

SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETY-FOURTH SESSION

S.F. No. 4304

(SENATE AUTHORS: HAWJ and Lang)

Table with columns: DATE, D-PG, OFFICIAL STATUS. Rows include dates from 03/09/2026 to 05/07/2026 and corresponding bill numbers and statuses.

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.

Table header for APPROPRIATIONS Available for the Year Ending June 30, with columns for 2026 and 2027.

1.18 Sec. 2. OUTDOOR HERITAGE FUND

1.19 Subdivision 1. Total Appropriation \$ -0- \$ 187,528,000

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.