

**SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETY-FOURTH SESSION**

S.F. No. 4304

(SENATE AUTHORS: HAWJ and Lang)

DATE	D-PG	OFFICIAL STATUS
03/09/2026	6577	Introduction and first reading Referred to Environment, Climate, and Legacy
03/11/2026	6602	Author added Lang
03/23/2026	6827a	Comm report: To pass as amended and re-refer to Finance

1.1 A bill for an act

1.2 relating to natural resources; appropriating money from outdoor heritage fund;

1.3 extending and modifying prior appropriations; amending Laws 2024, chapter 106,

1.4 article 1, section 2, subdivision 5.

1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. **APPROPRIATIONS.**

1.7 The sums shown in the columns marked "Appropriations" are appropriated to the agencies

1.8 and for the purposes specified in this act. The appropriations are from the outdoor heritage

1.9 fund for the fiscal year indicated for each purpose. The figures "2026" and "2027" used in

1.10 this act mean that the appropriations listed under them are available for the fiscal year ending

1.11 June 30, 2026, or June 30, 2027, respectively. "The first year" is fiscal year 2026. "The

1.12 second year" is fiscal year 2027. "The biennium" is fiscal years 2026 and 2027. The

1.13 appropriations in this act are onetime appropriations.

	<u>APPROPRIATIONS</u>	
	<u>Available for the Year</u>	
	<u>Ending June 30</u>	
	<u>2026</u>	<u>2027</u>

1.18 Sec. 2. **OUTDOOR HERITAGE FUND**

1.19	<u>Subdivision 1. Total Appropriation</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>187,528,000</u>
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1.20 This appropriation is from the outdoor heritage

1.21 fund. The amounts that may be spent for each

1.22 purpose are specified in the following

1.23 subdivisions.

- 2.1 Subd. 2. **Prairies** -0- 36,387,000
- 2.2 **(a) RIM Grasslands Reserve, Phase 7**
- 2.3 \$2,334,000 the second year is to acquire
- 2.4 permanent conservation easements and to
- 2.5 restore and enhance wildlife habitat. Of this
- 2.6 amount, \$191,000 is to the commissioner of
- 2.7 natural resources for an agreement with Ducks
- 2.8 Unlimited and \$2,143,000 is to the Board of
- 2.9 Water and Soil Resources. Of the amount to
- 2.10 the Board of Water and Soil Resources, up to
- 2.11 \$50,000 is to establish a monitoring and
- 2.12 enforcement fund as approved in the
- 2.13 accomplishment plan and subject to Minnesota
- 2.14 Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A
- 2.15 list of permanent conservation easements must
- 2.16 be provided as part of the final report.
- 2.17 **(b) Accelerating Wildlife Management Area**
- 2.18 **Program, Phase 18**
- 2.19 \$4,521,000 the second year is to the
- 2.20 commissioner of natural resources for an
- 2.21 agreement with Pheasants Forever to acquire
- 2.22 in fee and to restore and enhance lands for
- 2.23 wildlife management area purposes under
- 2.24 Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,
- 2.25 subdivision 8. Subject to evaluation criteria
- 2.26 in Minnesota Rules, part 6136.0900, priority
- 2.27 must be given to acquiring lands that are
- 2.28 eligible for the native prairie bank under
- 2.29 Minnesota Statutes, section 84.96, or lands
- 2.30 adjacent to protected native prairie.
- 2.31 **(c) DNR Wildlife Management Area and**
- 2.32 **Scientific and Natural Area Acquisition,**
- 2.33 **Phase 18**

3.1 \$3,502,000 the second year is to the
 3.2 commissioner of natural resources to acquire
 3.3 in fee and to restore and enhance lands for
 3.4 wildlife management purposes under
 3.5 Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,
 3.6 subdivision 8, and to acquire land in fee for
 3.7 scientific and natural area purposes under
 3.8 Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,
 3.9 subdivision 5. Subject to evaluation criteria
 3.10 in Minnesota Rules, part 6136.0900, priority
 3.11 must be given to acquiring lands that are
 3.12 eligible for the native prairie bank under
 3.13 Minnesota Statutes, section 84.96, or lands
 3.14 adjacent to protected native prairie.

3.15 **(d) Martin County DNR WMA Acquisition,**
 3.16 **Phase 10**

3.17 \$3,017,000 the second year is to the
 3.18 commissioner of natural resources for
 3.19 agreements to acquire land in fee and to
 3.20 restore and enhance strategic prairie grassland,
 3.21 wetland, and other wildlife habitat in Martin
 3.22 and Watonwan Counties for wildlife
 3.23 management area purposes under Minnesota
 3.24 Statutes, section 86A.05, subdivision 8, as
 3.25 follows: \$2,363,000 to Fox Lake Conservation
 3.26 League, Inc.; \$583,000 to Ducks Unlimited;
 3.27 and \$71,000 to the Conservation Fund.

3.28 **(e) Northern Tallgrass Prairie National**
 3.29 **Wildlife Refuge, Phase 16**

3.30 \$3,087,000 the second year is to the
 3.31 commissioner of natural resources for an
 3.32 agreement with The Nature Conservancy, in
 3.33 cooperation with the United States Fish and
 3.34 Wildlife Service, to acquire land in fee or
 3.35 permanent conservation easements and to

4.1 restore and enhance lands in the Northern
4.2 Tallgrass Prairie Habitat Preservation Area in
4.3 western Minnesota to add to the Northern
4.4 Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge.
4.5 Subject to evaluation criteria in Minnesota
4.6 Rules, part 6136.0900, priority must be given
4.7 to acquiring lands that are eligible for the
4.8 native prairie bank under Minnesota Statutes,
4.9 section 84.96, or lands adjacent to protected
4.10 native prairie.

4.11 **(f) Minnesota Prairie Recovery Program,**
4.12 **Phase 15**

4.13 \$3,492,000 the second year is to the
4.14 commissioner of natural resources for an
4.15 agreement with The Nature Conservancy to
4.16 acquire land in fee and to restore and enhance
4.17 native prairie, grasslands, wetlands, and
4.18 savanna. Subject to evaluation criteria in
4.19 Minnesota Rules, part 6136.0900, priority
4.20 must be given to acquiring lands that are
4.21 eligible for the native prairie bank under
4.22 Minnesota Statutes, section 84.96, or lands
4.23 adjacent to protected native prairie. Annual
4.24 income statements and balance sheets for
4.25 income and expenses from land acquired and
4.26 held by The Nature Conservancy with this
4.27 appropriation must be submitted to the
4.28 Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council no
4.29 later than 180 days after the The Nature
4.30 Conservancy's fiscal year closes.

4.31 **(g) Prairie Chicken Habitat Partnership of**
4.32 **Southern Red River Valley, Phase 12**

4.33 \$3,094,000 the second year is to the
4.34 commissioner of natural resources for an
4.35 agreement with Pheasants Forever, in

5.1 cooperation with the Minnesota Prairie
 5.2 Chicken Society, to acquire land in fee and to
 5.3 restore and enhance lands in the southern Red
 5.4 River Valley for wildlife management
 5.5 purposes under Minnesota Statutes, section
 5.6 86A.05, subdivision 8, or to be designated and
 5.7 managed as waterfowl production areas in
 5.8 Minnesota, in cooperation with the United
 5.9 States Fish and Wildlife Service. Subject to
 5.10 evaluation criteria in Minnesota Rules, part
 5.11 6136.0900, priority must be given to acquiring
 5.12 lands that are eligible for the native prairie
 5.13 bank under Minnesota Statutes, section 84.96,
 5.14 or lands adjacent to protected native prairie.

