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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-NINTH SESSION

H. F. No. 181

01/15/2015 Authored by McNamara and Hansen

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

01/29/2015 Adoption of Report: Amended and re-referred to the Committee on Government Operations and Elections Policy

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to natural resources; appropriating money from outdoor heritage
1.3 fund; modifying requirements for use of outdoor heritage fund money and for
1.4 Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council; modifying previous appropriations;
1.5 amending Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 97A.056, subdivisions 2, 5, 8, by
1.6 adding subdivisions; Laws 2012, chapter 264, article 1, section 2, subdivision 5;
1.7 Laws 2014, chapter 256, article 1, section 2, subdivision 5.

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

1.9 Section 1. OUTDOOR HERITAGE APPROPRIATION.

1.10 The sums shown in the columns marked "Appropriations" are appropriated to the
1.11 agencies and for the purposes specified in this act. The appropriations are from the outdoor
1.12 heritage fund for the fiscal year indicated for each purpose. The figures "2016" and "2017"
1.13 used in this act mean that the appropriations listed under the figure are available for the
1.14 fiscal year ending June 30, 2016, and June 30, 2017, respectively. The "first year" is fiscal
1.15 year 2016. The "second year" is fiscal year 2017. The "biennium" is fiscal years 2016 and
1.16 2017, respectively. The appropriations in this act are onetime.

Table with 2 columns: Year (2016, 2017) and Appropriations Available for the Year Ending June 30.

1.21 Sec. 2. OUTDOOR HERITAGE FUND

1.22 Subdivision 1. Total Appropriation \$ 100,008,000 \$ 607,000

1.23 This appropriation is from the outdoor
1.24 heritage fund. The amounts that may be

2.1 spent for each purpose are specified in the
2.2 following subdivisions.

2.3 Subd. 2. Prairies 40,948,000 -0-

2.4 **(a) DNR Wildlife Management Area and**
2.5 **Scientific and Natural Area Acquisition - Phase**
2.6 **VII**

2.7 \$4,570,000 in the first year is to the
2.8 commissioner of natural resources to acquire
2.9 land in fee for wildlife management purposes
2.10 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,
2.11 subdivision 8, and to acquire land in fee
2.12 for scientific and natural area purposes
2.13 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,
2.14 subdivision 5. Subject to evaluation criteria
2.15 in Minnesota Rules, part 6136.0900, priority
2.16 must be given to acquisition of lands that
2.17 are eligible for the native prairie bank under
2.18 Minnesota Statutes, section 84.96, or lands
2.19 adjacent to protected native prairie. A list of
2.20 proposed land and permanent conservation
2.21 easement acquisitions must be provided as
2.22 part of the required accomplishment plan.

2.23 **(b) Accelerating Wildlife Management Area**
2.24 **Acquisition - Phase VII**

2.25 \$7,452,000 in the first year is to the
2.26 commissioner of natural resources for an
2.27 agreement with Pheasants Forever to acquire
2.28 land in fee for wildlife management area
2.29 purposes under Minnesota Statutes, section
2.30 86A.05, subdivision 8. Subject to evaluation
2.31 criteria in Minnesota Rules, part 6136.0900,
2.32 priority must be given to acquisition of
2.33 lands that are eligible for the native prairie
2.34 bank under Minnesota Statutes, section
2.35 84.96, or lands adjacent to protected native
2.36 prairie. A list of proposed land acquisitions

3.1 must be provided as part of the required
3.2 accomplishment plan.

3.3 **(c) Minnesota Prairie Recovery Project - Phase**
3.4 **VI**

3.5 \$4,032,000 in the first year is to the
3.6 commissioner of natural resources for an
3.7 agreement with The Nature Conservancy
3.8 to acquire native prairie, wetlands, and
3.9 savanna and restore and enhance grasslands,
3.10 wetlands, and savanna. Subject to evaluation
3.11 criteria in Minnesota Rules, part 6136.0900,
3.12 priority must be given to acquisition of lands
3.13 that are eligible for the native prairie bank
3.14 under Minnesota Statutes, section 84.96, or
3.15 lands adjacent to protected native prairie.

