

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
05/07/2026	9982a	Comm report: To pass as amended
	10033	Second reading

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>191,081,000</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**

-0-

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- 33,188,000

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) Roseau Lake Rehabilitation, Phase 3**
- 10.15 \$3,553,000 the second year is to the  
10.16 commissioner of natural resources for an  
10.17 agreement with the Roseau River Watershed  
10.18 District to restore and enhance the Roseau  
10.19 Lake and Roseau River habitat complex in  
10.20 Roseau County. The approved  
10.21 accomplishment plan must include an  
10.22 operational and management plan for the  
10.23 Roseau Lake Rehabilitation Project. The  
10.24 Roseau River Watershed District must submit  
10.25 progress reports and a final report that include  
10.26 monitoring data related to water quantity and  
10.27 information about how flooding to adjacent  
10.28 and downstream agricultural lands has been  
10.29 addressed as part of the progress reports and  
10.30 final report submitted to the Lessard-Sams  
10.31 Outdoor Heritage Council. No money from  
10.32 this appropriation may be expended:
- 10.33 (1) prior to January 1, 2027; or

11.1 (2) during any period in which a court order  
 11.2 enjoining the project from moving forward is  
 11.3 in effect.

11.4 **(h) Shallow Lakes and Wetlands**

11.5 **Enhancement, Phase 18**

11.6 \$3,744,000 the second year is to the  
 11.7 commissioner of natural resources to enhance  
 11.8 and restore shallow lakes and wetland habitat  
 11.9 statewide.

11.10 Subd. 5. Habitats -0- 82,408,000

11.11 **(a) Riparian Habitat Protection in Kettle**

11.12 **and Snake River Watersheds, Phase 3**

11.13 \$1,137,000 the second year is to the Board of  
 11.14 Water and Soil Resources, in cooperation with  
 11.15 the Pine County Soil and Water Conservation  
 11.16 District, to acquire permanent conservation  
 11.17 easements and restore high-quality forests,  
 11.18 wetlands, and shoreline in the Kettle and  
 11.19 Snake River watersheds. Of this amount, up  
 11.20 to \$70,000 is to establish a monitoring and  
 11.21 enforcement fund as approved in the  
 11.22 accomplishment plan and subject to Minnesota  
 11.23 Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 17.  
 11.24 Subdivision 8, paragraph (b), does not apply  
 11.25 to this project. A list of permanent  
 11.26 conservation easements must be provided as  
 11.27 part of the final report.

11.28 **(b) Cannon River Watershed Habitat**

11.29 **Restoration and Protection Program, Phase**

11.30 **15**

11.31 \$2,886,000 the second year is to the  
 11.32 commissioner of natural resources for  
 11.33 agreements to acquire lands in fee and to  
 11.34 restore and enhance wildlife habitat in the

12.1 Cannon River Watershed as follows: \$92,000  
12.2 to Clean River Partners and \$2,794,000 to  
12.3 Trust for Public Land.

12.4 **(c) DNR Aquatic Management Area**

12.5 **Acquisition and Trout Stream Easement**

12.6 **Acquisition**

12.7 \$2,182,000 the second year is to the  
12.8 commissioner of natural resources to acquire  
12.9 land in fee as aquatic management areas and  
12.10 to acquire permanent conservation easements  
12.11 to protect trout-stream aquatic habitat. Of this  
12.12 amount, up to \$88,000 is to establish a  
12.13 monitoring and enforcement fund as approved  
12.14 in the accomplishment plan and subject to  
12.15 Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056,  
12.16 subdivision 17.

12.17 **(d) Washington County Habitat Protection**  
12.18 **and Enhancement Partnership, Phase 2**

12.19 \$2,812,000 the second year is to the  
12.20 commissioner of natural resources for  
12.21 agreements to acquire permanent conservation  
12.22 easements and to restore and enhance wildlife  
12.23 habitats in Washington County as follows:  
12.24 \$760,000 to Washington County and  
12.25 \$2,052,000 to Minnesota Land Trust. Of the  
12.26 amount to Minnesota Land Trust, \$196,000 is  
12.27 to establish a monitoring and enforcement  
12.28 fund as approved in the accomplishment plan  
12.29 and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section  
12.30 97A.056, subdivision 17.

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

12.33 \$2,317,000 the second year is to the  
12.34 commissioner of natural resources for an

13.1 agreement with Northern Waters Land Trust  
13.2 to acquire land in fee and to restore and  
13.3 enhance wildlife habitat to sustain healthy fish  
13.4 habitat on coldwater lakes in Aitkin, Cass,  
13.5 Crow Wing, and Hubbard Counties.

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

13.7 \$1,467,000 the second year is to the  
13.8 commissioner of natural resources for an  
13.9 agreement with Comfort Lake-Forest Lake  
13.10 Watershed District to acquire land in fee and  
13.11 permanent conservation easements and to  
13.12 restore and enhance wildlife habitat within the  
13.13 Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District  
13.14 boundary.

13.15 **(g) Integrating Habitat and Clean Water,**  
13.16 **Phase 4**

13.17 \$1,827,000 the second year is to the Board of  
13.18 Water and Soil Resources to acquire  
13.19 permanent conservation easements and to  
13.20 restore and enhance wildlife habitat identified  
13.21 under the One Watershed, One Plan program  
13.22 for stacked benefit to wildlife and clean water.  
13.23 Of this amount, up to \$40,000 is to establish  
13.24 a monitoring and enforcement fund as  
13.25 approved in the accomplishment plan and  
13.26 subject to Minnesota Statutes, section  
13.27 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of permanent  
13.28 conservation easements must be provided as  
13.29 part of the final report.

