

1.1 CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT ON S.F. No. 698

1.2 A bill for an act
1.3 relating to natural resources; appropriating money from environment and natural
1.4 resources trust fund; modifying provisions for Legislative-Citizen Commission
1.5 on Minnesota Resources; amending Minnesota Statutes 2014, sections 116P.05,
1.6 subdivision 2; 116P.08, subdivisions 5, 6, 7; 116P.09, subdivisions 6, 8.

1.7 May 17, 2015

1.8 The Honorable Sandra L. Pappas
1.9 President of the Senate

1.10 The Honorable Kurt L. Daudt
1.11 Speaker of the House of Representatives

1.12 We, the undersigned conferees for S.F. No. 698 report that we have agreed upon the
1.13 items in dispute and recommend as follows:

1.14 That the House recede from its amendments and that S.F. No. 698 be further
1.15 amended as follows:

1.16 Delete everything after the enacting clause and insert:

1.17 "Section 1. APPROPRIATIONS.

1.18 The sums shown in the columns marked "Appropriations" are appropriated to the
1.19 agencies and for the purposes specified in this act. The appropriations are from the
1.20 environment and natural resources trust fund, or another named fund, and are available for
1.21 the fiscal years indicated for each purpose. The figures "2016" and "2017" used in this act
1.22 mean that the appropriations listed under them are available for the fiscal year ending June
1.23 30, 2016, or June 30, 2017, respectively. "The first year" is fiscal year 2016. "The second
1.24 year" is fiscal year 2017. "The biennium" is fiscal years 2016 and 2017.

1.25	<u>APPROPRIATIONS</u>	
1.26	<u>Available for the Year</u>	
1.27	<u>Ending June 30</u>	
1.28	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>

1.29 Sec. 2. MINNESOTA RESOURCES.

2.1	<u>Subdivision 1. Total Appropriation</u>		<u>\$</u>	<u>46,383,000</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>-0-</u>
2.2		<u>Appropriations by Fund</u>				
2.3		<u>2016</u>		<u>2017</u>		
2.4	<u>Environment and</u>					
2.5	<u>natural resources</u>					
2.6	<u>trust fund</u>	<u>46,324,000</u>				<u>-0-</u>
2.7	<u>Great Lakes</u>					
2.8	<u>protection account</u>	<u>59,000</u>				<u>-0-</u>

2.9 The amounts that may be spent for each
 2.10 purpose are specified in the following
 2.11 subdivisions.

2.12 Appropriations are available for two
 2.13 years beginning July 1, 2015, unless
 2.14 otherwise stated in the appropriation. Any
 2.15 unencumbered balance remaining in the
 2.16 first year does not cancel and is available
 2.17 for the second year or until the end of the
 2.18 appropriation.

2.19 Subd. 2. **Definition**

2.20 "Trust fund" means the Minnesota
 2.21 environment and natural resources trust fund
 2.22 referred to in Minnesota Statutes, section
 2.23 116P.02, subdivision 6.

2.24 Subd. 3. **Foundational Natural Resource Data**
 2.25 **and Information**

12,932,000 -0-

2.26 (a) **County Geologic Atlases - Part A**

2.27 \$2,040,000 the first year is from the trust fund
 2.28 to the Board of Regents of the University
 2.29 of Minnesota for the Minnesota Geological
 2.30 Survey to continue acceleration of the
 2.31 production of county geologic atlases for
 2.32 the purpose of sustainable management of
 2.33 surface water and groundwater resources.

2.34 This appropriation is to complete Part A of
 2.35 county geologic atlases, which focuses on the

3.1 properties and distribution of earth materials
3.2 in order to define aquifer boundaries and the
3.3 connection of aquifers to the land surface and
3.4 surface water resources. This appropriation
3.5 is available until June 30, 2018, by which
3.6 time the project must be completed and final
3.7 products delivered.

3.8 **(b) County Geologic Atlases - Part B**

3.9 \$2,000,000 the first year is from the trust
3.10 fund to the commissioner of natural resources
3.11 to continue acceleration of the production of
3.12 county geologic atlases for the purpose of
3.13 sustainable management of surface water and
3.14 groundwater resources. This appropriation
3.15 is to complete Part B of county geologic
3.16 atlases, which focuses on the properties
3.17 and distribution of subsurface water found
3.18 within geologic formations mapped in Part
3.19 A in order to characterize the potential
3.20 yield of aquifers and their sensitivity
3.21 to contamination. This appropriation is
3.22 available until June 30, 2018, by which time
3.23 the project must be completed and final
3.24 products delivered.

3.25 **(c) Minnesota Biological Survey**

3.26 \$2,450,000 the first year is from the
3.27 trust fund to the commissioner of natural
3.28 resources for continuation of the Minnesota
3.29 biological survey to provide a foundation
3.30 for conserving biological diversity by
3.31 systematically collecting, interpreting,
3.32 monitoring, and delivering data on plant and
3.33 animal distribution and ecology, native plant
3.34 communities, and functional landscapes.

4.1 **(d) Minnesota Biodiversity Atlas for**
4.2 **Enhanced Natural Resource Management**

4.3 \$340,000 the first year is from the trust fund
4.4 to the Board of Regents of the University of
4.5 Minnesota for the Bell Museum of Natural
4.6 History to create a publicly accessible, online
4.7 tool and repository that will electronically
4.8 integrate over 600,000 existing biodiversity
4.9 records, 300,000 existing images, and future
4.10 data and associated imagery pertaining to
4.11 Minnesota wildlife, plant, and fungi species
4.12 in order to enhance research, guide field
4.13 surveys, and inform conservation planning.
4.14 This appropriation is available until June
4.15 30, 2018, by which time the project must be
4.16 completed and final products delivered.

4.17 **(e) Updating the National Wetland**
4.18 **Inventory for Minnesota - Phase V**

4.19 \$1,500,000 the first year is from the
4.20 trust fund to the commissioner of natural
4.21 resources to continue to update and enhance
4.22 wetland inventory maps for Minnesota. This
4.23 appropriation is available until June 30,
4.24 2018, by which time the project must be
4.25 completed and final products delivered.

4.26 **(f) Creating a Statewide Wetland Bird**
4.27 **Monitoring Program**

4.28 \$146,000 the first year is from the trust fund
4.29 to the commissioner of natural resources for
4.30 an agreement with Audubon Minnesota to
4.31 develop a statewide wetland bird monitoring
4.32 program to enable long-term monitoring of
4.33 the status of wetland birds and the health of
4.34 their wetland habitats. This appropriation
4.35 is available until June 30, 2018, by which

5.1 time the project must be completed and final
5.2 products delivered.

5.3 **(g) Minnesota Native Bee Atlas**

5.4 \$790,000 the first year is from the trust
5.5 fund to the Board of Regents of the
5.6 University of Minnesota to supplement
5.7 and enhance existing bee survey efforts by
5.8 engaging citizens in helping to document the
5.9 distribution and phenology of wild Minnesota
5.10 bees and integrating data from all related
5.11 bee survey efforts into a single publicly
5.12 accessible, online tool and repository. This
5.13 appropriation is available until June 30,
5.14 2019, by which time the project must be
5.15 completed and final products delivered.

5.16 **(h) Reintroduction and Interpretation of**
5.17 **Bison in Minnesota State Parks**

5.18 \$600,000 the first year is from the trust fund
5.19 to the commissioner of natural resources to
5.20 preserve American bison by reintroducing
5.21 bison to Minneopa State Park and provide
5.22 interpretive learning opportunities at Blue
5.23 Mounds and Minneopa State Parks. This
5.24 appropriation is available until June 30,
5.25 2018, by which time the project must be
5.26 completed and final products delivered.

5.27 **(i) Endangered Bats, White-Nose**
5.28 **Syndrome, and Forest Habitat**

5.29 \$1,250,000 the first year is from the trust fund
5.30 to the commissioner of natural resources in
5.31 cooperation with the University of Minnesota
5.32 and the United States Forest Service to
5.33 survey and radio-track endangered bats to
5.34 define and understand summer forest habitat

6.1 use in order to minimize forestry impacts
6.2 and mitigate white-nose syndrome disease
6.3 impacts. This appropriation is available until
6.4 June 30, 2018, by which time the project must
6.5 be completed and final products delivered.

