

**SENATE**  
**STATE OF MINNESOTA**  
**EIGHTY-NINTH SESSION**

**S.F. No. 2527**

(SENATE AUTHORS: SAXHAUG and Ingebrigtsen)

DATE	D-PG	OFFICIAL STATUS
03/10/2016	4955	Introduction and first reading Referred to Finance
04/28/2016	6535a	Comm report: To pass as amended
	6538	Second reading
05/03/2016	6671	Special Order
	6672	Third reading Passed
05/10/2016	6886	Returned from House with amendment
	6886	Senate not concur, conference committee of 5 requested
	6968	Senate conferees Saxhaug; Sparks; Lourey; Ingebrigtsen; Cohen
05/12/2016	7007	House conferees Urdahl; McNamara; Torkelson; Heintzeman; Lillie
05/21/2016	7289c	Conference committee report, delete everything
		Senate adopted CC report and repassed bill
	7357	Third reading
05/22/2016		House adopted SCC report and repassed bill

A bill for an act

relating to natural resources; appropriating money from outdoor heritage fund; modifying evaluation provisions; modifying prior appropriations; amending Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 97A.056, subdivision 10; Laws 2015, First Special Session chapter 2, article 1, section 2, subdivisions 2, 3, 5.

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

Section 1. **OUTDOOR HERITAGE APPROPRIATION.**

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

<b>APPROPRIATIONS</b>	
<b>Available for the Year</b>	
<b>Ending June 30</b>	
<b><u>2016</u></b>	<b><u>2017</u></b>

Sec. 2. **OUTDOOR HERITAGE FUND**

<b><u>Subdivision 1. Total Appropriation</u></b>	<b>\$</b>	<b><u>-0-</u></b>	<b>\$</b>	<b><u>111,809,000</u></b>
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This appropriation is from the outdoor heritage fund. The amounts that may be spent for each purpose are specified in the following subdivisions.

2.1	<u>Subd. 2. <b>Prairies</b></u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>31,000,000</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>VIII</u></b>		
2.5	<u>\$3,250,000 the second 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 acquisitions must be provided</u>		
2.19	<u>as part of the required accomplishment plan.</u>		
2.20	<b><u>(b) Accelerating Wildlife Management Area</u></b>		
2.21	<b><u>Acquisition - Phase VIII</u></b>		
2.22	<u>\$5,229,000 the second year is to the</u>		
2.23	<u>commissioner of natural resources for</u>		
2.24	<u>an agreement with Pheasants Forever to</u>		
2.25	<u>acquire in fee and restore lands for wildlife</u>		
2.26	<u>management area purposes under Minnesota</u>		
2.27	<u>Statutes, section 86A.05, subdivision 8.</u>		
2.28	<u>Subject to evaluation criteria in Minnesota</u>		
2.29	<u>Rules, part 6136.0900, priority must be</u>		
2.30	<u>given to acquisition of lands that are eligible</u>		
2.31	<u>for the native prairie bank under Minnesota</u>		
2.32	<u>Statutes, section 84.96, or lands adjacent to</u>		
2.33	<u>protected native prairie. A list of proposed</u>		
2.34	<u>land acquisitions must be provided as part of</u>		
2.35	<u>the required accomplishment plan.</u>		

3.1 **(c) Martin County/Fox Lake Wildlife**  
 3.2 **Management Area Acquisition**

3.3 \$1,000,000 the second year is to the  
 3.4 commissioner of natural resources for an  
 3.5 agreement with Fox Lake Conservation  
 3.6 League, Inc. to acquire land in fee and restore  
 3.7 strategic prairie grassland, wetland, and other  
 3.8 wildlife habitat for wildlife management area  
 3.9 purposes under Minnesota Statutes, section  
 3.10 86A.05, subdivision 8. A list of proposed  
 3.11 acquisitions must be provided as part of the  
 3.12 required accomplishment plan.

3.13 **(d) Northern Tallgrass Prairie National**  
 3.14 **Wildlife Refuge Land Acquisition - Phase VII**

3.15 \$2,754,000 the second year is to the  
 3.16 commissioner of natural resources for an  
 3.17 agreement with The Nature Conservancy  
 3.18 in cooperation with the United States Fish  
 3.19 and Wildlife Service to acquire land in fee  
 3.20 or permanent conservation easements and  
 3.21 restore lands within the Northern Tallgrass  
 3.22 Prairie Habitat Preservation Area in western  
 3.23 Minnesota for addition to the Northern  
 3.24 Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge.  
 3.25 Subject to evaluation criteria in Minnesota  
 3.26 Rules, part 6136.0900, priority must be  
 3.27 given to acquisition of lands that are eligible  
 3.28 for the native prairie bank under Minnesota  
 3.29 Statutes, section 84.96, or lands adjacent to  
 3.30 protected native prairie. A list of proposed  
 3.31 land acquisitions must be provided as part  
 3.32 of the required accomplishment plan and  
 3.33 must be consistent with the priorities in the  
 3.34 Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan.

3.35 **(e) Cannon River Headwaters Habitat**  
 3.36 **Complex - Phase VI**

4.1 \$583,000 the second year is to the  
4.2 commissioner of natural resources for an  
4.3 agreement with The Trust for Public Land  
4.4 to acquire land in fee and restore lands in  
4.5 the Cannon River watershed for wildlife  
4.6 management purposes under Minnesota  
4.7 Statutes, section 86A.05, subdivision 8.  
4.8 Subject to evaluation criteria in Minnesota  
4.9 Rules, part 6136.0900, priority must be  
4.10 given to acquisition of lands that are eligible  
4.11 for the native prairie bank under Minnesota  
4.12 Statutes, section 84.96, or lands adjacent to  
4.13 protected native prairie. A list of proposed  
4.14 land acquisitions must be provided as part of  
4.15 the required accomplishment plan.

4.16 **(f) Accelerated Native Prairie Bank Protection**  
4.17 **- Phase V**

4.18 \$2,541,000 the second year is to the  
4.19 commissioner of natural resources  
4.20 to implement the Minnesota Prairie  
4.21 Conservation Plan through the acquisition of  
4.22 permanent conservation easements to protect  
4.23 and restore native prairie. Of this amount, up  
4.24 to \$120,000 is for establishing monitoring  
4.25 and enforcement funds as approved in  
4.26 the accomplishment plan and subject to  
4.27 Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056,  
4.28 subdivision 17. Subject to evaluation criteria  
4.29 in Minnesota Rules, part 6136.0900, priority  
4.30 must be given to acquisition of lands that  
4.31 are eligible for the native prairie bank under  
4.32 Minnesota Statutes, section 84.96, or lands  
4.33 adjacent to protected native prairie. A list of  
4.34 permanent conservation easements must be  
4.35 provided as part of the final report.

5.1 **(g) Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) Buffers for**  
5.2 **Wildlife and Water - Phase VI**

5.3 \$6,708,000 the second year is to the Board  
5.4 of Water and Soil Resources to acquire  
5.5 permanent conservation easements and  
5.6 restore habitat under Minnesota Statutes,  
5.7 section 103F.515, to protect, restore, and  
5.8 enhance habitat by expanding the clean  
5.9 water fund riparian buffer program for at  
5.10 least equal wildlife benefits from buffers on  
5.11 private land. Of this amount, up to \$130,000  
5.12 is to establish a monitoring and enforcement  
5.13 fund as approved in the accomplishment plan  
5.14 and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section  
5.15 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of permanent  
5.16 conservation easements must be provided as  
5.17 part of the final report.