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

13.31 \$6,776,000 the second year is to the  
13.32 commissioner of natural resources for  
13.33 agreements to acquire land in fee and to  
13.34 restore and enhance natural habitat systems

14.1 associated with the Mississippi, Minnesota,  
 14.2 and St. Croix Rivers and their tributaries in  
 14.3 the metropolitan area as follows: \$1,491,000  
 14.4 to Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge  
 14.5 Trust, Inc.; \$892,000 to Friends of the  
 14.6 Mississippi River; \$1,055,000 to Great River  
 14.7 Greening; and \$3,338,000 to Trust for Public  
 14.8 Land.

14.9 **(i) Mississippi Headwaters Habitat**

14.10 **Corridor Project, Phase 10**

14.11 \$2,770,000 the second year is to acquire lands  
 14.12 in fee and permanent conservation easements  
 14.13 and to restore wildlife habitat in the  
 14.14 Mississippi headwaters. Of this amount, (1)  
 14.15 \$1,387,000 is to the commissioner of natural  
 14.16 resources for agreements as follows: \$60,000  
 14.17 to the Mississippi Headwaters Board and  
 14.18 \$1,327,000 to Trust for Public Land; and (2)  
 14.19 \$1,383,000 is to the Board of Water and Soil  
 14.20 Resources, of which up to \$70,000 is to  
 14.21 establish a monitoring and enforcement fund  
 14.22 as approved in the accomplishment plan and  
 14.23 subject to Minnesota Statutes, section  
 14.24 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of permanent  
 14.25 conservation easements must be provided as  
 14.26 part of the final report.

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

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

14.29 \$1,695,000 the second year is to the  
 14.30 commissioner of natural resources for an  
 14.31 agreement with Minnesota Land Trust to  
 14.32 acquire permanent conservation easements  
 14.33 and to restore and enhance wildlife habitat in  
 14.34 priority coldwater tributaries to Lake Superior.  
 14.35 Of this amount, up to \$196,000 is to establish

- 15.1 a monitoring and enforcement fund as  
 15.2 approved in the accomplishment plan and  
 15.3 subject to Minnesota Statutes, section  
 15.4 97A.056, subdivision 17.
- 15.5 **(k) Protecting Minnesota's Lakes of**  
 15.6 **Outstanding Biological Significance, Phase**  
 15.7 **5**
- 15.8 \$2,983,000 the second year is to the  
 15.9 commissioner of natural resources for  
 15.10 agreements to acquire land in fee and  
 15.11 permanent conservation easements and to  
 15.12 restore and enhance lakes of outstanding  
 15.13 biological significance in northeast and  
 15.14 north-central Minnesota. Of this amount,  
 15.15 \$1,612,000 is to the Northern Waters Land  
 15.16 Trust and \$1,371,000 is to Minnesota Land  
 15.17 Trust. Of the amount to Minnesota Land Trust,  
 15.18 up to \$140,000 is to establish a monitoring  
 15.19 and enforcement fund as approved in the  
 15.20 accomplishment plan and subject to Minnesota  
 15.21 Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 17.
- 15.22 **(l) Red River Basin Riparian Habitat**  
 15.23 **Program, Phase 2**
- 15.24 \$3,920,000 the second year is to acquire  
 15.25 permanent conservation easements to protect,  
 15.26 restore, and enhance stream and riparian  
 15.27 habitat throughout the Red River watershed.  
 15.28 Of this amount, \$116,000 is to the  
 15.29 commissioner of natural resources for  
 15.30 agreements with the Red River Watershed  
 15.31 Management Board and \$3,804,000 is to the  
 15.32 Board of Water and Soil Resources. Of the  
 15.33 amount to the Board of Water and Soil  
 15.34 Resources, up to \$250,000 is to establish a  
 15.35 monitoring and enforcement fund as approved

16.1 in the accomplishment plan and subject to  
 16.2 Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056,  
 16.3 subdivision 17. A list of permanent  
 16.4 conservation easements must be provided as  
 16.5 part of the final report.

16.6 **(m) Shell Rock River Watershed Habitat**  
 16.7 **Restoration Program, Phase 15**

16.8 \$2,066,000 the second year is to the  
 16.9 commissioner of natural resources for an  
 16.10 agreement with the Shell Rock River  
 16.11 Watershed District to acquire land in fee and  
 16.12 to restore and enhance habitat in the Shell  
 16.13 Rock River watershed.

16.14 **(n) Southeast Minnesota Protection and**  
 16.15 **Restoration, Phase 14**

16.16 \$7,956,000 the second year is to the  
 16.17 commissioner of natural resources for  
 16.18 agreements to acquire land in fee and  
 16.19 permanent conservation easements and to  
 16.20 restore and enhance wildlife habitat in  
 16.21 southeast Minnesota. Of this amount,  
 16.22 \$1,035,000 is to The Nature Conservancy,  
 16.23 \$5,825,000 is to Trust for Public Land, and  
 16.24 \$1,096,000 is to Minnesota Land Trust. Of the  
 16.25 amount to Minnesota Land Trust, up to  
 16.26 \$140,000 is to establish a monitoring and  
 16.27 enforcement fund as approved in the  
 16.28 accomplishment plan and subject to Minnesota  
 16.29 Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 17.

16.30 **(o) St. Croix Watershed Habitat Protection**  
 16.31 **and Restoration, Phase 7**

16.32 \$3,859,000 the second year is to the  
 16.33 commissioner of natural resources for  
 16.34 agreements to acquire land in fee and acquire

17.1 permanent conservation easements and to  
17.2 restore and enhance natural habitat systems in  
17.3 the St. Croix River watershed as follows:  
17.4 \$2,157,000 to Trust for Public Land, \$130,000  
17.5 to Wild Rivers Conservancy, and \$1,572,000  
17.6 to Minnesota Land Trust. Of the amount to  
17.7 Minnesota Land Trust, up to \$140,000 is to  
17.8 establish a monitoring and enforcement fund  
17.9 as approved in the accomplishment plan and  
17.10 subject to Minnesota Statutes, section  
17.11 97A.056, subdivision 17.