5.15 **(h) RIM Buffers for Wildlife and Water,**
 5.16 **Phase 12**

5.17 \$3,744,000 the second year is to the Board of
 5.18 Water and Soil Resources to acquire
 5.19 permanent conservation easements and restore
 5.20 habitat under Minnesota Statutes, section
 5.21 103F.515, to protect, restore, and enhance
 5.22 habitat by expanding the riparian buffer
 5.23 program under the clean water fund for
 5.24 additional wildlife benefits from buffers on
 5.25 private land. Of this amount, up to \$60,000 is
 5.26 to establish a monitoring and enforcement
 5.27 fund as approved in the accomplishment plan
 5.28 and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section
 5.29 97A.056, subdivision 17. Subdivision 8,
 5.30 paragraph (b), does not apply to this project.
 5.31 A list of permanent conservation easements
 5.32 must be provided as part of the final report.

5.33 **(i) Accelerating USFWS Habitat**
 5.34 **Conservation Easement Program, Phase 6**

6.1 \$4,509,000 the second year is to the
 6.2 commissioner of natural resources for
 6.3 agreements to restore and enhance wetland
 6.4 and prairie habitat on habitat easements of the
 6.5 United States Fish and Wildlife Service as
 6.6 follows: \$3,019,000 to Ducks Unlimited and
 6.7 \$1,490,000 to Pheasants Forever.

6.8 **(j) DNR Grassland Enhancement, Phase 17**

6.9 \$2,139,000 the second year is to the
 6.10 commissioner of natural resources to
 6.11 accelerate restoration and enhancement of
 6.12 prairies, grasslands, and savannas in wildlife
 6.13 management areas; in scientific and natural
 6.14 areas; in aquatic management areas; on lands
 6.15 in the native prairie bank; in bluff prairies on
 6.16 state forest land in southeastern Minnesota;
 6.17 and in waterfowl production areas and refuge
 6.18 lands of the United States Fish and Wildlife
 6.19 Service.

6.20 **(k) Enhanced Public Land - Grasslands,**
 6.21 **Phase 9**

6.22 \$2,948,000 the second year is to the
 6.23 commissioner of natural resources for an
 6.24 agreement with Pheasants Forever to enhance
 6.25 and restore grassland and wetland habitat on
 6.26 public lands in the forest prairie transition,
 6.27 metro urban, and prairie ecoregions of
 6.28 Minnesota.

6.29 **Subd. 3. Forests**

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36,939,000

6.30 **(a) Northern Forests Legacy Project**

6.31 \$25,090,000 the second year is to the
 6.32 commissioner of natural resources to acquire
 6.33 priority forest lands in fee in St. Louis County
 6.34 as wildlife management areas, scientific and

7.1 natural areas, state forests, and county forests.

7.2 Of this amount, \$12,866,000 is for an

7.3 agreement with St. Louis County.

7.4 **(b) Sand Lake and Seven Beavers**

7.5 **Acquisition and Enhancement**

7.6 \$7,347,000 the second year is to the

7.7 commissioner of natural resources for an

7.8 agreement with The Nature Conservancy to

7.9 acquire priority forest habitat lands in fee as

7.10 The Nature Conservancy lands, Rajala Woods

7.11 Foundation lands, state forests, and county

7.12 forests. For lands held in perpetuity by The

7.13 Nature Conservancy and Rajala Woods

7.14 Foundation, annual income statements and

7.15 balance sheets for income and expenses from

7.16 land acquired with this appropriation must be

7.17 submitted to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor

7.18 Heritage Council no later than 180 days after

7.19 each organization's respective fiscal year

7.20 closes.

7.21 **(c) Hardwood Hills Habitat Conservation**

7.22 **Program, Phase 3**

7.23 \$2,558,000 the second year is to the

7.24 commissioner of natural resources for

7.25 agreements to acquire permanent conservation

7.26 easements and to restore and enhance forest

7.27 habitats in the hardwood hills ecological

7.28 section of west-central Minnesota as follows:

7.29 \$90,000 to St. John's University, \$354,000 to

7.30 Stearns Conservation District, and \$2,114,000

7.31 to Minnesota Land Trust. Of the amount to

7.32 Minnesota Land Trust, \$252,000 is to establish

7.33 a monitoring and enforcement fund as

7.34 approved in the accomplishment plan and

8.1 subject to Minnesota Statutes, section
 8.2 97A.056, subdivision 17.

8.3 **(d) DNR Forest Habitat Enhancement,**
 8.4 **Phase 6**

8.5 \$1,944,000 the second year is to the
 8.6 commissioner of natural resources to restore
 8.7 and enhance forest wildlife habitats on public
 8.8 lands throughout Minnesota.

8.9 Subd. 4. Wetlands -0- 29,635,000

8.10 **(a) Accelerating Waterfowl Production**
 8.11 **Area Acquisition Program, Phase 18**

8.12 \$5,431,000 the second year is to the
 8.13 commissioner of natural resources for an
 8.14 agreement with Pheasants Forever, in
 8.15 cooperation with the United States Fish and
 8.16 Wildlife Service, to acquire land in fee and to
 8.17 restore and enhance wetlands and grasslands
 8.18 to be designated and managed as waterfowl
 8.19 production areas in Minnesota.

8.20 **(b) RIM Wetlands - Restoring Most**
 8.21 **Productive Habitat in Minnesota, Phase 15**

8.22 \$3,502,000 the second year is to the Board of
 8.23 Water and Soil Resources to acquire
 8.24 permanent conservation easements and to
 8.25 restore wetlands and native grassland habitat
 8.26 under Minnesota Statutes, section 103F.515.
 8.27 Of this amount, up to \$60,000 is to establish
 8.28 a monitoring and enforcement fund as
 8.29 approved in the accomplishment plan and
 8.30 subject to Minnesota Statutes, section
 8.31 97A.056, subdivision 17. Subdivision 8,
 8.32 paragraph (b), does not apply to this project.
 8.33 A list of permanent conservation easements
 8.34 must be provided as part of the final report.

9.1 **(c) Shallow Lake and Wetland Protection**
9.2 **and Restoration Program, Phase 15**

9.3 \$6,087,000 the second year is to the
9.4 commissioner of natural resources for an
9.5 agreement with Ducks Unlimited to acquire
9.6 land in fee for wildlife management purposes
9.7 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,
9.8 subdivision 8, or to be designated and
9.9 managed as waterfowl production areas or
9.10 national wildlife refuges in Minnesota, in
9.11 cooperation with the United States Fish and
9.12 Wildlife Service, and to restore and enhance
9.13 prairie lands, wetlands, and land-buffering
9.14 shallow lakes.

9.15 **(d) Wetland Habitat Protection and**
9.16 **Restoration Program, Phase 11**

9.17 \$3,210,000 the second year is to the
9.18 commissioner of natural resources for an
9.19 agreement with Minnesota Land Trust to
9.20 acquire permanent conservation easements
9.21 and to restore and enhance prairie, wetland,
9.22 and other habitat on permanently protected
9.23 conservation easements in high-priority
9.24 wetland habitat complexes in the prairie,
9.25 forest/prairie transition, and forest ecoregions.
9.26 Of this amount, up to \$140,000 is to establish
9.27 a monitoring and enforcement fund as
9.28 approved in the accomplishment plan and
9.29 subject to Minnesota Statutes, section
9.30 97A.056, subdivision 17.

