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State of Minnesota
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-NINTH SESSION

H. F. No. **2611**

03/08/2016 Authored by McNamara and Lillie

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

03/17/2016 Adoption of Report: Amended and re-referred to the Committee on Legacy Funding Finance

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to natural resources; appropriating money from outdoor heritage
1.3 fund; modifying outdoor heritage fund and council provisions; modifying
1.4 prior appropriations; amending Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 97A.056,
1.5 subdivisions 2, 10, by adding a subdivision; Laws 2015, First Special Session
1.6 chapter 2, article 1, section 2, subdivisions 2, 3, 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
1.11 outdoor heritage fund for the fiscal year indicated for each purpose. The figures "2016"
1.12 and "2017" used in this act mean that the appropriations listed under them are available for
1.13 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016, or June 30, 2017, respectively. "The first year" is
1.14 fiscal year 2016. "The second year" is fiscal year 2017. "The biennium" is fiscal years
1.15 2016 and 2017. The appropriations in this act are onetime.

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

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

1.21	<u>Subdivision 1. Total Appropriation</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>107,777,000</u>
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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 Subd. 2. **Prairies** -0- 31,000,000

2.2 **(a) DNR Wildlife Management Area and**
 2.3 **Scientific and Natural Area Acquisition - Phase**
 2.4 **VIII**

2.5 \$3,250,000 the second year is to the
 2.6 commissioner of natural resources to acquire
 2.7 land in fee for wildlife management purposes
 2.8 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,
 2.9 subdivision 8, and to acquire land in fee
 2.10 for scientific and natural area purposes
 2.11 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,
 2.12 subdivision 5. Subject to evaluation criteria
 2.13 in Minnesota Rules, part 6136.0900, priority
 2.14 must be given to acquisition of lands that
 2.15 are eligible for the native prairie bank under
 2.16 Minnesota Statutes, section 84.96, or lands
 2.17 adjacent to protected native prairie. A list of
 2.18 proposed land acquisitions must be provided
 2.19 as part of the required accomplishment plan.

2.20 **(b) Accelerating Wildlife Management Area**
 2.21 **Acquisition - Phase VIII**

2.22 \$5,229,000 the second year is to the
 2.23 commissioner of natural resources for
 2.24 an agreement with Pheasants Forever to
 2.25 acquire in fee and restore lands for wildlife
 2.26 management area purposes under Minnesota
 2.27 Statutes, section 86A.05, subdivision 8.
 2.28 Subject to evaluation criteria in Minnesota
 2.29 Rules, part 6136.0900, priority must be
 2.30 given to acquisition of lands that are eligible
 2.31 for the native prairie bank under Minnesota
 2.32 Statutes, section 84.96, or lands adjacent to
 2.33 protected native prairie. A list of proposed
 2.34 land acquisitions must be provided as part of
 2.35 the required accomplishment plan.

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, excluding state
 7.12 forests, in Anoka, Isanti, Morrison,
 7.13 Sherburne, and Todd Counties as follows:
 7.14 \$93,000 to Anoka Conservation District;
 7.15 \$25,000 to Isanti County Parks and
 7.16 Recreation Department; \$813,000 to Great
 7.17 River Greening; and \$277,000 to the
 7.18 National Wild Turkey Federation. A list of
 7.19 proposed land restorations and enhancements
 7.20 must be provided as part of the required
 7.21 accomplishment plan.

7.22 **Subd. 3. Forests** -0- 16,309,000

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

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

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

8.1 \$1,500,000 the second year is to the
8.2 commissioner of natural resources for an
8.3 agreement with the Minnesota Deer Hunters
8.4 Association to acquire in fee and restore
8.5 and enhance forest habitat lands in Cass
8.6 and Hubbard Counties for county forest
8.7 purposes. A list of proposed land acquisitions
8.8 must be provided as part of the required
8.9 accomplishment plan.

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

8.11 \$1,500,000 the second year is to the Board
8.12 of Water and Soil Resources, in cooperation
8.13 with the Morrison County Soil and Water
8.14 Conservation District, to acquire permanent
8.15 conservation easements and restore forest
8.16 wildlife habitat within the boundaries
8.17 of the Minnesota National Guard Camp
8.18 Ripley Compatible Use Buffer. Of this
8.19 amount, up to \$72,000 is to establish
8.20 a monitoring and enforcement fund, as
8.21 approved in the accomplishment plan and
8.22 subject to Minnesota Statutes, section
8.23 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of permanent
8.24 conservation easements must be provided as
8.25 part of the final report.

8.26 **(d) Southeast Minnesota Protection and**
8.27 **Restoration - Phase IV**

8.28 \$5,000,000 the second year is to the
8.29 commissioner of natural resources for an
8.30 agreement with The Nature Conservancy, in
8.31 cooperation with The Trust for Public Land
8.32 and Minnesota Land Trust, to acquire land
8.33 in fee for wildlife management purposes
8.34 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,
8.35 subdivision 8, to acquire land in fee for

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

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

9.26 \$1,840,000 the second year is to the
9.27 commissioner of natural resources to
9.28 acquire forest, wetland, and shoreline
9.29 habitat through working forest permanent
9.30 conservation easements under the Minnesota
9.31 forests for the future program pursuant
9.32 to Minnesota Statutes, section 84.66.
9.33 A conservation easement acquired with
9.34 money appropriated under this paragraph
9.35 must comply with Minnesota Statutes,
9.36 section 97A.056, subdivision 13. The

10.1 accomplishment plan must include an
10.2 easement monitoring and enforcement
10.3 plan. Of this amount, up to \$25,000 is to
10.4 establish a monitoring and enforcement fund
10.5 as approved in the accomplishment plan
10.6 and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section
10.7 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of permanent
10.8 conservation easements must be provided as
10.9 part of the final report.

10.10 **(f) Protect Key Forest Lands in Cass County -**
10.11 **Phase VII**

10.12 \$500,000 the second year is to the
10.13 commissioner of natural resources for an
10.14 agreement with Cass County to acquire land
10.15 in fee in Cass County for forest wildlife
10.16 habitat or to prevent forest fragmentation.
10.17 A list of proposed land acquisitions
10.18 must be provided as part of the required
10.19 accomplishment plan.

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

10.21 \$1,000,000 the second year is to the
10.22 commissioner of natural resources to acquire
10.23 lands in fee for wildlife habitat purposes
10.24 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,
10.25 subdivision 7. A list of proposed land
10.26 acquisitions must be provided as part of the
10.27 required accomplishment plan.