17.12 **(p) Upper Mississippi Flyway Habitat**  
17.13 **Conservation Program**

17.14 \$2,156,000 the second year is to the  
17.15 commissioner of natural resources for an  
17.16 agreement with Minnesota Land Trust to  
17.17 acquire permanent conservation easements  
17.18 and to restore and enhance wetlands, stream  
17.19 corridors, and associated uplands in central  
17.20 Minnesota. Of this amount, up to \$196,000 is  
17.21 to establish a monitoring and enforcement  
17.22 fund as approved in the accomplishment plan  
17.23 and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section  
17.24 97A.056, subdivision 17.

17.25 **(q) A River of Birds in the Sky: Conserving**  
17.26 **Minnesota's Flyway**

17.27 \$1,227,000 the second year is to the  
17.28 commissioner of natural resources for an  
17.29 agreement with National Audubon Society to  
17.30 restore and enhance priority wildlife habitat  
17.31 along the St. Croix, Minnesota, and  
17.32 Mississippi river valleys.

17.33 **(r) Bone Lake South, Phase 2**

18.1 \$1,432,000 the second year is to the  
18.2 commissioner of natural resources for an  
18.3 agreement with Comfort Lake-Forest Lake  
18.4 Watershed District to restore and enhance  
18.5 wildlife habitat in the Bone Lake south habitat  
18.6 complex in Washington County.

18.7 **(s) DNR Aquatic Habitat Restoration and**  
18.8 **Enhancement, Phase 9**

18.9 \$6,517,000 the second year is to the  
18.10 commissioner of natural resources to restore  
18.11 and enhance aquatic habitat in degraded  
18.12 streams and aquatic management areas and to  
18.13 facilitate fish passage throughout Minnesota.

18.14 **(t) Little Cannon River Stream Habitat**  
18.15 **Restoration**

18.16 \$500,000 the second year is to the  
18.17 commissioner of natural resources for  
18.18 agreements for survey, design, engineering,  
18.19 and permitting of the Little Cannon River  
18.20 restoration and enhancement project in  
18.21 Goodhue County as follows: \$40,000 to Clean  
18.22 Rivers Partners, \$10,000 to Great River  
18.23 Greening, and \$450,000 to Trout Unlimited.

18.24 **(u) Mission Creek Watershed Connectivity**

18.25 \$1,296,000 the second year is to the  
18.26 commissioner of natural resources to restore  
18.27 and enhance coldwater stream habitat in the  
18.28 Mission Creek watershed in St. Louis County.

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

18.30 \$2,957,000 the second year is to the  
18.31 commissioner of natural resources for an  
18.32 agreement with Red Lake Watershed District

19.1 to restore and enhance the Mud River habitat  
19.2 complex in Marshall County.

19.3 **(w) Oak Savanna Restoration for Living**  
19.4 **Landscapes**

19.5 \$1,702,000 the second year is to the Board of  
19.6 Water and Soil Resources, in partnership with  
19.7 the Xerces Society, to restore and enhance oak  
19.8 savanna and associated ecosystems on local  
19.9 public and Tribal lands.

19.10 **(x) Swift Coulee Channel Restoration and**  
19.11 **Enhancement, Phase 2**

19.12 \$2,671,000 the second year is to the  
19.13 commissioner of natural resources for an  
19.14 agreement with the Middle-Snake-Tamarac  
19.15 Rivers Watershed District to restore and  
19.16 enhance priority habitat associated with the  
19.17 Swift Coulee channel restoration in Marshall  
19.18 County.

19.19 **(y) Woods Creek Restoration**

19.20 \$750,000 the second year is to the  
19.21 commissioner of natural resources for an  
19.22 agreement with Cook County to restore and  
19.23 enhance coldwater stream habitat in Woods  
19.24 Creek in Cook County.

19.25 **(z) Minnesota Statewide Trout Habitat**  
19.26 **Enhancement and Protection**

19.27 \$750,000 the second year is to the  
19.28 commissioner of natural resources for an  
19.29 agreement with Trout Unlimited for survey,  
19.30 design, engineering, and permitting of trout  
19.31 stream restoration and enhancement projects  
19.32 throughout Minnesota.

20.1 **(aa) Conservation Partners Legacy Grant**  
20.2 **Program: Statewide and Metro Habitat,**  
20.3 **Phase 18**  
20.4 \$13,797,000 the second year is to the  
20.5 commissioner of natural resources for a  
20.6 program to provide competitive matching  
20.7 grants of up to \$500,000 to local, regional,  
20.8 state, and national organizations for enhancing,  
20.9 restoring, or protecting forests, wetlands,  
20.10 prairies, or habitat for fish, game, or wildlife  
20.11 in Minnesota. Unless there are not enough  
20.12 eligible grant applications received, of this  
20.13 amount, at least \$3,500,000 is for grants in the  
20.14 seven-county metropolitan area and cities with  
20.15 a population of 50,000 or more and at least  
20.16 \$3,000,000 is for grants to applicants that have  
20.17 not previously applied for money from the  
20.18 outdoor heritage fund. Grants must not be  
20.19 made for activities required to fulfill the duties  
20.20 of owners of lands subject to conservation  
20.21 easements. Grants must not be made from the  
20.22 appropriation in this paragraph for projects  
20.23 that have a total project cost exceeding  
20.24 \$1,000,000. Of the total appropriation,  
20.25 \$600,000 may be spent for personnel costs,  
20.26 outreach, and support to first-time applicants  
20.27 and other direct and necessary administrative  
20.28 costs. Grantees may acquire land or interests  
20.29 in land. Easements must be permanent. Grants  
20.30 may not be used to establish easement  
20.31 stewardship accounts. The program must  
20.32 require a match of at least ten percent from  
20.33 nonstate sources for all grants. The match may  
20.34 be cash or in-kind. For grant applications of  
20.35 \$25,000 or less, the commissioner must  
20.36 provide a separate, simplified application