5.18 **(h) Prairie Chicken Habitat Partnership of the**  
5.19 **Southern Red River Valley - Phase II**

5.20 \$2,269,000 the second year is to the  
5.21 commissioner of natural resources for  
5.22 an agreement with Pheasants Forever, in  
5.23 cooperation with the Minnesota Prairie  
5.24 Chicken Society, to acquire land in fee and  
5.25 restore and enhance lands in the southern  
5.26 Red River Valley for wildlife management  
5.27 purposes under Minnesota Statutes, section  
5.28 86A.05, subdivision 8, or for designation  
5.29 and management as waterfowl production  
5.30 areas in Minnesota, in cooperation with the  
5.31 United States Fish and Wildlife Service.  
5.32 Subject to evaluation criteria in Minnesota  
5.33 Rules, part 6136.0900, priority must be  
5.34 given to acquisition of lands that are eligible  
5.35 for the native prairie bank under Minnesota  
5.36 Statutes, section 84.96, or lands adjacent to

6.1 protected native prairie. A list of proposed  
6.2 land acquisitions must be provided as part of  
6.3 the required accomplishment plan.

6.4 **(i) Grassland Conservation Partnership -**  
6.5 **Phase II**

6.6 \$1,475,000 the second year is to the  
6.7 commissioner of natural resources for an  
6.8 agreement with The Conservation Fund, in  
6.9 cooperation with Minnesota Land Trust, to  
6.10 acquire permanent conservation easements  
6.11 and restore high priority grassland, prairie,  
6.12 and wetland habitats as follows: \$64,000  
6.13 to The Conservation Fund; and \$1,411,000  
6.14 to Minnesota Land Trust, of which up to  
6.15 \$100,000 is for establishing a monitoring  
6.16 and enforcement fund, as approved in  
6.17 the accomplishment plan and subject to  
6.18 Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056,  
6.19 subdivision 17. Subject to evaluation criteria  
6.20 in Minnesota Rules, part 6136.0900, priority  
6.21 must be given to acquisition of lands that  
6.22 are eligible for the native prairie bank under  
6.23 Minnesota Statutes, section 84.96, or lands  
6.24 adjacent to protected native prairie. A list of  
6.25 proposed acquisitions must be provided as  
6.26 part of the required accomplishment plan and  
6.27 must be consistent with the priorities in the  
6.28 Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan.

6.29 **(j) Accelerated Prairie Restoration and**  
6.30 **Enhancement on DNR Lands - Phase VIII**

6.31 \$3,983,000 the second year is to the  
6.32 commissioner of natural resources to  
6.33 accelerate restoration and enhancement  
6.34 of prairies, grasslands, and savannas on  
6.35 wildlife management areas, scientific and  
6.36 natural areas, native prairie bank land,

7.1 and bluff prairies on state forest land in  
 7.2 southeastern Minnesota. A list of proposed  
 7.3 land restorations and enhancements  
 7.4 must be provided as part of the required  
 7.5 accomplishment plan.

7.6 **(k) Anoka Sandplain Habitat Restoration and**  
 7.7 **Enhancement - Phase IV**

7.8 \$1,208,000 the second year is to the  
 7.9 commissioner of natural resources for  
 7.10 agreements to restore and enhance wildlife  
 7.11 habitat on public lands in Anoka, Isanti,  
 7.12 Morrison, Sherburne, and Todd Counties as  
 7.13 follows: \$93,000 to Anoka Conservation  
 7.14 District; \$25,000 to Isanti County Parks  
 7.15 and Recreation Department; \$813,000 to  
 7.16 Great River Greening; and \$277,000 to the  
 7.17 National Wild Turkey Federation. A list of  
 7.18 proposed land restorations and enhancements  
 7.19 must be provided as part of the required  
 7.20 accomplishment plan.

7.21 **Subd. 3. Forests** -0- 20,341,000

7.22 **(a) Young Forest Conservation - Phase II**

7.23 \$1,369,000 the second year is to the  
 7.24 commissioner of natural resources for  
 7.25 an agreement with the American Bird  
 7.26 Conservancy to restore publicly owned,  
 7.27 permanently protected forest lands for  
 7.28 wildlife management purposes. A list  
 7.29 of proposed forest land restorations  
 7.30 must be provided as part of the required  
 7.31 accomplishment plan.

7.32 **(b) Jack Pine Forest/Crow Wing River**  
 7.33 **Watershed Habitat Acquisition**

7.34 \$5,532,000 the second year is to the  
 7.35 commissioner of natural resources for an

8.1 agreement with the Minnesota Deer Hunters  
8.2 Association to acquire in fee and restore  
8.3 and enhance forest habitat lands in Cass,  
8.4 Hubbard, and Wadena Counties. Annual  
8.5 income statements and balance sheets for  
8.6 income and expenses from land acquired in  
8.7 fee with this appropriation and not transferred  
8.8 to state or local government ownership must  
8.9 be submitted to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor  
8.10 Heritage Council no later than 180 days  
8.11 following the close of the Minnesota Deer  
8.12 Hunters Association's fiscal year. A list of  
8.13 proposed land acquisitions must be provided  
8.14 as part of the required accomplishment plan.

8.15 **(c) Camp Ripley Partnership - Phase VI**

8.16 \$1,500,000 the second year is to the Board  
8.17 of Water and Soil Resources, in cooperation  
8.18 with the Morrison County Soil and Water  
8.19 Conservation District, to acquire permanent  
8.20 conservation easements and restore forest  
8.21 wildlife habitat within the boundaries  
8.22 of the Minnesota National Guard Camp  
8.23 Ripley Compatible Use Buffer. Of this  
8.24 amount, up to \$72,000 is to establish  
8.25 a monitoring and enforcement fund, as  
8.26 approved in the accomplishment plan and  
8.27 subject to Minnesota Statutes, section  
8.28 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of permanent  
8.29 conservation easements must be provided as  
8.30 part of the final report.

8.31 **(d) Southeast Minnesota Protection and**  
8.32 **Restoration - Phase IV**

8.33 \$5,000,000 the second year is to the  
8.34 commissioner of natural resources for an  
8.35 agreement with The Nature Conservancy, in

9.1 cooperation with The Trust for Public Land  
9.2 and Minnesota Land Trust, to acquire land  
9.3 in fee for wildlife management purposes  
9.4 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,  
9.5 subdivision 8, to acquire land in fee for  
9.6 scientific and natural areas under Minnesota  
9.7 Statutes, section 86A.05, subdivision  
9.8 5, to acquire land in fee for state forest  
9.9 purposes under Minnesota Statutes, section  
9.10 86A.05, subdivision 7, to acquire permanent  
9.11 conservation easements, and to restore  
9.12 and enhance prairie, grasslands, forest,  
9.13 and savanna as follows: \$1,506,000 to  
9.14 The Nature Conservancy; \$2,930,000 to  
9.15 The Trust for Public Land; and \$564,000  
9.16 to Minnesota Land Trust, of which up to  
9.17 \$80,000 to Minnesota Land Trust is to  
9.18 establish a monitoring and enforcement fund,  
9.19 as approved in the accomplishment plan  
9.20 and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section  
9.21 97A.056, subdivision 17. Annual income  
9.22 statements and balance sheets for income  
9.23 and expenses from land acquired in fee with  
9.24 this appropriation and not transferred to  
9.25 state or local government ownership must  
9.26 be submitted to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor  
9.27 Heritage Council. A list of proposed land  
9.28 acquisitions must be provided as part of the  
9.29 required accomplishment plan.

9.30 **(e) Minnesota Forests for the Future - Phase IV**

9.31 \$1,840,000 the second year is to the  
9.32 commissioner of natural resources to  
9.33 acquire forest, wetland, and shoreline  
9.34 habitat through working forest permanent  
9.35 conservation easements under the Minnesota  
9.36 forests for the future program pursuant

10.1 to Minnesota Statutes, section 84.66.  
 10.2 A conservation easement acquired with  
 10.3 money appropriated under this paragraph  
 10.4 must comply with Minnesota Statutes,  
 10.5 section 97A.056, subdivision 13. The  
 10.6 accomplishment plan must include an  
 10.7 easement monitoring and enforcement  
 10.8 plan. Of this amount, up to \$25,000 is to  
 10.9 establish a monitoring and enforcement fund  
 10.10 as approved in the accomplishment plan  
 10.11 and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section  
 10.12 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of permanent  
 10.13 conservation easements must be provided as  
 10.14 part of the final report.

