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State of Minnesota  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-NINTH SESSION

H. F. No. 181

01/15/2015 Authored by McNamara and Hansen

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Finance

1.1 A bill for an act  
1.2 relating to natural resources; appropriating money from outdoor heritage fund;  
1.3 modifying requirements for use of outdoor heritage fund money; modifying  
1.4 previous appropriation; amending Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 97A.056,  
1.5 subdivision 8, by adding subdivisions; Laws 2014, chapter 256, article 1, section  
1.6 2, subdivision 5.

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

1.8 Section 1. **OUTDOOR HERITAGE APPROPRIATION.**

1.9 The sums shown in the columns marked "Appropriations" are appropriated to the  
1.10 agencies and for the purposes specified in this act. The appropriations are from the outdoor  
1.11 heritage fund for the fiscal year indicated for each purpose. The figures "2016" and "2017"  
1.12 used in this act mean that the appropriations listed under the figure are available for the  
1.13 fiscal year ending June 30, 2016, and June 30, 2017, respectively. The "first year" is fiscal  
1.14 year 2016. The "second year" is fiscal year 2017. The "biennium" is fiscal years 2016 and  
1.15 2017, respectively. The appropriations in this act are onetime.

1.16		<b><u>APPROPRIATIONS</u></b>	
1.17		<b><u>Available for the Year</u></b>	
1.18		<b><u>Ending June 30</u></b>	
1.19		<b><u>2016</u></b>	<b><u>2017</u></b>

1.20 Sec. 2. **OUTDOOR HERITAGE FUND**

1.21	<b><u>Subdivision 1. Total Appropriation</u></b>	<b><u>\$</u></b>	<b><u>100,008,000</u></b>	<b><u>\$</u></b>	<b><u>607,000</u></b>
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1.22 This appropriation is from the outdoor  
1.23 heritage fund. The amounts that may be  
1.24 spent for each purpose are specified in the  
1.25 following subdivisions.

2.1	<u>Subd. 2. <b>Prairies</b></u>	<u>40,948,000</u>	<u>-0-</u>
2.2	<b><u>(a) DNR Wildlife Management Area and</u></b>		
2.3	<b><u>Scientific and Natural Area Acquisition - Phase</u></b>		
2.4	<b><u>VII</u></b>		
2.5	<u>\$4,570,000 in the first year is to the</u>		
2.6	<u>commissioner of natural resources to acquire</u>		
2.7	<u>land in fee for wildlife management purposes</u>		
2.8	<u>under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,</u>		
2.9	<u>subdivision 8, and to acquire land in fee</u>		
2.10	<u>for scientific and natural area purposes</u>		
2.11	<u>under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,</u>		
2.12	<u>subdivision 5. Subject to evaluation criteria</u>		
2.13	<u>in Minnesota Rules, part 6136.0900, priority</u>		
2.14	<u>must be given to acquisition of lands that</u>		
2.15	<u>are eligible for the native prairie bank under</u>		
2.16	<u>Minnesota Statutes, section 84.96, or lands</u>		
2.17	<u>adjacent to protected native prairie. A list of</u>		
2.18	<u>proposed land and permanent conservation</u>		
2.19	<u>easement acquisitions must be provided as</u>		
2.20	<u>part of the required accomplishment plan.</u>		
2.21	<b><u>(b) Accelerating Wildlife Management Area</u></b>		
2.22	<b><u>Acquisition - Phase VII</u></b>		
2.23	<u>\$7,452,000 in the first year is to the</u>		
2.24	<u>commissioner of natural resources for an</u>		
2.25	<u>agreement with Pheasants Forever to acquire</u>		
2.26	<u>land in fee for wildlife management area</u>		
2.27	<u>purposes under Minnesota Statutes, section</u>		
2.28	<u>86A.05, subdivision 8. Subject to evaluation</u>		
2.29	<u>criteria in Minnesota Rules, part 6136.0900,</u>		
2.30	<u>priority must be given to acquisition of</u>		
2.31	<u>lands that are eligible for the native prairie</u>		
2.32	<u>bank under Minnesota Statutes, section</u>		
2.33	<u>84.96, or lands adjacent to protected native</u>		
2.34	<u>prairie. A list of proposed land acquisitions</u>		
2.35	<u>must be provided as part of the required</u>		
2.36	<u>accomplishment plan.</u>		

3.1 **(c) Minnesota Prairie Recovery Project - Phase**  
 3.2 **VI**

3.3 \$4,032,000 in the first year is to the  
 3.4 commissioner of natural resources for an  
 3.5 agreement with The Nature Conservancy  
 3.6 to acquire native prairie, wetlands, and  
 3.7 savanna and restore and enhance grasslands,  
 3.8 wetlands, and savanna. Subject to evaluation  
 3.9 criteria in Minnesota Rules, part 6136.0900,  
 3.10 priority must be given to acquisition of lands  
 3.11 that are eligible for the native prairie bank  
 3.12 under Minnesota Statutes, section 84.96, or  
 3.13 lands adjacent to protected native prairie.  
 3.14 Annual income statements and balance sheets  
 3.15 for income and expenses from land acquired  
 3.16 with this appropriation must be submitted  
 3.17 to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage  
 3.18 Council no later than 180 days following  
 3.19 the close of The Nature Conservancy's fiscal  
 3.20 year. A list of proposed land acquisitions  
 3.21 must be provided as part of the required  
 3.22 accomplishment plan and must be consistent  
 3.23 with the priorities identified in the Minnesota  
 3.24 Prairie Conservation Plan.

3.25 **(d) Northern Tallgrass Prairie National**  
 3.26 **Wildlife Refuge Land Acquisition - Phase V**

3.27 \$3,430,000 in the first year is to the  
 3.28 commissioner of natural resources for an  
 3.29 agreement with The Nature Conservancy  
 3.30 in cooperation with the United States Fish  
 3.31 and Wildlife Service to acquire land in  
 3.32 fee or permanent conservation easements  
 3.33 within the Northern Tallgrass Prairie Habitat  
 3.34 Preservation Area in western Minnesota  
 3.35 for addition to the Northern Tallgrass  
 3.36 Prairie National Wildlife Refuge. Subject

4.1 to evaluation criteria in Minnesota Rules,  
 4.2 part 6136.0900, priority must be given to  
 4.3 acquisition of lands that are eligible for  
 4.4 the native prairie bank under Minnesota  
 4.5 Statutes, section 84.96, or lands adjacent to  
 4.6 protected native prairie. A list of proposed  
 4.7 land acquisitions must be provided as part  
 4.8 of the required accomplishment plan and  
 4.9 must be consistent with the priorities in the  
 4.10 Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan.