10.28 **(h) Forest Habitat Protection Revolving**
10.29 **Account**

10.30 \$1,000,000 the second year is to the
10.31 commissioner of natural resources to acquire
10.32 lands in fee and permanent conservation
10.33 easements for wildlife habitat purposes,
10.34 for forest consolidation and connective
10.35 corridor purposes, or to prevent forest

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

11.25 **(i) Mississippi River Floodplain Forest**
11.26 **Enhancement - Phase II**

11.27 \$412,000 the second year is to the
11.28 commissioner of natural resources for an
11.29 agreement with the National Audubon
11.30 Society to restore and enhance floodplain
11.31 forest habitat for wildlife on public
11.32 lands along the Mississippi River. A
11.33 list of restorations and enhancements
11.34 must be provided as part of the required
11.35 accomplishment plan.

12.1 **(j) Protecting Forest Wildlife Habitat in the**
 12.2 **Wild Rice River Watershed**

12.3 \$2,188,000 the second year is to the
 12.4 commissioner of natural resources to acquire
 12.5 lands in fee in Clearwater County to be
 12.6 managed as a unit of the outdoor recreation
 12.7 system under Minnesota Statutes, chapter
 12.8 86A. A list of proposed land acquisitions
 12.9 must be provided as part of the required
 12.10 accomplishment plan.

12.11 Subd. 4. **Wetlands** -0- 31,055,000

12.12 **(a) Accelerating the Waterfowl Production**
 12.13 **Area Acquisition - Phase VIII**

12.14 \$5,650,000 the second year is to the
 12.15 commissioner of natural resources for an
 12.16 agreement with Pheasants Forever to acquire
 12.17 in fee and restore and enhance wetlands and
 12.18 grasslands to be designated and managed as
 12.19 waterfowl production areas in Minnesota,
 12.20 in cooperation with the United States Fish
 12.21 and Wildlife Service. A list of proposed land
 12.22 acquisitions must be provided as part of the
 12.23 required accomplishment plan.

12.24 **(b) Shallow Lake and Wetland Protection**
 12.25 **Program - Phase V**

12.26 \$5,801,000 the second year is to the
 12.27 commissioner of natural resources for an
 12.28 agreement with Ducks Unlimited to acquire
 12.29 in fee and restore prairie lands, wetlands,
 12.30 and land buffering shallow lakes for wildlife
 12.31 management purposes under Minnesota
 12.32 Statutes, section 86A.05, subdivision 8. A list
 12.33 of proposed acquisitions must be provided as
 12.34 part of the required accomplishment plan.

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

13.1 \$13,808,000 the second year is to the Board
13.2 of Water and Soil Resources to acquire lands
13.3 in permanent conservation easements and
13.4 to restore wetlands and native grassland
13.5 habitat under Minnesota Statutes, section
13.6 103F.515. Of this amount, up to \$195,000 is
13.7 to establish a monitoring and enforcement
13.8 fund as approved in the accomplishment plan
13.9 and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section
13.10 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of permanent
13.11 conservation easements must be provided as
13.12 part of the final report.

13.13 **(d) Wetland Habitat Protection Program -**
13.14 **Phase II**

13.15 \$1,629,000 the second year is to the
13.16 commissioner of natural resources for an
13.17 agreement with Minnesota Land Trust to
13.18 acquire permanent conservation easements
13.19 in high-priority wetland habitat complexes
13.20 in the prairie and forest/prairie transition
13.21 regions. Of this amount, up to \$180,000 is to
13.22 establish a monitoring and enforcement fund,
13.23 as approved in the accomplishment plan
13.24 and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section
13.25 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of proposed
13.26 easement acquisitions must be provided as
13.27 part of the final report.

13.28 **(e) Accelerated Shallow Lakes and Wetlands**
13.29 **Enhancement - Phase VIII**

13.30 \$2,167,000 the second year is to the
13.31 commissioner of natural resources to enhance
13.32 and restore shallow lakes and wetland habitat
13.33 statewide. A list of proposed land restorations
13.34 and enhancements must be provided as part
13.35 of the required accomplishment plan.

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

14.1 \$2,000,000 the second year is to the
 14.2 commissioner of natural resources to modify
 14.3 the dam at Marsh Lake for improved habitat
 14.4 management and to return the historic outlet
 14.5 of the Pomme de Terre River to Lac Qui Parle.

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

14.7 **(a) DNR Aquatic Habitat Protection - Phase**
 14.8 **VIII**

14.9 \$1,578,000 the second year is to the
 14.10 commissioner of natural resources to acquire
 14.11 land in fee and permanent conservation
 14.12 easements for aquatic management purposes
 14.13 under Minnesota Statutes, sections 86A.05,
 14.14 subdivision 14, and 97C.02, to acquire
 14.15 permanent conservation easements under
 14.16 the Minnesota forests for the future
 14.17 program pursuant to Minnesota Statutes,
 14.18 section 84.66, and to restore and enhance
 14.19 aquatic and adjacent upland habitat.

14.20 Of this amount, up to \$153,000 is to
 14.21 establish a monitoring and enforcement
 14.22 fund as approved in the accomplishment
 14.23 plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes,
 14.24 section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of
 14.25 proposed land acquisitions, conservation
 14.26 easements, restorations, and enhancements
 14.27 must be provided as part of the required
 14.28 accomplishment plan.

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

14.30 \$4,000,000 the second year is to the
 14.31 commissioner of natural resources for
 14.32 agreements to acquire land in fee and
 14.33 permanent conservation easements and
 14.34 to restore and enhance natural systems
 14.35 associated with the Mississippi, Minnesota,

15.1 and St. Croix Rivers within the metropolitan
15.2 area as follows: \$500,000 to Minnesota
15.3 Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust,
15.4 Inc.; \$430,000 to Friends of the Mississippi
15.5 River; \$1,170,000 to Great River Greening;
15.6 \$800,000 to The Trust for Public Land; and
15.7 \$1,100,000 to Minnesota Land Trust, of
15.8 which up to \$60,000 to Minnesota Land Trust
15.9 is to establish a monitoring and enforcement
15.10 fund as approved in the accomplishment
15.11 plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes,
15.12 section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of
15.13 proposed land acquisitions and permanent
15.14 conservation easements must be provided as
15.15 part of the required accomplishment plan.

15.16 **(c) Mississippi Headwaters Habitat Corridor**
15.17 **Partnership - Phase II**

15.18 \$2,105,000 the second year is to the
15.19 commissioner of natural resources for
15.20 agreements to acquire lands in fee in the
15.21 Mississippi Headwaters and for agreements
15.22 as follows: \$76,000 to the Mississippi
15.23 Headwaters Board; and \$2,029,000 to
15.24 The Trust for Public Land. \$1,045,000
15.25 the second year is to the Board of Water
15.26 and Soil Resources to acquire permanent
15.27 conservation easements and to restore
15.28 wildlife habitat, of which up to \$78,000 is
15.29 to establish a monitoring and enforcement
15.30 fund as approved in the accomplishment plan
15.31 and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section
15.32 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of proposed
15.33 acquisitions must be included as part of the
15.34 required accomplishment plan.