- 21.1 process. Subject to Minnesota Statutes, the  
 21.2 commissioner of natural resources must, when  
 21.3 evaluating projects of equal value, give  
 21.4 priority to organizations that have a history of  
 21.5 receiving, or a charter to receive, private  
 21.6 contributions for local conservation or habitat  
 21.7 projects. All restoration or enhancement  
 21.8 projects must be on land permanently  
 21.9 protected by a permanent covenant ensuring  
 21.10 perpetual maintenance and protection of  
 21.11 restored and enhanced habitat, by a  
 21.12 conservation easement, or by public ownership  
 21.13 or in public waters as defined in Minnesota  
 21.14 Statutes, section 103G.005, subdivision 15.  
 21.15 Priority must be given to restoration and  
 21.16 enhancement projects on public lands.  
 21.17 Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056,  
 21.18 subdivision 13, applies to grants awarded  
 21.19 under this paragraph. This appropriation is  
 21.20 available until June 30, 2029. No less than five  
 21.21 percent of the amount of each grant must be  
 21.22 held back from reimbursement until the grant  
 21.23 recipient completes a grant accomplishment  
 21.24 report by the deadline and in the form  
 21.25 prescribed by and satisfactory to the  
 21.26 Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council. The  
 21.27 commissioner must provide notice of the grant  
 21.28 program in the summary of game and fish law  
 21.29 prepared under Minnesota Statutes, section  
 21.30 97A.051, subdivision 2.
- 21.31 Subd. 6. **Administration** -0- 2,159,000
- 21.32 **(a) Contract Management**
- 21.33 \$450,000 the second year is to the  
 21.34 commissioner of natural resources for contract  
 21.35 management duties assigned in this section.

22.1 The commissioner must provide an  
22.2 accomplishment plan in the form specified by  
22.3 the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council  
22.4 on expending this appropriation. The  
22.5 accomplishment plan must include a copy of  
22.6 the grant contract template and reimbursement  
22.7 manual. No money may be expended before  
22.8 the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council  
22.9 approves the accomplishment plan. Money  
22.10 appropriated in this paragraph is available until  
22.11 June 30, 2028.

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

22.13 **Land Acquisitions**

22.14 \$1,377,000 the second year is to the  
22.15 commissioner of natural resources to  
22.16 administer the initial development, restoration,  
22.17 and enhancement of land acquired in fee with  
22.18 money appropriated from the outdoor heritage  
22.19 fund. This appropriation may be used for land  
22.20 acquisition costs incurred by the Department  
22.21 of Natural Resources as part of conveyance  
22.22 of parcels to the department and initial  
22.23 development activities on fee title acquisitions.  
22.24 Money appropriated in this paragraph is  
22.25 available until June 30, 2034.

22.26 **(c) Technical Evaluation Panel**

22.27 \$192,000 the second year is to the  
22.28 commissioner of natural resources for a  
22.29 technical evaluation panel to conduct up to 20  
22.30 restoration and enhancement evaluations under  
22.31 Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056,  
22.32 subdivision 10. Money appropriated in this  
22.33 paragraph is available until June 30, 2028.

22.34 **(d) Legislative Coordinating Commission**

- 23.1 \$140,000 the second year is to the Legislative  
 23.2 Coordinating Commission for administrative  
 23.3 expenses of the Lessard-Sams Outdoor  
 23.4 Heritage Council and for compensating and  
 23.5 reimbursing expenses of council members.  
 23.6 This appropriation is in addition to the fiscal  
 23.7 year 2027 appropriation in Laws 2025, chapter  
 23.8 36, article 1, section 2, subdivision 6,  
 23.9 paragraph (b), and is available until June 30,  
 23.10 2027. Minnesota Statutes, section 16A.281,  
 23.11 applies to this appropriation.
- 23.12 **Subd. 7. Availability of Appropriation**
- 23.13 (a) Money appropriated in this section may  
 23.14 not be spent on activities unless they are  
 23.15 directly related to and necessary for a specific  
 23.16 appropriation and are specified in the  
 23.17 accomplishment plan approved by the  
 23.18 Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.  
 23.19 Money appropriated in this section must not  
 23.20 be spent on indirect costs or other institutional  
 23.21 overhead charges that are not directly related  
 23.22 to and necessary for a specific appropriation.  
 23.23 Money appropriated for fee title acquisition  
 23.24 of land may be used to restore, enhance, and  
 23.25 provide for public use of the land acquired  
 23.26 with the appropriation. Public-use facilities  
 23.27 must have a minimal impact on habitat in  
 23.28 acquired lands.
- 23.29 (b) Money appropriated in this section is  
 23.30 available as follows:
- 23.31 (1) money appropriated to acquire real  
 23.32 property is available until June 30, 2030;
- 23.33 (2) money appropriated to restore and enhance  
 23.34 land acquired with an appropriation in this act

24.1 is available for four years after the acquisition  
 24.2 date with a maximum end date of June 30,  
 24.3 2034;  
 24.4 (3) money appropriated to restore and enhance  
 24.5 other land is available until June 30, 2031;  
 24.6 (4) notwithstanding clauses (1) to (3), money  
 24.7 appropriated for a project that receives at least  
 24.8 15 percent of its funding from federal funds  
 24.9 is available until a date sufficient to match the  
 24.10 availability of federal funding to a maximum  
 24.11 of six years if the federal funding was  
 24.12 confirmed and included in the original  
 24.13 approved draft accomplishment plan; and  
 24.14 (5) money appropriated for other projects is  
 24.15 available until the end of the fiscal year in  
 24.16 which it is appropriated.