10.15 **(f) Protect Key Forest Lands in Cass County -**  
 10.16 **Phase VII**

10.17 \$500,000 the second year is to the  
 10.18 commissioner of natural resources for an  
 10.19 agreement with Cass County to acquire land  
 10.20 in fee in Cass County for forest wildlife  
 10.21 habitat or to prevent forest fragmentation.  
 10.22 A list of proposed land acquisitions  
 10.23 must be provided as part of the required  
 10.24 accomplishment plan.

10.25 **(g) State Forest Acquisitions - Phase III**

10.26 \$1,000,000 the second year is to the  
 10.27 commissioner of natural resources to acquire  
 10.28 lands in fee for wildlife habitat purposes  
 10.29 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,  
 10.30 subdivision 7. A list of proposed land  
 10.31 acquisitions must be provided as part of the  
 10.32 required accomplishment plan.

10.33 **(h) Forest Habitat Protection Revolving**  
 10.34 **Account**

11.1 \$1,000,000 the second year is to the  
11.2 commissioner of natural resources to acquire  
11.3 lands in fee and permanent conservation  
11.4 easements for wildlife habitat purposes,  
11.5 for forest consolidation and connective  
11.6 corridor purposes, or to prevent forest  
11.7 fragmentation under Minnesota Statutes,  
11.8 section 86A.05, subdivision 7. Proceeds  
11.9 from any subsequent sale of lands acquired  
11.10 with this appropriation must be used for the  
11.11 purposes of this appropriation. Any sale  
11.12 proceeds remaining unused upon close of the  
11.13 appropriation availability must be returned to  
11.14 the outdoor heritage fund. A list of proposed  
11.15 land acquisitions must be provided as part of  
11.16 the required accomplishment plan. Unless  
11.17 otherwise provided, this appropriation is  
11.18 available until June 30, 2022. For acquisition  
11.19 of real property, this appropriation is  
11.20 available until June 30, 2023, if a binding  
11.21 agreement with a landowner or purchase  
11.22 agreement is entered into by June 30,  
11.23 2022, and closed no later than June 30,  
11.24 2023. Of this amount, up to \$50,000 is to  
11.25 establish a monitoring and enforcement fund  
11.26 as approved in the accomplishment plan  
11.27 and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section  
11.28 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of permanent  
11.29 conservation easements must be provided as  
11.30 part of the final report.

11.31 **(i) Mississippi River Floodplain Forest**  
11.32 **Enhancement - Phase II**

11.33 \$412,000 the second year is to the  
11.34 commissioner of natural resources for an  
11.35 agreement with the National Audubon  
11.36 Society to restore and enhance floodplain

- 12.1 forest habitat for wildlife on public  
 12.2 lands along the Mississippi River. A  
 12.3 list of restorations and enhancements  
 12.4 must be provided as part of the required  
 12.5 accomplishment plan.
- 12.6 **(j) Protecting Forest Wildlife Habitat in the**  
 12.7 **Wild Rice River Watershed**
- 12.8 \$2,188,000 the second year is to the  
 12.9 commissioner of natural resources for an  
 12.10 agreement with the White Earth Nation to  
 12.11 acquire lands in fee in Clearwater County to  
 12.12 be managed for wildlife habitat purposes.
- 12.13 A list of proposed land acquisitions  
 12.14 must be provided as part of the required  
 12.15 accomplishment plan. The White Earth  
 12.16 Nation and the commissioner of natural  
 12.17 resources shall create a special single  
 12.18 hunting zone on property acquired with this  
 12.19 appropriation that is based on the White Earth  
 12.20 Nation's tribal hunting, fishing, trapping, and  
 12.21 gathering seasons and limits.
- 12.22 **Subd. 4. Wetlands**
- 12.23 **(a) Accelerating the Waterfowl Production**  
 12.24 **Area Acquisition - Phase VIII**
- 12.25 \$5,650,000 the second year is to the  
 12.26 commissioner of natural resources for an  
 12.27 agreement with Pheasants Forever to acquire  
 12.28 in fee and restore and enhance wetlands and  
 12.29 grasslands to be designated and managed as  
 12.30 waterfowl production areas in Minnesota,  
 12.31 in cooperation with the United States Fish  
 12.32 and Wildlife Service. A list of proposed land  
 12.33 acquisitions must be provided as part of the  
 12.34 required accomplishment plan.
- 12.35 **(b) Shallow Lake and Wetland Protection**  
 12.36 **Program - Phase V**

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31,055,000

13.1 \$5,801,000 the second year is to the  
13.2 commissioner of natural resources for an  
13.3 agreement with Ducks Unlimited to acquire  
13.4 in fee and restore prairie lands, wetlands,  
13.5 and land buffering shallow lakes for wildlife  
13.6 management purposes under Minnesota  
13.7 Statutes, section 86A.05, subdivision 8. A list  
13.8 of proposed acquisitions must be provided as  
13.9 part of the required accomplishment plan.

13.10 **(c) RIM Wetlands Partnership - Phase VII**

13.11 \$13,808,000 the second year is to the Board  
13.12 of Water and Soil Resources to acquire lands  
13.13 in permanent conservation easements and  
13.14 to restore wetlands and native grassland  
13.15 habitat under Minnesota Statutes, section  
13.16 103F.515. Of this amount, up to \$195,000 is  
13.17 to establish a monitoring and enforcement  
13.18 fund as approved in the accomplishment plan  
13.19 and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section  
13.20 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of permanent  
13.21 conservation easements must be provided as  
13.22 part of the final report.

13.23 **(d) Wetland Habitat Protection Program -**  
13.24 **Phase II**

13.25 \$1,629,000 the second year is to the  
13.26 commissioner of natural resources for an  
13.27 agreement with Minnesota Land Trust to  
13.28 acquire permanent conservation easements  
13.29 in high-priority wetland habitat complexes  
13.30 in the prairie and forest/prairie transition  
13.31 regions. Of this amount, up to \$180,000 is to  
13.32 establish a monitoring and enforcement fund,  
13.33 as approved in the accomplishment plan  
13.34 and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section  
13.35 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of proposed

14.1 easement acquisitions must be provided as  
 14.2 part of the final report.

14.3 **(e) Accelerated Shallow Lakes and Wetlands**  
 14.4 **Enhancement - Phase VIII**

14.5 \$2,167,000 the second year is to the  
 14.6 commissioner of natural resources to enhance  
 14.7 and restore shallow lakes and wetland habitat  
 14.8 statewide. A list of proposed land restorations  
 14.9 and enhancements must be provided as part  
 14.10 of the required accomplishment plan.

14.11 **(f) Marsh Lake - Phase II**

14.12 \$2,000,000 the second year is to the  
 14.13 commissioner of natural resources to modify  
 14.14 the dam at Marsh Lake for improved habitat  
 14.15 management and to return the historic outlet  
 14.16 of the Pomme de Terre River to Lac Qui Parle.

14.17 Subd. 5. Habitats -0- 29,138,000

14.18 **(a) DNR Aquatic Habitat Protection - Phase**  
 14.19 **VIII**

14.20 \$1,578,000 the second year is to the  
 14.21 commissioner of natural resources to acquire  
 14.22 land in fee and permanent conservation  
 14.23 easements for aquatic management purposes  
 14.24 under Minnesota Statutes, sections 86A.05,  
 14.25 subdivision 14, and 97C.02, to acquire  
 14.26 permanent conservation easements under  
 14.27 the Minnesota forests for the future  
 14.28 program pursuant to Minnesota Statutes,  
 14.29 section 84.66, and to restore and enhance  
 14.30 aquatic and adjacent upland habitat.  
 14.31 Of this amount, up to \$153,000 is to  
 14.32 establish a monitoring and enforcement  
 14.33 fund as approved in the accomplishment  
 14.34 plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes,  
 14.35 section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of

15.1 proposed land acquisitions, conservation  
15.2 easements, restorations, and enhancements  
15.3 must be provided as part of the required  
15.4 accomplishment plan.