6.6 **(j) Assessing Contaminants in Minnesota**
6.7 **Loons and Pelicans - Phase III**

6.8 \$141,000 the first year is from the trust fund
6.9 to the commissioner of natural resources
6.10 to continue to assess the potential impact
6.11 of petroleum, dispersants, and heavy metal
6.12 contaminants from the Deepwater Horizon oil
6.13 spill in the Gulf of Mexico on the wintering
6.14 habitat of Minnesota's common loons
6.15 and white pelicans using radiotelemetry,
6.16 geolocators, and contaminant analysis.

6.17 **(k) Movement and Seasonal Habitat Use**
6.18 **of Minnesota Elk**

6.19 \$200,000 the first year is from the trust fund
6.20 to the commissioner of natural resources
6.21 to collect biological information about
6.22 Minnesota elk, including movements and
6.23 habitat use to enable long-term, sustainable
6.24 management. This appropriation is
6.25 contingent on a \$50,000 match from state
6.26 or nonstate sources. This appropriation is
6.27 available until June 30, 2018, by which time
6.28 the project must be completed and final
6.29 products delivered.

6.30 **(l) Genetic and Camera Techniques to**
6.31 **Estimate Carnivore Populations**

6.32 \$200,000 the first year is from the trust fund
6.33 to the Board of Regents of the University
6.34 of Minnesota – Duluth for the Natural

7.1 Resources Research Institute to use genetic
7.2 sampling and remote cameras to improve
7.3 monitoring of distributions and estimate
7.4 population sizes of carnivore species.

7.5 **(m) Aquatic and Terrestrial Reptile Habitat**

7.6 \$250,000 the first year is from the trust fund
7.7 to the commissioner of natural resources
7.8 for an agreement with the University of
7.9 St. Thomas in cooperation with the Three
7.10 Rivers Park District to analyze the aquatic
7.11 and terrestrial habitat for certain reptile
7.12 species in urban lakes and to make specific
7.13 recommendations to protect and enhance the
7.14 habitat. This appropriation is available until
7.15 June 30, 2019, by which time the project must
7.16 be completed and final products delivered.

7.17 **(n) Digitization of Historic Gullion Ruffed**
7.18 **Grouse Research**

7.19 \$75,000 the first year is from the trust fund
7.20 to the commissioner of natural resources for
7.21 an agreement with Central Lakes College
7.22 to preserve the Gordon Gullion ruffed
7.23 grouse data sets as permanent digital data
7.24 files in order to improve accessibility to
7.25 the information and inform forest wildlife
7.26 conservation policies and practices.

7.27 **(o) Effects of Grazing Versus Fire for**
7.28 **Prairie Management**

7.29 \$414,000 the first year is from the trust fund
7.30 to the Board of Regents of the University
7.31 of Minnesota to compare the effects of
7.32 conservation grazing and prescribed fire
7.33 on tallgrass prairie plants and pollinators
7.34 in Minnesota in order to inform and

8.1 improve land management practices. This
8.2 appropriation is available until June 30,
8.3 2018, by which time the project must be
8.4 completed and final products delivered.

8.5 **(p) Assessing Ecological Impact of St.**
8.6 **Anthony Falls Lock Closure**

8.7 \$125,000 the first year is from the trust fund to
8.8 the commissioner of natural resources for an
8.9 agreement with the Minneapolis Riverfront
8.10 Partnership to study the impact of altered
8.11 river flow due to closure of the Upper Lock
8.12 on the Mississippi River at St. Anthony Falls
8.13 on the physical and biological characteristics
8.14 of the river between the Coon Rapids Dam
8.15 and Lock and Dam No. 1 in order to inform
8.16 future river restoration efforts.

8.17 **(q) Foundational Dataset Characterizing**
8.18 **Historic Forest Disturbance Impacts**

8.19 \$200,000 the first year is from the trust fund
8.20 to the Board of Regents of the University
8.21 of Minnesota to quantify forest disturbance
8.22 impacts over the past forty years on water
8.23 quality, wildlife demographics, and wood
8.24 fiber supply in order to identify management
8.25 strategies that better respond to disturbance
8.26 impacts and improve and sustain forest
8.27 resources. This appropriation is available
8.28 until June 30, 2018, by which time the
8.29 project must be completed and final products
8.30 delivered.

8.31 **(r) Hydrologic Effects of Contemporary**
8.32 **Forest Practices in Minnesota**

8.33 \$150,000 the first year is from the trust
8.34 fund to the Board of Regents of the

9.1 University of Minnesota to install hydrologic
9.2 monitoring stations to collect water quantity
9.3 and quality data from lands managed for
9.4 timber production to better understand the
9.5 relationship between harvest practices and
9.6 water resources and related responses to
9.7 changing climate and other disturbance
9.8 factors in order to inform forest management
9.9 practices. This appropriation is available
9.10 until June 30, 2018, by which time the
9.11 project must be completed and final products
9.12 delivered.

9.13 **(s) Habitat Mitigation for Goblin Fern**
9.14 **Conservation**

9.15 \$61,000 the first year is from the trust fund
9.16 to the commissioner of natural resources for
9.17 an agreement with the Leech Lake Band of
9.18 Ojibwe to examine goblin fern populations, a
9.19 threatened species in Minnesota, in relation
9.20 to habitat degradation and to develop
9.21 long-term habitat mitigation and species
9.22 conservation strategies. This appropriation
9.23 is available until June 30, 2018, by which
9.24 time the project must be completed and final
9.25 products delivered.

9.26 **Subd. 4. Water Resources** 3,065,000 -0-

9.27 **(a) Understanding Water Scarcity,**
9.28 **Threats, and Values to Improve**
9.29 **Management**

9.30 \$234,000 the first year is from the trust fund
9.31 to the Board of Regents of the University of
9.32 Minnesota to model and map statewide water
9.33 scarcity and abundance; assess water-related
9.34 risks to industry, municipalities, and
9.35 ecosystems; and quantify the economic

10.1 values of changes in water quality and
10.2 quantity in order to inform long-term water
10.3 sustainability strategies. This appropriation
10.4 is available until June 30, 2018, by which
10.5 time the project must be completed and final
10.6 products delivered.

10.7 **(b) Biofilm Technology for Water Nutrient**
10.8 **Removal**

10.9 \$281,000 the first year is from the trust fund
10.10 to the Board of Regents of the University
10.11 of Minnesota to develop a simulated lichen
10.12 biofilm system that can be used to remove
10.13 pollutants and recycle nutrients from storm
10.14 water runoff and polluted lakes, ponds, and
10.15 lagoons. This appropriation is subject to
10.16 Minnesota Statutes, section 116P.10. This
10.17 appropriation is available until June 30,
10.18 2018, by which time the project must be
10.19 completed and final products delivered.

10.20 **(c) Biological Consequences of Septic**
10.21 **Pollution in Minnesota Lakes**

10.22 \$364,000 the first year is from the trust fund
10.23 to the Board of Trustees of the Minnesota
10.24 State Colleges and Universities system for
10.25 St. Cloud State University to assess the
10.26 presence of possible sources of contaminants
10.27 of emerging concern in Minnesota lakes
10.28 in order to determine their effects on fish
10.29 health, understand the potential contribution
10.30 from septic systems, and inform options
10.31 for remediation and prevention to protect
10.32 Minnesota lakes from these contaminants in
10.33 the future. This appropriation is available
10.34 until June 30, 2018, by which time the

11.1 project must be completed and final products
11.2 delivered.

11.3 **(d) Preventing Phosphorous from Entering**
11.4 **Water Resources through Drain Tiles**

11.5 \$505,000 the first year is from the trust
11.6 fund to the Board of Regents of the
11.7 University of Minnesota to develop a new
11.8 nanocomposite material made from biomass
11.9 that is designed to adsorb phosphorus,
11.10 nitrogen, and pesticides from storm water
11.11 and drain tile runoff discharge for recycling
11.12 back to agricultural lands. This appropriation
11.13 is subject to Minnesota Statutes, section
11.14 116P.10.

11.15 **(e) Southeast Minnesota Cover Crop and**
11.16 **Soil Health Initiatives**

11.17 \$253,000 the first year is from the trust fund
11.18 to the Board of Water and Soil Resources to
11.19 promote cover crops as a means of protecting
11.20 soil and water quality in southeastern
11.21 Minnesota through training and education
11.22 for local practitioners, economic analysis of
11.23 implementation, and on-farm demonstration
11.24 sites. This effort must be coordinated with
11.25 the University of Minnesota Forever Green
11.26 Initiative. This appropriation is available
11.27 until June 30, 2018, by which time the
11.28 project must be completed and final products
11.29 delivered.