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

16.1 \$1,425,000 the second year is to the
16.2 commissioner of natural resources for
16.3 agreements with the Leech Lake Area
16.4 Watershed Foundation and Minnesota Land
16.5 Trust to acquire land in fee and permanent
16.6 conservation easements to sustain healthy
16.7 fish habitat on cold water lakes in Aitkin,
16.8 Cass, Crow Wing, and Hubbard Counties
16.9 as follows: \$480,000 to Leech Lake Area
16.10 Watershed Foundation; and \$945,000 to
16.11 Minnesota Land Trust, of which up to
16.12 \$180,000 to Minnesota Land Trust is to
16.13 establish a monitoring and enforcement fund
16.14 as approved in the accomplishment plan
16.15 and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section
16.16 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of proposed
16.17 land acquisitions must be provided as part of
16.18 the required accomplishment plan.

16.19 **(e) Minnesota Trout Unlimited Coldwater Fish**
16.20 **Habitat Enhancement and Restoration - Phase**
16.21 **VIII**

16.22 \$1,975,000 the second year is to the
16.23 commissioner of natural resources for an
16.24 agreement with Minnesota Trout Unlimited
16.25 to restore or enhance habitat for trout and
16.26 other species in and along cold water rivers,
16.27 lakes, and streams in Minnesota. A list of
16.28 proposed restorations and enhancements
16.29 must be provided as part of the required
16.30 accomplishment plan.

16.31 **(f) DNR Stream Habitat**

16.32 \$2,074,000 the second year is to the
16.33 commissioner of natural resources to restore
16.34 and enhance habitat to facilitate fish passage,
16.35 degraded streams, and critical aquatic species
16.36 habitat. A list of proposed land restorations

17.1 and enhancements must be provided as part
17.2 of the required accomplishment plan.

17.3 **(g) St. Louis River Restoration Initiative -**
17.4 **Phase III**

17.5 \$2,707,000 the second year is to the
17.6 commissioner of natural resources to restore
17.7 aquatic habitats in the St. Louis River
17.8 estuary. A list of proposed restorations
17.9 must be provided as part of the required
17.10 accomplishment plan.

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

17.12 \$828,000 the second year is to the
17.13 commissioner of natural resources for
17.14 an agreement with the Sand Hill River
17.15 Watershed District, in cooperation with
17.16 the Department of Natural Resources and
17.17 Army Corps of Engineers, to restore and
17.18 enhance fish passage and habitat in the Sand
17.19 Hill River watershed. A list of proposed
17.20 restorations must be provided as part of the
17.21 required accomplishment plan.

17.22 **(i) Shell Rock River Watershed Habitat**
17.23 **Restoration Program - Phase V**

17.24 \$1,200,000 the second year is to the
17.25 commissioner of natural resources for
17.26 an agreement with the Shell Rock River
17.27 Watershed District to acquire in fee, restore,
17.28 and enhance aquatic habitat in the Shell
17.29 Rock River watershed. A list of proposed
17.30 acquisitions, restorations, and enhancements
17.31 must be provided as part of the required
17.32 accomplishment plan.

17.33 **(j) Roseau Lake Rehabilitation**

17.34 \$2,763,000 the second year is to the
17.35 commissioner of natural resources to acquire

18.1 land in fee and permanent conservation
18.2 easements for wildlife management purposes
18.3 in Roseau County under Minnesota Statutes,
18.4 section 86A.05, subdivision 8, to restore
18.5 and enhance wildlife habitat. A list of
18.6 proposed land acquisitions and restorations
18.7 and enhancements must be provided as part
18.8 of the required accomplishment plan.

18.9 **(k) Conservation Partners Legacy Grant**
18.10 **Program: Statewide and Metro Habitat -**
18.11 **Phase VIII**

18.12 \$7,438,000 the second year is to the
18.13 commissioner of natural resources for a
18.14 program to provide competitive, matching
18.15 grants of up to \$400,000 to local, regional,
18.16 state, and national organizations for
18.17 enhancing, restoring, or protecting forests,
18.18 wetlands, prairies, or habitat for fish, game, or
18.19 wildlife in Minnesota. Of this amount, up to
18.20 \$2,500,000 is for grants in the seven-county
18.21 metropolitan area and cities with a population
18.22 of 50,000 or greater. Grants shall not be made
18.23 for activities required to fulfill the duties
18.24 of owners of lands subject to conservation
18.25 easements. Grants shall not be made from the
18.26 appropriation in this paragraph for projects
18.27 that have a total project cost exceeding
18.28 \$575,000. Of the total appropriation,
18.29 \$588,000 may be spent for personnel costs
18.30 and other direct and necessary administrative
18.31 costs. Grantees may acquire land or interests
18.32 in land. Easements must be permanent.
18.33 Grants may not be used to establish easement
18.34 stewardship accounts. Land acquired in fee
18.35 must be open to hunting and fishing during
18.36 the open season unless otherwise provided

19.1 by law. The program must require a match
19.2 of at least ten percent from nonstate sources
19.3 for all grants. The match may be cash or
19.4 in-kind resources. For grant applications
19.5 of \$25,000 or less, the commissioner shall
19.6 provide a separate, simplified application
19.7 process. Subject to Minnesota Statutes, the
19.8 commissioner of natural resources shall,
19.9 when evaluating projects of equal value,
19.10 give priority to organizations that have a
19.11 history of receiving or a charter to receive
19.12 private contributions for local conservation
19.13 or habitat projects. If acquiring land in fee
19.14 or a conservation easement, priority must be
19.15 given to projects associated with or within
19.16 one mile of existing wildlife management
19.17 areas under Minnesota Statutes, section
19.18 86A.05, subdivision 8; scientific and natural
19.19 areas under Minnesota Statutes, sections
19.20 84.033 and 86A.05, subdivision 5; or aquatic
19.21 management areas under Minnesota Statutes,
19.22 sections 86A.05, subdivision 14, and 97C.02.
19.23 All restoration or enhancement projects
19.24 must be on land permanently protected by
19.25 a permanent covenant ensuring perpetual
19.26 maintenance and protection of restored
19.27 and enhanced habitat, by a conservation
19.28 easement, by public ownership, or in public
19.29 waters as defined in Minnesota Statutes,
19.30 section 103G.005, subdivision 15. Priority
19.31 must be given to restoration and enhancement
19.32 projects on public lands. Minnesota Statutes,
19.33 section 97A.056, subdivision 13, applies
19.34 to grants awarded under this paragraph.
19.35 This appropriation is available until June
19.36 30, 2020. No less than five percent of the

20.1 amount of each grant must be held back from
 20.2 reimbursement until the grant recipient has
 20.3 completed a grant accomplishment report by
 20.4 the deadline and in the form prescribed by
 20.5 and satisfactory to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor
 20.6 Heritage Council. The commissioner shall
 20.7 provide notice of the grant program in
 20.8 the game and fish law summary prepared
 20.9 under Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.051,
 20.10 subdivision 2.