15.5 **(b) Metro Big Rivers Habitat - Phase VII**

15.6 \$4,000,000 the second year is to the  
15.7 commissioner of natural resources for  
15.8 agreements to acquire land in fee and  
15.9 permanent conservation easements and  
15.10 to restore and enhance natural systems  
15.11 associated with the Mississippi, Minnesota,  
15.12 and St. Croix Rivers within the metropolitan  
15.13 area as follows: \$500,000 to Minnesota  
15.14 Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust,  
15.15 Inc.; \$430,000 to Friends of the Mississippi  
15.16 River; \$1,170,000 to Great River Greening;  
15.17 \$800,000 to The Trust for Public Land; and  
15.18 \$1,100,000 to Minnesota Land Trust, of  
15.19 which up to \$60,000 to Minnesota Land Trust  
15.20 is to establish a monitoring and enforcement  
15.21 fund as approved in the accomplishment  
15.22 plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes,  
15.23 section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of  
15.24 proposed land acquisitions and permanent  
15.25 conservation easements must be provided as  
15.26 part of the required accomplishment plan.

15.27 **(c) Mississippi Headwaters Habitat Corridor**  
15.28 **Partnership - Phase II**

15.29 \$2,105,000 the second year is to the  
15.30 commissioner of natural resources for  
15.31 agreements to acquire lands in fee in the  
15.32 Mississippi Headwaters and for agreements  
15.33 as follows: \$76,000 to the Mississippi  
15.34 Headwaters Board; and \$2,029,000 to  
15.35 The Trust for Public Land. \$1,045,000

16.1 the second year is to the Board of Water  
16.2 and Soil Resources to acquire permanent  
16.3 conservation easements and to restore  
16.4 wildlife habitat, of which up to \$78,000 is  
16.5 to establish a monitoring and enforcement  
16.6 fund as approved in the accomplishment plan  
16.7 and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section  
16.8 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of proposed  
16.9 acquisitions must be included as part of the  
16.10 required accomplishment plan.

16.11 **(d) Fisheries Habitat Protection on Strategic**  
16.12 **North Central Minnesota Lakes - Phase II**

16.13 \$1,425,000 the second year is to the  
16.14 commissioner of natural resources for  
16.15 agreements with the Leech Lake Area  
16.16 Watershed Foundation and Minnesota Land  
16.17 Trust to acquire land in fee and permanent  
16.18 conservation easements to sustain healthy  
16.19 fish habitat on cold water lakes in Aitkin,  
16.20 Cass, Crow Wing, and Hubbard Counties  
16.21 as follows: \$480,000 to Leech Lake Area  
16.22 Watershed Foundation; and \$945,000 to  
16.23 Minnesota Land Trust, of which up to  
16.24 \$180,000 to Minnesota Land Trust is to  
16.25 establish a monitoring and enforcement fund  
16.26 as approved in the accomplishment plan  
16.27 and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section  
16.28 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of proposed  
16.29 land acquisitions must be provided as part of  
16.30 the required accomplishment plan.

16.31 **(e) Minnesota Trout Unlimited Coldwater Fish**  
16.32 **Habitat Enhancement and Restoration - Phase**  
16.33 **VIII**

16.34 \$1,975,000 the second year is to the  
16.35 commissioner of natural resources for an  
16.36 agreement with Minnesota Trout Unlimited

17.1 to restore or enhance habitat for trout and  
17.2 other species in and along cold water rivers,  
17.3 lakes, and streams in Minnesota. A list of  
17.4 proposed restorations and enhancements  
17.5 must be provided as part of the required  
17.6 accomplishment plan.

17.7 **(f) DNR Stream Habitat**

17.8 \$2,074,000 the second year is to the  
17.9 commissioner of natural resources to restore  
17.10 and enhance habitat to facilitate fish passage,  
17.11 degraded streams, and critical aquatic species  
17.12 habitat. A list of proposed land restorations  
17.13 and enhancements must be provided as part  
17.14 of the required accomplishment plan.

17.15 **(g) St. Louis River Restoration Initiative -**  
17.16 **Phase III**

17.17 \$2,707,000 the second year is to the  
17.18 commissioner of natural resources to restore  
17.19 aquatic habitats in the St. Louis River  
17.20 estuary. A list of proposed restorations  
17.21 must be provided as part of the required  
17.22 accomplishment plan.

17.23 **(h) Sand Hill River Fish Passage - Phase II**

17.24 \$828,000 the second year is to the  
17.25 commissioner of natural resources for  
17.26 an agreement with the Sand Hill River  
17.27 Watershed District, in cooperation with  
17.28 the Department of Natural Resources and  
17.29 Army Corps of Engineers, to restore and  
17.30 enhance fish passage and habitat in the Sand  
17.31 Hill River watershed. A list of proposed  
17.32 restorations must be provided as part of the  
17.33 required accomplishment plan.

17.34 **(i) Shell Rock River Watershed Habitat**  
17.35 **Restoration Program - Phase V**

18.1 \$1,200,000 the second year is to the  
18.2 commissioner of natural resources for  
18.3 an agreement with the Shell Rock River  
18.4 Watershed District to acquire in fee, restore,  
18.5 and enhance aquatic habitat in the Shell  
18.6 Rock River watershed. A list of proposed  
18.7 acquisitions, restorations, and enhancements  
18.8 must be provided as part of the required  
18.9 accomplishment plan.

18.10 **(j) Roseau Lake Rehabilitation**

18.11 \$2,763,000 the second year is to the  
18.12 commissioner of natural resources to acquire  
18.13 land in fee and permanent conservation  
18.14 easements for wildlife management purposes  
18.15 in Roseau County under Minnesota Statutes,  
18.16 section 86A.05, subdivision 8, to restore  
18.17 and enhance wildlife habitat. A list of  
18.18 proposed land acquisitions and restorations  
18.19 and enhancements must be provided as part  
18.20 of the required accomplishment plan.

18.21 **(k) Conservation Partners Legacy Grant**  
18.22 **Program: Statewide and Metro Habitat -**  
18.23 **Phase VIII**

18.24 \$7,438,000 the second year is to the  
18.25 commissioner of natural resources for a  
18.26 program to provide competitive, matching  
18.27 grants of up to \$400,000 to local, regional,  
18.28 state, and national organizations for  
18.29 enhancing, restoring, or protecting forests,  
18.30 wetlands, prairies, or habitat for fish, game, or  
18.31 wildlife in Minnesota. Of this amount, up to  
18.32 \$2,500,000 is for grants in the seven-county  
18.33 metropolitan area and cities with a population  
18.34 of 50,000 or greater. Grants shall not be made  
18.35 for activities required to fulfill the duties  
18.36 of owners of lands subject to conservation

19.1 easements. Grants shall not be made from the  
19.2 appropriation in this paragraph for projects  
19.3 that have a total project cost exceeding  
19.4 \$575,000. Of the total appropriation,  
19.5 \$588,000 may be spent for personnel costs  
19.6 and other direct and necessary administrative  
19.7 costs. Grantees may acquire land or interests  
19.8 in land. Easements must be permanent.  
19.9 Grants may not be used to establish easement  
19.10 stewardship accounts. Land acquired in fee  
19.11 must be open to hunting and fishing during  
19.12 the open season unless otherwise provided  
19.13 by law. The program must require a match  
19.14 of at least ten percent from nonstate sources  
19.15 for all grants. The match may be cash or  
19.16 in-kind resources. For grant applications  
19.17 of \$25,000 or less, the commissioner shall  
19.18 provide a separate, simplified application  
19.19 process. Subject to Minnesota Statutes, the  
19.20 commissioner of natural resources shall,  
19.21 when evaluating projects of equal value,  
19.22 give priority to organizations that have a  
19.23 history of receiving or a charter to receive  
19.24 private contributions for local conservation  
19.25 or habitat projects. If acquiring land in fee  
19.26 or a conservation easement, priority must be  
19.27 given to projects associated with or within  
19.28 one mile of existing wildlife management  
19.29 areas under Minnesota Statutes, section  
19.30 86A.05, subdivision 8; scientific and natural  
19.31 areas under Minnesota Statutes, sections  
19.32 84.033 and 86A.05, subdivision 5; or aquatic  
19.33 management areas under Minnesota Statutes,  
19.34 sections 86A.05, subdivision 14, and 97C.02.  
19.35 All restoration or enhancement projects  
19.36 must be on land permanently protected by