11.30 **(f) Southeast Minnesota Subsurface**
11.31 **Drainage Impacts on Groundwater**
11.32 **Recharge**

11.33 \$488,000 the first year is from the trust fund
11.34 to the commissioner of natural resources

12.1 for an agreement with the United States
12.2 Geological Survey to assess the relationship
12.3 between agricultural drainage and water
12.4 flow within the unique karst geology of
12.5 southeast Minnesota to characterize the
12.6 potential impacts of drainage on groundwater
12.7 recharge and groundwater sustainability in
12.8 the region. This appropriation is not subject
12.9 to Minnesota Statutes, section 116P.10. This
12.10 appropriation is available until June 30,
12.11 2019, by which time the project must be
12.12 completed and final products delivered.

12.13 **(g) Using Hydroacoustics to Monitor**
12.14 **Sediment in Minnesota Rivers**

12.15 \$455,000 the first year is from the trust fund
12.16 to the commissioner of natural resources
12.17 for an agreement with the United States
12.18 Geological Survey to install hydroacoustic
12.19 equipment on the lower Minnesota and
12.20 Mississippi Rivers to improve measurement
12.21 and monitoring accuracy for suspended
12.22 sediment and enhance ongoing sediment
12.23 reduction efforts by state, federal, and local
12.24 agencies. This appropriation is not subject
12.25 to Minnesota Statutes, section 116P.10. This
12.26 appropriation is available until June 30,
12.27 2019, by which time the project must be
12.28 completed and final products delivered.

12.29 **(h) Assessment of Irrigation Efficiencies in**
12.30 **Benton County**

12.31 \$431,000 the first year is from the trust fund
12.32 to the commissioner of natural resources
12.33 for an agreement with Benton Soil and
12.34 Water Conservation District to develop and
12.35 implement a decision support system to

13.1 increase irrigation efficiencies and provide
13.2 outreach on irrigation best management
13.3 practices. Software developed with this
13.4 appropriation must be available in the public
13.5 domain. Project efforts should be coordinated
13.6 with the Department of Natural Resources.
13.7 This appropriation is available until June
13.8 30, 2019, by which time the project must be
13.9 completed and final products delivered.

13.10 **(i) Shoreview Water Consumption and**
13.11 **Groundwater Awareness Project**

13.12 \$54,000 the first year is from the trust fund
13.13 to the commissioner of natural resources for
13.14 an agreement with the city of Shoreview
13.15 to provide biweekly water consumption
13.16 data to at least 400 residential households
13.17 for a two-year period to determine whether
13.18 additional groundwater can be conserved
13.19 with greater awareness of consumption data.

13.20 This appropriation is available until June
13.21 30, 2018, by which time the project must be
13.22 completed and final products delivered.

13.23 Subd. 5. **Environmental Education** 1,004,000 -0-

13.24 **(a) Trap Shooting Sports Facility Grants**

13.25 \$132,000 the first year is from the trust fund
13.26 to the commissioner of natural resources
13.27 for trap shooting sports facility grants under
13.28 Minnesota Statutes, section 87A.10.

13.29 **(b) Connecting Students with Watersheds**
13.30 **through Hands-On Learning**

13.31 \$400,000 the first year is from the trust fund to
13.32 the commissioner of natural resources for an
13.33 agreement with Minnesota Trout Unlimited
13.34 to provide hands-on learning focused on

14.1 water quality, groundwater, aquatic life,
14.2 and watershed health stewardship. This
14.3 appropriation is available until June 30,
14.4 2018, by which time the project must be
14.5 completed and final products delivered.

14.6 **(c) Zumbro River Watershed Recreational**
14.7 **Learning Stewardship Sites**

14.8 \$300,000 the first year is from the trust fund
14.9 to the commissioner of natural resources for
14.10 an agreement with the Zumbro Watershed
14.11 Partnership to develop at least six recreational
14.12 and educational sites on the Zumbro River
14.13 with water quality demonstration elements
14.14 and interpretative signage designed to
14.15 encourage adoption of water protection
14.16 practices. No more than 15 percent of this
14.17 appropriation may be spent on site and
14.18 construction consultation, planning, and
14.19 design. Any plantings or restoration activities
14.20 conducted with this appropriation must use
14.21 native plant species according to the Board of
14.22 Water and Soil Resources' native vegetation
14.23 establishment and enhancement guidelines.
14.24 This appropriation is available until June
14.25 30, 2018, by which time the project must be
14.26 completed and final products delivered.

14.27 **(d) Students Engaging Local Watersheds**
14.28 **Using Mobile Technologies**

14.29 \$147,000 the first year is from the trust fund
14.30 to the commissioner of natural resources
14.31 for an agreement with Twin Cities Public
14.32 Television to deliver an experiential,
14.33 project-based educational program using
14.34 mobile technologies to empower at least 200
14.35 middle school students in 4-H programs to

15.1 engage in understanding and protecting local
15.2 water resources.

15.3 **(e) Mississippi River Water Journey**

15.4 **Camps**

15.5 \$25,000 the first year is from the trust fund
15.6 to the Board of Regents of the University of
15.7 Minnesota to design and pilot two week-long
15.8 summer camps for youth ages 6 to 11 focused
15.9 around clean water and the Mississippi
15.10 River and designed to get children outdoors
15.11 exploring and engaged with the natural
15.12 environment and creating educational
15.13 materials to help their communities protect
15.14 water quality.

15.15 **Subd. 6. Aquatic and Terrestrial Invasive**
15.16 **Species**

6,071,000

-0-

15.17 **(a) Minnesota Invasive Terrestrial Plants**
15.18 **and Pests Center**

15.19 \$5,000,000 the first year is from the trust fund
15.20 to the Board of Regents of the University
15.21 of Minnesota for the Invasive Terrestrial
15.22 Plants and Pests Center established in Laws
15.23 2014, chapter 312, article 13, section 44,
15.24 to conduct research to prevent, minimize,
15.25 and mitigate the threats and impacts posed
15.26 by invasive plants, pathogens, and pests to
15.27 the state's prairies, forests, wetlands, and
15.28 agricultural resources. This appropriation
15.29 is available until June 30, 2023, by which
15.30 time the project must be completed and final
15.31 products delivered.

15.32 **(b) Emerald Ash Borer Ecological and**
15.33 **Hydrological Impacts - Phase II**

16.1 \$400,000 the first year is from the trust fund
16.2 to the Board of Regents of the University
16.3 of Minnesota to assess the potential impacts
16.4 of emerald ash borer on Minnesota black
16.5 ash forests and quantify potential impacts
16.6 on native forest vegetation, invasive species
16.7 spread, and hydrology. This appropriation
16.8 is available until June 30, 2020, by which
16.9 time the project must be completed and final
16.10 products delivered.

16.11 **(c) Biological Control of Canada Thistle**

16.12 \$300,000 the first year is from the trust fund
16.13 to the Board of Regents of the University of
16.14 Minnesota to develop a biological control for
16.15 Canada thistle, an invasive plant species in
16.16 Minnesota. This appropriation is available
16.17 until June 30, 2018, by which time the
16.18 project must be completed and final products
16.19 delivered.

16.20 **(d) Preventing New Disease of Pines in**

16.21 **Minnesota**

16.22 \$371,000 the first year is from the trust fund
16.23 to the Board of Regents of the University of
16.24 Minnesota to establish early detection for
16.25 heterobasidion, an invasive root rot fungus,
16.26 and develop efforts to prevent its spread
16.27 and reduce its impact. This appropriation
16.28 is available until June 30, 2018, by which
16.29 time the project must be completed and final
16.30 products delivered.

16.31 **Subd. 7. Air Quality, Climate Change, and**
16.32 **Renewable Energy**

2,268,000

-0-

16.33 **(a) Renewable and Sustainable Fertilizers**

16.34 **Produced Locally**

17.1 \$1,000,000 the first year is from the trust fund
17.2 to the Board of Regents of the University
17.3 of Minnesota for the Morris West Central
17.4 Research and Outreach Center and Twin
17.5 Cities Campus to develop and demonstrate
17.6 new technologies aimed at enabling
17.7 renewable and sustainable production of
17.8 ammonia for fertilizer in a localized manner.
17.9 This appropriation is subject to Minnesota
17.10 Statutes, section 116P.10. This appropriation
17.11 is available until June 30, 2018, by which
17.12 time the project must be completed and final
17.13 products delivered.