3.16 Annual income statements and balance sheets
3.17 for income and expenses from land acquired
3.18 with this appropriation must be submitted
3.19 to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage
3.20 Council no later than 180 days following
3.21 the close of The Nature Conservancy's fiscal
3.22 year. A list of proposed land acquisitions
3.23 must be provided as part of the required
3.24 accomplishment plan and must be consistent
3.25 with the priorities identified in the Minnesota
3.26 Prairie Conservation Plan.

3.27 **(d) Northern Tallgrass Prairie National**
3.28 **Wildlife Refuge Land Acquisition - Phase V**

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

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

4.13 **(e) Accelerated Native Prairie Bank Protection**
4.14 **- Phase IV**

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

4.33 **(f) Minnesota Buffers for Wildlife and Water**
4.34 **- Phase V**

4.35 \$4,544,000 in the first year is to the Board
4.36 of Water and Soil Resources to acquire

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

5.12 **(g) Cannon River Headwaters Habitat**
5.13 **Complex - Phase V**

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

5.28 **(h) Prairie Chicken Habitat Partnership of the**
5.29 **Southern Red River Valley**

5.30 \$1,800,000 in the first year is to the
5.31 commissioner of natural resources for
5.32 an agreement with Pheasants Forever in
5.33 cooperation with the Minnesota Prairie
5.34 Chicken Society to acquire and restore lands
5.35 in the southern Red River Valley for wildlife
5.36 management purposes under Minnesota

6.1 Statutes, section 86A.05, subdivision 8,
6.2 or for designation and management as
6.3 waterfowl production areas in Minnesota,
6.4 in cooperation with the United States Fish
6.5 and Wildlife Service. A list of proposed land
6.6 acquisitions must be provided as part of the
6.7 required accomplishment plan.

6.8 **(i) Protecting and Restoring Minnesota's**
6.9 **Important Bird Areas**

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

6.25 **(j) Wild Rice River Corridor Habitat**
6.26 **Restoration**

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

7.1 **(k) Accelerated Prairie Restoration and**
7.2 **Enhancement on DNR Lands - Phase VII**

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

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

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

7.20 Subd. 3. Forests 12,634,000 -0-

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

7.22 \$1,500,000 in the first year is to the
7.23 Board of Water and Soil Resources in
7.24 cooperation with the Morrison County Soil
7.25 and Water Conservation District to acquire
7.26 permanent conservation easements within
7.27 the boundaries of the Minnesota National
7.28 Guard Compatible Use Buffer to protect
7.29 forest wildlife habitat. Up to \$55,000 is for
7.30 establishing a monitoring and enforcement
7.31 fund, as approved in the accomplishment
7.32 plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes,
7.33 section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of

8.1 permanent conservation easements must be
 8.2 provided as part of the final report.

8.3 **(b) Southeast Minnesota Protection and**
 8.4 **Restoration - Phase III**

8.5 \$2,910,000 in the first year is to the
 8.6 commissioner of natural resources for an
 8.7 agreement with The Nature Conservancy to
 8.8 acquire land in fee for wildlife management
 8.9 purposes under Minnesota Statutes, section
 8.10 86A.05, subdivision 8; to acquire land
 8.11 in fee for scientific and natural areas
 8.12 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,
 8.13 subdivision 5; for state forest purposes
 8.14 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,
 8.15 subdivision 7; and to enhance grasslands,
 8.16 forest, and savanna. A list of proposed
 8.17 acquisitions must be provided as part of the
 8.18 required accomplishment plan.