24.17 **Subd. 8. Payment Conditions and Capital**  
 24.18 **Equipment Expenditures**

24.19 (a) All agreements referred to in this section  
 24.20 must be administered on a reimbursement  
 24.21 basis unless otherwise provided in this section.  
 24.22 Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, section  
 24.23 16A.41, expenditures directly related to each  
 24.24 appropriation's purpose made on or after July  
 24.25 1, 2026, or the date of accomplishment plan  
 24.26 approval, whichever is later, are eligible for  
 24.27 reimbursement unless otherwise provided in  
 24.28 this section. For the purposes of administering  
 24.29 appropriations and legislatively authorized  
 24.30 agreements paid out of the outdoor heritage  
 24.31 fund, an expense must be considered  
 24.32 reimbursable by the administering agency  
 24.33 when the recipient presents the agency with  
 24.34 an invoice or a binding agreement with the  
 24.35 landowner and the recipient attests that the

- 25.1 goods have been received or the landowner  
25.2 agreement is binding. Periodic reimbursement  
25.3 must be made upon receiving documentation  
25.4 that the items articulated in the  
25.5 accomplishment plan approved by the  
25.6 Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council have  
25.7 been achieved, including partial achievements  
25.8 as evidenced by progress reports approved by  
25.9 the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.  
25.10 Reasonable amounts may be advanced to  
25.11 projects to accommodate cash flow needs,  
25.12 support future management of acquired lands,  
25.13 or match a federal share. The advances must  
25.14 be approved as part of the accomplishment  
25.15 plan. Capital equipment expenditures for  
25.16 specific items in excess of \$10,000 must be  
25.17 itemized in and approved as part of the  
25.18 accomplishment plan.
- 25.19 (b) Unless otherwise provided, no money  
25.20 appropriated from the outdoor heritage fund  
25.21 in this act may be used to acquire, restore, or  
25.22 enhance any real property unless the specific  
25.23 acquisition, restoration, or enhancement is  
25.24 approved as part of the accomplishment plan  
25.25 on the parcel list.
- 25.26 (c) Reimbursement of eligible expenses must  
25.27 be submitted no later than 12 months after the  
25.28 approval of the final report.
- 25.29 **Subd. 9. Mapping**
- 25.30 Each direct recipient of money appropriated  
25.31 in this section, as well as each recipient of a  
25.32 grant awarded according to this section, must  
25.33 provide geographic information to the  
25.34 Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council for  
25.35 mapping any lands acquired in fee with funds

26.1 appropriated in this section and open to public  
 26.2 taking of fish and game. The commissioner  
 26.3 of natural resources must include the lands  
 26.4 acquired in fee with money appropriated in  
 26.5 this section on maps showing public recreation  
 26.6 opportunities. Maps must include information  
 26.7 on and acknowledgment of the outdoor  
 26.8 heritage fund, including a notation of any  
 26.9 restrictions.

26.10 **Subd. 10. Carryforward**

26.11 (a) The availability of the appropriation for  
 26.12 Laws 2021, First Special Session chapter 1,  
 26.13 article 1, section 2, subdivision 5, paragraph  
 26.14 (l), St. Louis River Restoration Initiative,  
 26.15 Phase VIII, is extended to June 30, 2027.

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

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

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

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

26.23 **(a) St. Croix Watershed Habitat Protection and**  
 26.24 **Restoration, Phase 5**

26.25 \$4,711,000 the second year is to the  
 26.26 commissioner of natural resources for  
 26.27 agreements to acquire land in fee and acquire  
 26.28 permanent conservation easements and to  
 26.29 restore and enhance natural habitat systems in  
 26.30 the St. Croix River watershed as follows:  
 26.31 \$1,905,000 to Trust for Public Land; \$110,000  
 26.32 to Wild Rivers Conservancy; and \$2,696,000  
 26.33 to Minnesota Land Trust. Up to \$224,000 to

27.1 Minnesota Land Trust is to establish a  
27.2 monitoring and enforcement fund as approved  
27.3 in the accomplishment plan and subject to  
27.4 Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056,  
27.5 subdivision 17.

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

27.8 \$2,242,000 the second year is to the Board of  
27.9 Water and Soil Resources, in cooperation with  
27.10 the Crow Wing County Soil and Water  
27.11 Conservation District, to acquire permanent  
27.12 conservation easements of high-quality forest,  
27.13 wetland, and shoreline habitat. Up to \$120,000  
27.14 of the total amount is for establishing a  
27.15 monitoring and enforcement fund as approved  
27.16 in the accomplishment plan and subject to  
27.17 Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056,  
27.18 subdivision 17. Subdivision 8, paragraph (b),  
27.19 does not apply to this project. A list of  
27.20 permanent conservation easements must be  
27.21 provided as part of the final report.

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

27.24 \$3,321,000 the second year is to the  
27.25 commissioner of natural resources for  
27.26 agreements to acquire land in fee and  
27.27 permanent conservation easements and to  
27.28 restore and enhance lakes of outstanding  
27.29 biological significance in northeast and  
27.30 north-central Minnesota. Of this amount,  
27.31 \$1,083,000 is to the Northern Waters Land  
27.32 Trust and \$2,238,000 is to Minnesota Land  
27.33 Trust. Up to \$224,000 to Minnesota Land  
27.34 Trust is for establishing a monitoring and  
27.35 enforcement fund as approved in the

28.1 accomplishment plan and subject to Minnesota  
28.2 Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 17.

28.3 **(d) Shell Rock River Watershed Habitat**  
28.4 **Restoration Program, Phase 13**

28.5 \$2,060,000 the second year is to the  
28.6 commissioner of natural resources for an  
28.7 agreement with the Shell Rock River  
28.8 Watershed District to acquire land in fee and  
28.9 restore and enhance habitat in the Shell Rock  
28.10 River watershed.

