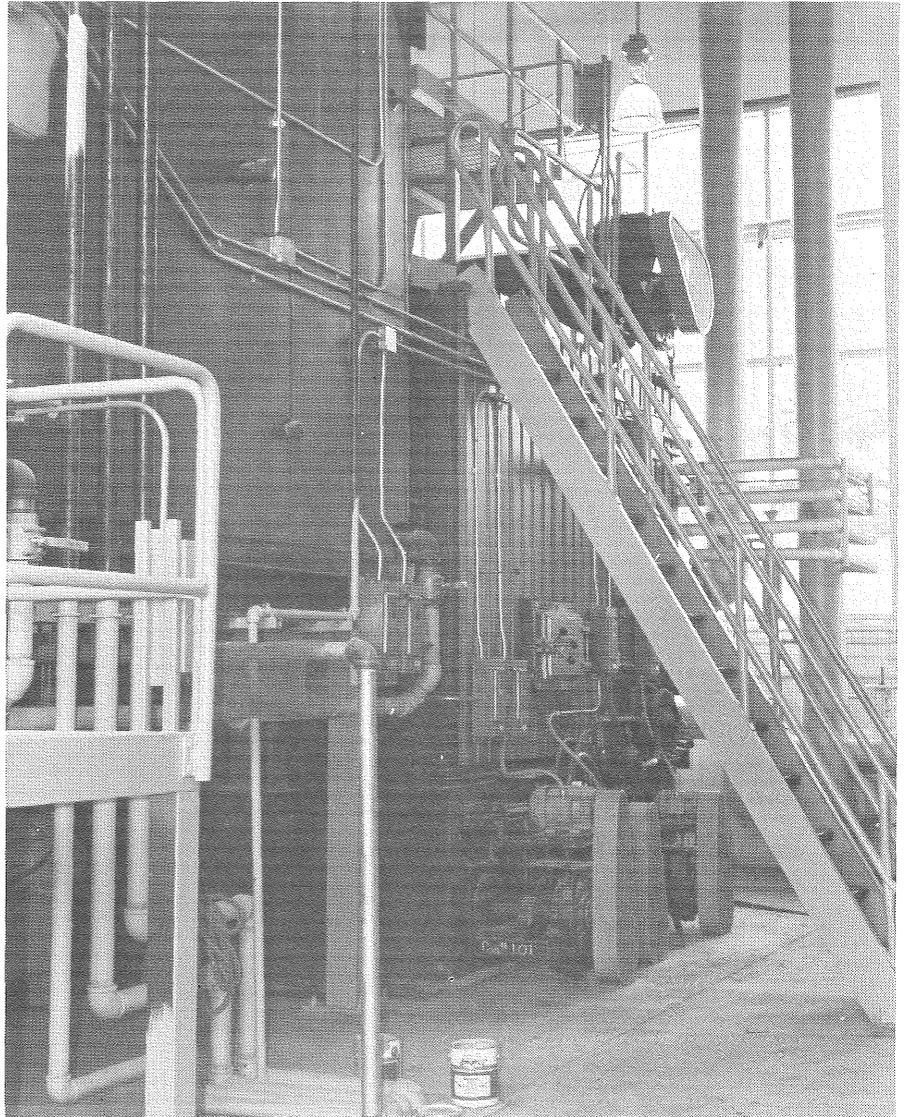
Taconite Area Environmental Protection Fund

The Taconite Area Environmental Protection Fund was created by the Minnesota Legislature in 1977. It is financed through a portion of the taconite production tax.

Since its inception, through the administration of the IRRRB, local units of government have been assisted in funding programs of community development, public works, water and sewer construction, and recreational construction.

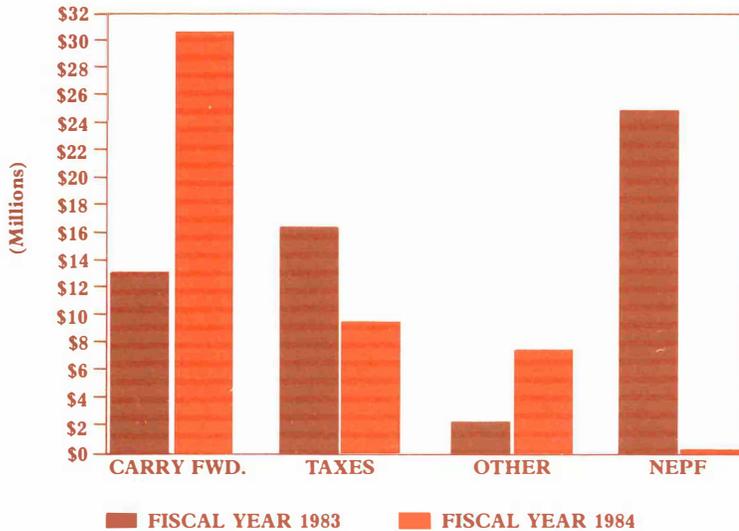
Each year the commissioner submits a list of proposed projects to the IRRRB for their recommendation to the Legislative Advisory Commission and the governor (who reserves the power to approve or disapprove any expenditure from the fund).