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

20.12 **(a) Contract Management**

20.13 \$150,000 the second year is to the
 20.14 commissioner of natural resources for
 20.15 contract management duties assigned in this
 20.16 section. The commissioner shall provide an
 20.17 accomplishment plan in the form specified by
 20.18 the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
 20.19 on the expenditure of this appropriation.
 20.20 The accomplishment plan must include
 20.21 a copy of the grant contract template
 20.22 and reimbursement manual. No money
 20.23 may be expended prior to Lessard-Sams
 20.24 Outdoor Heritage Council approval of the
 20.25 accomplishment plan.

20.26 **(b) Technical Evaluation Panel**

20.27 \$125,000 the second year is to the
 20.28 commissioner of natural resources for a
 20.29 technical evaluation panel to conduct up to
 20.30 15 restoration and enhancement evaluations
 20.31 under Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056,
 20.32 subdivision 10.

20.33 **Subd. 7. Availability of Appropriation**

21.1 Money appropriated in this section may
21.2 not be spent on activities unless they are
21.3 directly related to and necessary for a
21.4 specific appropriation and are specified in
21.5 the accomplishment plan approved by the
21.6 Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.
21.7 Money appropriated in this section must not
21.8 be spent on indirect costs or other institutional
21.9 overhead charges that are not directly related
21.10 to and necessary for a specific appropriation.
21.11 Unless otherwise provided, the amounts
21.12 in this section are available until June 30,
21.13 2019. For acquisition of real property, the
21.14 amounts in this section are available until
21.15 June 30, 2020, if a binding agreement with a
21.16 landowner or purchase agreement is entered
21.17 into by June 30, 2019, and closed no later
21.18 than June 30, 2020. Funds for restoration
21.19 or enhancement are available until June
21.20 30, 2021, or five years after acquisition,
21.21 whichever is later, in order to complete initial
21.22 restoration or enhancement work. If a project
21.23 receives at least 15 percent of its funding
21.24 from federal funds, the time period of the
21.25 appropriation may be extended to equal the
21.26 availability of federal funding to a maximum
21.27 of six years, provided the federal funding
21.28 was confirmed and included in the first draft
21.29 accomplishment plan. Money appropriated
21.30 for fee title acquisition of land may be used to
21.31 restore, enhance, and provide for public use
21.32 of the land acquired with the appropriation.
21.33 Public use facilities must have a minimal
21.34 impact on habitat in acquired lands.

21.35 **Subd. 8. Payment Conditions and Capital**
21.36 **Equipment Expenditures**

22.1 All agreements referred to in this section must
22.2 be administered on a reimbursement basis
22.3 unless otherwise provided in this section.
22.4 Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, section
22.5 16A.41, expenditures directly related
22.6 to each appropriation's purpose made
22.7 on or after July 1, 2016, or the date of
22.8 accomplishment plan approval, whichever is
22.9 later, are eligible for reimbursement unless
22.10 otherwise provided in this section. For the
22.11 purposes of administering appropriations
22.12 and legislatively authorized agreements paid
22.13 out of the outdoor heritage fund, an expense
22.14 must be considered reimbursable by the
22.15 administering agency when the recipient
22.16 presents the agency with an invoice, or
22.17 binding agreement with the landowner, and
22.18 the recipient attests that the goods have
22.19 been received or the landowner agreement
22.20 is binding. Periodic reimbursement must
22.21 be made upon receiving documentation that
22.22 the items articulated in the accomplishment
22.23 plan approved by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor
22.24 Heritage Council have been achieved,
22.25 including partial achievements as evidenced
22.26 by progress reports approved by the
22.27 Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.
22.28 Reasonable amounts may be advanced to
22.29 projects to accommodate cash flow needs,
22.30 support future management of acquired
22.31 lands, or match a federal share. The
22.32 advances must be approved as part of the
22.33 accomplishment plan. Capital equipment
22.34 expenditures for specific items in excess of
22.35 \$10,000 must be itemized in and approved as
22.36 part of the accomplishment plan.

23.1 Subd. 9. Mapping

23.2 Each direct recipient of money appropriated
23.3 in this section, as well as each recipient of
23.4 a grant awarded pursuant to this section,
23.5 must provide geographic information to the
23.6 Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
23.7 for mapping of any lands acquired in fee
23.8 with funds appropriated in this section and
23.9 open to public taking of fish and game. The
23.10 commissioner of natural resources shall
23.11 include the lands acquired in fee with money
23.12 appropriated in this section on maps showing
23.13 public recreation opportunities. Maps must
23.14 include information on and acknowledgment
23.15 of the outdoor heritage fund, including a
23.16 notation of any restrictions.

23.17 Subd. 10. RIM Buffers for Wildlife and Water
23.18 Restorations

23.19 The following appropriations to the Board
23.20 of Water and Soil Resources for the RIM
23.21 buffers for wildlife and water program
23.22 may be used for restoration of lands
23.23 acquired by conservation easement with the
23.24 appropriations:

23.25 (1) Laws 2015, First Special Session
23.26 chapter 2, article 1, section 2, subdivision 2,
23.27 paragraph (f);

23.28 (2) Laws 2014, chapter 256, article 1, section
23.29 2, subdivision 2, paragraph (f);

23.30 (3) Laws 2013, chapter 137, article 1, section
23.31 2, subdivision 2, paragraph (e);

23.32 (4) Laws 2012, chapter 264, article 1, section
23.33 2, subdivision 2, paragraph (a); and

24.1 (5) Laws 2011, First Special Session
24.2 chapter 6, article 1, section 2, subdivision 2,
24.3 paragraph (c).
24.4 Subd. 11. **Appropriations Contingent Upon**
24.5 **Audit**
24.6 The appropriations in this section are not
24.7 available until the Office of the Legislative
24.8 Auditor completes its next financial audit
24.9 of the outdoor heritage fund, anticipated to
24.10 be completed in 2016, and the legislative
24.11 auditor has submitted the report required
24.12 under Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056,
24.13 subdivision 11, paragraph (c), listing
24.14 noncompliant recipients. A recipient
24.15 listed in the report may not receive money
24.16 appropriated in this section until the
24.17 legislative auditor has removed the recipient
24.18 from the list as provided under Minnesota
24.19 Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 11,
24.20 paragraph (c).