9.31 **(e) Living Shallow Lakes and Wetlands**
9.32 **Enhancement and Restoration Initiative,**
9.33 **Phase 12**

10.1 \$6,661,000 the second year is to the
 10.2 commissioner of natural resources for an
 10.3 agreement with Ducks Unlimited to restore
 10.4 and enhance shallow lakes and wetlands on
 10.5 public lands and wetlands under permanent
 10.6 conservation easement for wildlife
 10.7 management.

10.8 **(f) Talcot Lake**

10.9 \$1,000,000 the second year is to the
 10.10 commissioner of natural resources for the
 10.11 survey, design, engineering, and permitting
 10.12 of the Talcot Lake restoration and
 10.13 enhancement project in Cottonwood County.

10.14 **(g) Shallow Lakes and Wetlands**

10.15 **Enhancement, Phase 18**

10.16 \$3,744,000 the second year is to the
 10.17 commissioner of natural resources to enhance
 10.18 and restore shallow lakes and wetland habitat
 10.19 statewide.

10.20 **Subd. 5. Habitats**

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82,408,000

10.21 **(a) Riparian Habitat Protection in Kettle**
 10.22 **and Snake River Watersheds, Phase 3**

10.23 \$1,137,000 the second year is to the Board of
 10.24 Water and Soil Resources, in cooperation with
 10.25 the Pine County Soil and Water Conservation
 10.26 District, to acquire permanent conservation
 10.27 easements and restore high-quality forests,
 10.28 wetlands, and shoreline in the Kettle and
 10.29 Snake River watersheds. Of this amount, up
 10.30 to \$70,000 is to establish a monitoring and
 10.31 enforcement fund as approved in the
 10.32 accomplishment plan and subject to Minnesota
 10.33 Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 17.
 10.34 Subdivision 8, paragraph (b), does not apply

11.1 to this project. A list of permanent
11.2 conservation easements must be provided as
11.3 part of the final report.

11.4 **(b) Cannon River Watershed Habitat**
11.5 **Restoration and Protection Program, Phase**
11.6 **15**

11.7 \$2,886,000 the second year is to the
11.8 commissioner of natural resources for
11.9 agreements to acquire lands in fee and to
11.10 restore and enhance wildlife habitat in the
11.11 Cannon River Watershed as follows: \$92,000
11.12 to Clean River Partners and \$2,794,000 to
11.13 Trust for Public Land.

11.14 **(c) DNR Aquatic Management Area**
11.15 **Acquisition and Trout Stream Easement**
11.16 **Acquisition**

11.17 \$2,182,000 the second year is to the
11.18 commissioner of natural resources to acquire
11.19 land in fee as aquatic management areas and
11.20 to acquire permanent conservation easements
11.21 to protect trout-stream aquatic habitat. Of this
11.22 amount, up to \$88,000 is to establish a
11.23 monitoring and enforcement fund as approved
11.24 in the accomplishment plan and subject to
11.25 Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056,
11.26 subdivision 17.

11.27 **(d) Washington County Habitat Protection**
11.28 **and Enhancement Partnership, Phase 2**

11.29 \$2,812,000 the second year is to the
11.30 commissioner of natural resources for
11.31 agreements to acquire permanent conservation
11.32 easements and to restore and enhance wildlife
11.33 habitats in Washington County as follows:
11.34 \$760,000 to Washington County and

12.1 \$2,052,000 to Minnesota Land Trust. Of the
 12.2 amount to Minnesota Land Trust, \$196,000 is
 12.3 to establish a monitoring and enforcement
 12.4 fund as approved in the accomplishment plan
 12.5 and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section
 12.6 97A.056, subdivision 17.

12.7 **(e) Fisheries Habitat Protection on Strategic**
 12.8 **North Central Minnesota Lakes, Phase 12**

12.9 \$2,317,000 the second year is to the
 12.10 commissioner of natural resources for an
 12.11 agreement with Northern Waters Land Trust
 12.12 to acquire land in fee and to restore and
 12.13 enhance wildlife habitat to sustain healthy fish
 12.14 habitat on coldwater lakes in Aitkin, Cass,
 12.15 Crow Wing, and Hubbard Counties.

12.16 **(f) Greenbelt, Phase 1**

12.17 \$1,467,000 the second year is to the
 12.18 commissioner of natural resources for an
 12.19 agreement with Comfort Lake-Forest Lake
 12.20 Watershed District to acquire land in fee and
 12.21 permanent conservation easements and to
 12.22 restore and enhance wildlife habitat within the
 12.23 Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District
 12.24 boundary.

12.25 **(g) Integrating Habitat and Clean Water,**
 12.26 **Phase 4**

12.27 \$1,827,000 the second year is to the Board of
 12.28 Water and Soil Resources to acquire
 12.29 permanent conservation easements and to
 12.30 restore and enhance wildlife habitat identified
 12.31 under the One Watershed, One Plan program
 12.32 for stacked benefit to wildlife and clean water.
 12.33 Of this amount, up to \$40,000 is to establish
 12.34 a monitoring and enforcement fund as

13.1 approved in the accomplishment plan and
 13.2 subject to Minnesota Statutes, section
 13.3 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of permanent
 13.4 conservation easements must be provided as
 13.5 part of the final report.

13.6 **(h) Metro Big Rivers, Phase 16**

13.7 \$6,776,000 the second year is to the
 13.8 commissioner of natural resources for
 13.9 agreements to acquire land in fee and to
 13.10 restore and enhance natural habitat systems
 13.11 associated with the Mississippi, Minnesota,
 13.12 and St. Croix Rivers and their tributaries in
 13.13 the metropolitan area as follows: \$1,491,000
 13.14 to Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge
 13.15 Trust, Inc.; \$892,000 to Friends of the
 13.16 Mississippi River; \$1,055,000 to Great River
 13.17 Greening; and \$3,338,000 to Trust for Public
 13.18 Land.

13.19 **(i) Mississippi Headwaters Habitat**

13.20 **Corridor Project, Phase 10**

13.21 \$2,770,000 the second year is to acquire lands
 13.22 in fee and permanent conservation easements
 13.23 and to restore wildlife habitat in the
 13.24 Mississippi headwaters. Of this amount, (1)
 13.25 \$1,387,000 is to the commissioner of natural
 13.26 resources for agreements as follows: \$60,000
 13.27 to the Mississippi Headwaters Board and
 13.28 \$1,327,000 to Trust for Public Land; and (2)
 13.29 \$1,383,000 is to the Board of Water and Soil
 13.30 Resources, of which up to \$70,000 is to
 13.31 establish a monitoring and enforcement fund
 13.32 as approved in the accomplishment plan and
 13.33 subject to Minnesota Statutes, section
 13.34 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of permanent

14.1 conservation easements must be provided as
14.2 part of the final report.

14.3 **(j) Protecting Coldwater Fisheries on**

14.4 **Minnesota's North Shore, Phase 4**

14.5 \$1,695,000 the second year is to the
14.6 commissioner of natural resources for an
14.7 agreement with Minnesota Land Trust to
14.8 acquire permanent conservation easements
14.9 and to restore and enhance wildlife habitat in
14.10 priority coldwater tributaries to Lake Superior.
14.11 Of this amount, up to \$196,000 is to establish
14.12 a monitoring and enforcement fund as
14.13 approved in the accomplishment plan and
14.14 subject to Minnesota Statutes, section
14.15 97A.056, subdivision 17.