17.14 **(b) Reducing Emissions from Open**
17.15 **Burning through Biomass Gasification**

17.16 \$268,000 the first year is from the trust
17.17 fund to the Board of Regents of the
17.18 University of Minnesota in cooperation with
17.19 the Department of Natural Resources to
17.20 characterize and promote distributed biomass
17.21 gasification of wood waste as a means for
17.22 producing renewable and sustainable energy
17.23 in rural areas through a demonstration at the
17.24 Department of Natural Resources regional
17.25 office facility in New Ulm.

17.26 **(c) Building Deconstruction to Reduce**
17.27 **Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Solid**
17.28 **Waste**

17.29 \$845,000 the first year is from the trust fund
17.30 to the commissioner of natural resources for
17.31 an agreement with Better Futures Minnesota
17.32 in cooperation with the Northwest Indian
17.33 Opportunities Industrialization Center
17.34 and \$155,000 the first year is from the
17.35 trust fund to the Board of Regents of the

18.1	<u>University of Minnesota – Duluth for the</u>		
18.2	<u>Natural Resources Research Institute to</u>		
18.3	<u>develop and test a model for implementing</u>		
18.4	<u>building deconstruction and material reuse</u>		
18.5	<u>as a competitive alternative to demolition</u>		
18.6	<u>for the purpose of reducing greenhouse</u>		
18.7	<u>gas emissions, reducing landfill waste, and</u>		
18.8	<u>providing job training. The project report</u>		
18.9	<u>must quantify and document greenhouse gas</u>		
18.10	<u>emissions reductions resulting from specific</u>		
18.11	<u>deconstruction techniques and materials</u>		
18.12	<u>reuses.</u>		
18.13	<u>Subd. 8. Methods to Protect, Restore, and</u>		
18.14	<u>Enhance Land, Water, and Habitat</u>	<u>4,646,000</u>	<u>-0-</u>
18.15	<u>Appropriations by Fund</u>		
18.16	<u>Environment and</u>		
18.17	<u>natural resources</u>		
18.18	<u>trust fund</u>	<u>4,587,000</u>	<u>-0-</u>
18.19	<u>Great Lakes</u>		
18.20	<u>protection account</u>	<u>59,000</u>	<u>-0-</u>
18.21	<u>(a) Prioritizing Future Management of</u>		
18.22	<u>North Shore Trout Streams</u>		
18.23	<u>\$357,000 the first year is from the trust fund</u>		
18.24	<u>and \$59,000 the first year is from the Great</u>		
18.25	<u>Lakes protection account to the Board of</u>		
18.26	<u>Regents of the University of Minnesota –</u>		
18.27	<u>Duluth for the Natural Resources Research</u>		
18.28	<u>Institute to identify key areas in North Shore</u>		
18.29	<u>streams that supply the cold groundwater</u>		
18.30	<u>essential to sustaining trout fisheries, in order</u>		
18.31	<u>to focus habitat restoration, protection, and</u>		
18.32	<u>management efforts on the areas that are</u>		
18.33	<u>most essential for long-term stream health</u>		
18.34	<u>and sustainability. This appropriation is</u>		
18.35	<u>available until June 30, 2018, by which time</u>		
18.36	<u>the project must be completed and final</u>		
18.37	<u>products delivered.</u>		

19.1 **(b) Propagating Native Plants and**
19.2 **Restoring Diverse Habitats**
19.3 \$495,000 the first year is from the trust fund
19.4 to the commissioner of natural resources
19.5 for an agreement with the Martin County
19.6 Soil and Water Conservation District for a
19.7 cooperative 13-county effort by Blue Earth,
19.8 Brown, Cottonwood, Crow Wing, Faribault,
19.9 Freeborn, Jackson, Lake, Le Sueur, Martin,
19.10 Nicollet, Waseca, and Watonwan Counties to
19.11 protect and expand native forest and prairie
19.12 habitat for species in greatest conservation
19.13 need in four regions of the state through
19.14 collection and propagation of local ecotype
19.15 native plants, habitat restoration efforts, and
19.16 educational outreach. This appropriation
19.17 is available until June 30, 2020, by which
19.18 time the project must be completed and final
19.19 products delivered.

19.20 **(c) Preserving and Protecting Minnesota**
19.21 **Native Orchid Species**
19.22 \$167,000 the first year is from the trust fund
19.23 to the Board of Regents of the University
19.24 of Minnesota for the Minnesota Landscape
19.25 Arboretum for propagation and cultivation
19.26 research to enable long-term conservation
19.27 of at least 15 selected species of the 48
19.28 native orchid species in Minnesota. This
19.29 appropriation is available until June 30,
19.30 2018, by which time the project must be
19.31 completed and final products delivered.

19.32 **(d) Acceleration of Minnesota**
19.33 **Conservation Assistance – Final Phase**
19.34 \$1,000,000 the first year is from the trust
19.35 fund to the Board of Water and Soil

20.1 Resources for the final phase of a pilot
20.2 program to provide grants to soil and water
20.3 conservation districts and other units of local
20.4 and state government for employment of
20.5 staff to provide technical assistance to secure
20.6 enrollment and retention of private lands
20.7 in federal and state conservation programs.

20.8 This appropriation is available until June
20.9 30, 2018, by which time the project must be
20.10 completed and final products delivered.

20.11 **(e) Metro Conservation Corridors -**
20.12 **Phase VIII Prairie, Forest, and Savanna**
20.13 **Restoration**

20.14 \$276,000 the first year is from the trust fund
20.15 to the commissioner of natural resources
20.16 for an agreement with the Friends of the
20.17 Mississippi River for Phase VIII of the
20.18 Metro Conservation Corridors partnership
20.19 to conduct restoration activities on at least
20.20 195 acres of forest and savanna and at least
20.21 60 acres of prairie to preserve and increase
20.22 wildlife habitat in the metropolitan area, as
20.23 defined under Minnesota Statutes, section
20.24 473.121, subdivision 2, and portions of the
20.25 surrounding counties. Expenditures are
20.26 limited to the identified project corridor
20.27 areas as defined in the work plan. A list
20.28 of proposed restorations must be provided
20.29 as part of the required work plan. This
20.30 appropriation is available until June 30,
20.31 2018, by which time the project must be
20.32 completed and final products delivered.

20.33 **(f) Metro Conservation Corridors - Phase**
20.34 **VIII Enhancing Restoration Techniques**

21.1 **for Improved Climate Resilience and**
21.2 **Pollinator Conservation**

21.3 \$400,000 the first year is from the trust fund
21.4 to the commissioner of natural resources for
21.5 an agreement with Great River Greening
21.6 for Phase VIII of the Metro Conservation
21.7 Corridors partnership to pilot and evaluate
21.8 innovative restoration techniques aimed
21.9 at improving the resilience of bur oak
21.10 communities to changing climate conditions
21.11 and enhancing prairie management to benefit
21.12 pollinators with the help and engagement
21.13 of citizen volunteers. Expenditures on
21.14 restoration efforts are limited to the identified
21.15 project corridor areas as defined in the work
21.16 plan. A list of proposed restorations must be
21.17 provided as part of the required work plan.
21.18 This appropriation is available until June 30,
21.19 2018, by which point the project must be
21.20 completed and final products delivered.

21.21 **(g) Minnesota State University Moorhead**
21.22 **Prairie and Riparian Restoration and**
21.23 **Monitoring**

21.24 \$527,000 the first year is from the trust fund
21.25 to the Board of Trustees of the Minnesota
21.26 State Colleges and Universities system
21.27 for Minnesota State University Moorhead
21.28 in cooperation with the Department of
21.29 Natural Resources to restore and monitor
21.30 160 acres of prairie and riparian habitat
21.31 and develop and disseminate monitoring
21.32 protocols. This appropriation is contingent
21.33 upon the donation of a 60-acre parcel to
21.34 Minnesota State University Moorhead from
21.35 the Minnesota State University Moorhead

22.1 Alumni Foundation and is available until
22.2 June 30, 2020, by which time the project must
22.3 be completed and final products delivered.