28.11 **(e) Cannon River Watershed Habitat**  
28.12 **Restoration and Protection Program, Phase 13**

28.13 \$2,555,000 the second year is to the  
28.14 commissioner of natural resources for  
28.15 agreements to acquire lands in fee and restore  
28.16 and enhance wildlife habitat in the Cannon  
28.17 River watershed as follows: \$54,000 to Clean  
28.18 River Partners; \$888,000 to Great River  
28.19 Greening; and \$1,613,000 to Trust for Public  
28.20 Land.

28.21 **(f) Mississippi Headwaters Habitat Corridor**  
28.22 **Project, Phase 8**

28.23 \$2,706,000 the second year is to acquire lands  
28.24 in fee and permanent conservation easements  
28.25 and to restore wildlife habitat in the  
28.26 Mississippi headwaters. Of this amount:  
28.27 (1) \$1,706,000 is to the commissioner of  
28.28 natural resources for agreements as follows:  
28.29 \$57,000 to the Mississippi Headwaters Board  
28.30 and \$1,649,000 to Trust for Public Land; and  
28.31 (2) \$1,000,000 is to the Board of Water and  
28.32 Soil Resources, of which up to \$100,000 is to  
28.33 establish a monitoring and enforcement fund  
28.34 as approved in the accomplishment plan and

29.1 subject to Minnesota Statutes, section  
29.2 97A.056, subdivision 17.

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

29.5 \$2,687,000 the second year is to the  
29.6 commissioner of natural resources for  
29.7 agreements to acquire land in fee and in  
29.8 permanent conservation easements and to  
29.9 restore and enhance wildlife habitat to sustain  
29.10 healthy fish habitat on coldwater lakes in  
29.11 Aitkin, Cass, Crow Wing, and Hubbard  
29.12 Counties as follows: \$2,252,000 to Northern  
29.13 Waters Land Trust and \$435,000 to Minnesota  
29.14 Land Trust. Up to \$56,000 to Minnesota Land  
29.15 Trust is to establish a monitoring and  
29.16 enforcement fund as approved in the  
29.17 accomplishment plan and subject to Minnesota  
29.18 Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 17.

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

29.20 \$5,119,000 the second year is to acquire  
29.21 permanent conservation easements to protect,  
29.22 restore, and enhance stream and riparian  
29.23 habitat throughout the Red River watershed.  
29.24 Of this amount, \$169,000 is to the  
29.25 commissioner of natural resources for an  
29.26 agreement with the Red River Watershed  
29.27 Management Board and \$4,950,000 is to the  
29.28 Board of Water and Soil Resources. Up to  
29.29 \$380,000 of the total amount is for  
29.30 establishing a monitoring and enforcement  
29.31 fund as approved in the accomplishment plan  
29.32 and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section  
29.33 97A.056, subdivision 17. Subdivision 8,  
29.34 paragraph (b), does not apply to this project.

30.1 A list of permanent conservation easements  
30.2 must be provided as part of the final report.

30.3 **(i) Resilient Habitat for Heritage Brook Trout,**  
30.4 **Phase 2**

30.5 \$2,486,000 the second year is to the  
30.6 commissioner of natural resources for  
30.7 agreements to acquire permanent conservation  
30.8 easements and to restore and enhance habitat  
30.9 in targeted watersheds of southeast Minnesota  
30.10 to improve heritage brook trout and coldwater  
30.11 aquatic communities. Of this amount,  
30.12 \$400,000 is to The Nature Conservancy,  
30.13 \$612,000 is to Trout Unlimited, and  
30.14 \$1,474,000 is to Minnesota Land Trust. Up to  
30.15 \$168,000 to Minnesota Land Trust is to  
30.16 establish a monitoring and enforcement fund  
30.17 as approved in the accomplishment plan and  
30.18 subject to Minnesota Statutes, section  
30.19 97A.056, subdivision 17.

30.20 **(j) Southeast Minnesota Protection and**  
30.21 **Restoration, Phase 12**

30.22 \$3,052,000 the second year is to the  
30.23 commissioner of natural resources for  
30.24 agreements to acquire lands in fee and  
30.25 permanent conservation easements and to  
30.26 restore and enhance wildlife habitat on public  
30.27 lands and permanent conservation easements  
30.28 in southeast Minnesota as follows: \$970,000  
30.29 to The Nature Conservancy, \$964,000 to Trust  
30.30 for Public Land, and \$1,118,000 to Minnesota  
30.31 Land Trust. Up to \$112,000 to Minnesota  
30.32 Land Trust is to establish a monitoring and  
30.33 enforcement fund as approved in the  
30.34 accomplishment plan and subject to Minnesota  
30.35 Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 17.

31.1 **(k) Lower Wild Rice River Corridor Habitat**  
 31.2 **Restoration, Phase 4**

31.3 \$2,345,000 the second year is to acquire land  
 31.4 in permanent conservation easement and to  
 31.5 restore river and related habitat in the Wild  
 31.6 Rice River corridor. Of this amount, \$30,000  
 31.7 is to the commissioner of natural resources for  
 31.8 an agreement with the Wild Rice Watershed  
 31.9 District and \$2,315,000 is to the Board of  
 31.10 Water and Soil Resources. The Board of Water  
 31.11 and Soil Resources may use up to \$60,000 for  
 31.12 establishing a monitoring and enforcement  
 31.13 fund as approved in the accomplishment plan  
 31.14 and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section  
 31.15 97A.056, subdivision 17. Subdivision 8,  
 31.16 paragraph (b), does not apply to this project.  
 31.17 A list of permanent conservation easements  
 31.18 must be provided as part of the final report.