24.21 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 97A.056, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

24.22 Subd. 2. **Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.** (a) The Lessard-Sams
24.23 Outdoor Heritage Council of 12 members is created in the legislative branch, consisting of:

24.24 (1) two public members appointed by the senate Subcommittee on Committees of
24.25 the Committee on Rules and Administration;

24.26 (2) two public members appointed by the speaker of the house;

24.27 (3) four public members appointed by the governor;

24.28 (4) two members of the senate appointed by the senate Subcommittee on Committees
24.29 of the Committee on Rules and Administration; and

24.30 (5) two members of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the
24.31 house.

24.32 (b) Members appointed under paragraph (a) must not be registered lobbyists. In
24.33 making appointments, the governor, senate Subcommittee on Committees of the Committee
24.34 on Rules and Administration, and the speaker of the house shall consider geographic

25.1 balance, gender, age, ethnicity, and varying interests including hunting and fishing. The
25.2 governor's appointments to the council are subject to the advice and consent of the senate.

25.3 (c) Public members appointed under paragraph (a) shall have practical experience
25.4 or expertise or demonstrated knowledge in the science, policy, or practice of restoring,
25.5 protecting, and enhancing wetlands, prairies, forests, and habitat for fish, game, and
25.6 wildlife.

25.7 (d) Legislative members appointed under paragraph (a) shall include the chairs
25.8 of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over environment and natural resources
25.9 finance or their designee, one member from the minority party of the senate, and one
25.10 member from the minority party of the house of representatives.

25.11 (e) Public members serve four-year terms. Appointed legislative members serve
25.12 at the pleasure of the appointing authority. Public and legislative members continue to
25.13 serve until their successors are appointed. Public members shall be initially appointed
25.14 according to the following schedule of terms:

25.15 (1) two public members appointed by the governor for a term ending the first
25.16 Monday in January 2011;

25.17 (2) one public member appointed by the senate Subcommittee on Committees of the
25.18 Committee on Rules and Administration for a term ending the first Monday in January 2011;

25.19 (3) one public member appointed by the speaker of the house for a term ending
25.20 the first Monday in January 2011;

25.21 (4) two public members appointed by the governor for a term ending the first
25.22 Monday in January 2013;

25.23 (5) one public member appointed by the senate Subcommittee on Committees of the
25.24 Committee on Rules and Administration for a term ending the first Monday in January
25.25 2013; and

25.26 (6) one public member appointed by the speaker of the house for a term ending
25.27 the first Monday in January 2013.

25.28 (f) Terms, compensation, and removal of public members are as provided in section
25.29 15.0575. A vacancy on the council may be filled by the appointing authority for the
25.30 remainder of the unexpired term.

25.31 ~~(g) The first meeting of the council shall be convened by the chair of the Legislative~~
25.32 ~~Coordinating Commission no later than December 1, 2008.~~ Members shall elect a chair,
25.33 vice-chair, secretary, and other officers as determined by the council. The chair may
25.34 convene meetings as necessary to conduct the duties prescribed by this section.

25.35 ~~(h) Upon coordination with The Legislative Coordinating Commission, the council~~
25.36 may appoint nonpartisan staff and contract with consultants as necessary to carry out

26.1 support the functions of the council. Up to one percent of the money appropriated from the
26.2 fund may be used to pay for administrative expenses of the council and for compensation
26.3 and expense reimbursement of council members.

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

26.5 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 97A.056, subdivision 10, is amended to read:

26.6 Subd. 10. **Restoration and enhancements evaluations.** The commissioner of
26.7 natural resources and the Board of Water and Soil Resources ~~may~~ must convene a technical
26.8 evaluation panel comprised of five members, including one technical representative from
26.9 the Board of Water and Soil Resources, one technical representative from the Department of
26.10 Natural Resources, one technical expert from the University of Minnesota or the Minnesota
26.11 State Colleges and Universities, and two representatives with expertise in the project
26.12 being evaluated. The board and the commissioner may add a technical representative from
26.13 a unit of federal or local government. The members of the technical evaluation panel
26.14 may not be associated with the restoration or enhancement, may vary depending upon
26.15 the projects being reviewed, and shall avoid any potential conflicts of interest. Each year,
26.16 the board and the commissioner may assign a coordinator to identify ~~a sample of up to~~
26.17 ~~ten~~ habitat restoration or enhancement projects completed with outdoor heritage funding.
26.18 The coordinator shall secure the ~~restoration~~ plans for the projects specified and direct
26.19 the technical evaluation panel to evaluate the restorations and enhancements relative to
26.20 the law, current science, and the stated goals and standards in the ~~restoration~~ project
26.21 plan and, when applicable, to the Board of Water and Soil Resources' native vegetation
26.22 establishment and enhancement guidelines. The coordinator shall summarize the findings
26.23 of the panel and provide a report to the chair of the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage
26.24 Council and the chairs of the respective house of representatives and senate policy and
26.25 finance committees with jurisdiction over natural resources and spending from the outdoor
26.26 heritage fund. The report shall determine if the restorations and enhancements are meeting
26.27 planned goals, any problems with the implementation of restorations and enhancements,
26.28 and, if necessary, recommendations on improving restorations and enhancements. The
26.29 report shall be focused on improving future restorations and enhancements. At least
26.30 one-tenth of one percent of forecasted receipts from the outdoor heritage fund must be
26.31 used for restoration and enhancements evaluations under this section.

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

27.1 Subd. 22. Local approval of land acquisitions. A recipient of money appropriated
 27.2 from the outdoor heritage fund that acquires land in fee title with the appropriation must
 27.3 follow the procedures under section 97A.145, subdivision 2, when acquiring land if the
 27.4 land is intended to be transferred to the state or federal government after its acquisition.

27.5 EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective July 1, 2016, and applies to land
 27.6 acquired with money appropriated on or after that date.

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

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

27.10 **(a) DNR Wildlife Management Area and**
 27.11 **Scientific and Natural Area Acquisition - Phase**
 27.12 **VII**

27.13 \$4,570,000 in the first year is to the
 27.14 commissioner of natural resources to acquire
 27.15 land in fee for wildlife management purposes
 27.16 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,
 27.17 subdivision 8, and to acquire land in fee
 27.18 for scientific and natural area purposes
 27.19 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,
 27.20 subdivision 5. Subject to evaluation criteria
 27.21 in Minnesota Rules, part 6136.0900, priority
 27.22 must be given to acquisition of lands that
 27.23 are eligible for the native prairie bank under
 27.24 Minnesota Statutes, section 84.96, or lands
 27.25 adjacent to protected native prairie. A list of
 27.26 proposed land and permanent conservation
 27.27 easement acquisitions must be provided as
 27.28 part of the required accomplishment plan.