22.4 **(h) Improving Community Forests**
22.5 **Through Citizen Engagement**

22.6 \$800,000 the first year is from the trust fund
22.7 to the commissioner of natural resources
22.8 to design and pilot a program, including
22.9 grants to communities, to mobilize citizen
22.10 volunteers to protect, improve, and maintain
22.11 local forests in communities around the state.
22.12 Participation is open to any municipality in
22.13 the state and participating municipalities will
22.14 be selected through a competitive proposal
22.15 process that will include representation from
22.16 both metropolitan and nonmetropolitan
22.17 areas of the state. Trees planted using this
22.18 appropriation must be species that are native
22.19 to Minnesota. A participating municipality
22.20 must provide a match of not less than 25
22.21 percent, up to half of which may be in the
22.22 form of in-kind support. This appropriation
22.23 is available until June 30, 2018, by which
22.24 time the project must be completed and final
22.25 products delivered.

22.26 **(i) Flood Recovery on Sargent Creek in**
22.27 **Duluth**

22.28 \$300,000 the first year is from the trust fund
22.29 to the commissioner of natural resources
22.30 for an agreement with the city of Duluth to
22.31 re-establish stable and natural streambanks
22.32 with riparian and aquatic habitat restoration
22.33 on at least 5,400 linear feet of Sargent Creek
22.34 in Duluth destroyed during the flood of 2012.

23.1 **(j) Shoreland Protection for Lower St.**

23.2 **Croix River**

23.3 \$190,000 the first year is from the trust fund

23.4 to the commissioner of natural resources

23.5 for an agreement with the St. Croix River

23.6 Association to provide technical assistance

23.7 to landowners, local governments, realtors,

23.8 and developers on shoreland conservation

23.9 and protection of the lower St. Croix River.

23.10 This appropriation is available until June

23.11 30, 2018, by which time the project must be

23.12 completed and final products delivered.

23.13 **(k) Redwood and Renville Counties**

23.14 **Outdoor Recreation and Conservation**

23.15 **Master Plan**

23.16 \$75,000 the first year is from the trust fund

23.17 to the commissioner of natural resources

23.18 for an agreement with Renville County

23.19 in cooperation with Redwood County to

23.20 develop a joint outdoor recreation and

23.21 conservation master plan to guide future

23.22 development and protect cultural, historical,

23.23 and natural resources in the Minnesota River

23.24 Valley.

23.25 **Subd. 9. Land Acquisition for Habitat and**

23.26 **Recreation**

14,190,000

-0-

23.27 **(a) State Parks and Trails Land**

23.28 **Acquisitions**

23.29 \$1,500,000 the first year is from the trust

23.30 fund to the commissioner of natural resources

23.31 to acquire at least 335 acres for authorized

23.32 state trails and critical parcels within the

23.33 statutory boundaries of state parks. State

23.34 park land acquired with this appropriation

23.35 must be sufficiently improved to meet at

24.1 least minimum management standards, as
24.2 determined by the commissioner of natural
24.3 resources. A list of proposed acquisitions
24.4 must be provided as part of the required work
24.5 plan. This appropriation is available until
24.6 June 30, 2018, by which time the project must
24.7 be completed and final products delivered.

24.8 **(b) Metropolitan Regional Park System**

24.9 **Land Acquisition – Phase IV**

24.10 \$1,000,000 the first year is from the trust
24.11 fund to the Metropolitan Council for grants
24.12 to acquire at least 133 acres of lands within
24.13 the approved park unit boundaries of the
24.14 metropolitan regional park system. This
24.15 appropriation may not be used to purchase
24.16 habitable residential structures. A list of
24.17 proposed fee title and easement acquisitions
24.18 must be provided as part of the required work
24.19 plan. This appropriation must be matched
24.20 by at least 40 percent of nonstate money that
24.21 must be committed by December 31, 2015, or
24.22 the appropriation cancels. This appropriation
24.23 is available until June 30, 2018, by which
24.24 time the project must be completed and final
24.25 products delivered.

24.26 **(c) SNA Acquisition, Restoration,**

24.27 **Enhancement, and Public Engagement**

24.28 \$4,000,000 the first year is from the trust
24.29 fund to the commissioner of natural resources
24.30 to acquire at least 350 acres of lands with
24.31 high-quality native plant communities and
24.32 rare features to be established as scientific
24.33 and natural areas as provided in Minnesota
24.34 Statutes, section 86A.05, subdivision 5,
24.35 restore and improve at least 550 acres of

25.1 scientific and natural areas, and provide
25.2 technical assistance and outreach. A list of
25.3 proposed acquisitions must be provided as
25.4 part of the required work plan. Land acquired
25.5 with this appropriation must be sufficiently
25.6 improved to meet at least minimum
25.7 management standards, as determined by
25.8 the commissioner of natural resources. This
25.9 appropriation is available until June 30,
25.10 2018, by which time the project must be
25.11 completed and final products delivered.

25.12 **(d) Native Prairie Stewardship and Prairie**
25.13 **Bank Easement Acquisition**

25.14 \$3,325,000 the first year is from the trust
25.15 fund to the commissioner of natural resources
25.16 to acquire native prairie bank easements on
25.17 at least 675 acres, prepare baseline property
25.18 assessments, restore and enhance at least
25.19 1,000 acres of native prairie sites, and provide
25.20 technical assistance to landowners. Of this
25.21 amount, up to \$135,000 must be deposited
25.22 in a conservation easement stewardship
25.23 account. Deposits into the conservation
25.24 easement stewardship account must be made
25.25 upon closing on conservation easements or at
25.26 a time otherwise approved in the work plan.
25.27 A list of proposed easement acquisitions must
25.28 be provided as part of the required work plan.
25.29 This appropriation is available until June
25.30 30, 2018, by which time the project must be
25.31 completed and final products delivered.

25.32 **(e) Metro Conservation Corridors -**
25.33 **Phase VIII Coordination, Mapping, and**
25.34 **Conservation Easements**

26.1 \$515,000 the first year is from the trust fund
26.2 to the commissioner of natural resources
26.3 for an agreement with the Minnesota
26.4 Land Trust for Phase VIII of the Metro
26.5 Conservation Corridors partnership to
26.6 provide coordination and mapping for
26.7 the partnership and to acquire permanent
26.8 conservation easements on at least 120 acres
26.9 of strategic ecological landscapes to protect
26.10 priority natural areas in the metropolitan
26.11 area, as defined under Minnesota Statutes,
26.12 section 473.121, subdivision 2, and portions
26.13 of the surrounding counties. A list of
26.14 proposed easement acquisitions must be
26.15 provided as part of the required work plan.
26.16 Land acquired with this appropriation
26.17 must be sufficiently improved to meet at
26.18 least minimum management standards, as
26.19 determined by the commissioner of natural
26.20 resources. Expenditures are limited to the
26.21 identified project corridor areas as defined in
26.22 the work plan. Up to \$40,000 may be used
26.23 for coordination and mapping for the Metro
26.24 Conservation Corridors. All conservation
26.25 easements must be perpetual and have a
26.26 natural resource management plan. A list
26.27 of proposed easement acquisitions must be
26.28 provided as part of the required work plan.
26.29 This appropriation is available June 30, 2018,
26.30 by which time the project must be completed
26.31 and final products delivered.

26.32 **(f) Metro Conservation Corridors - Phase**
26.33 **VIII Strategic Lands Protection**

26.34 \$750,000 the first year is from the trust fund
26.35 to the commissioner of natural resources for
26.36 an agreement with The Trust for Public Land

27.1 for Phase VIII of the Metro Conservation
27.2 Corridors partnership to acquire in fee at
27.3 least 35 acres of high-quality priority state
27.4 and local natural areas in the metropolitan
27.5 area, as defined under Minnesota Statutes,
27.6 section 473.121, subdivision 2, and portions
27.7 of the surrounding counties. A list of
27.8 proposed acquisitions must be provided as
27.9 part of the required work plan. Land acquired
27.10 with this appropriation must be sufficiently
27.11 improved to meet at least minimum
27.12 management standards, as determined by
27.13 the commissioner of natural resources.
27.14 Expenditures are limited to the identified
27.15 project corridor areas as defined in the work
27.16 plan. This appropriation may not be used
27.17 to purchase habitable residential structures,
27.18 unless expressly approved in the work
27.19 plan. A list of fee title acquisitions must be
27.20 provided as part of the required work plan.
27.21 This appropriation is available until June
27.22 30, 2018, by which time the project must be
27.23 completed and final products delivered.