4.11 **(e) Accelerated Native Prairie Bank Protection**  
 4.12 **- Phase IV**

4.13 \$3,740,000 in the first year is to the  
 4.14 commissioner of natural resources  
 4.15 to implement the Minnesota Prairie  
 4.16 Conservation Plan through the acquisition  
 4.17 of permanent conservation easements to  
 4.18 protect native prairie and grasslands. Up  
 4.19 to \$165,000 is for establishing monitoring  
 4.20 and enforcement funds as approved in  
 4.21 the accomplishment plan and subject to  
 4.22 Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056,  
 4.23 subdivision 17. Subject to evaluation criteria  
 4.24 in Minnesota Rules, part 6136.0900, priority  
 4.25 must be given to acquisition of lands that  
 4.26 are eligible for the native prairie bank under  
 4.27 Minnesota Statutes, section 84.96, or lands  
 4.28 adjacent to protected native prairie. A list of  
 4.29 permanent conservation easements must be  
 4.30 provided as part of the final report.

4.31 **(f) Minnesota Buffers for Wildlife and Water**  
 4.32 **- Phase V**

4.33 \$4,544,000 in the first year is to the Board  
 4.34 of Water and Soil Resources to acquire  
 4.35 permanent conservation easements to protect  
 4.36 and enhance habitat by expanding the clean

5.1 water fund riparian buffer program for at  
 5.2 least equal wildlife benefits from buffers  
 5.3 on private land. Up to \$72,500 is for  
 5.4 establishing a monitoring and enforcement  
 5.5 fund as approved in the accomplishment plan  
 5.6 and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section  
 5.7 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of permanent  
 5.8 conservation easements must be provided as  
 5.9 part of the final report.

5.10 **(g) Cannon River Headwaters Habitat**  
 5.11 **Complex - Phase V**

5.12 \$1,380,000 in the first year is to the  
 5.13 commissioner of natural resources for an  
 5.14 agreement with The Trust for Public Land to  
 5.15 acquire and restore lands in the Cannon River  
 5.16 watershed for wildlife management purposes  
 5.17 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,  
 5.18 subdivision 8. Subject to evaluation criteria  
 5.19 in Minnesota Rules, part 6136.0900, priority  
 5.20 must be given to acquisition of lands that  
 5.21 are eligible for the native prairie bank under  
 5.22 Minnesota Statutes, section 84.96, or lands  
 5.23 adjacent to protected native prairie. A list of  
 5.24 proposed land acquisitions must be provided  
 5.25 as part of the required accomplishment plan.

5.26 **(h) Prairie Chicken Habitat Partnership of the**  
 5.27 **Southern Red River Valley**

5.28 \$1,800,000 in the first year is to the  
 5.29 commissioner of natural resources for  
 5.30 an agreement with Pheasants Forever in  
 5.31 cooperation with the Minnesota Prairie  
 5.32 Chicken Society to acquire and restore lands  
 5.33 in the southern Red River Valley for wildlife  
 5.34 management purposes under Minnesota  
 5.35 Statutes, section 86A.05, subdivision 8,  
 5.36 or for designation and management as

6.1 waterfowl production areas in Minnesota,  
6.2 in cooperation with the United States Fish  
6.3 and Wildlife Service. A list of proposed land  
6.4 acquisitions must be provided as part of the  
6.5 required accomplishment plan.

6.6 **(i) Protecting and Restoring Minnesota's**  
6.7 **Important Bird Areas**

6.8 \$1,730,000 in the first year is to the  
6.9 commissioner of natural resources for  
6.10 agreements to acquire conservation  
6.11 easements within important bird areas  
6.12 identified in the Minnesota Prairie  
6.13 Conservation Plan, to be used as follows:  
6.14 \$408,000 is to Audubon Minnesota and  
6.15 \$1,322,000 is to Minnesota Land Trust, of  
6.16 which up to \$100,000 is for establishing  
6.17 monitoring and enforcement funds as  
6.18 approved in the accomplishment plan and  
6.19 subject to Minnesota Statutes, section  
6.20 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of permanent  
6.21 conservation easements must be provided as  
6.22 part of the final report.

6.23 **(j) Wild Rice River Corridor Habitat**  
6.24 **Restoration**

6.25 \$2,270,000 in the first year is to the  
6.26 commissioner of natural resources for an  
6.27 agreement with the Wild Rice Watershed  
6.28 District to acquire land in fee and permanent  
6.29 conservation easement and to `restore river  
6.30 and related habitat in the Wild Rice River  
6.31 corridor. A list of proposed acquisitions and  
6.32 restorations must be provided as part of the  
6.33 required accomplishment plan.

6.34 **(k) Accelerated Prairie Restoration and**  
6.35 **Enhancement on DNR Lands - Phase VII**

7.1 \$4,880,000 in the first year is to the  
 7.2 commissioner of natural resources to  
 7.3 accelerate the restoration and enhancement  
 7.4 of prairie communities on wildlife  
 7.5 management areas, scientific and natural  
 7.6 areas, state forest land, and land under  
 7.7 native prairie bank easements. A list of  
 7.8 proposed land restorations and enhancements  
 7.9 must be provided as part of the required  
 7.10 accomplishment plan.

7.11 **(l) Enhanced Public Land Grasslands - Phase II**

7.12 \$1,120,000 in the first year is to the  
 7.13 commissioner of natural resources for an  
 7.14 agreement with Pheasants Forever to enhance  
 7.15 and restore habitat on public lands. A list of  
 7.16 proposed land restorations and enhancements  
 7.17 must be provided as part of the final report.

7.18 Subd. 3. Forests 14,822,000 -0-

7.19 **(a) Protecting Forest Wildlife Habitat in the**  
 7.20 **Wild Rice River Watershed**

7.21 \$2,188,000 in the first year is to the  
 7.22 commissioner of natural resources for an  
 7.23 agreement with the White Earth Nation  
 7.24 to acquire lands in fee to be managed for  
 7.25 wildlife habitat purposes. A list of proposed  
 7.26 land acquisitions must be provided as part of  
 7.27 the required accomplishment plan.