27.29 **(b) Accelerating Wildlife Management Area**
 27.30 **Acquisition - Phase VII**

27.31 \$7,452,000 in the first year is to the
 27.32 commissioner of natural resources for an
 27.33 agreement with Pheasants Forever to acquire
 27.34 land in fee for wildlife management area

28.1 purposes under Minnesota Statutes, section
28.2 86A.05, subdivision 8. Subject to evaluation
28.3 criteria in Minnesota Rules, part 6136.0900,
28.4 priority must be given to acquisition of
28.5 lands that are eligible for the native prairie
28.6 bank under Minnesota Statutes, section
28.7 84.96, or lands adjacent to protected native
28.8 prairie. A list of proposed land acquisitions
28.9 must be provided as part of the required
28.10 accomplishment plan.

28.11 **(c) Minnesota Prairie Recovery Project - Phase**
28.12 **VI**

28.13 \$4,032,000 in the first year is to the
28.14 commissioner of natural resources for an
28.15 agreement with The Nature Conservancy
28.16 to acquire native prairie, wetlands, and
28.17 savanna and restore and enhance grasslands,
28.18 wetlands, and savanna. Subject to evaluation
28.19 criteria in Minnesota Rules, part 6136.0900,
28.20 priority must be given to acquisition of lands
28.21 that are eligible for the native prairie bank
28.22 under Minnesota Statutes, section 84.96, or
28.23 lands adjacent to protected native prairie.
28.24 Annual income statements and balance sheets
28.25 for income and expenses from land acquired
28.26 with this appropriation must be submitted
28.27 to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage
28.28 Council no later than 180 days following
28.29 the close of The Nature Conservancy's fiscal
28.30 year. A list of proposed land acquisitions
28.31 must be provided as part of the required
28.32 accomplishment plan and must be consistent
28.33 with the priorities identified in the Minnesota
28.34 Prairie Conservation Plan.

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

29.1 \$3,430,000 in the first year is to the
29.2 commissioner of natural resources for an
29.3 agreement with The Nature Conservancy
29.4 in cooperation with the United States Fish
29.5 and Wildlife Service to acquire land in
29.6 fee or permanent conservation easements
29.7 within the Northern Tallgrass Prairie Habitat
29.8 Preservation Area in western Minnesota
29.9 for addition to the Northern Tallgrass
29.10 Prairie National Wildlife Refuge. Subject
29.11 to evaluation criteria in Minnesota Rules,
29.12 part 6136.0900, priority must be given to
29.13 acquisition of lands that are eligible for
29.14 the native prairie bank under Minnesota
29.15 Statutes, section 84.96, or lands adjacent to
29.16 protected native prairie. A list of proposed
29.17 land acquisitions must be provided as part
29.18 of the required accomplishment plan and
29.19 must be consistent with the priorities in the
29.20 Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan.

29.21 **(e) Accelerated Native Prairie Bank Protection**
29.22 **- Phase IV**

29.23 \$3,740,000 in the first year is to the
29.24 commissioner of natural resources
29.25 to implement the Minnesota Prairie
29.26 Conservation Plan through the acquisition
29.27 of permanent conservation easements to
29.28 protect native prairie and grasslands. Up
29.29 to \$165,000 is for establishing monitoring
29.30 and enforcement funds as approved in
29.31 the accomplishment plan and subject to
29.32 Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056,
29.33 subdivision 17. Subject to evaluation criteria
29.34 in Minnesota Rules, part 6136.0900, priority
29.35 must be given to acquisition of lands that
29.36 are eligible for the native prairie bank under

30.1 Minnesota Statutes, section 84.96, or lands
30.2 adjacent to protected native prairie. A list of
30.3 permanent conservation easements must be
30.4 provided as part of the final report.

30.5 **(f) Minnesota Buffers for Wildlife and Water**
30.6 **- Phase V**

30.7 \$4,544,000 in the first year is to the Board
30.8 of Water and Soil Resources to acquire
30.9 permanent conservation easements to protect
30.10 and enhance habitat by expanding the clean
30.11 water fund riparian buffer program for at
30.12 least equal wildlife benefits from buffers
30.13 on private land. Up to \$72,500 is for
30.14 establishing a monitoring and enforcement
30.15 fund as approved in the accomplishment plan
30.16 and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section
30.17 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of permanent
30.18 conservation easements must be provided as
30.19 part of the final report.

30.20 **(g) Cannon River Headwaters Habitat**
30.21 **Complex - Phase V**

30.22 \$1,380,000 in the first year is to the
30.23 commissioner of natural resources for an
30.24 agreement with The Trust for Public Land to
30.25 acquire and restore lands in the Cannon River
30.26 watershed for wildlife management purposes
30.27 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,
30.28 subdivision 8. Subject to evaluation criteria
30.29 in Minnesota Rules, part 6136.0900, priority
30.30 must be given to acquisition of lands that
30.31 are eligible for the native prairie bank under
30.32 Minnesota Statutes, section 84.96, or lands
30.33 adjacent to protected native prairie. A list of
30.34 proposed land acquisitions must be provided
30.35 as part of the required accomplishment plan.

31.1 **(h) Prairie Chicken Habitat Partnership of the**
31.2 **Southern Red River Valley**

31.3 \$1,800,000 in the first year is to the
31.4 commissioner of natural resources for
31.5 an agreement with Pheasants Forever in
31.6 cooperation with the Minnesota Prairie
31.7 Chicken Society to acquire and restore lands
31.8 in the southern Red River Valley for wildlife
31.9 management purposes under Minnesota
31.10 Statutes, section 86A.05, subdivision 8,
31.11 or for designation and management as
31.12 waterfowl production areas in Minnesota,
31.13 in cooperation with the United States Fish
31.14 and Wildlife Service. A list of proposed land
31.15 acquisitions must be provided as part of the
31.16 required accomplishment plan.