8.19 **(c) Protecting Pinelands Sands Aquifer**
 8.20 **Forestlands - Phase II**

8.21 \$2,180,000 in the first year is to the
 8.22 commissioner of natural resources to
 8.23 acquire forest lands in Cass and Wadena
 8.24 Counties for wildlife management purposes
 8.25 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,
 8.26 subdivision 8, and to acquire land in fee
 8.27 for state forests under Minnesota Statutes,
 8.28 section 86A.05, subdivision 7. A list of
 8.29 proposed land acquisitions must be provided
 8.30 as part of the required accomplishment plan.

8.31 **(d) Protect Key Forest Lands in Cass County**
 8.32 **- Phase VI**

8.33 \$442,000 in the first year is to the
 8.34 commissioner of natural resources for an
 8.35 agreement with Cass County to acquire land
 8.36 in fee in Cass County for forest wildlife

9.1 habitat or to prevent forest fragmentation.

9.2 A list of proposed land acquisitions

9.3 must be provided as part of the required

9.4 accomplishment plan.

9.5 **(e) Critical Shoreland Protection Program -**
9.6 **Phase III**

9.7 \$1,690,000 in the first year is to the

9.8 commissioner of natural resources for an

9.9 agreement with Minnesota Land Trust to

9.10 acquire permanent conservation easements

9.11 along rivers and lakes in the northern

9.12 forest region. Up to \$220,000 is for

9.13 establishing a monitoring and enforcement

9.14 fund, as approved in the accomplishment

9.15 plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes,

9.16 section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of

9.17 proposed permanent conservation easements

9.18 must be provided as part of the required

9.19 accomplishment plan.

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

9.21 \$961,000 in the first year is to the

9.22 commissioner of natural resources to

9.23 acquire lands in fee and for permanent

9.24 conservation easements in the Mississippi

9.25 Headwaters and for agreements as follows:

9.26 \$1,217,000 to The Trust for Public Land;

9.27 and \$824,000 to Minnesota Land Trust,

9.28 of which up to \$80,000 is for establishing

9.29 a monitoring and enforcement fund as

9.30 approved in the accomplishment plan and

9.31 subject to Minnesota Statutes, section

9.32 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of proposed

9.33 acquisitions must be included as part of the

9.34 required accomplishment plan.

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

10.1 \$910,000 in the first year is to the
 10.2 commissioner of natural resources to
 10.3 enhance forests in southeastern Minnesota.
 10.4 A list of proposed land enhancements
 10.5 must be provided as part of the required
 10.6 accomplishment plan.

10.7 Subd. 4. **Wetlands** 22,578,000 -0-

10.8 **(a) Accelerating the Waterfowl Production**
 10.9 **Area Acquisition - Phase VII**

10.10 \$7,620,000 in the first year is to the
 10.11 commissioner of natural resources for an
 10.12 agreement with Pheasants Forever to acquire
 10.13 land in fee to be designated and managed as
 10.14 waterfowl production areas in Minnesota,
 10.15 in cooperation with the United States Fish
 10.16 and Wildlife Service. A list of proposed land
 10.17 acquisitions must be provided as part of the
 10.18 required accomplishment plan.

10.19 **(b) Living Shallow Lakes and Wetland**
 10.20 **Initiative - Phase V**

10.21 \$9,040,000 in the first year is to the
 10.22 commissioner of natural resources for an
 10.23 agreement with Ducks Unlimited to acquire
 10.24 land in fee for wildlife management purposes
 10.25 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,
 10.26 subdivision 8. A list of proposed acquisitions
 10.27 must be provided as part of the required
 10.28 accomplishment plan.

10.29 **(c) Wild Rice Shoreland Protection Program**
 10.30 **- Phase IV**

10.31 \$131,000 in the first year is to the
 10.32 commissioner of natural resources for the
 10.33 acquisition of land in fee and \$1,469,000 is
 10.34 to the Board of Water and Soil Resources to
 10.35 acquire permanent conservation easements

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

11.15 **(d) Accelerated Shallow Lakes and Wetlands**
 11.16 **Enhancement - Phase VII**

11.17 \$4,318,000 in the first year is to the
 11.18 commissioner of natural resources to
 11.19 enhance and restore shallow lakes statewide.
 11.20 A list of proposed land restorations and
 11.21 enhancements must be provided as part of
 11.22 the required accomplishment plan.