14.16 **(k) Protecting Minnesota's Lakes of**

14.17 **Outstanding Biological Significance, Phase**

14.18 **5**

14.19 \$2,983,000 the second year is to the
14.20 commissioner of natural resources for
14.21 agreements to acquire land in fee and
14.22 permanent conservation easements and to
14.23 restore and enhance lakes of outstanding
14.24 biological significance in northeast and
14.25 north-central Minnesota. Of this amount,
14.26 \$1,612,000 is to the Northern Waters Land
14.27 Trust and \$1,371,000 is to Minnesota Land
14.28 Trust. Of the amount to Minnesota Land Trust,
14.29 up to \$140,000 is to establish a monitoring
14.30 and enforcement fund as approved in the
14.31 accomplishment plan and subject to Minnesota
14.32 Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 17.

14.33 **(l) Red River Basin Riparian Habitat**

14.34 **Program, Phase 2**

- 15.1 \$3,920,000 the second year is to acquire
 15.2 permanent conservation easements to protect,
 15.3 restore, and enhance stream and riparian
 15.4 habitat throughout the Red River watershed.
 15.5 Of this amount, \$116,000 is to the
 15.6 commissioner of natural resources for
 15.7 agreements with the Red River Watershed
 15.8 Management Board and \$3,804,000 is to the
 15.9 Board of Water and Soil Resources. Of the
 15.10 amount to the Board of Water and Soil
 15.11 Resources, up to \$250,000 is to establish a
 15.12 monitoring and enforcement fund as approved
 15.13 in the accomplishment plan and subject to
 15.14 Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056,
 15.15 subdivision 17. A list of permanent
 15.16 conservation easements must be provided as
 15.17 part of the final report.
- 15.18 **(m) Shell Rock River Watershed Habitat**
 15.19 **Restoration Program, Phase 15**
 15.20 \$2,066,000 the second year is to the
 15.21 commissioner of natural resources for an
 15.22 agreement with the Shell Rock River
 15.23 Watershed District to acquire land in fee and
 15.24 to restore and enhance habitat in the Shell
 15.25 Rock River watershed.
- 15.26 **(n) Southeast Minnesota Protection and**
 15.27 **Restoration, Phase 14**
 15.28 \$7,956,000 the second year is to the
 15.29 commissioner of natural resources for
 15.30 agreements to acquire land in fee and
 15.31 permanent conservation easements and to
 15.32 restore and enhance wildlife habitat in
 15.33 southeast Minnesota. Of this amount,
 15.34 \$1,035,000 is to The Nature Conservancy,
 15.35 \$5,825,000 is to Trust for Public Land, and

16.1 \$1,096,000 is to Minnesota Land Trust. Of the
 16.2 amount to Minnesota Land Trust, up to
 16.3 \$140,000 is to establish a monitoring and
 16.4 enforcement fund as approved in the
 16.5 accomplishment plan and subject to Minnesota
 16.6 Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 17.

16.7 **(o) St. Croix Watershed Habitat Protection**
 16.8 **and Restoration, Phase 7**

16.9 \$3,859,000 the second year is to the
 16.10 commissioner of natural resources for
 16.11 agreements to acquire land in fee and acquire
 16.12 permanent conservation easements and to
 16.13 restore and enhance natural habitat systems in
 16.14 the St. Croix River watershed as follows:
 16.15 \$2,157,000 to Trust for Public Land, \$130,000
 16.16 to Wild Rivers Conservancy, and \$1,572,000
 16.17 to Minnesota Land Trust. Of the amount to
 16.18 Minnesota Land Trust, up to \$140,000 is to
 16.19 establish a monitoring and enforcement fund
 16.20 as approved in the accomplishment plan and
 16.21 subject to Minnesota Statutes, section
 16.22 97A.056, subdivision 17.

16.23 **(p) Upper Mississippi Flyway Habitat**
 16.24 **Conservation Program**

16.25 \$2,156,000 the second year is to the
 16.26 commissioner of natural resources for an
 16.27 agreement with Minnesota Land Trust to
 16.28 acquire permanent conservation easements
 16.29 and to restore and enhance wetlands, stream
 16.30 corridors, and associated uplands in central
 16.31 Minnesota. Of this amount, up to \$196,000 is
 16.32 to establish a monitoring and enforcement
 16.33 fund as approved in the accomplishment plan
 16.34 and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section
 16.35 97A.056, subdivision 17.

- 17.1 **(q) A River of Birds in the Sky: Conserving**
17.2 **Minnesota's Flyway**
- 17.3 \$1,227,000 the second year is to the
17.4 commissioner of natural resources for an
17.5 agreement with National Audubon Society to
17.6 restore and enhance priority wildlife habitat
17.7 along the St. Croix, Minnesota, and
17.8 Mississippi river valleys.
- 17.9 **(r) Bone Lake South, Phase 2**
- 17.10 \$1,432,000 the second year is to the
17.11 commissioner of natural resources for an
17.12 agreement with Comfort Lake-Forest Lake
17.13 Watershed District to restore and enhance
17.14 wildlife habitat in the Bone Lake south habitat
17.15 complex in Washington County.
- 17.16 **(s) DNR Aquatic Habitat Restoration and**
17.17 **Enhancement, Phase 9**
- 17.18 \$6,517,000 the second year is to the
17.19 commissioner of natural resources to restore
17.20 and enhance aquatic habitat in degraded
17.21 streams and aquatic management areas and to
17.22 facilitate fish passage throughout Minnesota.
- 17.23 **(t) Little Cannon River Stream Habitat**
17.24 **Restoration**
- 17.25 \$500,000 the second year is to the
17.26 commissioner of natural resources for
17.27 agreements for survey, design, engineering,
17.28 and permitting of the Little Cannon River
17.29 restoration and enhancement project in
17.30 Goodhue County as follows: \$40,000 to Clean
17.31 Rivers Partners, \$10,000 to Great River
17.32 Greening, and \$450,000 to Trout Unlimited.
- 17.33 **(u) Mission Creek Watershed Connectivity**

18.1 \$1,296,000 the second year is to the
18.2 commissioner of natural resources to restore
18.3 and enhance coldwater stream habitat in the
18.4 Mission Creek watershed in St. Louis County.

18.5 **(v) Mud River Enhancement Project**

18.6 \$2,957,000 the second year is to the
18.7 commissioner of natural resources for an
18.8 agreement with Red Lake Watershed District
18.9 to restore and enhance the Mud River habitat
18.10 complex in Marshall County.

18.11 **(w) Oak Savanna Restoration for Living**
18.12 **Landscapes**

18.13 \$1,702,000 the second year is to the Board of
18.14 Water and Soil Resources, in partnership with
18.15 the Xerces Society, to restore and enhance oak
18.16 savanna and associated ecosystems on local
18.17 public and Tribal lands.

18.18 **(x) Swift Coulee Channel Restoration and**
18.19 **Enhancement, Phase 2**

18.20 \$2,671,000 the second year is to the
18.21 commissioner of natural resources for an
18.22 agreement with the Middle-Snake-Tamarac
18.23 Rivers Watershed District to restore and
18.24 enhance priority habitat associated with the
18.25 Swift Coulee channel restoration in Marshall
18.26 County.

18.27 **(y) Woods Creek Restoration**

18.28 \$750,000 the second year is to the
18.29 commissioner of natural resources for an
18.30 agreement with Cook County to restore and
18.31 enhance coldwater stream habitat in Woods
18.32 Creek in Cook County.