20.1 a permanent covenant ensuring perpetual  
 20.2 maintenance and protection of restored  
 20.3 and enhanced habitat, by a conservation  
 20.4 easement, by public ownership, or in public  
 20.5 waters as defined in Minnesota Statutes,  
 20.6 section 103G.005, subdivision 15. Priority  
 20.7 must be given to restoration and enhancement  
 20.8 projects on public lands. Minnesota Statutes,  
 20.9 section 97A.056, subdivision 13, applies  
 20.10 to grants awarded under this paragraph.  
 20.11 This appropriation is available until June  
 20.12 30, 2020. No less than five percent of the  
 20.13 amount of each grant must be held back from  
 20.14 reimbursement until the grant recipient has  
 20.15 completed a grant accomplishment report by  
 20.16 the deadline and in the form prescribed by  
 20.17 and satisfactory to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor  
 20.18 Heritage Council. The commissioner shall  
 20.19 provide notice of the grant program in  
 20.20 the game and fish law summary prepared  
 20.21 under Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.051,  
 20.22 subdivision 2.

20.23 Subd. 6. Administration -0- 275,000

20.24 **(a) Contract Management**

20.25 \$150,000 the second year is to the  
 20.26 commissioner of natural resources for  
 20.27 contract management duties assigned in this  
 20.28 section. The commissioner shall provide an  
 20.29 accomplishment plan in the form specified by  
 20.30 the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council  
 20.31 on the expenditure of this appropriation.  
 20.32 The accomplishment plan must include  
 20.33 a copy of the grant contract template  
 20.34 and reimbursement manual. No money  
 20.35 may be expended prior to Lessard-Sams

21.1 Outdoor Heritage Council approval of the  
21.2 accomplishment plan.

21.3 **(b) Technical Evaluation Panel**

21.4 \$125,000 the second year is to the  
21.5 commissioner of natural resources for a  
21.6 technical evaluation panel to conduct up to  
21.7 15 restoration and enhancement evaluations  
21.8 under Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056,  
21.9 subdivision 10.

21.10 **Subd. 7. Availability of Appropriation**

21.11 Money appropriated in this section may  
21.12 not be spent on activities unless they are  
21.13 directly related to and necessary for a  
21.14 specific appropriation and are specified in  
21.15 the accomplishment plan approved by the  
21.16 Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.  
21.17 Money appropriated in this section must not  
21.18 be spent on indirect costs or other institutional  
21.19 overhead charges that are not directly related  
21.20 to and necessary for a specific appropriation.  
21.21 Unless otherwise provided, the amounts  
21.22 in this section are available until June 30,  
21.23 2019. For acquisition of real property, the  
21.24 amounts in this section are available until  
21.25 June 30, 2020, if a binding agreement with a  
21.26 landowner or purchase agreement is entered  
21.27 into by June 30, 2019, and closed no later  
21.28 than June 30, 2020. Funds for restoration  
21.29 or enhancement are available until June  
21.30 30, 2021, or five years after acquisition,  
21.31 whichever is later, in order to complete initial  
21.32 restoration or enhancement work. If a project  
21.33 receives at least 15 percent of its funding  
21.34 from federal funds, the time period of the  
21.35 appropriation may be extended to equal the

22.1 availability of federal funding to a maximum  
22.2 of six years, provided the federal funding  
22.3 was confirmed and included in the first draft  
22.4 accomplishment plan. Money appropriated  
22.5 for fee title acquisition of land may be used to  
22.6 restore, enhance, and provide for public use  
22.7 of the land acquired with the appropriation.  
22.8 Public use facilities must have a minimal  
22.9 impact on habitat in acquired lands.

22.10 **Subd. 8. Payment Conditions and Capital**  
22.11 **Equipment Expenditures**

22.12 All agreements referred to in this section must  
22.13 be administered on a reimbursement basis  
22.14 unless otherwise provided in this section.  
22.15 Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, section  
22.16 16A.41, expenditures directly related  
22.17 to each appropriation's purpose made  
22.18 on or after July 1, 2016, or the date of  
22.19 accomplishment plan approval, whichever is  
22.20 later, are eligible for reimbursement unless  
22.21 otherwise provided in this section. For the  
22.22 purposes of administering appropriations  
22.23 and legislatively authorized agreements paid  
22.24 out of the outdoor heritage fund, an expense  
22.25 must be considered reimbursable by the  
22.26 administering agency when the recipient  
22.27 presents the agency with an invoice, or  
22.28 binding agreement with the landowner, and  
22.29 the recipient attests that the goods have  
22.30 been received or the landowner agreement  
22.31 is binding. Periodic reimbursement must  
22.32 be made upon receiving documentation that  
22.33 the items articulated in the accomplishment  
22.34 plan approved by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor  
22.35 Heritage Council have been achieved,  
22.36 including partial achievements as evidenced

23.1 by progress reports approved by the  
 23.2 Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.  
 23.3 Reasonable amounts may be advanced to  
 23.4 projects to accommodate cash flow needs,  
 23.5 support future management of acquired  
 23.6 lands, or match a federal share. The  
 23.7 advances must be approved as part of the  
 23.8 accomplishment plan. Capital equipment  
 23.9 expenditures for specific items in excess of  
 23.10 \$10,000 must be itemized in and approved as  
 23.11 part of the accomplishment plan.

23.12 Subd. 9. **Mapping**

23.13 Each direct recipient of money appropriated  
 23.14 in this section, as well as each recipient of  
 23.15 a grant awarded pursuant to this section,  
 23.16 must provide geographic information to the  
 23.17 Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council  
 23.18 for mapping of any lands acquired in fee  
 23.19 with funds appropriated in this section and  
 23.20 open to public taking of fish and game. The  
 23.21 commissioner of natural resources shall  
 23.22 include the lands acquired in fee with money  
 23.23 appropriated in this section on maps showing  
 23.24 public recreation opportunities. Maps must  
 23.25 include information on and acknowledgment  
 23.26 of the outdoor heritage fund, including a  
 23.27 notation of any restrictions.

23.28 Subd. 10. **RIM Buffers for Wildlife and Water**  
 23.29 **Restorations**

23.30 The following appropriations to the Board  
 23.31 of Water and Soil Resources for the RIM  
 23.32 buffers for wildlife and water program  
 23.33 may be used for restoration of lands  
 23.34 acquired by conservation easement with the  
 23.35 appropriations:

- 24.1 (1) Laws 2015, First Special Session  
 24.2 chapter 2, article 1, section 2, subdivision 2,  
 24.3 paragraph (f);
- 24.4 (2) Laws 2014, chapter 256, article 1, section  
 24.5 2, subdivision 2, paragraph (f);
- 24.6 (3) Laws 2013, chapter 137, article 1, section  
 24.7 2, subdivision 2, paragraph (e);
- 24.8 (4) Laws 2012, chapter 264, article 1, section  
 24.9 2, subdivision 2, paragraph (a); and
- 24.10 (5) Laws 2011, First Special Session  
 24.11 chapter 6, article 1, section 2, subdivision 2,  
 24.12 paragraph (c).