7.28 **(b) Camp Ripley Partnership - Phase V**

7.29 \$1,500,000 in the first year is to the  
 7.30 Board of Water and Soil Resources in  
 7.31 cooperation with the Morrison County Soil  
 7.32 and Water Conservation District to acquire  
 7.33 permanent conservation easements within  
 7.34 the boundaries of the Minnesota National  
 7.35 Guard Compatible Use Buffer to protect

8.1 forest wildlife habitat. Up to \$55,000 is for  
8.2 establishing a monitoring and enforcement  
8.3 fund, as approved in the accomplishment  
8.4 plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes,  
8.5 section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of  
8.6 permanent conservation easements must be  
8.7 provided as part of the final report.

8.8 **(c) Southeast Minnesota Protection and**  
8.9 **Restoration - Phase III**

8.10 \$2,910,000 in the first year is to the  
8.11 commissioner of natural resources for an  
8.12 agreement with The Nature Conservancy to  
8.13 acquire land in fee for wildlife management  
8.14 purposes under Minnesota Statutes, section  
8.15 86A.05, subdivision 8; to acquire land  
8.16 in fee for scientific and natural areas  
8.17 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,  
8.18 subdivision 5; for state forest purposes  
8.19 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,  
8.20 subdivision 7; and to enhance grasslands,  
8.21 forest, and savanna. A list of proposed  
8.22 acquisitions must be provided as part of the  
8.23 required accomplishment plan.

8.24 **(d) Protecting Pinelands Sands Aquifer**  
8.25 **Forestlands - Phase II**

8.26 \$2,180,000 in the first year is to the  
8.27 commissioner of natural resources to  
8.28 acquire forest lands in Cass and Wadena  
8.29 Counties for wildlife management purposes  
8.30 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,  
8.31 subdivision 8, and to acquire land in fee  
8.32 for state forests under Minnesota Statutes,  
8.33 section 86A.05, subdivision 7. A list of  
8.34 proposed land acquisitions must be provided  
8.35 as part of the required accomplishment plan.



9.1 **(e) Protect Key Forest Lands in Cass County**  
 9.2 **- Phase VI**

9.3 \$442,000 in the first year is to the  
 9.4 commissioner of natural resources for an  
 9.5 agreement with Cass County to acquire land  
 9.6 in fee in Cass County for forest wildlife  
 9.7 habitat or to prevent forest fragmentation.

9.8 A list of proposed land acquisitions  
 9.9 must be provided as part of the required  
 9.10 accomplishment plan.

9.11 **(f) Critical Shoreland Protection Program -**  
 9.12 **Phase III**

9.13 \$1,690,000 in the first year is to the  
 9.14 commissioner of natural resources for an  
 9.15 agreement with Minnesota Land Trust to  
 9.16 acquire permanent conservation easements  
 9.17 along rivers and lakes in the northern  
 9.18 forest region. Up to \$220,000 is for  
 9.19 establishing a monitoring and enforcement  
 9.20 fund, as approved in the accomplishment  
 9.21 plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes,  
 9.22 section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of  
 9.23 proposed permanent conservation easements  
 9.24 must be provided as part of the required  
 9.25 accomplishment plan.

9.26 **(g) Mississippi Headwaters Habitat**  
 9.27 **Partnership**

9.28 \$961,000 in the first year is to the  
 9.29 commissioner of natural resources to  
 9.30 acquire lands in fee and for permanent  
 9.31 conservation easements in the Mississippi  
 9.32 Headwaters and for agreements as follows:  
 9.33 \$1,217,000 to The Trust for Public Land;  
 9.34 and \$824,000 to Minnesota Land Trust,  
 9.35 of which up to \$80,000 is for establishing  
 9.36 a monitoring and enforcement fund as

10.1 approved in the accomplishment plan and  
 10.2 subject to Minnesota Statutes, section  
 10.3 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of proposed  
 10.4 acquisitions must be included as part of the  
 10.5 required accomplishment plan.

10.6 **(h) Southeast Forest Habitat Enhancement**

10.7 \$910,000 in the first year is to the  
 10.8 commissioner of natural resources to  
 10.9 enhance forests in southeastern Minnesota.

10.10 A list of proposed land enhancements  
 10.11 must be provided as part of the required  
 10.12 accomplishment plan.

10.13 **Subd. 4. Wetlands**

20,390,000

-0-

10.14 **(a) Accelerating the Waterfowl Production**  
 10.15 **Area Acquisition - Phase VII**

10.16 \$7,620,000 in the first year is to the  
 10.17 commissioner of natural resources for an  
 10.18 agreement with Pheasants Forever to acquire  
 10.19 land in fee to be designated and managed as  
 10.20 waterfowl production areas in Minnesota,  
 10.21 in cooperation with the United States Fish  
 10.22 and Wildlife Service. A list of proposed land  
 10.23 acquisitions must be provided as part of the  
 10.24 required accomplishment plan.

10.25 **(b) Living Shallow Lakes and Wetland**  
 10.26 **Initiative - Phase V**

10.27 \$9,040,000 in the first year is to the  
 10.28 commissioner of natural resources for an  
 10.29 agreement with Ducks Unlimited to acquire  
 10.30 land in fee for wildlife management purposes  
 10.31 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,  
 10.32 subdivision 8. A list of proposed acquisitions  
 10.33 must be provided as part of the required  
 10.34 accomplishment plan.

11.1 **(c) Wild Rice Shoreland Protection Program**  
11.2 **- Phase IV**

11.3 \$131,000 in the first year is to the  
11.4 commissioner of natural resources for the  
11.5 acquisition of land in fee and \$1,469,000 is  
11.6 to the Board of Water and Soil Resources to  
11.7 acquire permanent conservation easements  
11.8 on wild rice lake shoreland habitat for native  
11.9 wild rice bed protection. Of this amount, up  
11.10 to \$90,000 to the Board of Water and Soil  
11.11 Resources is for establishing a monitoring  
11.12 and enforcement fund as approved in  
11.13 the accomplishment plan and subject to  
11.14 Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056,  
11.15 subdivision 17. A list of proposed fee land  
11.16 acquisitions must be included as part of  
11.17 the required accomplishment plan by the  
11.18 Department of Natural Resources and a list  
11.19 of permanent conservation easements must  
11.20 be provided as part of the final report by the  
11.21 Board of Water and Soil Resources.

11.22 **(d) Accelerated Shallow Lakes and Wetlands**  
11.23 **Enhancement - Phase VII**

11.24 \$2,130,000 in the first year is to the  
11.25 commissioner of natural resources to  
11.26 enhance and restore shallow lakes statewide.  
11.27 A list of proposed land restorations and  
11.28 enhancements must be provided as part of  
11.29 the required accomplishment plan.