19.1 **(z) Minnesota Statewide Trout Habitat**

19.2 **Enhancement and Protection**

19.3 \$750,000 the second year is to the
19.4 commissioner of natural resources for an
19.5 agreement with Trout Unlimited for survey,
19.6 design, engineering, and permitting of trout
19.7 stream restoration and enhancement projects
19.8 throughout Minnesota.

19.9 **(aa) Conservation Partners Legacy Grant**

19.10 **Program: Statewide and Metro Habitat,**

19.11 **Phase 18**

19.12 \$13,797,000 the second year is to the
19.13 commissioner of natural resources for a
19.14 program to provide competitive matching
19.15 grants of up to \$500,000 to local, regional,
19.16 state, and national organizations for enhancing,
19.17 restoring, or protecting forests, wetlands,
19.18 prairies, or habitat for fish, game, or wildlife
19.19 in Minnesota. Unless there are not enough
19.20 eligible grant applications received, of this
19.21 amount, at least \$3,500,000 is for grants in the
19.22 seven-county metropolitan area and cities with
19.23 a population of 50,000 or more and at least
19.24 \$3,000,000 is for grants to applicants that have
19.25 not previously applied for money from the
19.26 outdoor heritage fund. Grants must not be
19.27 made for activities required to fulfill the duties
19.28 of owners of lands subject to conservation
19.29 easements. Grants must not be made from the
19.30 appropriation in this paragraph for projects
19.31 that have a total project cost exceeding
19.32 \$1,000,000. Of the total appropriation,
19.33 \$600,000 may be spent for personnel costs,
19.34 outreach, and support to first-time applicants
19.35 and other direct and necessary administrative

20.1 costs. Grantees may acquire land or interests
20.2 in land. Easements must be permanent. Grants
20.3 may not be used to establish easement
20.4 stewardship accounts. The program must
20.5 require a match of at least ten percent from
20.6 nonstate sources for all grants. The match may
20.7 be cash or in-kind. For grant applications of
20.8 \$25,000 or less, the commissioner must
20.9 provide a separate, simplified application
20.10 process. Subject to Minnesota Statutes, the
20.11 commissioner of natural resources must, when
20.12 evaluating projects of equal value, give
20.13 priority to organizations that have a history of
20.14 receiving, or a charter to receive, private
20.15 contributions for local conservation or habitat
20.16 projects. All restoration or enhancement
20.17 projects must be on land permanently
20.18 protected by a permanent covenant ensuring
20.19 perpetual maintenance and protection of
20.20 restored and enhanced habitat, by a
20.21 conservation easement, or by public ownership
20.22 or in public waters as defined in Minnesota
20.23 Statutes, section 103G.005, subdivision 15.
20.24 Priority must be given to restoration and
20.25 enhancement projects on public lands.
20.26 Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056,
20.27 subdivision 13, applies to grants awarded
20.28 under this paragraph. This appropriation is
20.29 available until June 30, 2029. No less than five
20.30 percent of the amount of each grant must be
20.31 held back from reimbursement until the grant
20.32 recipient completes a grant accomplishment
20.33 report by the deadline and in the form
20.34 prescribed by and satisfactory to the
20.35 Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council. The
20.36 commissioner must provide notice of the grant

21.1 program in the summary of game and fish law
 21.2 prepared under Minnesota Statutes, section
 21.3 97A.051, subdivision 2.

21.4 **Subd. 6. Administration** -0- 2,159,000

21.5 **(a) Contract Management**

21.6 \$450,000 the second year is to the
 21.7 commissioner of natural resources for contract
 21.8 management duties assigned in this section.
 21.9 The commissioner must provide an
 21.10 accomplishment plan in the form specified by
 21.11 the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
 21.12 on expending this appropriation. The
 21.13 accomplishment plan must include a copy of
 21.14 the grant contract template and reimbursement
 21.15 manual. No money may be expended before
 21.16 the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
 21.17 approves the accomplishment plan. Money
 21.18 appropriated in this paragraph is available until
 21.19 June 30, 2028.

21.20 **(b) Core Functions in Partner-led OHF**

21.21 **Land Acquisitions**

21.22 \$1,377,000 the second year is to the
 21.23 commissioner of natural resources to
 21.24 administer the initial development, restoration,
 21.25 and enhancement of land acquired in fee with
 21.26 money appropriated from the outdoor heritage
 21.27 fund. This appropriation may be used for land
 21.28 acquisition costs incurred by the Department
 21.29 of Natural Resources as part of conveyance
 21.30 of parcels to the department and initial
 21.31 development activities on fee title acquisitions.
 21.32 Money appropriated in this paragraph is
 21.33 available until June 30, 2034.

21.34 **(c) Technical Evaluation Panel**

22.1 \$192,000 the second year is to the
 22.2 commissioner of natural resources for a
 22.3 technical evaluation panel to conduct up to 20
 22.4 restoration and enhancement evaluations under
 22.5 Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056,
 22.6 subdivision 10. Money appropriated in this
 22.7 paragraph is available until June 30, 2028.

22.8 **(d) Legislative Coordinating Commission**

22.9 \$140,000 the second year is to the Legislative
 22.10 Coordinating Commission for administrative
 22.11 expenses of the Lessard-Sams Outdoor
 22.12 Heritage Council and for compensating and
 22.13 reimbursing expenses of council members.
 22.14 This appropriation is in addition to the fiscal
 22.15 year 2027 appropriation in Laws 2025, chapter
 22.16 36, article 1, section 2, subdivision 6,
 22.17 paragraph (b), and is available until June 30,
 22.18 2027. Minnesota Statutes, section 16A.281,
 22.19 applies to this appropriation.

22.20 **Subd. 7. Availability of Appropriation**

22.21 (a) Money appropriated in this section may
 22.22 not be spent on activities unless they are
 22.23 directly related to and necessary for a specific
 22.24 appropriation and are specified in the
 22.25 accomplishment plan approved by the
 22.26 Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.
 22.27 Money appropriated in this section must not
 22.28 be spent on indirect costs or other institutional
 22.29 overhead charges that are not directly related
 22.30 to and necessary for a specific appropriation.
 22.31 Money appropriated for fee title acquisition
 22.32 of land may be used to restore, enhance, and
 22.33 provide for public use of the land acquired
 22.34 with the appropriation. Public-use facilities

- 23.1 must have a minimal impact on habitat in
23.2 acquired lands.
- 23.3 (b) Money appropriated in this section is
23.4 available as follows:
- 23.5 (1) money appropriated to acquire real
23.6 property is available until June 30, 2030;
- 23.7 (2) money appropriated to restore and enhance
23.8 land acquired with an appropriation in this act
23.9 is available for four years after the acquisition
23.10 date with a maximum end date of June 30,
23.11 2034;
- 23.12 (3) money appropriated to restore and enhance
23.13 other land is available until June 30, 2031;
- 23.14 (4) notwithstanding clauses (1) to (3), money
23.15 appropriated for a project that receives at least
23.16 15 percent of its funding from federal funds
23.17 is available until a date sufficient to match the
23.18 availability of federal funding to a maximum
23.19 of six years if the federal funding was
23.20 confirmed and included in the original
23.21 approved draft accomplishment plan; and
- 23.22 (5) money appropriated for other projects is
23.23 available until the end of the fiscal year in
23.24 which it is appropriated.
- 23.25 **Subd. 8. Payment Conditions and Capital**
23.26 **Equipment Expenditures**
- 23.27 (a) All agreements referred to in this section
23.28 must be administered on a reimbursement
23.29 basis unless otherwise provided in this section.
- 23.30 Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, section
23.31 16A.41, expenditures directly related to each
23.32 appropriation's purpose made on or after July
23.33 1, 2026, or the date of accomplishment plan
23.34 approval, whichever is later, are eligible for