31.19 **(l) DNR Wildlife Management Area and**  
 31.20 **Scientific and Natural Area Acquisition, Phase**  
 31.21 **16**

31.22 \$1,359,000 the second year is to the  
 31.23 commissioner of natural resources to acquire  
 31.24 in fee and restore and enhance lands for  
 31.25 wildlife management purposes under  
 31.26 Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,  
 31.27 subdivision 8, and to acquire land in fee for  
 31.28 scientific and natural area purposes under  
 31.29 Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,  
 31.30 subdivision 5. Subject to evaluation criteria  
 31.31 in Minnesota Rules, part 6136.0900, priority  
 31.32 must be given to acquiring lands that are  
 31.33 eligible for the native prairie bank under  
 31.34 Minnesota Statutes, section 84.96, or lands  
 31.35 adjacent to protected native prairie.

32.1 **(m) Accelerating Habitat Conservation in**  
32.2 **Southwest Minnesota, Phase 3**

32.3 \$2,872,000 the second year is to the  
32.4 commissioner of natural resources for an  
32.5 agreement with Minnesota Land Trust to  
32.6 acquire permanent conservation easements  
32.7 and to restore and enhance high-quality  
32.8 wildlife habitat in southwest Minnesota. Of  
32.9 this amount, up to \$168,000 is to establish a  
32.10 monitoring and enforcement fund as approved  
32.11 in the accomplishment plan and subject to  
32.12 Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056,  
32.13 subdivision 17.

32.14 **(n) Sauk River Watershed Habitat Protection**  
32.15 **and Restoration, Phase 5**

32.16 \$3,965,000 the second year is to the  
32.17 commissioner of natural resources for  
32.18 agreements to acquire lands in fee and  
32.19 permanent conservation easements and restore  
32.20 and enhance wildlife habitat in the Sauk River  
32.21 watershed as follows: \$375,000 to Great River  
32.22 Greening; \$1,199,000 to Sauk River  
32.23 Watershed District; \$1,192,000 to Pheasants  
32.24 Forever; and \$1,199,000 to Minnesota Land  
32.25 Trust. Up to \$168,000 to Minnesota Land  
32.26 Trust is to establish a monitoring and  
32.27 enforcement fund as approved in the  
32.28 accomplishment plan and subject to Minnesota  
32.29 Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 17.

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

32.31 \$8,123,000 the second year is to the  
32.32 commissioner of natural resources for  
32.33 agreements to acquire land in fee and  
32.34 permanent conservation easements and to  
32.35 restore and enhance natural habitat systems

33.1 associated with the Mississippi, Minnesota,  
33.2 and St. Croix Rivers and their tributaries  
33.3 within the metropolitan area as follows:  
33.4 \$1,250,000 to Minnesota Valley National  
33.5 Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.; \$420,000 to  
33.6 Friends of the Mississippi River; \$803,000 to  
33.7 Great River Greening; \$2,750,000 to Trust for  
33.8 Public Land; and \$2,900,000 to Minnesota  
33.9 Land Trust. Up to \$224,000 to Minnesota  
33.10 Land Trust is to establish a monitoring and  
33.11 enforcement fund as approved in the  
33.12 accomplishment plan and subject to Minnesota  
33.13 Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 17.

33.14 **(p) Anoka Sand Plain Habitat Conservation,**  
33.15 **Phase 9**

33.16 \$1,802,000 the second year is to the  
33.17 commissioner of natural resources for  
33.18 agreements to restore and enhance wildlife  
33.19 habitat on public lands and easements in the  
33.20 Anoka Sand Plain ecoregion and intersecting  
33.21 minor watersheds as follows: \$1,508,000 to  
33.22 Great River Greening and \$294,000 to  
33.23 Sherburne County.

33.24 **(q) DNR Aquatic Habitat Restoration and**  
33.25 **Enhancement, Phase 7**

33.26 \$4,206,000 the second year is to the  
33.27 commissioner of natural resources to restore  
33.28 and enhance aquatic habitat in degraded  
33.29 streams and aquatic management areas and to  
33.30 facilitate fish passage.

33.31 **(r) Minnesota Statewide Trout Habitat**  
33.32 **Enhancement**

33.33 \$2,308,000 the second year is to the  
33.34 commissioner of natural resources for an  
33.35 agreement with Trout Unlimited to restore and

34.1 enhance habitat for trout and other species in  
34.2 and along coldwater rivers, lakes, and streams  
34.3 throughout Minnesota.

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

34.5 \$1,572,000 the second year is to the  
34.6 commissioner of natural resources for an  
34.7 agreement with the Arrowhead Regional  
34.8 Development Commission, in cooperation  
34.9 with the Lake Superior Steelhead Association,  
34.10 to restore and enhance trout habitat in the  
34.11 Knife River watershed. If the Arrowhead  
34.12 Regional Development Commission declines  
34.13 to serve as the fiscal agent for the project, an  
34.14 alternative fiscal agent must be identified in  
34.15 the accomplishment plan for the project.

34.16 **(t) DNR St. Louis River Restoration Initiative,**  
34.17 **Phase 11**

34.18 \$2,163,000 the second year is to the  
34.19 commissioner of natural resources to restore  
34.20 and enhance priority aquatic, riparian, and  
34.21 forest habitats in the St. Louis River estuary.  
34.22 Of this amount, \$716,000 is for an agreement  
34.23 with Minnesota Land Trust.

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

34.25 \$3,054,000 the second year is to the  
34.26 commissioner of natural resources for an  
34.27 agreement with the Roseau River Watershed  
34.28 District to restore and enhance the Roseau  
34.29 Lake and Roseau River habitat complex in  
34.30 Roseau County, Minnesota.