11.23	<u>Subd. 5. Habitats</u>	<u>22,368,000</u>	<u>-0-</u>
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11.24 **(a) DNR Aquatic Habitat - Phase VII**

11.25 \$4,540,000 in the first year is to the
 11.26 commissioner of natural resources to acquire
 11.27 interests in land in fee and permanent
 11.28 conservation easements for aquatic
 11.29 management purposes under Minnesota
 11.30 Statutes, sections 86A.05, subdivision 14,
 11.31 and 97C.02, and to restore and enhance
 11.32 aquatic habitat. Up to \$130,000 is for
 11.33 establishing a monitoring and enforcement
 11.34 fund as approved in the accomplishment
 11.35 plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes,

12.1 section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of
12.2 proposed land acquisitions and restorations
12.3 and enhancements must be provided as part
12.4 of the required accomplishment plan.

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

12.6 \$2,000,000 in the first year is to the
12.7 commissioner of natural resources for
12.8 agreements to acquire land in fee and in
12.9 permanent conservation easements and
12.10 to restore and enhance natural systems
12.11 associated with the Mississippi, Minnesota,
12.12 and St. Croix Rivers as follows: \$475,000 to
12.13 Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge
12.14 Trust, Inc.; \$275,000 to Friends of the
12.15 Mississippi River; \$400,000 to Great River
12.16 Greening; \$375,000 to Minnesota Land Trust;
12.17 and \$475,000 to The Trust for Public Land.
12.18 Up to \$60,000 to Minnesota Land Trust is for
12.19 establishing a monitoring and enforcement
12.20 fund as approved in the accomplishment
12.21 plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes,
12.22 section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of
12.23 proposed land acquisitions and permanent
12.24 conservation easements must be provided as
12.25 part of the required accomplishment plan.

12.26 **(c) Minnesota Trout Unlimited Coldwater Fish**
12.27 **Habitat Enhancement and Restoration - Phase**
12.28 **VII**

12.29 \$1,890,000 in the first year is to the
12.30 commissioner of natural resources for an
12.31 agreement with Minnesota Trout Unlimited
12.32 to restore and enhance habitat for trout
12.33 and other species in and along coldwater
12.34 rivers and streams in Minnesota. A list of
12.35 proposed restorations and enhancements

13.1 must be provided as part of the required
13.2 accomplishment plan.

13.3 **(d) Lake Bemidji South Shore Restoration and**
13.4 **Enhancement**

13.5 \$1,650,000 in the first year is to the
13.6 commissioner of natural resources for
13.7 an agreement with the city of Bemidji to
13.8 restore and enhance fish habitat on Lake
13.9 Bemidji. A list of proposed restorations and
13.10 enhancements must be provided as part of
13.11 the required accomplishment plan.

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

13.13 \$990,000 in the first year is to the
13.14 commissioner of natural resources for
13.15 an agreement with the Sand Hill River
13.16 Watershed District to restore fish habitat
13.17 in the Sand Hill River watershed. A list of
13.18 proposed restorations must be provided as
13.19 part of the required accomplishment plan.

13.20 **(f) Shell Rock River Watershed Habitat**
13.21 **Restoration Program - Phase IV**

13.22 \$2,414,000 in the first year is to the
13.23 commissioner of natural resources for
13.24 an agreement with the Shell Rock River
13.25 Watershed District to protect, restore,
13.26 and enhance aquatic habitat in the Shell
13.27 Rock River watershed. A list of proposed
13.28 acquisitions, restorations, and enhancements
13.29 must be provided as part of the required
13.30 accomplishment plan.

13.31 **(g) Lake Nokomis Integrated Habitat**
13.32 **Enhancement**

13.33 \$444,000 in the first year is to the
13.34 commissioner of natural resources for an
13.35 agreement with the Minneapolis Park and

14.1 Recreation Board to enhance aquatic habitat
14.2 on Lake Nokomis. A list of proposed
14.3 enhancements must be provided as part of
14.4 the required accomplishment plan.