24.1 reimbursement unless otherwise provided in
24.2 this section. For the purposes of administering
24.3 appropriations and legislatively authorized
24.4 agreements paid out of the outdoor heritage
24.5 fund, an expense must be considered
24.6 reimbursable by the administering agency
24.7 when the recipient presents the agency with
24.8 an invoice or a binding agreement with the
24.9 landowner and the recipient attests that the
24.10 goods have been received or the landowner
24.11 agreement is binding. Periodic reimbursement
24.12 must be made upon receiving documentation
24.13 that the items articulated in the
24.14 accomplishment plan approved by the
24.15 Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council have
24.16 been achieved, including partial achievements
24.17 as evidenced by progress reports approved by
24.18 the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.
24.19 Reasonable amounts may be advanced to
24.20 projects to accommodate cash flow needs,
24.21 support future management of acquired lands,
24.22 or match a federal share. The advances must
24.23 be approved as part of the accomplishment
24.24 plan. Capital equipment expenditures for
24.25 specific items in excess of \$10,000 must be
24.26 itemized in and approved as part of the
24.27 accomplishment plan.

24.28 (b) Unless otherwise provided, no money
24.29 appropriated from the outdoor heritage fund
24.30 in this act may be used to acquire, restore, or
24.31 enhance any real property unless the specific
24.32 acquisition, restoration, or enhancement is
24.33 approved as part of the accomplishment plan
24.34 on the parcel list.

25.1 (c) Reimbursement of eligible expenses must
25.2 be submitted no later than 12 months after the
25.3 approval of the final report.

25.4 **Subd. 9. Mapping**

25.5 Each direct recipient of money appropriated
25.6 in this section, as well as each recipient of a
25.7 grant awarded according to this section, must
25.8 provide geographic information to the
25.9 Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council for
25.10 mapping any lands acquired in fee with funds
25.11 appropriated in this section and open to public
25.12 taking of fish and game. The commissioner
25.13 of natural resources must include the lands
25.14 acquired in fee with money appropriated in
25.15 this section on maps showing public recreation
25.16 opportunities. Maps must include information
25.17 on and acknowledgment of the outdoor
25.18 heritage fund, including a notation of any
25.19 restrictions.

25.20 **Subd. 10. Carryforward**

25.21 (a) The availability of the appropriation for
25.22 Laws 2021, First Special Session chapter 1,
25.23 article 1, section 2, subdivision 5, paragraph
25.24 (l), St. Louis River Restoration Initiative,
25.25 Phase VIII, is extended to June 30, 2027.

25.26 (b) The availability of the appropriation for
25.27 Laws 2022, chapter 77, article 1, section 2,
25.28 subdivision 5, paragraph (u), Daylighting
25.29 Phalen Creek, is extended to June 30, 2028.

25.30 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** Subdivision 10 is effective the day following final enactment.

26.1 Sec. 3. Laws 2024, chapter 106, article 1, section 2, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

26.2 Subd. 5. **Habitats** -0- 101,294,000

26.3 **(a) St. Croix Watershed Habitat Protection and**
26.4 **Restoration, Phase 5**

26.5 \$4,711,000 the second year is to the
26.6 commissioner of natural resources for
26.7 agreements to acquire land in fee and acquire
26.8 permanent conservation easements and to
26.9 restore and enhance natural habitat systems in
26.10 the St. Croix River watershed as follows:
26.11 \$1,905,000 to Trust for Public Land; \$110,000
26.12 to Wild Rivers Conservancy; and \$2,696,000
26.13 to Minnesota Land Trust. Up to \$224,000 to
26.14 Minnesota Land Trust is to establish a
26.15 monitoring and enforcement fund as approved
26.16 in the accomplishment plan and subject to
26.17 Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056,
26.18 subdivision 17.

26.19 **(b) Pine and Leech Watershed Targeted RIM**
26.20 **Easement Permanent Land Protection, Phase 3**

26.21 \$2,242,000 the second year is to the Board of
26.22 Water and Soil Resources, in cooperation with
26.23 the Crow Wing County Soil and Water
26.24 Conservation District, to acquire permanent
26.25 conservation easements of high-quality forest,
26.26 wetland, and shoreline habitat. Up to \$120,000
26.27 of the total amount is for establishing a
26.28 monitoring and enforcement fund as approved
26.29 in the accomplishment plan and subject to
26.30 Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056,
26.31 subdivision 17. Subdivision 8, paragraph (b),
26.32 does not apply to this project. A list of
26.33 permanent conservation easements must be
26.34 provided as part of the final report.

27.1 **(c) Protecting Minnesota's Lakes of Outstanding**
27.2 **Biological Significance, Phase 3**

27.3 \$3,321,000 the second year is to the
27.4 commissioner of natural resources for
27.5 agreements to acquire land in fee and
27.6 permanent conservation easements and to
27.7 restore and enhance lakes of outstanding
27.8 biological significance in northeast and
27.9 north-central Minnesota. Of this amount,
27.10 \$1,083,000 is to the Northern Waters Land
27.11 Trust and \$2,238,000 is to Minnesota Land
27.12 Trust. Up to \$224,000 to Minnesota Land
27.13 Trust is for establishing a monitoring and
27.14 enforcement fund as approved in the
27.15 accomplishment plan and subject to Minnesota
27.16 Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 17.

27.17 **(d) Shell Rock River Watershed Habitat**
27.18 **Restoration Program, Phase 13**

27.19 \$2,060,000 the second year is to the
27.20 commissioner of natural resources for an
27.21 agreement with the Shell Rock River
27.22 Watershed District to acquire land in fee and
27.23 restore and enhance habitat in the Shell Rock
27.24 River watershed.

27.25 **(e) Cannon River Watershed Habitat**
27.26 **Restoration and Protection Program, Phase 13**

27.27 \$2,555,000 the second year is to the
27.28 commissioner of natural resources for
27.29 agreements to acquire lands in fee and restore
27.30 and enhance wildlife habitat in the Cannon
27.31 River watershed as follows: \$54,000 to Clean
27.32 River Partners; \$888,000 to Great River
27.33 Greening; and \$1,613,000 to Trust for Public
27.34 Land.

27.35 **(f) Mississippi Headwaters Habitat Corridor**
27.36 **Project, Phase 8**

28.1 \$2,706,000 the second year is to acquire lands
28.2 in fee and permanent conservation easements
28.3 and to restore wildlife habitat in the
28.4 Mississippi headwaters. Of this amount:

28.5 (1) \$1,706,000 is to the commissioner of
28.6 natural resources for agreements as follows:
28.7 \$57,000 to the Mississippi Headwaters Board
28.8 and \$1,649,000 to Trust for Public Land; and

28.9 (2) \$1,000,000 is to the Board of Water and
28.10 Soil Resources, of which up to \$100,000 is to
28.11 establish a monitoring and enforcement fund
28.12 as approved in the accomplishment plan and
28.13 subject to Minnesota Statutes, section
28.14 97A.056, subdivision 17.