34.31 **(v) Highbanks Ravine Bat Hibernaculum**

34.32 \$2,300,000 the second year is to the  
34.33 commissioner of natural resources for an  
34.34 agreement with the city of St. Cloud to

- 35.1 enhance the Highbanks Ravine Bat  
35.2 Hibernaculum in St. Cloud.
- 35.3 **(w) Owámmiyomni Native Landscape and River**  
35.4 **Restoration, St. Anthony Falls**
- 35.5 \$1,918,000 the second year is to the  
35.6 commissioner of natural resources for an  
35.7 agreement with Friends of the Falls to restore  
35.8 and enhance wildlife habitat at Upper St.  
35.9 Anthony Falls. This appropriation may only  
35.10 be spent for site grading, oak savanna, and  
35.11 aquatic habitat portions of the project.
- 35.12 **(x) Silver Lake Dam Fish Passage Modification**
- 35.13 \$2,368,000 the second year is to the  
35.14 commissioner of natural resources for an  
35.15 agreement with the city of Rochester to restore  
35.16 and enhance aquatic habitat in Silver Lake and  
35.17 the south fork of the Zumbro River by  
35.18 modifying the existing low-head dam in  
35.19 Rochester.
- 35.20 **(y) Little Devil Track River Restoration**
- 35.21 \$3,000,000 the second year is to the  
35.22 commissioner of natural resources for an  
35.23 agreement with Cook County to restore and  
35.24 enhance stream habitat in the Little Devil  
35.25 Track River.
- 35.26 **(z) Conservation Partners Legacy Grant**  
35.27 **Program: Statewide and Metro Habitat, Phase**  
35.28 **16**
- 35.29 \$15,000,000 the second year is to the  
35.30 commissioner of natural resources for a  
35.31 program to provide competitive matching  
35.32 grants of up to \$500,000 to local, regional,  
35.33 state, and national organizations for enhancing,  
35.34 restoring, or protecting forests, wetlands,  
35.35 prairies, or habitat for fish, game, or wildlife

36.1 in Minnesota. Unless there are not enough  
36.2 eligible grant applications received, of this  
36.3 amount, at least \$4,000,000 is for grants in the  
36.4 seven-county metropolitan area and cities with  
36.5 a population of 50,000 or more and at least  
36.6 \$4,000,000 is for grants to applicants that have  
36.7 not previously applied for money from the  
36.8 outdoor heritage fund. Grants must not be  
36.9 made for activities required to fulfill the duties  
36.10 of owners of lands subject to conservation  
36.11 easements. Grants must not be made from the  
36.12 appropriation in this paragraph for projects  
36.13 that have a total project cost exceeding  
36.14 \$1,000,000. Of the total appropriation,  
36.15 \$600,000 may be spent for personnel costs,  
36.16 outreach, and support to first-time applicants  
36.17 and other direct and necessary administrative  
36.18 costs. Grantees may acquire land or interests  
36.19 in land. Easements must be permanent. Grants  
36.20 may not be used to establish easement  
36.21 stewardship accounts. The program must  
36.22 require a match of at least ten percent from  
36.23 nonstate sources for all grants. The match may  
36.24 be cash or in-kind. For grant applications of  
36.25 \$25,000 or less, the commissioner must  
36.26 provide a separate, simplified application  
36.27 process. Subject to Minnesota Statutes, the  
36.28 commissioner of natural resources must, when  
36.29 evaluating projects of equal value, give  
36.30 priority to organizations that have a history of  
36.31 receiving, or a charter to receive, private  
36.32 contributions for local conservation or habitat  
36.33 projects. All restoration or enhancement  
36.34 projects must be on land permanently  
36.35 protected by a permanent covenant ensuring  
36.36 perpetual maintenance and protection of

37.1 restored and enhanced habitat, by a  
 37.2 conservation easement, or by public ownership  
 37.3 or in public waters as defined in Minnesota  
 37.4 Statutes, section 103G.005, subdivision 15.  
 37.5 Priority must be given to restoration and  
 37.6 enhancement projects on public lands.  
 37.7 Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056,  
 37.8 subdivision 13, applies to grants awarded  
 37.9 under this paragraph. This appropriation is  
 37.10 available until June 30, 2027. No less than five  
 37.11 percent of the amount of each grant must be  
 37.12 held back from reimbursement until the grant  
 37.13 recipient completes a grant accomplishment  
 37.14 report by the deadline and in the form  
 37.15 prescribed by and satisfactory to the  
 37.16 Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council. The  
 37.17 commissioner must provide notice of the grant  
 37.18 program in the summary of game and fish law  
 37.19 prepared under Minnesota Statutes, section  
 37.20 97A.051, subdivision 2.

37.21 **(aa) Protecting Upper Mississippi River from**  
 37.22 **Invasive Carp**

37.23 \$12,000,000 the second year is to the  
 37.24 commissioner of natural resources to fund  
 37.25 activities to protect the upper Mississippi  
 37.26 River from invasive carp. Activities within  
 37.27 this appropriation include agreements with  
 37.28 federal partners, such as the United States Fish  
 37.29 and Wildlife Service, to design, construct, and  
 37.30 begin operating and maintaining a structural  
 37.31 deterrent for invasive carp at Lock and Dam  
 37.32 No. 5 on the Mississippi River to protect  
 37.33 Minnesota's aquatic habitat through an  
 37.34 adaptive management approach. Deterrent  
 37.35 design must be fully completed ~~within two~~  
 37.36 years of the date of this appropriation by June

38.1 30, 2027. Deterrent installation must be  
38.2 completed by June 30, 2029. Money not spent  
38.3 or obligated for design installation and  
38.4 operation of the deterrent may be used for  
38.5 testing technologies to support the future  
38.6 effectiveness of the deterrent. A detailed  
38.7 accomplishment plan must be submitted to  
38.8 and approved by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor  
38.9 Heritage Council before money is released.  
38.10 This appropriation is available until June 30,  
38.11 2029.