The system has been proven to be successful. Important, strategic funding for needful projects has been provided. Through their role in all deliberations, the commissioner and the IRRRB are aware of the specific needs of each unit of government seeking assistance.



Financial Report

SOURCES OF FUNDS

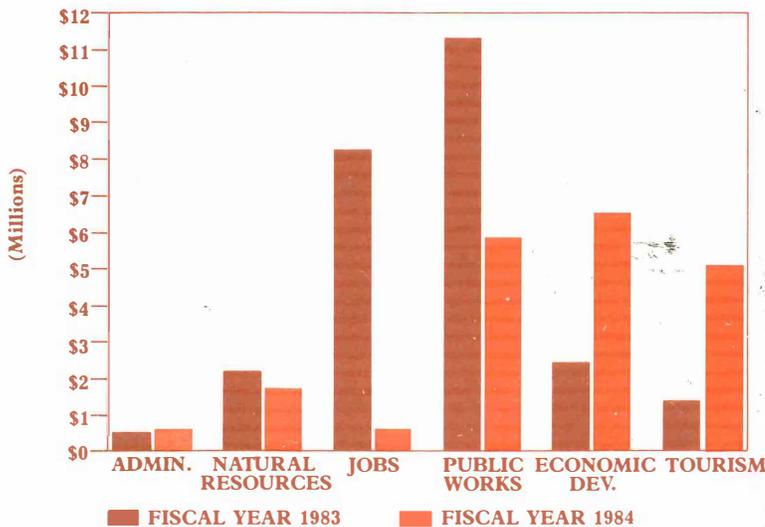


Funds Received Late in FY83, Carry Forward to FY84

Revenue Source

Revenue Source	F.Y. 1983	F.Y. 1984
Reserve from prior year	\$13.3	\$30.9
Tax Receipts	16.6	9.8
Investment Income	2.0	6.8
Income Receipts	0.2	0.6
NEPF Trust Fund	25.1	0.2
TOTAL	\$57.2	\$48.3

ALLOCATION OF FUNDS

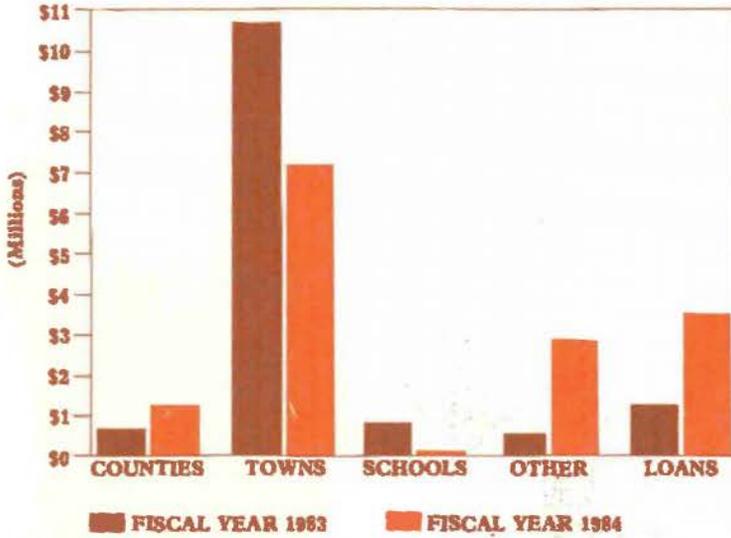


Emergency Jobs Program Funded by Special Session in FY83. Funds Depleted in FY84.

Budget Activities

Budget Activities	F.Y. 1983	F.Y. 1984
Administrative	\$0.5	\$0.7
Human Services	0.7	0.7
Tourism Activities & Grants	1.4	3.5
Research & Beautification	0.3	0.3
Misc. Public Works	11.3	5.9
Mineland Reclamation	1.6	1.5
NE MN Economic Development	2.5	6.6
IRRRB Tourism Construction	0.1	1.6
DNR Projects	0.3	0.0
Public Work Employment	7.6	0.0
Reserve for next year	30.9	27.5
TOTAL	\$57.2	\$48.3

GRANTS AND LOANS



Recipient	F.Y. 1983	F.Y. 1984
Cities	\$10.6	\$3.5
Towns	0.0	3.6
Counties	0.7	1.3
Schools	0.8	0.1
Local Spec. Districts	0.2	0.1
Other Gov. Organizations	0.0	0.2
Non Gov. Organizations	0.6	2.7
Loans	1.3	3.5
TOTAL	\$14.2	\$15.0

School Projects are Boiler Conversions Initiated in FY83 and Completed in FY84.

NOTE: Detailed Financial Information Available from IRRRB