28.15 **(g) Fisheries Habitat Protection on Strategic**
28.16 **North Central Minnesota Lakes, Phase 10**

28.17 \$2,687,000 the second year is to the
28.18 commissioner of natural resources for
28.19 agreements to acquire land in fee and in
28.20 permanent conservation easements and to
28.21 restore and enhance wildlife habitat to sustain
28.22 healthy fish habitat on coldwater lakes in
28.23 Aitkin, Cass, Crow Wing, and Hubbard
28.24 Counties as follows: \$2,252,000 to Northern
28.25 Waters Land Trust and \$435,000 to Minnesota
28.26 Land Trust. Up to \$56,000 to Minnesota Land
28.27 Trust is to establish a monitoring and
28.28 enforcement fund as approved in the
28.29 accomplishment plan and subject to Minnesota
28.30 Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 17.

28.31 **(h) Red River Basin Riparian Habitat Program**

28.32 \$5,119,000 the second year is to acquire
28.33 permanent conservation easements to protect,
28.34 restore, and enhance stream and riparian
28.35 habitat throughout the Red River watershed.

29.1 Of this amount, \$169,000 is to the
29.2 commissioner of natural resources for an
29.3 agreement with the Red River Watershed
29.4 Management Board and \$4,950,000 is to the
29.5 Board of Water and Soil Resources. Up to
29.6 \$380,000 of the total amount is for
29.7 establishing a monitoring and enforcement
29.8 fund as approved in the accomplishment plan
29.9 and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section
29.10 97A.056, subdivision 17. Subdivision 8,
29.11 paragraph (b), does not apply to this project.
29.12 A list of permanent conservation easements
29.13 must be provided as part of the final report.

29.14 **(i) Resilient Habitat for Heritage Brook Trout,**
29.15 **Phase 2**

29.16 \$2,486,000 the second year is to the
29.17 commissioner of natural resources for
29.18 agreements to acquire permanent conservation
29.19 easements and to restore and enhance habitat
29.20 in targeted watersheds of southeast Minnesota
29.21 to improve heritage brook trout and coldwater
29.22 aquatic communities. Of this amount,
29.23 \$400,000 is to The Nature Conservancy,
29.24 \$612,000 is to Trout Unlimited, and
29.25 \$1,474,000 is to Minnesota Land Trust. Up to
29.26 \$168,000 to Minnesota Land Trust is to
29.27 establish a monitoring and enforcement fund
29.28 as approved in the accomplishment plan and
29.29 subject to Minnesota Statutes, section
29.30 97A.056, subdivision 17.

29.31 **(j) Southeast Minnesota Protection and**
29.32 **Restoration, Phase 12**

29.33 \$3,052,000 the second year is to the
29.34 commissioner of natural resources for
29.35 agreements to acquire lands in fee and
29.36 permanent conservation easements and to

30.1 restore and enhance wildlife habitat on public
30.2 lands and permanent conservation easements
30.3 in southeast Minnesota as follows: \$970,000
30.4 to The Nature Conservancy, \$964,000 to Trust
30.5 for Public Land, and \$1,118,000 to Minnesota
30.6 Land Trust. Up to \$112,000 to Minnesota
30.7 Land Trust is to establish a monitoring and
30.8 enforcement fund as approved in the
30.9 accomplishment plan and subject to Minnesota
30.10 Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 17.

30.11 **(k) Lower Wild Rice River Corridor Habitat**
30.12 **Restoration, Phase 4**

30.13 \$2,345,000 the second year is to acquire land
30.14 in permanent conservation easement and to
30.15 restore river and related habitat in the Wild
30.16 Rice River corridor. Of this amount, \$30,000
30.17 is to the commissioner of natural resources for
30.18 an agreement with the Wild Rice Watershed
30.19 District and \$2,315,000 is to the Board of
30.20 Water and Soil Resources. The Board of Water
30.21 and Soil Resources may use up to \$60,000 for
30.22 establishing a monitoring and enforcement
30.23 fund as approved in the accomplishment plan
30.24 and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section
30.25 97A.056, subdivision 17. Subdivision 8,
30.26 paragraph (b), does not apply to this project.
30.27 A list of permanent conservation easements
30.28 must be provided as part of the final report.

30.29 **(l) DNR Wildlife Management Area and**
30.30 **Scientific and Natural Area Acquisition, Phase**
30.31 **16**

30.32 \$1,359,000 the second year is to the
30.33 commissioner of natural resources to acquire
30.34 in fee and restore and enhance lands for
30.35 wildlife management purposes under
30.36 Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,

31.1 subdivision 8, and to acquire land in fee for
31.2 scientific and natural area purposes under
31.3 Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,
31.4 subdivision 5. Subject to evaluation criteria
31.5 in Minnesota Rules, part 6136.0900, priority
31.6 must be given to acquiring lands that are
31.7 eligible for the native prairie bank under
31.8 Minnesota Statutes, section 84.96, or lands
31.9 adjacent to protected native prairie.

31.10 **(m) Accelerating Habitat Conservation in**
31.11 **Southwest Minnesota, Phase 3**

31.12 \$2,872,000 the second year is to the
31.13 commissioner of natural resources for an
31.14 agreement with Minnesota Land Trust to
31.15 acquire permanent conservation easements
31.16 and to restore and enhance high-quality
31.17 wildlife habitat in southwest Minnesota. Of
31.18 this amount, up to \$168,000 is to establish a
31.19 monitoring and enforcement fund as approved
31.20 in the accomplishment plan and subject to
31.21 Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056,
31.22 subdivision 17.

31.23 **(n) Sauk River Watershed Habitat Protection**
31.24 **and Restoration, Phase 5**

31.25 \$3,965,000 the second year is to the
31.26 commissioner of natural resources for
31.27 agreements to acquire lands in fee and
31.28 permanent conservation easements and restore
31.29 and enhance wildlife habitat in the Sauk River
31.30 watershed as follows: \$375,000 to Great River
31.31 Greening; \$1,199,000 to Sauk River
31.32 Watershed District; \$1,192,000 to Pheasants
31.33 Forever; and \$1,199,000 to Minnesota Land
31.34 Trust. Up to \$168,000 to Minnesota Land
31.35 Trust is to establish a monitoring and
31.36 enforcement fund as approved in the

32.1 accomplishment plan and subject to Minnesota
32.2 Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 17.

32.3 **(o) Metro Big Rivers, Phase 14**

32.4 \$8,123,000 the second year is to the
32.5 commissioner of natural resources for
32.6 agreements to acquire land in fee and
32.7 permanent conservation easements and to
32.8 restore and enhance natural habitat systems
32.9 associated with the Mississippi, Minnesota,
32.10 and St. Croix Rivers and their tributaries
32.11 within the metropolitan area as follows:
32.12 \$1,250,000 to Minnesota Valley National
32.13 Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.; \$420,000 to
32.14 Friends of the Mississippi River; \$803,000 to
32.15 Great River Greening; \$2,750,000 to Trust for
32.16 Public Land; and \$2,900,000 to Minnesota
32.17 Land Trust. Up to \$224,000 to Minnesota
32.18 Land Trust is to establish a monitoring and
32.19 enforcement fund as approved in the
32.20 accomplishment plan and subject to Minnesota
32.21 Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 17.

32.22 **(p) Anoka Sand Plain Habitat Conservation,**
32.23 **Phase 9**

32.24 \$1,802,000 the second year is to the
32.25 commissioner of natural resources for
32.26 agreements to restore and enhance wildlife
32.27 habitat on public lands and easements in the
32.28 Anoka Sand Plain ecoregion and intersecting
32.29 minor watersheds as follows: \$1,508,000 to
32.30 Great River Greening and \$294,000 to
32.31 Sherburne County.