24.13 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 97A.056, subdivision 10, is amended to read:

24.14 Subd. 10. **Restoration and enhancements evaluations.** The commissioner of  
 24.15 natural resources and the Board of Water and Soil Resources ~~may~~ must convene a technical  
 24.16 evaluation panel comprised of five members, including one technical representative from  
 24.17 the Board of Water and Soil Resources, one technical representative from the Department of  
 24.18 Natural Resources, one technical expert from the University of Minnesota or the Minnesota  
 24.19 State Colleges and Universities, and two representatives with expertise in the project  
 24.20 being evaluated. The board and the commissioner may add a technical representative from  
 24.21 a unit of federal or local government. The members of the technical evaluation panel  
 24.22 may not be associated with the restoration or enhancement, may vary depending upon  
 24.23 the projects being reviewed, and shall avoid any potential conflicts of interest. Each year,  
 24.24 the board and the commissioner may assign a coordinator to identify ~~a sample of up to~~  
 24.25 ~~ten~~ habitat restoration or enhancement projects completed with outdoor heritage funding.  
 24.26 The coordinator shall secure the ~~restoration~~ plans for the projects specified and direct  
 24.27 the technical evaluation panel to evaluate the restorations and enhancements relative to  
 24.28 the law, current science, and the stated goals and standards in the ~~restoration~~ project  
 24.29 plan and, when applicable, to the Board of Water and Soil Resources' native vegetation  
 24.30 establishment and enhancement guidelines. The coordinator shall summarize the findings  
 24.31 of the panel and provide a report to the chair of the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage  
 24.32 Council and the chairs of the respective house of representatives and senate policy and  
 24.33 finance committees with jurisdiction over natural resources and spending from the outdoor  
 24.34 heritage fund. The report shall determine if the restorations and enhancements are meeting

25.1 planned goals, any problems with the implementation of restorations and enhancements,  
 25.2 and, if necessary, recommendations on improving restorations and enhancements. The  
 25.3 report shall be focused on improving future restorations and enhancements. At least  
 25.4 one-tenth of one percent of forecasted receipts from the outdoor heritage fund must be  
 25.5 used for restoration and enhancements evaluations under this section.

25.6 Sec. 4. Laws 2015, First Special Session chapter 2, article 1, section 2, subdivision 2,  
 25.7 is amended to read:

25.8 Subd. 2. **Prairies** 40,948,000 -0-

25.9 **(a) DNR Wildlife Management Area and**  
 25.10 **Scientific and Natural Area Acquisition - Phase**  
 25.11 **VII**

25.12 \$4,570,000 in the first year is to the  
 25.13 commissioner of natural resources to acquire  
 25.14 land in fee for wildlife management purposes  
 25.15 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,  
 25.16 subdivision 8, and to acquire land in fee  
 25.17 for scientific and natural area purposes  
 25.18 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,  
 25.19 subdivision 5. Subject to evaluation criteria  
 25.20 in Minnesota Rules, part 6136.0900, priority  
 25.21 must be given to acquisition of lands that  
 25.22 are eligible for the native prairie bank under  
 25.23 Minnesota Statutes, section 84.96, or lands  
 25.24 adjacent to protected native prairie. A list of  
 25.25 proposed land and permanent conservation  
 25.26 easement acquisitions must be provided as  
 25.27 part of the required accomplishment plan.

25.28 **(b) Accelerating Wildlife Management Area**  
 25.29 **Acquisition - Phase VII**

25.30 \$7,452,000 in the first year is to the  
 25.31 commissioner of natural resources for an  
 25.32 agreement with Pheasants Forever to acquire  
 25.33 land in fee for wildlife management area  
 25.34 purposes under Minnesota Statutes, section  
 25.35 86A.05, subdivision 8. Subject to evaluation

26.1 criteria in Minnesota Rules, part 6136.0900,  
 26.2 priority must be given to acquisition of  
 26.3 lands that are eligible for the native prairie  
 26.4 bank under Minnesota Statutes, section  
 26.5 84.96, or lands adjacent to protected native  
 26.6 prairie. A list of proposed land acquisitions  
 26.7 must be provided as part of the required  
 26.8 accomplishment plan.

26.9 **(c) Minnesota Prairie Recovery Project - Phase**  
 26.10 **VI**

26.11 \$4,032,000 in the first year is to the  
 26.12 commissioner of natural resources for an  
 26.13 agreement with The Nature Conservancy  
 26.14 to acquire native prairie, wetlands, and  
 26.15 savanna and restore and enhance grasslands,  
 26.16 wetlands, and savanna. Subject to evaluation  
 26.17 criteria in Minnesota Rules, part 6136.0900,  
 26.18 priority must be given to acquisition of lands  
 26.19 that are eligible for the native prairie bank  
 26.20 under Minnesota Statutes, section 84.96, or  
 26.21 lands adjacent to protected native prairie.  
 26.22 Annual income statements and balance sheets  
 26.23 for income and expenses from land acquired  
 26.24 with this appropriation must be submitted  
 26.25 to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage  
 26.26 Council no later than 180 days following  
 26.27 the close of The Nature Conservancy's fiscal  
 26.28 year. A list of proposed land acquisitions  
 26.29 must be provided as part of the required  
 26.30 accomplishment plan and must be consistent  
 26.31 with the priorities identified in the Minnesota  
 26.32 Prairie Conservation Plan.

26.33 **(d) Northern Tallgrass Prairie National**  
 26.34 **Wildlife Refuge Land Acquisition - Phase ~~V~~ VI**

26.35 \$3,430,000 in the first year is to the  
 26.36 commissioner of natural resources for an

27.1 agreement with The Nature Conservancy  
27.2 in cooperation with the United States Fish  
27.3 and Wildlife Service to acquire land in  
27.4 fee or permanent conservation easements  
27.5 within the Northern Tallgrass Prairie Habitat  
27.6 Preservation Area in western Minnesota  
27.7 for addition to the Northern Tallgrass  
27.8 Prairie National Wildlife Refuge. Subject  
27.9 to evaluation criteria in Minnesota Rules,  
27.10 part 6136.0900, priority must be given to  
27.11 acquisition of lands that are eligible for  
27.12 the native prairie bank under Minnesota  
27.13 Statutes, section 84.96, or lands adjacent to  
27.14 protected native prairie. A list of proposed  
27.15 land acquisitions must be provided as part  
27.16 of the required accomplishment plan and  
27.17 must be consistent with the priorities in the  
27.18 Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan.

27.19 **(e) Accelerated Native Prairie Bank Protection**  
27.20 **- Phase IV**

27.21 \$3,740,000 in the first year is to the  
27.22 commissioner of natural resources  
27.23 to implement the Minnesota Prairie  
27.24 Conservation Plan through the acquisition  
27.25 of permanent conservation easements to  
27.26 protect native prairie and grasslands. Up  
27.27 to \$165,000 is for establishing monitoring  
27.28 and enforcement funds as approved in  
27.29 the accomplishment plan and subject to  
27.30 Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056,  
27.31 subdivision 17. Subject to evaluation criteria  
27.32 in Minnesota Rules, part 6136.0900, priority  
27.33 must be given to acquisition of lands that  
27.34 are eligible for the native prairie bank under  
27.35 Minnesota Statutes, section 84.96, or lands  
27.36 adjacent to protected native prairie. A list of

28.1 permanent conservation easements must be  
28.2 provided as part of the final report.

28.3 **(f) Minnesota Buffers for Wildlife and Water**  
28.4 **- Phase V**

28.5 \$4,544,000 in the first year is to the Board  
28.6 of Water and Soil Resources to acquire  
28.7 permanent conservation easements to protect  
28.8 and enhance habitat by expanding the clean  
28.9 water fund riparian buffer program for at  
28.10 least equal wildlife benefits from buffers  
28.11 on private land. Up to \$72,500 is for  
28.12 establishing a monitoring and enforcement  
28.13 fund as approved in the accomplishment plan  
28.14 and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section  
28.15 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of permanent  
28.16 conservation easements must be provided as  
28.17 part of the final report.