27.24 **(g) Metro Conservation Corridors - Phase**
27.25 **VIII Priority Expansion of Minnesota**
27.26 **Valley National Wildlife Refuge**

27.27 \$500,000 the first year is from the trust fund
27.28 to the commissioner of natural resources
27.29 for an agreement with the Minnesota Valley
27.30 National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc. for
27.31 Phase VIII of the Metro Conservation
27.32 Corridors partnership to acquire in fee
27.33 at least 100 acres of priority habitat for
27.34 the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife
27.35 Refuge in the metropolitan area, as defined
27.36 under Minnesota Statutes, section 473.121,

28.1 subdivision 2, and portions of the surrounding
28.2 counties. A list of proposed acquisitions
28.3 must be provided as part of the required work
28.4 plan. Land acquired with this appropriation
28.5 must be sufficiently improved to meet at
28.6 least minimum management standards.
28.7 Expenditures are limited to the identified
28.8 project corridor areas as defined in the work
28.9 plan. This appropriation may not be used
28.10 to purchase habitable residential structures,
28.11 unless expressly approved in the work plan.
28.12 This appropriation is available until June
28.13 30, 2018, by which time the project must be
28.14 completed and final products delivered.

28.15 **(h) Metro Conservation Corridors -**
28.16 **Phase VIII Wildlife Management Area**
28.17 **Acquisition**

28.18 \$400,000 the first year is from the trust fund
28.19 to the commissioner of natural resources
28.20 for Phase VIII of the Metro Conservation
28.21 Corridors partnership to acquire in fee at
28.22 least 82 acres along the lower reaches of the
28.23 Vermillion River in Dakota County within
28.24 the Gores Pool Wildlife Management Area.
28.25 Land acquired with this appropriation must
28.26 be sufficiently improved to meet at least
28.27 minimum management standards. This
28.28 appropriation may not be used to purchase
28.29 habitable residential structures, unless
28.30 expressly approved in the work plan. This
28.31 appropriation is available until June 30,
28.32 2018, by which time the project must be
28.33 completed and final products delivered.

28.34 **(i) Mesabi Trail Development Soudan to**
28.35 **Ely – Phase II**

29.1 \$1,000,000 the first year is from the trust
29.2 fund to the commissioner of natural resources
29.3 for an agreement with the St. Louis and
29.4 Lake Counties Regional Railroad Authority
29.5 for the right-of-way acquisition, design,
29.6 and construction of segments of the Mesabi
29.7 Trail, totaling approximately seven miles
29.8 between Soudan and Ely. This appropriation
29.9 is available until June 30, 2018, by which
29.10 time the project must be completed and final
29.11 products delivered.

29.12 **(j) Multi-benefit Watershed Scale**

29.13 **Conservation on North Central Lakes**

29.14 \$950,000 the first year is from the trust fund
29.15 to the Board of Water and Soil Resources to
29.16 secure permanent conservation easements
29.17 on at least 480 acres of high-quality habitat
29.18 in Crow Wing and Cass Counties. Of this
29.19 amount, up to \$65,000 must be deposited in a
29.20 conservation easement stewardship account;
29.21 and \$54,000 is for an agreement with the
29.22 Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation in
29.23 cooperation with Crow Wing County Soil
29.24 and Water Conservation District and Cass
29.25 County Soil and Water Conservation District.
29.26 Deposits into the conservation easement
29.27 stewardship account must be made upon
29.28 closing on conservation easements or at a
29.29 time otherwise approved in the work plan. A
29.30 list of proposed easement acquisitions must
29.31 be provided as part of the required work plan.
29.32 This appropriation is available until June
29.33 30, 2018, by which time the project must be
29.34 completed and final products delivered.

30.1 **(k) Conservation Easement Assessment**
 30.2 **and Valuation System Development**

30.3 \$250,000 the first year is from the trust fund
 30.4 to the Board of Regents of the University
 30.5 of Minnesota to assess the effectiveness of
 30.6 existing conservation easements acquired
 30.7 through state expenditures at achieving
 30.8 their intended outcomes of public value
 30.9 and ecological benefits and to develop
 30.10 a standardized, objective conservation
 30.11 easement valuation system for guiding future
 30.12 state investments in conservation easements
 30.13 to ensure the proposed environmental
 30.14 benefits are being achieved in a cost-effective
 30.15 manner. This appropriation is available until
 30.16 June 30, 2018, by which time the project must
 30.17 be completed and final products delivered.

30.18	<u>Subd. 10. Emerging Issues Account</u>	<u>1,000,000</u>	<u>-0-</u>
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30.19 \$1,000,000 the first year is from the trust fund
 30.20 to an emerging issues account authorized
 30.21 in Minnesota Statutes, section 116P.08,
 30.22 subdivision 4, paragraph (d).

30.23	<u>Subd. 11. Administration and Contract</u>		
30.24	<u>Agreement Reimbursement</u>	<u>1,207,000</u>	<u>-0-</u>

30.25 **(a) Legislative-Citizen Commission on**
 30.26 **Minnesota Resources**

30.27 \$1,072,000 the first year is from the trust
 30.28 fund to the Legislative-Citizen Commission
 30.29 on Minnesota Resources for administration
 30.30 in fiscal years 2016 and 2017 as provided
 30.31 in Minnesota Statutes, section 116P.09,
 30.32 subdivision 5.

30.33 **(b) Contract Agreement Reimbursement**

31.1 \$135,000 the first year is from the trust fund
31.2 to the commissioner of natural resources
31.3 at the direction of the Legislative-Citizen
31.4 Commission on Minnesota Resources for
31.5 expenses incurred for contract agreement
31.6 reimbursement for the agreements specified
31.7 in this section. The commissioner
31.8 shall provide documentation to the
31.9 Legislative-Citizen Commission on
31.10 Minnesota Resources on the expenditure of
31.11 these funds.

31.12 Subd. 12. **Availability of Appropriations**

31.13 Money appropriated in this section may
31.14 not be spent on activities unless they are
31.15 directly related to and necessary for a specific
31.16 appropriation and are specified in the work
31.17 plan approved by the Legislative-Citizen
31.18 Commission on Minnesota Resources.
31.19 Money appropriated in this section must
31.20 not be spent on indirect costs or other
31.21 institutional overhead charges that are
31.22 not directly related to and necessary for
31.23 a specific appropriation. Costs that are
31.24 directly related to and necessary for an
31.25 appropriation, including financial services,
31.26 human resources, information services, rent,
31.27 and utilities, are eligible only if the costs
31.28 can be clearly justified and individually
31.29 documented specific to the appropriation's
31.30 purpose and would not be generated by
31.31 the recipient but for the receipt of the
31.32 appropriation. No broad allocations for costs
31.33 in either dollars or percentages are allowed.
31.34 Unless otherwise provided, the amounts in
31.35 this section are available until June 30, 2017,
31.36 when projects must be completed and final

32.1 products delivered. For acquisition of real
32.2 property, the appropriations in this section
32.3 are available for an additional fiscal year if a
32.4 binding contract for acquisition of the real
32.5 property is entered into before the original
32.6 expiration date of the appropriation. If a
32.7 project receives a federal grant, the time
32.8 period of the appropriation is extended to
32.9 equal the federal grant period.

32.10 Subd. 13. **Data Availability Requirements**

32.11 Data collected by the projects funded under
32.12 this section must conform to guidelines
32.13 and standards adopted by MN.IT Services.
32.14 Spatial data also must conform to additional
32.15 guidelines and standards designed to support
32.16 data coordination and distribution that have
32.17 been published by the Minnesota Geospatial
32.18 Information Office. Descriptions of spatial
32.19 data must be prepared as specified in
32.20 the state's geographic metadata guideline
32.21 and must be submitted to the Minnesota
32.22 Geospatial Information Office. All data must
32.23 be accessible and free to the public unless
32.24 made private under the Data Practices Act,
32.25 Minnesota Statutes, chapter 13. To the extent
32.26 practicable, summary data and results of
32.27 projects funded under this section should
32.28 be readily accessible on the Internet and
32.29 identified as having received funding from
32.30 the environment and natural resources trust
32.31 fund.