32.32 **(q) DNR Aquatic Habitat Restoration and**
32.33 **Enhancement, Phase 7**

32.34 \$4,206,000 the second year is to the
32.35 commissioner of natural resources to restore

33.1 and enhance aquatic habitat in degraded
33.2 streams and aquatic management areas and to
33.3 facilitate fish passage.

33.4 **(r) Minnesota Statewide Trout Habitat**
33.5 **Enhancement**

33.6 \$2,308,000 the second year is to the
33.7 commissioner of natural resources for an
33.8 agreement with Trout Unlimited to restore and
33.9 enhance habitat for trout and other species in
33.10 and along coldwater rivers, lakes, and streams
33.11 throughout Minnesota.

33.12 **(s) Knife River Habitat Rehabilitation, Phase 7**

33.13 \$1,572,000 the second year is to the
33.14 commissioner of natural resources for an
33.15 agreement with the Arrowhead Regional
33.16 Development Commission, in cooperation
33.17 with the Lake Superior Steelhead Association,
33.18 to restore and enhance trout habitat in the
33.19 Knife River watershed. If the Arrowhead
33.20 Regional Development Commission declines
33.21 to serve as the fiscal agent for the project, an
33.22 alternative fiscal agent must be identified in
33.23 the accomplishment plan for the project.

33.24 **(t) DNR St. Louis River Restoration Initiative,**
33.25 **Phase 11**

33.26 \$2,163,000 the second year is to the
33.27 commissioner of natural resources to restore
33.28 and enhance priority aquatic, riparian, and
33.29 forest habitats in the St. Louis River estuary.
33.30 Of this amount, \$716,000 is for an agreement
33.31 with Minnesota Land Trust.

33.32 **(u) Roseau Lake Rehabilitation, Phase 2**

33.33 \$3,054,000 the second year is to the
33.34 commissioner of natural resources for an

- 34.1 agreement with the Roseau River Watershed
34.2 District to restore and enhance the Roseau
34.3 Lake and Roseau River habitat complex in
34.4 Roseau County, Minnesota.
- 34.5 **(v) Highbanks Ravine Bat Hibernaculum**
- 34.6 \$2,300,000 the second year is to the
34.7 commissioner of natural resources for an
34.8 agreement with the city of St. Cloud to
34.9 enhance the Highbanks Ravine Bat
34.10 Hibernaculum in St. Cloud.
- 34.11 **(w) Owámmiyomni Native Landscape and River**
34.12 **Restoration, St. Anthony Falls**
- 34.13 \$1,918,000 the second year is to the
34.14 commissioner of natural resources for an
34.15 agreement with Friends of the Falls to restore
34.16 and enhance wildlife habitat at Upper St.
34.17 Anthony Falls. This appropriation may only
34.18 be spent for site grading, oak savanna, and
34.19 aquatic habitat portions of the project.
- 34.20 **(x) Silver Lake Dam Fish Passage Modification**
- 34.21 \$2,368,000 the second year is to the
34.22 commissioner of natural resources for an
34.23 agreement with the city of Rochester to restore
34.24 and enhance aquatic habitat in Silver Lake and
34.25 the south fork of the Zumbro River by
34.26 modifying the existing low-head dam in
34.27 Rochester.
- 34.28 **(y) Little Devil Track River Restoration**
- 34.29 \$3,000,000 the second year is to the
34.30 commissioner of natural resources for an
34.31 agreement with Cook County to restore and
34.32 enhance stream habitat in the Little Devil
34.33 Track River.

35.1 **(z) Conservation Partners Legacy Grant**
35.2 **Program: Statewide and Metro Habitat, Phase**
35.3 **16**

35.4 \$15,000,000 the second year is to the
35.5 commissioner of natural resources for a
35.6 program to provide competitive matching
35.7 grants of up to \$500,000 to local, regional,
35.8 state, and national organizations for enhancing,
35.9 restoring, or protecting forests, wetlands,
35.10 prairies, or habitat for fish, game, or wildlife
35.11 in Minnesota. Unless there are not enough
35.12 eligible grant applications received, of this
35.13 amount, at least \$4,000,000 is for grants in the
35.14 seven-county metropolitan area and cities with
35.15 a population of 50,000 or more and at least
35.16 \$4,000,000 is for grants to applicants that have
35.17 not previously applied for money from the
35.18 outdoor heritage fund. Grants must not be
35.19 made for activities required to fulfill the duties
35.20 of owners of lands subject to conservation
35.21 easements. Grants must not be made from the
35.22 appropriation in this paragraph for projects
35.23 that have a total project cost exceeding
35.24 \$1,000,000. Of the total appropriation,
35.25 \$600,000 may be spent for personnel costs,
35.26 outreach, and support to first-time applicants
35.27 and other direct and necessary administrative
35.28 costs. Grantees may acquire land or interests
35.29 in land. Easements must be permanent. Grants
35.30 may not be used to establish easement
35.31 stewardship accounts. The program must
35.32 require a match of at least ten percent from
35.33 nonstate sources for all grants. The match may
35.34 be cash or in-kind. For grant applications of
35.35 \$25,000 or less, the commissioner must
35.36 provide a separate, simplified application

36.1 process. Subject to Minnesota Statutes, the
36.2 commissioner of natural resources must, when
36.3 evaluating projects of equal value, give
36.4 priority to organizations that have a history of
36.5 receiving, or a charter to receive, private
36.6 contributions for local conservation or habitat
36.7 projects. All restoration or enhancement
36.8 projects must be on land permanently
36.9 protected by a permanent covenant ensuring
36.10 perpetual maintenance and protection of
36.11 restored and enhanced habitat, by a
36.12 conservation easement, or by public ownership
36.13 or in public waters as defined in Minnesota
36.14 Statutes, section 103G.005, subdivision 15.
36.15 Priority must be given to restoration and
36.16 enhancement projects on public lands.
36.17 Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056,
36.18 subdivision 13, applies to grants awarded
36.19 under this paragraph. This appropriation is
36.20 available until June 30, 2027. No less than five
36.21 percent of the amount of each grant must be
36.22 held back from reimbursement until the grant
36.23 recipient completes a grant accomplishment
36.24 report by the deadline and in the form
36.25 prescribed by and satisfactory to the
36.26 Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council. The
36.27 commissioner must provide notice of the grant
36.28 program in the summary of game and fish law
36.29 prepared under Minnesota Statutes, section
36.30 97A.051, subdivision 2.

36.31 **(aa) Protecting Upper Mississippi River from**
36.32 **Invasive Carp**

36.33 \$12,000,000 the second year is to the
36.34 commissioner of natural resources to fund
36.35 activities to protect the upper Mississippi
36.36 River from invasive carp. Activities within

37.1 this appropriation include agreements with
37.2 federal partners, such as the United States Fish
37.3 and Wildlife Service, to design, construct, and
37.4 begin operating and maintaining a structural
37.5 deterrent for invasive carp at Lock and Dam
37.6 No. 5 on the Mississippi River to protect
37.7 Minnesota's aquatic habitat through an
37.8 adaptive management approach. Deterrent
37.9 design must be fully completed ~~within two~~
37.10 years of the date of this appropriation by June
37.11 30, 2027. Deterrent installation must be
37.12 completed by June 30, 2029. Money not spent
37.13 or obligated for design installation and
37.14 operation of the deterrent may be used for
37.15 testing technologies to support the future
37.16 effectiveness of the deterrent. A detailed
37.17 accomplishment plan must be submitted to
37.18 and approved by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor
37.19 Heritage Council before money is released.
37.20 This appropriation is available until June 30,
37.21 2029.