11.30 Subd. 5. **Habitats** 22,368,000 -0-

11.31 **(a) DNR Aquatic Habitat - Phase VII**

11.32 \$4,540,000 in the first year is to the  
11.33 commissioner of natural resources to acquire  
11.34 interests in land in fee and permanent  
11.35 conservation easements for aquatic

12.1 management purposes under Minnesota  
 12.2 Statutes, sections 86A.05, subdivision 14,  
 12.3 and 97C.02, and to restore and enhance  
 12.4 aquatic habitat. Up to \$130,000 is for  
 12.5 establishing a monitoring and enforcement  
 12.6 fund as approved in the accomplishment  
 12.7 plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes,  
 12.8 section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of  
 12.9 proposed land acquisitions and restorations  
 12.10 and enhancements must be provided as part  
 12.11 of the required accomplishment plan.

12.12 **(b) Metro Big Rivers - Phase VI**

12.13 \$2,000,000 in the first year is to the  
 12.14 commissioner of natural resources for  
 12.15 agreements to acquire land in fee and in  
 12.16 permanent conservation easements and  
 12.17 to restore and enhance natural systems  
 12.18 associated with the Mississippi, Minnesota,  
 12.19 and St. Croix Rivers as follows: \$475,000 to  
 12.20 Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge  
 12.21 Trust, Inc.; \$275,000 to Friends of the  
 12.22 Mississippi River; \$400,000 to Great River  
 12.23 Greening; \$375,000 to Minnesota Land Trust;  
 12.24 and \$475,000 to The Trust for Public Land.  
 12.25 Up to \$60,000 to Minnesota Land Trust is for  
 12.26 establishing a monitoring and enforcement  
 12.27 fund as approved in the accomplishment  
 12.28 plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes,  
 12.29 section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of  
 12.30 proposed land acquisitions and permanent  
 12.31 conservation easements must be provided as  
 12.32 part of the required accomplishment plan.

12.33 **(c) Minnesota Trout Unlimited Coldwater Fish**  
 12.34 **Habitat Enhancement and Restoration - Phase**  
 12.35 **VII**

13.1 \$1,890,000 in the first year is to the  
 13.2 commissioner of natural resources for an  
 13.3 agreement with Minnesota Trout Unlimited  
 13.4 to restore and enhance habitat for trout  
 13.5 and other species in and along coldwater  
 13.6 rivers and streams in Minnesota. A list of  
 13.7 proposed restorations and enhancements  
 13.8 must be provided as part of the required  
 13.9 accomplishment plan.

13.10 **(d) Lake Bemidji South Shore Restoration and**  
 13.11 **Enhancement**

13.12 \$1,650,000 in the first year is to the  
 13.13 commissioner of natural resources for  
 13.14 an agreement with the city of Bemidji to  
 13.15 restore and enhance fish habitat on Lake  
 13.16 Bemidji. A list of proposed restorations and  
 13.17 enhancements must be provided as part of  
 13.18 the required accomplishment plan.

13.19 **(e) Sand Hill River Fish Passage**

13.20 \$990,000 in the first year is to the  
 13.21 commissioner of natural resources for  
 13.22 an agreement with the Sand Hill River  
 13.23 Watershed District to restore fish habitat  
 13.24 in the Sand Hill River watershed. A list of  
 13.25 proposed restorations must be provided as  
 13.26 part of the required accomplishment plan.

13.27 **(f) Shell Rock River Watershed Habitat**  
 13.28 **Restoration Program - Phase IV**

13.29 \$2,414,000 in the first year is to the  
 13.30 commissioner of natural resources for  
 13.31 an agreement with the Shell Rock River  
 13.32 Watershed District to protect, restore,  
 13.33 and enhance aquatic habitat in the Shell  
 13.34 Rock River watershed. A list of proposed  
 13.35 acquisitions, restorations, and enhancements

14.1 must be provided as part of the required  
 14.2 accomplishment plan.

14.3 **(g) Lake Nokomis Integrated Habitat**  
 14.4 **Enhancement**

14.5 \$444,000 in the first year is to the  
 14.6 commissioner of natural resources for an  
 14.7 agreement with the Minneapolis Park and  
 14.8 Recreation Board to enhance aquatic habitat  
 14.9 on Lake Nokomis. A list of proposed  
 14.10 enhancements must be provided as part of  
 14.11 the required accomplishment plan.

14.12 **(h) Conservation Partners Legacy Grant**  
 14.13 **Program: Statewide and Metro Habitat -**  
 14.14 **Phase VII**

14.15 \$8,440,000 in the first year is to the  
 14.16 commissioner of natural resources for a  
 14.17 program to provide competitive, matching  
 14.18 grants of up to \$400,000 to local, regional,  
 14.19 state, and national organizations for  
 14.20 enhancing, restoring, or protecting forests,  
 14.21 wetlands, prairies, or habitat for fish, game,  
 14.22 or wildlife in Minnesota. Of this amount,  
 14.23 \$3,692,000 is for grants in the seven-county  
 14.24 metropolitan area and cities with a population  
 14.25 of 50,000 or greater. Grants shall not be made  
 14.26 for activities required to fulfill the duties  
 14.27 of owners of lands subject to conservation  
 14.28 easements. Grants shall not be made from the  
 14.29 appropriation in this paragraph for projects  
 14.30 that have a total project cost exceeding  
 14.31 \$575,000. Of this appropriation, \$596,000  
 14.32 may be spent for personnel costs and other  
 14.33 direct and necessary administrative costs.  
 14.34 Grantees may acquire land or interests in  
 14.35 land. Easements must be permanent. Grants  
 14.36 may not be used to establish easement

15.1 stewardship accounts. Land acquired in fee  
15.2 must be open to hunting and fishing during  
15.3 the open season unless otherwise provided  
15.4 by law. The program must require a match  
15.5 of at least ten percent from nonstate sources  
15.6 for all grants. The match may be cash or  
15.7 in-kind resources. For grant applications  
15.8 of \$25,000 or less, the commissioner shall  
15.9 provide a separate, simplified application  
15.10 process. Subject to Minnesota Statutes, the  
15.11 commissioner of natural resources shall,  
15.12 when evaluating projects of equal value,  
15.13 give priority to organizations that have a  
15.14 history of receiving or a charter to receive  
15.15 private contributions for local conservation  
15.16 or habitat projects. If acquiring land or a  
15.17 conservation easement, priority must be  
15.18 given to projects associated with or within  
15.19 one mile of existing wildlife management  
15.20 areas under Minnesota Statutes, section  
15.21 86A.05, subdivision 8; scientific and natural  
15.22 areas under Minnesota Statutes, sections  
15.23 84.033 and 86A.05, subdivision 5; or aquatic  
15.24 management areas under Minnesota Statutes,  
15.25 sections 86A.05, subdivision 14, and 97C.02.  
15.26 All restoration or enhancement projects  
15.27 must be on land permanently protected by  
15.28 a permanent covenant ensuring perpetual  
15.29 maintenance and protection of restored  
15.30 and enhanced habitat, by a conservation  
15.31 easement, or by public ownership or in  
15.32 public waters as defined in Minnesota  
15.33 Statutes, section 103G.005, subdivision  
15.34 15. Priority must be given to restoration  
15.35 and enhancement projects on public lands.  
15.36 Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056,