32.32 Subd. 14. **Project Requirements**

32.33 (a) As a condition of accepting an
32.34 appropriation under this section, an agency
32.35 or entity receiving an appropriation or a

33.1 party to an agreement from an appropriation
33.2 must comply with paragraphs (b) to (l)
33.3 and Minnesota Statutes, chapter 116P, and
33.4 must submit a work plan and semiannual
33.5 progress reports in the form determined
33.6 by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on
33.7 Minnesota Resources for any project funded
33.8 in whole or in part with funds from the
33.9 appropriation. Modifications to the approved
33.10 work plan and budget expenditures must
33.11 be made through the amendment process
33.12 established by the Legislative-Citizen
33.13 Commission on Minnesota Resources.

33.14 (b) A recipient of money appropriated in
33.15 this section that conducts a restoration using
33.16 funds appropriated in this section must use
33.17 native plant species according to the Board of
33.18 Water and Soil Resources' native vegetation
33.19 establishment and enhancement guidelines
33.20 and include an appropriate diversity of
33.21 native species selected to provide habitat for
33.22 pollinators throughout the growing season as
33.23 required under Minnesota Statutes, section
33.24 84.973.

33.25 (c) For all restorations conducted with money
33.26 appropriated under this section, a recipient
33.27 must prepare an ecological restoration
33.28 and management plan that, to the degree
33.29 practicable, is consistent with the highest
33.30 quality conservation and ecological goals for
33.31 the restoration site. Consideration should
33.32 be given to soil, geology, topography, and
33.33 other relevant factors that would provide
33.34 the best chance for long-term success and
33.35 durability of the restoration projects. The
33.36 plan must include the proposed timetable

34.1 for implementing the restoration, including
34.2 site preparation, establishment of diverse
34.3 plant species, maintenance, and additional
34.4 enhancement to establish the restoration;
34.5 identify long-term maintenance and
34.6 management needs of the restoration and
34.7 how the maintenance, management, and
34.8 enhancement will be financed; and take
34.9 advantage of the best available science and
34.10 include innovative techniques to achieve the
34.11 best restoration.

34.12 (d) An entity receiving an appropriation in
34.13 this section for restoration activities must
34.14 provide an initial restoration evaluation
34.15 at the completion of the appropriation
34.16 and an evaluation three years beyond the
34.17 completion of the expenditure. Restorations
34.18 must be evaluated relative to the stated
34.19 goals and standards in the restoration plan,
34.20 current science, and, when applicable, the
34.21 Board of Water and Soil Resources' native
34.22 vegetation establishment and enhancement
34.23 guidelines. The evaluation must determine
34.24 whether the restorations are meeting planned
34.25 goals, identify any problems with the
34.26 implementation of the restorations, and,
34.27 if necessary, give recommendations on
34.28 improving restorations. The evaluation must
34.29 be focused on improving future restorations.

34.30 (e) All restoration and enhancement projects
34.31 funded with money appropriated in this
34.32 section must be on land permanently
34.33 protected by a conservation easement or
34.34 public ownership.

35.1 (f) A recipient of money from an
35.2 appropriation under this section must
35.3 give consideration to contracting with
35.4 Conservation Corps Minnesota for contract
35.5 restoration and enhancement services.

35.6 (g) All conservation easements acquired with
35.7 money appropriated under this section must:

35.8 (1) be permanent;

35.9 (2) specify the parties to an easement in the
35.10 easement;

35.11 (3) specify all of the provisions of an
35.12 agreement that are permanent;

35.13 (4) be sent to the Legislative-Citizen
35.14 Commission on Minnesota Resources in an
35.15 electronic format at least ten business days
35.16 prior to closing;

35.17 (5) include a long-term monitoring and
35.18 enforcement plan and funding for monitoring
35.19 and enforcing the easement agreement; and

35.20 (6) include requirements in the easement
35.21 document to address specific groundwater
35.22 and surface water quality protection activities
35.23 such as keeping water on the landscape,
35.24 reducing nutrient and contaminant loading,
35.25 protecting groundwater, and not permitting
35.26 artificial hydrological modifications.

35.27 (h) For any acquisition of lands or interest
35.28 in lands, a recipient of money appropriated
35.29 under this section shall not agree to pay
35.30 more than 100 percent of the appraised value
35.31 for a parcel of land using this money to
35.32 complete the purchase, in part or in whole,
35.33 except that up to ten percent above the
35.34 appraised value may be allowed to complete

36.1 the purchase, in part or in whole, using this
36.2 money if permission is received in advance
36.3 of the purchase from the Legislative-Citizen
36.4 Commission on Minnesota Resources.

36.5 (i) For any acquisition of land or interest in
36.6 land, a recipient of money appropriated under
36.7 this section must give priority to high-quality
36.8 natural resources or conservation lands that
36.9 provide natural buffers to water resources.

36.10 (j) For new lands acquired with money
36.11 appropriated under this section, a recipient
36.12 must prepare an ecological restoration
36.13 and management plan in compliance with
36.14 paragraph (c), including sufficient funding
36.15 for implementation unless the work plan
36.16 addresses why a portion of the money is
36.17 not necessary to achieve a high-quality
36.18 restoration.

36.19 (k) To ensure public accountability for
36.20 the use of public funds, within 60 days
36.21 of the transaction, a recipient of money
36.22 appropriated under this section must provide
36.23 to the Legislative-Citizen Commission on
36.24 Minnesota Resources documentation of the
36.25 selection process used to identify parcels
36.26 acquired and provide documentation of all
36.27 related transaction costs, including but not
36.28 limited to appraisals, legal fees, recording
36.29 fees, commissions, other similar costs,
36.30 and donations. This information must be
36.31 provided for all parties involved in the
36.32 transaction. The recipient must also report
36.33 to the Legislative-Citizen Commission on
36.34 Minnesota Resources any difference between
36.35 the acquisition amount paid to the seller and

37.1 the state-certified or state-reviewed appraisal,
37.2 if a state-certified or state-reviewed appraisal
37.3 was conducted.

37.4 (l) A recipient of an appropriation from
37.5 the trust fund under this section must
37.6 acknowledge financial support from
37.7 the Minnesota environment and natural
37.8 resources trust fund in project publications,
37.9 signage, and other public communications
37.10 and outreach related to work completed
37.11 using the appropriation. Acknowledgment
37.12 may occur, as appropriate, through use of
37.13 the trust fund logo or inclusion of language
37.14 attributing support from the trust fund. Each
37.15 direct recipient of money appropriated in
37.16 this section, as well as each recipient of a
37.17 grant awarded pursuant to this section, must
37.18 satisfy all reporting and other requirements
37.19 incumbent upon constitutionally dedicated
37.20 funding recipients as provided in Minnesota
37.21 Statutes, section 3.303, subdivision 10, and
37.22 chapter 116P.

37.23 **Subd. 15. Payment Conditions and Capital**
37.24 **Equipment Expenditures**

37.25 (a) All agreements, grants, or contracts
37.26 referred to in this section must be
37.27 administered on a reimbursement basis
37.28 unless otherwise provided in this section.
37.29 Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, section
37.30 16A.41, expenditures made on or after
37.31 July 1, 2015, or the date the work plan is
37.32 approved, whichever is later, are eligible for
37.33 reimbursement unless otherwise provided
37.34 in this section. Periodic payment must be
37.35 made upon receiving documentation that
37.36 the deliverable items articulated in the

38.1 approved work plan have been achieved,
38.2 including partial achievements as evidenced
38.3 by approved progress reports. Reasonable
38.4 amounts may be advanced to projects to
38.5 accommodate cash flow needs or match
38.6 federal money. The advances must be
38.7 approved as part of the work plan. No
38.8 expenditures for capital equipment are
38.9 allowed unless expressly authorized in the
38.10 project work plan.

38.11 (b) Single source contracts as specified in the
38.12 approved work plan are allowed.

38.13 **Subd. 16. Purchase of Recycled and Recyclable**
38.14 **Materials**

38.15 A political subdivision, public or private
38.16 corporation, or other entity that receives an
38.17 appropriation under this section must use the
38.18 appropriation in compliance with Minnesota
38.19 Statutes, section 16C.0725, regarding
38.20 purchase of recycled, repairable, and durable
38.21 materials; and Minnesota Statutes, section
38.22 16C.073, regarding purchase and use of
38.23 paper stock and printing.