28.18 **(g) Cannon River Headwaters Habitat**  
28.19 **Complex - Phase V**

28.20 \$1,380,000 in the first year is to the  
28.21 commissioner of natural resources for an  
28.22 agreement with The Trust for Public Land to  
28.23 acquire and restore lands in the Cannon River  
28.24 watershed for wildlife management purposes  
28.25 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,  
28.26 subdivision 8. Subject to evaluation criteria  
28.27 in Minnesota Rules, part 6136.0900, priority  
28.28 must be given to acquisition of lands that  
28.29 are eligible for the native prairie bank under  
28.30 Minnesota Statutes, section 84.96, or lands  
28.31 adjacent to protected native prairie. A list of  
28.32 proposed land acquisitions must be provided  
28.33 as part of the required accomplishment plan.

28.34 **(h) Prairie Chicken Habitat Partnership of the**  
28.35 **Southern Red River Valley**

29.1 \$1,800,000 in the first year is to the  
 29.2 commissioner of natural resources for  
 29.3 an agreement with Pheasants Forever in  
 29.4 cooperation with the Minnesota Prairie  
 29.5 Chicken Society to acquire and restore lands  
 29.6 in the southern Red River Valley for wildlife  
 29.7 management purposes under Minnesota  
 29.8 Statutes, section 86A.05, subdivision 8,  
 29.9 or for designation and management as  
 29.10 waterfowl production areas in Minnesota,  
 29.11 in cooperation with the United States Fish  
 29.12 and Wildlife Service. A list of proposed land  
 29.13 acquisitions must be provided as part of the  
 29.14 required accomplishment plan.

29.15 **(i) Protecting and Restoring Minnesota's**  
 29.16 **Important Bird Areas**

29.17 \$1,730,000 in the first year is to the  
 29.18 commissioner of natural resources for  
 29.19 agreements to acquire conservation  
 29.20 easements within important bird areas  
 29.21 identified in the Minnesota Prairie  
 29.22 Conservation Plan, to be used as follows:  
 29.23 \$408,000 is to Audubon Minnesota and  
 29.24 \$1,322,000 is to Minnesota Land Trust, of  
 29.25 which up to \$100,000 is for establishing  
 29.26 monitoring and enforcement funds as  
 29.27 approved in the accomplishment plan and  
 29.28 subject to Minnesota Statutes, section  
 29.29 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of permanent  
 29.30 conservation easements must be provided as  
 29.31 part of the final report.

29.32 **(j) Wild Rice River Corridor Habitat**  
 29.33 **Restoration**

29.34 \$2,270,000 in the first year is to the  
 29.35 commissioner of natural resources for an  
 29.36 agreement with the Wild Rice Watershed

30.1 District to acquire land in fee and permanent  
 30.2 conservation easement and to `restore river  
 30.3 and related habitat in the Wild Rice River  
 30.4 corridor. A list of proposed acquisitions and  
 30.5 restorations must be provided as part of the  
 30.6 required accomplishment plan.

30.7 **(k) Accelerated Prairie Restoration and**  
 30.8 **Enhancement on DNR Lands - Phase VII**

30.9 \$4,880,000 in the first year is to the  
 30.10 commissioner of natural resources to  
 30.11 accelerate the restoration and enhancement  
 30.12 of prairie communities on wildlife  
 30.13 management areas, scientific and natural  
 30.14 areas, state forest land, and land under  
 30.15 native prairie bank easements. A list of  
 30.16 proposed land restorations and enhancements  
 30.17 must be provided as part of the required  
 30.18 accomplishment plan.

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

30.20 \$1,120,000 in the first year is to the  
 30.21 commissioner of natural resources for an  
 30.22 agreement with Pheasants Forever to enhance  
 30.23 and restore habitat on public lands. A list of  
 30.24 proposed land restorations and enhancements  
 30.25 must be provided as part of the final report.

30.26 Sec. 5. Laws 2015, First Special Session chapter 2, article 1, section 2, subdivision 3,  
 30.27 is amended to read:

30.28 Subd. 3. **Forests** 12,634,000 -0-

30.29 **(a) Camp Ripley Partnership - Phase V**

30.30 \$1,500,000 in the first year is to the  
 30.31 Board of Water and Soil Resources in  
 30.32 cooperation with the Morrison County Soil  
 30.33 and Water Conservation District to acquire  
 30.34 permanent conservation easements within

31.1 the boundaries of the Minnesota National  
 31.2 Guard Compatible Use Buffer to protect  
 31.3 forest wildlife habitat. Up to \$55,000 is for  
 31.4 establishing a monitoring and enforcement  
 31.5 fund, as approved in the accomplishment  
 31.6 plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes,  
 31.7 section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of  
 31.8 permanent conservation easements must be  
 31.9 provided as part of the final report.

31.10 **(b) Southeast Minnesota Protection and**  
 31.11 **Restoration - Phase III**

31.12 \$2,910,000 in the first year is to the  
 31.13 commissioner of natural resources for an  
 31.14 agreement with The Nature Conservancy to  
 31.15 acquire land in fee for wildlife management  
 31.16 purposes under Minnesota Statutes, section  
 31.17 86A.05, subdivision 8; to acquire land  
 31.18 in fee for scientific and natural areas  
 31.19 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,  
 31.20 subdivision 5; for state forest purposes  
 31.21 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,  
 31.22 subdivision 7; and to enhance grasslands,  
 31.23 forest, and savanna. A list of proposed  
 31.24 acquisitions must be provided as part of the  
 31.25 required accomplishment plan.

31.26 **(c) Protecting Pinelands Sands Aquifer**  
 31.27 **Forestlands - Phase II**

31.28 \$2,180,000 in the first year is to the  
 31.29 commissioner of natural resources to acquire  
 31.30 forest lands in Cass, Hubbard, and Wadena  
 31.31 Counties for wildlife management purposes  
 31.32 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,  
 31.33 subdivision 8, and to acquire land in fee  
 31.34 for state forests under Minnesota Statutes,  
 31.35 section 86A.05, subdivision 7. A list of

32.1 proposed land acquisitions must be provided  
32.2 as part of the required accomplishment plan.

32.3 **(d) Protect Key Forest Lands in Cass County**  
32.4 **- Phase VI**

32.5 \$442,000 in the first year is to the  
32.6 commissioner of natural resources for an  
32.7 agreement with Cass County to acquire land  
32.8 in fee in Cass County for forest wildlife  
32.9 habitat or to prevent forest fragmentation.

32.10 A list of proposed land acquisitions  
32.11 must be provided as part of the required  
32.12 accomplishment plan.

32.13 **(e) Critical Shoreland Protection Program -**  
32.14 **Phase III**

32.15 \$1,690,000 in the first year is to the  
32.16 commissioner of natural resources for an  
32.17 agreement with Minnesota Land Trust to  
32.18 acquire permanent conservation easements  
32.19 along rivers and lakes in the northern  
32.20 forest region. Up to \$220,000 is for  
32.21 establishing a monitoring and enforcement  
32.22 fund, as approved in the accomplishment  
32.23 plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes,  
32.24 section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of  
32.25 proposed permanent conservation easements  
32.26 must be provided as part of the required  
32.27 accomplishment plan.

32.28 **(f) Mississippi Headwaters Habitat Partnership**

32.29 \$3,002,000 in the first year is to the  
32.30 commissioner of natural resources to  
32.31 acquire lands in fee and for permanent  
32.32 conservation easements in the Mississippi  
32.33 Headwaters and for agreements as follows:  
32.34 \$1,217,000 to The Trust for Public Land;  
32.35 and \$824,000 to Minnesota Land Trust,

33.1 of which up to \$80,000 is for establishing  
 33.2 a monitoring and enforcement fund as  
 33.3 approved in the accomplishment plan and  
 33.4 subject to Minnesota Statutes, section  
 33.5 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of proposed  
 33.6 acquisitions must be included as part of the  
 33.7 required accomplishment plan.

33.8 **(g) Southeast Forest Habitat Enhancement**

33.9 \$910,000 in the first year is to the  
 33.10 commissioner of natural resources to  
 33.11 enhance forests in southeastern Minnesota.  
 33.12 A list of proposed land enhancements  
 33.13 must be provided as part of the required  
 33.14 accomplishment plan.