16.1 subdivision 13, applies to grants awarded  
 16.2 under this paragraph. This appropriation is  
 16.3 available until June 30, 2018. No less than  
 16.4 five percent of the amount of each grant  
 16.5 must be held back from reimbursement until  
 16.6 the grant recipient has completed a grant  
 16.7 accomplishment report by the deadline and  
 16.8 in the form prescribed by and satisfactory to  
 16.9 the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.  
 16.10 The commissioner shall provide notice of  
 16.11 the grant program in the game and fish law  
 16.12 summary prepared under Minnesota Statutes,  
 16.13 section 97A.051, subdivision 2.

16.14 Subd. 6. Administration 1,480,000 607,000

16.15 **(a) Contract Management**

16.16 \$150,000 in the first year is to the  
 16.17 commissioner of natural resources for  
 16.18 contract management duties assigned in this  
 16.19 section. The commissioner shall provide an  
 16.20 accomplishment plan in the form specified by  
 16.21 the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council  
 16.22 on the expenditure of this appropriation.  
 16.23 The accomplishment plan must include a  
 16.24 copy of the grant contract template and  
 16.25 reimbursement manual. No money may  
 16.26 be expended prior to the Lessard-Sams  
 16.27 Outdoor Heritage Council's approval of the  
 16.28 accomplishment plan.

16.29 **(b) Legislative Coordinating Commission**

16.30 \$608,000 in the first year and \$607,000  
 16.31 in the second year are to the Legislative  
 16.32 Coordinating Commission for administrative  
 16.33 expenses of the Lessard-Sams Outdoor  
 16.34 Heritage Council and for compensation and  
 16.35 expense reimbursement of council members.



17.1 This appropriation is available until June 30,  
17.2 2017. Minnesota Statutes, section 16A.281,  
17.3 applies to this appropriation.

17.4 **(c) Technical Evaluation Panel**

17.5 \$100,000 in the first year is to the  
17.6 commissioner of natural resources for a  
17.7 technical evaluation panel to conduct up to  
17.8 ten restoration evaluations under Minnesota  
17.9 Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 10.

17.10 **(d) Legacy Web Site**

17.11 \$15,000 in the first year is to the Legislative  
17.12 Coordinating Commission for the Web site  
17.13 required in Minnesota Statutes, section  
17.14 3.303, subdivision 10.

17.15 **Subd. 7. Availability of Appropriation**

17.16 Money appropriated in this section may  
17.17 not be spent on activities unless they are  
17.18 directly related to and necessary for a  
17.19 specific appropriation and are specified in  
17.20 the accomplishment plan approved by the  
17.21 Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.  
17.22 Money appropriated in this section must not  
17.23 be spent on indirect costs or other institutional  
17.24 overhead charges that are not directly related  
17.25 to and necessary for a specific appropriation.

17.26 Unless otherwise provided, the amounts  
17.27 in this section are available until June 30,  
17.28 2018. For acquisition of real property, the  
17.29 amounts in this section are available until  
17.30 June 30, 2019, if a binding agreement with a  
17.31 landowner or purchase agreement is entered  
17.32 into by June 30, 2018, and closed no later  
17.33 than June 30, 2019. Money for restoration or  
17.34 enhancement is available until June 30, 2020,

18.1 or five years after acquisition, whichever is  
18.2 later, in order to complete initial restoration  
18.3 or enhancement work. If a project receives  
18.4 at least 15 percent of its funding from federal  
18.5 funds, the time period of the appropriation  
18.6 may be extended to equal the availability  
18.7 of federal funding to a maximum of six  
18.8 years, provided the federal funding was  
18.9 confirmed and included within the first draft  
18.10 accomplishment plan. Money appropriated  
18.11 for fee title acquisition of land may be used to  
18.12 restore, enhance, and provide for public use  
18.13 of the land acquired with the appropriation.  
18.14 Public use facilities must have a minimal  
18.15 impact on habitat in acquired lands.

18.16 **Subd. 8. Payment Conditions and Capital**  
18.17 **Equipment Expenditures**

18.18 All agreements referred to in this section must  
18.19 be administered on a reimbursement basis  
18.20 unless otherwise provided in this section.  
18.21 Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, section  
18.22 16A.41, expenditures directly related  
18.23 to each appropriation's purpose made  
18.24 on or after July 1, 2015, or the date of  
18.25 accomplishment plan approval, whichever is  
18.26 later, are eligible for reimbursement unless  
18.27 otherwise provided in this section. For the  
18.28 purposes of administering appropriations  
18.29 and legislatively authorized agreements paid  
18.30 out of the outdoor heritage fund, an expense  
18.31 must be considered reimbursable by the  
18.32 administering agency when the recipient  
18.33 presents the agency with an invoice, or  
18.34 binding agreement with the landowner, and  
18.35 the recipient attests that the goods have  
18.36 been received or the landowner agreement

19.1 is binding. Periodic reimbursement must  
 19.2 be made upon receiving documentation that  
 19.3 the items articulated in the accomplishment  
 19.4 plan approved by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor  
 19.5 Heritage Council have been achieved,  
 19.6 including partial achievements as evidenced  
 19.7 by progress reports approved by the  
 19.8 Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.  
 19.9 Reasonable amounts may be advanced to  
 19.10 projects to accommodate cash flow needs,  
 19.11 support future management of acquired  
 19.12 lands, or match a federal share. The  
 19.13 advances must be approved as part of the  
 19.14 accomplishment plan. Capital equipment  
 19.15 expenditures for specific items in excess of  
 19.16 \$10,000 must be itemized in and approved as  
 19.17 part of the accomplishment plan.