31.17 **(i) Protecting and Restoring Minnesota's**
31.18 **Important Bird Areas**

31.19 \$1,730,000 in the first year is to the
31.20 commissioner of natural resources for
31.21 agreements to acquire conservation
31.22 easements within important bird areas
31.23 identified in the Minnesota Prairie
31.24 Conservation Plan, to be used as follows:
31.25 \$408,000 is to Audubon Minnesota and
31.26 \$1,322,000 is to Minnesota Land Trust, of
31.27 which up to \$100,000 is for establishing
31.28 monitoring and enforcement funds as
31.29 approved in the accomplishment plan and
31.30 subject to Minnesota Statutes, section
31.31 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of permanent
31.32 conservation easements must be provided as
31.33 part of the final report.

31.34 **(j) Wild Rice River Corridor Habitat**
31.35 **Restoration**

32.1 \$2,270,000 in the first year is to the
 32.2 commissioner of natural resources for an
 32.3 agreement with the Wild Rice Watershed
 32.4 District to acquire land in fee and permanent
 32.5 conservation easement and to `restore river
 32.6 and related habitat in the Wild Rice River
 32.7 corridor. A list of proposed acquisitions and
 32.8 restorations must be provided as part of the
 32.9 required accomplishment plan.

32.10 **(k) Accelerated Prairie Restoration and**
 32.11 **Enhancement on DNR Lands - Phase VII**

32.12 \$4,880,000 in the first year is to the
 32.13 commissioner of natural resources to
 32.14 accelerate the restoration and enhancement
 32.15 of prairie communities on wildlife
 32.16 management areas, scientific and natural
 32.17 areas, state forest land, and land under
 32.18 native prairie bank easements. A list of
 32.19 proposed land restorations and enhancements
 32.20 must be provided as part of the required
 32.21 accomplishment plan.

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

32.23 \$1,120,000 in the first year is to the
 32.24 commissioner of natural resources for an
 32.25 agreement with Pheasants Forever to enhance
 32.26 and restore habitat on public lands. A list of
 32.27 proposed land restorations and enhancements
 32.28 must be provided as part of the final report.

32.29 Sec. 7. Laws 2015, First Special Session chapter 2, article 1, section 2, subdivision 3,
 32.30 is amended to read:

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

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

32.33 \$1,500,000 in the first year is to the
 32.34 Board of Water and Soil Resources in

33.1 cooperation with the Morrison County Soil
33.2 and Water Conservation District to acquire
33.3 permanent conservation easements within
33.4 the boundaries of the Minnesota National
33.5 Guard Compatible Use Buffer to protect
33.6 forest wildlife habitat. Up to \$55,000 is for
33.7 establishing a monitoring and enforcement
33.8 fund, as approved in the accomplishment
33.9 plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes,
33.10 section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of
33.11 permanent conservation easements must be
33.12 provided as part of the final report.

33.13 **(b) Southeast Minnesota Protection and**
33.14 **Restoration - Phase III**

33.15 \$2,910,000 in the first year is to the
33.16 commissioner of natural resources for an
33.17 agreement with The Nature Conservancy to
33.18 acquire land in fee for wildlife management
33.19 purposes under Minnesota Statutes, section
33.20 86A.05, subdivision 8; to acquire land
33.21 in fee for scientific and natural areas
33.22 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,
33.23 subdivision 5; for state forest purposes
33.24 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,
33.25 subdivision 7; and to enhance grasslands,
33.26 forest, and savanna. A list of proposed
33.27 acquisitions must be provided as part of the
33.28 required accomplishment plan.

33.29 **(c) Protecting Pinelands Sands Aquifer**
33.30 **Forestlands - Phase II**

33.31 \$2,180,000 in the first year is to the
33.32 commissioner of natural resources to acquire
33.33 forest lands in Cass, Hubbard, and Wadena
33.34 Counties for wildlife management purposes
33.35 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,
33.36 subdivision 8, and to acquire land in fee

34.1 for state forests under Minnesota Statutes,
34.2 section 86A.05, subdivision 7. A list of
34.3 proposed land acquisitions must be provided
34.4 as part of the required accomplishment plan.

34.5 **(d) Protect Key Forest Lands in Cass County**
34.6 **- Phase VI**

34.7 \$442,000 in the first year is to the
34.8 commissioner of natural resources for an
34.9 agreement with Cass County to acquire land
34.10 in fee in Cass County for forest wildlife
34.11 habitat or to prevent forest fragmentation.

34.12 A list of proposed land acquisitions
34.13 must be provided as part of the required
34.14 accomplishment plan.

34.15 **(e) Critical Shoreland Protection Program -**
34.16 **Phase III**

34.17 \$1,690,000 in the first year is to the
34.18 commissioner of natural resources for an
34.19 agreement with Minnesota Land Trust to
34.20 acquire permanent conservation easements
34.21 along rivers and lakes in the northern
34.22 forest region. Up to \$220,000 is for
34.23 establishing a monitoring and enforcement
34.24 fund, as approved in the accomplishment
34.25 plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes,
34.26 section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of
34.27 proposed permanent conservation easements
34.28 must be provided as part of the required
34.29 accomplishment plan.

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

34.31 \$3,002,000 in the first year is to the
34.32 commissioner of natural resources to
34.33 acquire lands in fee and for permanent
34.34 conservation easements in the Mississippi
34.35 Headwaters and for agreements as follows:

35.1 \$1,217,000 to The Trust for Public Land;
 35.2 and \$824,000 to Minnesota Land Trust,
 35.3 of which up to \$80,000 is for establishing
 35.4 a monitoring and enforcement fund as
 35.5 approved in the accomplishment plan and
 35.6 subject to Minnesota Statutes, section
 35.7 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of proposed
 35.8 acquisitions must be included as part of the
 35.9 required accomplishment plan.

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

35.11 \$910,000 in the first year is to the
 35.12 commissioner of natural resources to
 35.13 enhance forests in southeastern Minnesota.
 35.14 A list of proposed land enhancements
 35.15 must be provided as part of the required
 35.16 accomplishment plan.

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

35.18 Sec. 8. Laws 2015, First Special Session chapter 2, article 1, section 2, subdivision 5,
 35.19 is amended to read:

35.20	Subd. 5. Habitats	22,368,000	-0-
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35.21 **(a) DNR Aquatic Habitat - Phase VII**

35.22 \$4,540,000 in the first year is to the
 35.23 commissioner of natural resources to acquire
 35.24 interests in land in fee and permanent
 35.25 conservation easements for aquatic
 35.26 management purposes under Minnesota
 35.27 Statutes, sections 86A.05, subdivision 14,
 35.28 and 97C.02, to acquire interests in land in
 35.29 permanent conservation easements for fish
 35.30 and wildlife habitat under Minnesota Statutes,
 35.31 section 84.66, and to restore and enhance
 35.32 aquatic habitat. Up to \$130,000 is for
 35.33 establishing a monitoring and enforcement

36.1 fund as approved in the accomplishment
36.2 plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes,
36.3 section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of
36.4 proposed land acquisitions and restorations
36.5 and enhancements must be provided as part
36.6 of the required accomplishment plan.