33.15 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective retroactively from July 1, 2015.

33.16 Sec. 6. Laws 2015, First Special Session chapter 2, article 1, section 2, subdivision 5,  
 33.17 is amended to read:

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

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

33.20 \$4,540,000 in the first year is to the  
 33.21 commissioner of natural resources to acquire  
 33.22 interests in land in fee and permanent  
 33.23 conservation easements for aquatic  
 33.24 management purposes under Minnesota  
 33.25 Statutes, sections 86A.05, subdivision 14,  
 33.26 and 97C.02, to acquire interests in land in  
 33.27 permanent conservation easements for fish  
 33.28 and wildlife habitat under Minnesota Statutes,  
 33.29 section 84.66, and to restore and enhance  
 33.30 aquatic habitat. Up to \$130,000 is for  
 33.31 establishing a monitoring and enforcement  
 33.32 fund as approved in the accomplishment  
 33.33 plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes,

34.1 section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of  
34.2 proposed land acquisitions and restorations  
34.3 and enhancements must be provided as part  
34.4 of the required accomplishment plan.

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

34.6 \$2,000,000 in the first year is to the  
34.7 commissioner of natural resources for  
34.8 agreements to acquire land in fee and in  
34.9 permanent conservation easements and  
34.10 to restore and enhance natural systems  
34.11 associated with the Mississippi, Minnesota,  
34.12 and St. Croix Rivers as follows: \$475,000 to  
34.13 Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge  
34.14 Trust, Inc.; \$275,000 to Friends of the  
34.15 Mississippi River; \$400,000 to Great River  
34.16 Greening; \$375,000 to Minnesota Land Trust;  
34.17 and \$475,000 to The Trust for Public Land.  
34.18 Up to \$60,000 to Minnesota Land Trust is for  
34.19 establishing a monitoring and enforcement  
34.20 fund as approved in the accomplishment  
34.21 plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes,  
34.22 section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of  
34.23 proposed land acquisitions and permanent  
34.24 conservation easements must be provided as  
34.25 part of the required accomplishment plan.

34.26 **(c) Minnesota Trout Unlimited Coldwater Fish**  
34.27 **Habitat Enhancement and Restoration - Phase**  
34.28 **VII**

34.29 \$1,890,000 in the first year is to the  
34.30 commissioner of natural resources for an  
34.31 agreement with Minnesota Trout Unlimited  
34.32 to restore and enhance habitat for trout  
34.33 and other species in and along coldwater  
34.34 rivers and streams in Minnesota. A list of  
34.35 proposed restorations and enhancements

35.1 must be provided as part of the required  
35.2 accomplishment plan.

35.3 **(d) Lake Bemidji South Shore Restoration and**  
35.4 **Enhancement**

35.5 \$1,650,000 in the first year is to the  
35.6 commissioner of natural resources for  
35.7 an agreement with the city of Bemidji to  
35.8 restore and enhance fish habitat on Lake  
35.9 Bemidji. A list of proposed restorations and  
35.10 enhancements must be provided as part of  
35.11 the required accomplishment plan.

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

35.13 \$990,000 in the first year is to the  
35.14 commissioner of natural resources for  
35.15 an agreement with the Sand Hill River  
35.16 Watershed District to restore fish habitat  
35.17 in the Sand Hill River watershed. A list of  
35.18 proposed restorations must be provided as  
35.19 part of the required accomplishment plan.

35.20 **(f) Shell Rock River Watershed Habitat**  
35.21 **Restoration Program - Phase IV**

35.22 \$2,414,000 in the first year is to the  
35.23 commissioner of natural resources for  
35.24 an agreement with the Shell Rock River  
35.25 Watershed District to protect, restore,  
35.26 and enhance aquatic habitat in the Shell  
35.27 Rock River watershed. A list of proposed  
35.28 acquisitions, restorations, and enhancements  
35.29 must be provided as part of the required  
35.30 accomplishment plan.

35.31 **(g) Lake Nokomis Integrated Habitat**  
35.32 **Enhancement**

35.33 \$444,000 in the first year is to the  
35.34 commissioner of natural resources for an  
35.35 agreement with the Minneapolis Park and

36.1 Recreation Board to enhance aquatic habitat  
36.2 on Lake Nokomis. A list of proposed  
36.3 enhancements must be provided as part of  
36.4 the required accomplishment plan.

36.5 **(h) Conservation Partners Legacy Grant**  
36.6 **Program: Statewide and Metro Habitat -**  
36.7 **Phase VII**

36.8 \$8,440,000 in the first year is to the  
36.9 commissioner of natural resources for a  
36.10 program to provide competitive, matching  
36.11 grants of up to \$400,000 to local, regional,  
36.12 state, and national organizations for  
36.13 enhancing, restoring, or protecting forests,  
36.14 wetlands, prairies, or habitat for fish, game,  
36.15 or wildlife in Minnesota. Of this amount,  
36.16 \$3,692,000 is for grants in the seven-county  
36.17 metropolitan area and cities with a population  
36.18 of 50,000 or greater. Grants shall not be made  
36.19 for activities required to fulfill the duties  
36.20 of owners of lands subject to conservation  
36.21 easements. Grants shall not be made from the  
36.22 appropriation in this paragraph for projects  
36.23 that have a total project cost exceeding  
36.24 \$575,000. Of this appropriation, \$596,000  
36.25 may be spent for personnel costs and other  
36.26 direct and necessary administrative costs.  
36.27 Grantees may acquire land or interests in  
36.28 land. Easements must be permanent. Grants  
36.29 may not be used to establish easement  
36.30 stewardship accounts. Land acquired in fee  
36.31 must be open to hunting and fishing during  
36.32 the open season unless otherwise provided  
36.33 by law. The program must require a match  
36.34 of at least ten percent from nonstate sources  
36.35 for all grants. The match may be cash or  
36.36 in-kind resources. For grant applications

37.1 of \$25,000 or less, the commissioner shall  
37.2 provide a separate, simplified application  
37.3 process. Subject to Minnesota Statutes, the  
37.4 commissioner of natural resources shall,  
37.5 when evaluating projects of equal value,  
37.6 give priority to organizations that have a  
37.7 history of receiving or a charter to receive  
37.8 private contributions for local conservation  
37.9 or habitat projects. If acquiring land or a  
37.10 conservation easement, priority must be  
37.11 given to projects associated with or within  
37.12 one mile of existing wildlife management  
37.13 areas under Minnesota Statutes, section  
37.14 86A.05, subdivision 8; scientific and natural  
37.15 areas under Minnesota Statutes, sections  
37.16 84.033 and 86A.05, subdivision 5; or aquatic  
37.17 management areas under Minnesota Statutes,  
37.18 sections 86A.05, subdivision 14, and 97C.02.  
37.19 All restoration or enhancement projects  
37.20 must be on land permanently protected by  
37.21 a permanent covenant ensuring perpetual  
37.22 maintenance and protection of restored  
37.23 and enhanced habitat, by a conservation  
37.24 easement, or by public ownership or in  
37.25 public waters as defined in Minnesota  
37.26 Statutes, section 103G.005, subdivision  
37.27 15. Priority must be given to restoration  
37.28 and enhancement projects on public lands.  
37.29 Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056,  
37.30 subdivision 13, applies to grants awarded  
37.31 under this paragraph. This appropriation is  
37.32 available until June 30, ~~2018~~ 2019. No less  
37.33 than five percent of the amount of each grant  
37.34 must be held back from reimbursement until  
37.35 the grant recipient has completed a grant  
37.36 accomplishment report by the deadline and

38.1 in the form prescribed by and satisfactory to  
38.2 the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.  
38.3 The commissioner shall provide notice of  
38.4 the grant program in the game and fish law  
38.5 summary prepared under Minnesota Statutes,  
38.6 section 97A.051, subdivision 2.