19.18 Subd. 9. **Mapping**

19.19 Each direct recipient of money appropriated  
 19.20 in this section, as well as each recipient of  
 19.21 a grant awarded pursuant to this section,  
 19.22 must provide geographic information to the  
 19.23 Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council  
 19.24 for mapping any lands acquired in fee with  
 19.25 money appropriated in this section and  
 19.26 open to public taking of fish and game.  
 19.27 The commissioner of natural resources  
 19.28 shall include the lands acquired in fee with  
 19.29 money appropriated in this section on maps  
 19.30 showing public recreation opportunities.  
 19.31 Maps must include information on and  
 19.32 acknowledgement of the outdoor heritage  
 19.33 fund, including a notation of any restrictions.

19.34 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 97A.056, subdivision 8, is amended to read:

20.1 Subd. 8. **Revenues.** (a) When a parcel of land that was previously purchased with  
 20.2 money from the outdoor heritage funds fund is transferred to the state, the owner of the  
 20.3 land shall disclose to the council and commissioner of natural resources:

20.4 (1) all revenues generated from activities on the land from the time the land was  
 20.5 purchased with money from the outdoor heritage funds fund until the land was transferred  
 20.6 to the state;

20.7 (2) all holding costs associated with managing the land between the time of purchase  
 20.8 with money from the outdoor heritage funds fund and the time the land was transferred to  
 20.9 the state; and

20.10 (3) the total net revenues as determined by subtracting the costs described in clause  
 20.11 (2) from the revenues described in clause (1).

20.12 (b) The owner of the land shall submit the total net revenues determined under  
 20.13 paragraph (a), clause (3), to the state no later than 60 days after the land is transferred to  
 20.14 the state.

20.15 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 97A.056, is amended by adding a subdivision  
 20.16 to read:

20.17 Subd. 20. **Donations.** A recipient shall not accept a monetary donation or payment  
 20.18 from an owner of land that is acquired in fee in whole or in part with an appropriation from  
 20.19 the outdoor heritage fund that exceeds the documented expenses that are directly related  
 20.20 to and necessary for activities specified in the accomplishment plan approved by the  
 20.21 Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council, unless expressly approved by the Lessard-Sams  
 20.22 Outdoor Heritage Council in the accomplishment plan. This subdivision does not apply to  
 20.23 donations that are not connected with the acquisition transaction or bargain sales, as defined  
 20.24 by Code of Federal Regulations, title 26, section 1.1011-2, provided that the purchase  
 20.25 price reimbursed by the state does not exceed the purchase price paid by the recipient.

20.26 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2016, and applies to money  
 20.27 appropriated on or after that date.

20.28 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 97A.056, is amended by adding a subdivision  
 20.29 to read:

20.30 Subd. 21. **Haying and grazing.** Lands acquired with money appropriated from the  
 20.31 outdoor heritage fund may not be used for emergency haying and grazing in response to  
 20.32 federal or state disaster declarations. This subdivision does not apply to conservation  
 20.33 grazing under a management plan implemented before the effective date of this section.

21.1 Sec. 6. Laws 2014, chapter 256, article 1, section 2, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

21.2 Subd. 5. **Habitats** -0- 30,890,000

21.3 **(a) DNR Aquatic Habitat - Phase VI**

21.4 \$2,560,000 in the second year is to the  
 21.5 commissioner of natural resources to acquire  
 21.6 interests in land in fee and permanent  
 21.7 conservation easements for aquatic  
 21.8 management purposes under Minnesota  
 21.9 Statutes, sections 86A.05, subdivision 14,  
 21.10 and 97C.02, and to restore and enhance  
 21.11 aquatic habitat. Up to \$32,500 is for  
 21.12 establishing a monitoring and enforcement  
 21.13 fund as approved in the accomplishment  
 21.14 plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes,  
 21.15 section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of  
 21.16 proposed land acquisitions and restorations  
 21.17 and enhancements must be provided as part  
 21.18 of the required accomplishment plan.

21.19 **(b) Fisheries Habitat Protection on**  
 21.20 **Strategic North Central Minnesota Lakes**

21.21 \$2,130,000 in the second year is to the  
 21.22 commissioner of natural resources for  
 21.23 agreements with the Leech Lake Area  
 21.24 Watershed Foundation and Minnesota Land  
 21.25 Trust to acquire land in fee and permanent  
 21.26 conservation easements to sustain healthy  
 21.27 fish habitat on lakes in Aitkin, Cass, Crow  
 21.28 Wing, and Hubbard Counties as follows:  
 21.29 \$1,150,300 to Leech Lake Area Watershed  
 21.30 Foundation; and \$979,700 to Minnesota  
 21.31 Land Trust, of which up to \$120,000 to  
 21.32 Minnesota Land Trust is for establishing  
 21.33 a monitoring and enforcement fund as  
 21.34 approved in the accomplishment plan and  
 21.35 subject to Minnesota Statutes, section

22.1 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of proposed  
22.2 land acquisitions must be provided as part of  
22.3 the required accomplishment plan.

22.4 **(c) Habitat Protection in Dakota County**  
22.5 **- Phase V**

22.6 \$1,190,000 in the second year is to the  
22.7 commissioner of natural resources for a  
22.8 contract with Dakota County to acquire  
22.9 permanent conservation easements and land  
22.10 in fee and to restore and enhance habitats in  
22.11 rivers and lake watersheds in Dakota County.

22.12 Up to \$15,000 to Dakota County is for  
22.13 establishing a monitoring and enforcement  
22.14 fund as approved in the accomplishment  
22.15 plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes,  
22.16 section 97A.056, subdivision 17. Lands  
22.17 acquired or lands with easements acquired  
22.18 with this appropriation may not be used for  
22.19 emergency haying and grazing in response  
22.20 to federal or state disaster declarations.

22.21 Conservation grazing under a management  
22.22 plan that is already being implemented may  
22.23 continue. A list of proposed land acquisitions  
22.24 and restorations and enhancements must  
22.25 be provided as part of the required  
22.26 accomplishment plan.