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

36.8 \$2,000,000 in the first year is to the
36.9 commissioner of natural resources for
36.10 agreements to acquire land in fee and in
36.11 permanent conservation easements and
36.12 to restore and enhance natural systems
36.13 associated with the Mississippi, Minnesota,
36.14 and St. Croix Rivers as follows: \$475,000 to
36.15 Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge
36.16 Trust, Inc.; \$275,000 to Friends of the
36.17 Mississippi River; \$400,000 to Great River
36.18 Greening; \$375,000 to Minnesota Land Trust;
36.19 and \$475,000 to The Trust for Public Land.
36.20 Up to \$60,000 to Minnesota Land Trust is for
36.21 establishing a monitoring and enforcement
36.22 fund as approved in the accomplishment
36.23 plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes,
36.24 section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of
36.25 proposed land acquisitions and permanent
36.26 conservation easements must be provided as
36.27 part of the required accomplishment plan.

36.28 **(c) Minnesota Trout Unlimited Coldwater Fish**
36.29 **Habitat Enhancement and Restoration - Phase**
36.30 **VII**

36.31 \$1,890,000 in the first year is to the
36.32 commissioner of natural resources for an
36.33 agreement with Minnesota Trout Unlimited
36.34 to restore and enhance habitat for trout
36.35 and other species in and along coldwater
36.36 rivers and streams in Minnesota. A list of

37.1 proposed restorations and enhancements
37.2 must be provided as part of the required
37.3 accomplishment plan.

37.4 **(d) Lake Bemidji South Shore Restoration and**
37.5 **Enhancement**

37.6 \$1,650,000 in the first year is to the
37.7 commissioner of natural resources for
37.8 an agreement with the city of Bemidji to
37.9 restore and enhance fish habitat on Lake
37.10 Bemidji. A list of proposed restorations and
37.11 enhancements must be provided as part of
37.12 the required accomplishment plan.

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

37.14 \$990,000 in the first year is to the
37.15 commissioner of natural resources for
37.16 an agreement with the Sand Hill River
37.17 Watershed District to restore fish habitat
37.18 in the Sand Hill River watershed. A list of
37.19 proposed restorations must be provided as
37.20 part of the required accomplishment plan.

37.21 **(f) Shell Rock River Watershed Habitat**
37.22 **Restoration Program - Phase IV**

37.23 \$2,414,000 in the first year is to the
37.24 commissioner of natural resources for
37.25 an agreement with the Shell Rock River
37.26 Watershed District to protect, restore,
37.27 and enhance aquatic habitat in the Shell
37.28 Rock River watershed. A list of proposed
37.29 acquisitions, restorations, and enhancements
37.30 must be provided as part of the required
37.31 accomplishment plan.

37.32 **(g) Lake Nokomis Integrated Habitat**
37.33 **Enhancement**

37.34 \$444,000 in the first year is to the
37.35 commissioner of natural resources for an

38.1 agreement with the Minneapolis Park and
38.2 Recreation Board to enhance aquatic habitat
38.3 on Lake Nokomis. A list of proposed
38.4 enhancements must be provided as part of
38.5 the required accomplishment plan.

38.6 **(h) Conservation Partners Legacy Grant**
38.7 **Program: Statewide and Metro Habitat -**
38.8 **Phase VII**

38.9 \$8,440,000 in the first year is to the
38.10 commissioner of natural resources for a
38.11 program to provide competitive, matching
38.12 grants of up to \$400,000 to local, regional,
38.13 state, and national organizations for
38.14 enhancing, restoring, or protecting forests,
38.15 wetlands, prairies, or habitat for fish, game,
38.16 or wildlife in Minnesota. Of this amount,
38.17 \$3,692,000 is for grants in the seven-county
38.18 metropolitan area and cities with a population
38.19 of 50,000 or greater. Grants shall not be made
38.20 for activities required to fulfill the duties
38.21 of owners of lands subject to conservation
38.22 easements. Grants shall not be made from the
38.23 appropriation in this paragraph for projects
38.24 that have a total project cost exceeding
38.25 \$575,000. Of this appropriation, \$596,000
38.26 may be spent for personnel costs and other
38.27 direct and necessary administrative costs.
38.28 Grantees may acquire land or interests in
38.29 land. Easements must be permanent. Grants
38.30 may not be used to establish easement
38.31 stewardship accounts. Land acquired in fee
38.32 must be open to hunting and fishing during
38.33 the open season unless otherwise provided
38.34 by law. The program must require a match
38.35 of at least ten percent from nonstate sources
38.36 for all grants. The match may be cash or

39.1 in-kind resources. For grant applications
39.2 of \$25,000 or less, the commissioner shall
39.3 provide a separate, simplified application
39.4 process. Subject to Minnesota Statutes, the
39.5 commissioner of natural resources shall,
39.6 when evaluating projects of equal value,
39.7 give priority to organizations that have a
39.8 history of receiving or a charter to receive
39.9 private contributions for local conservation
39.10 or habitat projects. If acquiring land or a
39.11 conservation easement, priority must be
39.12 given to projects associated with or within
39.13 one mile of existing wildlife management
39.14 areas under Minnesota Statutes, section
39.15 86A.05, subdivision 8; scientific and natural
39.16 areas under Minnesota Statutes, sections
39.17 84.033 and 86A.05, subdivision 5; or aquatic
39.18 management areas under Minnesota Statutes,
39.19 sections 86A.05, subdivision 14, and 97C.02.
39.20 All restoration or enhancement projects
39.21 must be on land permanently protected by
39.22 a permanent covenant ensuring perpetual
39.23 maintenance and protection of restored
39.24 and enhanced habitat, by a conservation
39.25 easement, or by public ownership or in
39.26 public waters as defined in Minnesota
39.27 Statutes, section 103G.005, subdivision
39.28 15. Priority must be given to restoration
39.29 and enhancement projects on public lands.
39.30 Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056,
39.31 subdivision 13, applies to grants awarded
39.32 under this paragraph. This appropriation is
39.33 available until June 30, ~~2018~~ 2019. No less
39.34 than five percent of the amount of each grant
39.35 must be held back from reimbursement until
39.36 the grant recipient has completed a grant

40.1 accomplishment report by the deadline and
40.2 in the form prescribed by and satisfactory to
40.3 the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.
40.4 The commissioner shall provide notice of
40.5 the grant program in the game and fish law
40.6 summary prepared under Minnesota Statutes,
40.7 section 97A.051, subdivision 2.