38.24 **Subd. 17. Energy Conservation and**
38.25 **Sustainable Building Guidelines**

38.26 A recipient to whom an appropriation is made
38.27 under this section for a capital improvement
38.28 project must ensure that the project complies
38.29 with the applicable energy conservation and
38.30 sustainable building guidelines and standards
38.31 contained in law, including Minnesota
38.32 Statutes, sections 16B.325, 216C.19, and
38.33 216C.20, and rules adopted under those
38.34 sections. The recipient may use the energy
38.35 planning, advocacy, and State Energy Office

39.1 units of the Department of Commerce to
39.2 obtain information and technical assistance
39.3 on energy conservation and alternative
39.4 energy development relating to the planning
39.5 and construction of the capital improvement
39.6 project.

39.7 Subd. 18. **Accessibility**

39.8 Structural and nonstructural facilities must
39.9 meet the design standards in the Americans
39.10 with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility
39.11 guidelines.

39.12 Subd. 19. **Carryforward; Extension**

39.13 (a) The availability of the appropriations for
39.14 the following projects are extended to June
39.15 30, 2016:

39.16 (1) Laws 2013, chapter 52, section 2,
39.17 subdivision 4, paragraph (1), Restorations
39.18 Evaluations;

39.19 (2) Laws 2013, chapter 52, section 2,
39.20 subdivision 6, paragraph (b), detecting and
39.21 monitoring certain carp populations; and

39.22 (3) Laws 2011, First Special Session
39.23 chapter 2, article 3, section 2, subdivision
39.24 4, paragraph (g), Minnesota River Valley
39.25 Green Corridor Scientific and Natural Area
39.26 Acquisition.

39.27 (b) The availability of the appropriations for
39.28 the following projects are extended to June
39.29 30, 2017:

39.30 (1) Laws 2013, chapter 52, section 2,
39.31 subdivision 5, paragraph (e), Measuring
39.32 Hydrologic Benefits from Glacial Ridge
39.33 Habitat Restoration; and

40.1 (2) Laws 2014, chapter 226, section 2,
40.2 subdivision 3, paragraph (m), Measuring
40.3 Hydrologic Benefits from Glacial Ridge
40.4 Habitat Restoration.

40.5 (c) The availability of the appropriation for
40.6 the following project is extended to June
40.7 30, 2019: Laws 2014, chapter 226, section
40.8 2, subdivision 6, paragraph (a), Enhancing
40.9 Pollinator Landscapes.

40.10 (d) The following project may be extended
40.11 statewide, Laws 2014, chapter 226, section
40.12 2, subdivision 9, paragraph (c), Urban
40.13 Environmental Education Engaging Students
40.14 in Local Resources.

40.15 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 116P.05, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

40.16 Subd. 2. **Duties.** (a) The commission shall recommend an annual or biennial
40.17 legislative bill for appropriations from the environment and natural resources trust fund and
40.18 shall adopt a strategic plan as provided in section 116P.08. Approval of the recommended
40.19 legislative bill requires an affirmative vote of at least 12 members of the commission.

40.20 (b) It is a condition of acceptance of the appropriations made from the Minnesota
40.21 environment and natural resources trust fund, and oil overcharge money under section
40.22 4.071, subdivision 2, that the agency or entity receiving the appropriation must
40.23 submit a work plan and semiannual progress reports in the form determined by the
40.24 Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources, and comply with applicable
40.25 reporting requirements under section 116P.16. None of the money provided may be
40.26 spent unless the commission has approved the pertinent work plan. Modifications to
40.27 the approved work plan and budget expenditures shall be made through the amendment
40.28 process established by the commission. The commission shall ensure that the expenditures
40.29 and outcomes described in the work plan for appropriations funded by the environment
40.30 and natural resources trust fund are met.

40.31 (c) The peer review ~~panel~~ procedures created under section 116P.08 must also be
40.32 used to review, comment, and report to the commission on research proposals applying for
40.33 an appropriation from the oil overcharge money under section 4.071, subdivision 2.

40.34 (d) The commission may adopt operating procedures to fulfill its duties under this
40.35 chapter.

- 41.1 (e) As part of the operating procedures, the commission shall:
- 41.2 (1) ensure that members' expectations are to participate in all meetings related to
- 41.3 funding decision recommendations;
- 41.4 (2) recommend adequate funding for increased citizen outreach and communications
- 41.5 for trust fund expenditure planning;
- 41.6 (3) allow administrative expenses as part of individual project expenditures based
- 41.7 on need;
- 41.8 (4) provide for project outcome evaluation;
- 41.9 (5) keep the grant application, administration, and review process as simple as
- 41.10 possible; and
- 41.11 (6) define and emphasize the leveraging of additional sources of money that project
- 41.12 proposers should consider when making trust fund proposals.

41.13 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 116P.08, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

41.14 Subd. 5. **Public meetings.** (a) Meetings of the commission, committees or

41.15 subcommittees of the commission, technical advisory committees, and peer review panels

41.16 reviewers must be open to the public. The commission shall attempt to meet throughout

41.17 various regions of the state during each biennium. For purposes of this subdivision, a

41.18 meeting occurs when a quorum is present and action is taken regarding a matter within

41.19 the jurisdiction of the commission, a committee or subcommittee of the commission, a

41.20 technical advisory committee, or a peer review panel reviewers.

41.21 (b) For legislative members of the commission, enforcement of this subdivision is

41.22 governed by section 3.055, subdivision 2. For nonlegislative members of the commission,

41.23 enforcement of this subdivision is governed by section 13D.06, subdivisions 1 and 2.

41.24 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 116P.08, subdivision 6, is amended to read:

41.25 Subd. 6. **Peer review.** (a) Research proposals must include a stated purpose directly

41.26 connected to the trust fund's constitutional mandate, this chapter, and the adopted strategic

41.27 plan under subdivision 3, a timeline, potential outcomes, and an explanation of the need

41.28 for the research. All research proposals must be peer reviewed by a peer review panel

41.29 before receiving an appropriation.

41.30 (b) In conducting research proposal reviews, the peer review panel reviewers shall:

41.31 (1) comment on the methodology proposed and whether it can be expected to yield

41.32 appropriate and useful information and data; and

41.33 (2) comment on the need for the research and about similar existing information

41.34 available, if any; and.

42.1 ~~(3) report to the commission on clauses (1) and (2)~~ (c) Peer reviewers' comments
42.2 under paragraph (b) must be reported to the commission.

42.3 ~~(e) (d) The peer review panel also must~~ reviewers may review completed research
42.4 proposals that have received an appropriation and comment and report upon whether the
42.5 project reached the intended goals.

42.6 Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 116P.08, subdivision 7, is amended to read:

42.7 Subd. 7. **Peer review panel membership reviewers.** (a) The peer review panel
42.8 reviewers must consist of at least five members who are be knowledgeable in general
42.9 research methods in the areas of environment and natural resources. ~~Not more than two~~
42.10 ~~members of the panel may be employees of state agencies in Minnesota.~~

42.11 (b) ~~The commission shall select a chair every two years who shall be responsible for~~
42.12 ~~convening meetings of the panel as often as is necessary to fulfill its duties as prescribed~~
42.13 ~~in this section.~~ Compensation of ~~panel members~~ peer reviewers is governed by section
42.14 15.059, subdivision 3.

42.15 Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 116P.09, subdivision 6, is amended to read:

42.16 Subd. 6. **Conflict of interest.** A commission member, a technical advisory
42.17 committee member, a peer review ~~panelist~~ reviewer, or an employee of the commission
42.18 may not participate in or vote on a decision of the commission, advisory committee, or
42.19 peer review ~~panel~~ relating to an organization in which the member, ~~panelist~~ peer reviewer,
42.20 or employee has either a direct or indirect personal financial interest. While serving on the
42.21 commission, technical advisory committee, ~~or as a peer review panel reviewer~~, or being
42.22 an employee of the commission, a person shall avoid any potential conflict of interest.

42.23 Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 116P.09, subdivision 8, is amended to read:

42.24 Subd. 8. **Technical advisory committees.** The commission shall make use of
42.25 available public and private expertise on environment and natural resource issues ~~by~~
42.26 appointing and may appoint necessary technical advisory committees to review funding
42.27 proposals and evaluate project outcomes. Compensation for technical advisory committee
42.28 members is governed by section 15.059, subdivision 6."

43.1 We request the adoption of this report and repassage of the bill.

43.2 Senate Conferees:

43.3
43.4 Kari Dziezic John A. Hoffman

43.5
43.6 Gary H. Dahms

43.7 House Conferees:

43.8
43.9 Paul Torkelson Dan Fabian

43.10
43.11 Leon Lillie