22.27 **(d) Metro Big Rivers - Phase V**

22.28 \$2,650,000 in the second year is to the  
22.29 commissioner of natural resources for  
22.30 agreements to acquire land in fee and  
22.31 permanent conservation easements and  
22.32 to restore and enhance natural systems  
22.33 associated with the Mississippi, Minnesota,  
22.34 and St. Croix Rivers as follows: \$600,000  
22.35 to Minnesota Valley National Wildlife

23.1 Refuge Trust, Inc.; \$160,000 to Friends of  
23.2 the Mississippi River; \$400,000 to Great  
23.3 River Greening; \$590,000 to Minnesota  
23.4 Land Trust, of which up to \$77,000 is for  
23.5 establishing a monitoring and enforcement  
23.6 fund as approved in the accomplishment plan  
23.7 and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section  
23.8 97A.056, subdivision 17; and \$900,000 to  
23.9 The Trust for Public Land. Lands acquired  
23.10 or lands with easements acquired with  
23.11 this appropriation may not be used for  
23.12 emergency haying and grazing in response  
23.13 to federal or state disaster declarations.  
23.14 Conservation grazing under a management  
23.15 plan that is already being implemented may  
23.16 continue. A list of proposed land acquisitions  
23.17 and permanent conservation easements  
23.18 must be provided as part of the required  
23.19 accomplishment plan.

23.20 **(e) Mustinka River Fish and Wildlife**  
23.21 **Habitat Corridor Rehabilitation**

23.22 \$2,440,000 in the second year is to the  
23.23 commissioner of natural resources for  
23.24 an agreement with the Bois de Sioux  
23.25 Watershed District to acquire land in fee  
23.26 and to restore natural systems associated  
23.27 with the Mustinka River located within the  
23.28 Bois de Sioux Watershed. Lands acquired  
23.29 with this appropriation may not be used for  
23.30 emergency haying and grazing in response  
23.31 to federal or state disaster declarations.  
23.32 Conservation grazing under a management  
23.33 plan that is already being implemented may  
23.34 continue. A list of proposed land acquisitions  
23.35 must be provided as part of the required  
23.36 accomplishment plan.

24.1 **(f) Minnesota Trout Unlimited Coldwater**  
24.2 **Fish Habitat Enhancement and**  
24.3 **Restoration - Phase VI**

24.4 \$1,900,000 in the second year is to the  
24.5 commissioner of natural resources for an  
24.6 agreement with Minnesota Trout Unlimited  
24.7 to restore and enhance habitat for trout  
24.8 and other species in and along coldwater  
24.9 rivers and streams in Minnesota. A list of  
24.10 proposed land restorations and enhancements  
24.11 must be provided as part of the required  
24.12 accomplishment plan.

24.13 **(g) St. Louis River Restoration Initiative -**  
24.14 **Phase II**

24.15 \$2,290,000 in the second year is to the  
24.16 commissioner of natural resources to restore  
24.17 habitat in the lower St. Louis River estuary.  
24.18 Of this appropriation, up to \$500,000 is for  
24.19 an agreement with Minnesota Land Trust. A  
24.20 list of proposed restorations must be provided  
24.21 as part of the required accomplishment plan.

24.22 **(h) Knife River Habitat Rehabilitation -**  
24.23 **Phase II**

24.24 \$1,410,000 in the second year is to the  
24.25 commissioner of natural resources for an  
24.26 agreement with the Lake Superior Steelhead  
24.27 Association to enhance trout habitat in the  
24.28 Knife River watershed. A list of proposed  
24.29 enhancements must be provided as part of  
24.30 the required accomplishment plan.

24.31 **(i) Restoration and Enhancement of**  
24.32 **Washington County Public Lands**

24.33 \$430,000 in the second year is to the  
24.34 commissioner of natural resources for an



25.1 agreement with Washington County to  
25.2 restore and enhance habitat on public lands  
25.3 in Washington County. A restoration and  
25.4 enhancement plan and a list of proposed  
25.5 land restorations and enhancements  
25.6 must be provided as part of the required  
25.7 accomplishment plan.

25.8 **(j) Wirth Park Enhancements**

25.9 \$600,000 in the second year is to the  
25.10 commissioner of natural resources for an  
25.11 agreement with the Minneapolis Park Board  
25.12 to enhance riparian and upland habitat  
25.13 within Wirth Park in Hennepin County.  
25.14 A restoration and enhancement plan and  
25.15 a list of proposed land restorations and  
25.16 enhancements must be provided as part of  
25.17 the required accomplishment plan.

25.18 **(k) Evaluate Effectiveness of Aquatic  
25.19 Invasive Species Prevention Strategies**

25.20 \$4,040,000 in the second year is to the  
25.21 commissioner of natural resources for an  
25.22 agreement with the Central Minnesota  
25.23 Initiative Fund to develop a series of pilot  
25.24 projects to enhance aquatic habitat by  
25.25 preventing the spread of aquatic invasive  
25.26 species, including pilot projects conducting  
25.27 education and outreach, inspection and  
25.28 decontamination, enforcement, and other  
25.29 activities. All pilot projects must be  
25.30 conducted on a reimbursement basis and  
25.31 require a match of nonoutdoor heritage fund  
25.32 dollars. A required evaluation of results  
25.33 must be funded with nonoutdoor heritage  
25.34 fund dollars. The required evaluation must  
25.35 evaluate the efficacy of inspection and

26.1 decontamination activities utilized in any of  
26.2 the pilot projects in preventing the spread  
26.3 of aquatic invasive species. A list of pilot  
26.4 projects must be included in the required final  
26.5 report. This appropriation is available until  
26.6 June 30, 2019. The accomplishment plan  
26.7 must accelerate the start of the pilot project.

26.8 **(l) Albert Lea Lake Management and**  
26.9 **Invasive Species Control Structure -**  
26.10 **Supplement**

26.11 \$700,000 in the second year is added to  
26.12 the appropriation contained in Laws 2013,  
26.13 chapter 137, article 1, section 2, subdivision  
26.14 5, paragraph (h), to the commissioner of  
26.15 natural resources for an agreement with  
26.16 the Shell Rock River Watershed District to  
26.17 construct structural deterrents and lake level  
26.18 controls.

26.19 **(m) Conservation Partners Legacy Grant**  
26.20 **Program - Phase VI**

26.21 \$4,550,000 in the second year is to the  
26.22 commissioner of natural resources for a  
26.23 program to provide competitive, matching  
26.24 grants of up to \$400,000 to local, regional,  
26.25 state, and national organizations for  
26.26 enhancing, restoring, or protecting forests,  
26.27 wetlands, prairies, or habitat for fish, game,  
26.28 or wildlife in Minnesota. Grants shall not  
26.29 be made for activities required to fulfill  
26.30 the duties of owners of lands subject to  
26.31 conservation easements. Grants shall not  
26.32 be made from the appropriation in this  
26.33 paragraph for projects that have a total  
26.34 project cost exceeding \$575,000. Of this  
26.35 appropriation, \$460,000 may be spent

27.1 for personnel costs and other direct and  
27.2 necessary administrative costs. Grantees may  
27.3 acquire land or interests in land. Easements  
27.4 must be permanent. Grants may not be used  
27.5 to establish easement stewardship accounts.  
27.6 Land acquired in fee must be open to hunting  
27.7 and fishing during the open season unless  
27.8 otherwise provided by law. Lands acquired  
27.9 or lands with easements acquired with this  
27.10 appropriation may not be used for emergency  
27.11 haying and grazing in response to federal  
27.12 or state disaster declarations. Conservation  
27.13 grazing under a management plan that is  
27.14 already being implemented may continue.  
27.15 The program shall require a match of at  
27.16 least ten percent from nonstate sources  
27.17 for all grants. The match may be cash or  
27.18 in-kind resources. For grant applications  
27.19 of \$25,000 or less, the commissioner shall  
27.20 provide a separate, simplified application  
27.21 process. Subject to Minnesota Statutes, the  
27.22 commissioner of natural resources shall,  
27.23 when evaluating projects of equal value,  
27.24 give priority to organizations that have a  
27.25 history of receiving or charter to receive  
27.26 private contributions for local conservation  
27.27 or habitat projects. If acquiring land or a  
27.28 conservation easement, priority shall be  
27.29 given to projects associated with or within  
27.30 one mile of existing wildlife management  
27.31 areas under Minnesota Statutes, section  
27.32 86A.05, subdivision 8; scientific and natural  
27.33 areas under Minnesota Statutes, sections  
27.34 84.033 and 86A.05, subdivision 5; or aquatic  
27.35 management areas under Minnesota Statutes,  
27.36 sections 86A.05, subdivision 14, and 97C.02.

28.1 All restoration or enhancement projects  
28.2 must be on land permanently protected by  
28.3 a permanent covenant ensuring perpetual  
28.4 maintenance and protection of restored  
28.5 and enhanced habitat, by a conservation  
28.6 easement, or by public ownership or in public  
28.7 waters as defined in Minnesota Statutes,  
28.8 section 103G.005, subdivision 15. Priority  
28.9 shall be given to restoration and enhancement  
28.10 projects on public lands. Minnesota Statutes,  
28.11 section 97A.056, subdivision 13, applies  
28.12 to grants awarded under this paragraph.  
28.13 This appropriation is available until June  
28.14 30, 2018. No less than five percent of the  
28.15 amount of each grant must be held back from  
28.16 reimbursement until the grant recipient has  
28.17 completed a grant accomplishment report by  
28.18 the deadline and in the form prescribed by  
28.19 and satisfactory to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor  
28.20 Heritage Council. The commissioner shall  
28.21 provide notice of the grant program in  
28.22 the game and fish law summary prepared  
28.23 under Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.051,  
28.24 subdivision 2.

28.25 **(n) Conservation Partners Legacy Metro**  
28.26 **Grant Program**

28.27 \$4,000,000 in the second year is to the  
28.28 commissioner of natural resources for a  
28.29 program to provide competitive, matching  
28.30 grants of up to \$400,000 to local, regional,  
28.31 state, and national organizations for  
28.32 enhancing, restoring, or protecting forests,  
28.33 wetlands, prairies, or habitat for fish, game,  
28.34 or wildlife in the seven-county metropolitan  
28.35 area and cities with a population of 50,000  
28.36 or greater. Grants shall not be made for

29.1 activities required to fulfill the duties of  
29.2 owners of lands subject to conservation  
29.3 easements. Grants shall not be made from the  
29.4 appropriation in this paragraph for projects  
29.5 that have a total project cost exceeding  
29.6 \$575,000. Of this appropriation, \$70,000  
29.7 may be spent for direct and necessary  
29.8 administrative costs. Grantees may acquire  
29.9 land or interests in land. Easements must  
29.10 be permanent. Grants may not be used to  
29.11 establish easement stewardship accounts.  
29.12 Land acquired in fee must be open to hunting  
29.13 and fishing during the open season unless  
29.14 otherwise provided by law. Lands acquired  
29.15 or lands with easements acquired with this  
29.16 appropriation may not be used for emergency  
29.17 haying and grazing in response to federal  
29.18 or state disaster declarations. Conservation  
29.19 grazing under a management plan that is  
29.20 already being implemented may continue.  
29.21 The program shall require a match of at  
29.22 least ten percent from nonstate sources  
29.23 for all grants. The match may be cash or  
29.24 in-kind resources. For grant applications  
29.25 of \$25,000 or less, the commissioner shall  
29.26 provide a separate, simplified application  
29.27 process. Subject to Minnesota Statutes, the  
29.28 commissioner of natural resources shall,  
29.29 when evaluating projects of equal value,  
29.30 give priority to organizations that have a  
29.31 history of receiving or charter to receive  
29.32 private contributions for local conservation  
29.33 or habitat projects. If acquiring land or a  
29.34 conservation easement, priority shall be  
29.35 given to projects associated with or within  
29.36 one mile of existing wildlife management

30.1 areas under Minnesota Statutes, section  
30.2 86A.05, subdivision 8; scientific and natural  
30.3 areas under Minnesota Statutes, sections  
30.4 84.033 and 86A.05, subdivision 5; or aquatic  
30.5 management areas under Minnesota Statutes,  
30.6 sections 86A.05, subdivision 14, and 97C.02.  
30.7 All restoration or enhancement projects  
30.8 must be on land permanently protected by  
30.9 a permanent covenant ensuring perpetual  
30.10 maintenance and protection of restored  
30.11 and enhanced habitat, by a conservation  
30.12 easement, or by public ownership or in public  
30.13 waters as defined in Minnesota Statutes,  
30.14 section 103G.005, subdivision 15. Priority  
30.15 shall be given to restoration and enhancement  
30.16 projects on public lands. Minnesota Statutes,  
30.17 section 97A.056, subdivision 13, applies  
30.18 to grants awarded under this paragraph.  
30.19 This appropriation is available until June  
30.20 30, 2018. No less than five percent of the  
30.21 amount of each grant must be held back from  
30.22 reimbursement until the grant recipient has  
30.23 completed a grant accomplishment report by  
30.24 the deadline and in the form prescribed by  
30.25 and satisfactory to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor  
30.26 Heritage Council. The commissioner shall  
30.27 provide notice of the grant program in  
30.28 the game and fish law summary prepared  
30.29 under Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.051,  
30.30 subdivision 2.

30.31 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.