14.5 **(h) Conservation Partners Legacy Grant**
14.6 **Program: Statewide and Metro Habitat -**
14.7 **Phase VII**

14.8 \$8,440,000 in the first year is to the
14.9 commissioner of natural resources for a
14.10 program to provide competitive, matching
14.11 grants of up to \$400,000 to local, regional,
14.12 state, and national organizations for
14.13 enhancing, restoring, or protecting forests,
14.14 wetlands, prairies, or habitat for fish, game,
14.15 or wildlife in Minnesota. Of this amount,
14.16 \$3,692,000 is for grants in the seven-county
14.17 metropolitan area and cities with a population
14.18 of 50,000 or greater. Grants shall not be made
14.19 for activities required to fulfill the duties
14.20 of owners of lands subject to conservation
14.21 easements. Grants shall not be made from the
14.22 appropriation in this paragraph for projects
14.23 that have a total project cost exceeding
14.24 \$575,000. Of this appropriation, \$596,000
14.25 may be spent for personnel costs and other
14.26 direct and necessary administrative costs.

14.27 Grantees may acquire land or interests in
14.28 land. Easements must be permanent. Grants
14.29 may not be used to establish easement
14.30 stewardship accounts. Land acquired in fee
14.31 must be open to hunting and fishing during
14.32 the open season unless otherwise provided
14.33 by law. The program must require a match
14.34 of at least ten percent from nonstate sources
14.35 for all grants. The match may be cash or
14.36 in-kind resources. For grant applications

15.1 of \$25,000 or less, the commissioner shall
15.2 provide a separate, simplified application
15.3 process. Subject to Minnesota Statutes, the
15.4 commissioner of natural resources shall,
15.5 when evaluating projects of equal value,
15.6 give priority to organizations that have a
15.7 history of receiving or a charter to receive
15.8 private contributions for local conservation
15.9 or habitat projects. If acquiring land or a
15.10 conservation easement, priority must be
15.11 given to projects associated with or within
15.12 one mile of existing wildlife management
15.13 areas under Minnesota Statutes, section
15.14 86A.05, subdivision 8; scientific and natural
15.15 areas under Minnesota Statutes, sections
15.16 84.033 and 86A.05, subdivision 5; or aquatic
15.17 management areas under Minnesota Statutes,
15.18 sections 86A.05, subdivision 14, and 97C.02.
15.19 All restoration or enhancement projects
15.20 must be on land permanently protected by
15.21 a permanent covenant ensuring perpetual
15.22 maintenance and protection of restored
15.23 and enhanced habitat, by a conservation
15.24 easement, or by public ownership or in
15.25 public waters as defined in Minnesota
15.26 Statutes, section 103G.005, subdivision
15.27 15. Priority must be given to restoration
15.28 and enhancement projects on public lands.
15.29 Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056,
15.30 subdivision 13, applies to grants awarded
15.31 under this paragraph. This appropriation is
15.32 available until June 30, 2018. No less than
15.33 five percent of the amount of each grant
15.34 must be held back from reimbursement until
15.35 the grant recipient has completed a grant
15.36 accomplishment report by the deadline and

16.1 in the form prescribed by and satisfactory to
 16.2 the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.
 16.3 The commissioner shall provide notice of
 16.4 the grant program in the game and fish law
 16.5 summary prepared under Minnesota Statutes,
 16.6 section 97A.051, subdivision 2.

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

16.8 **(a) Contract Management**

16.9 \$150,000 in the first year is to the
 16.10 commissioner of natural resources for
 16.11 contract management duties assigned in this
 16.12 section. The commissioner shall provide an
 16.13 accomplishment plan in the form specified by
 16.14 the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
 16.15 on the expenditure of this appropriation.
 16.16 The accomplishment plan must include a
 16.17 copy of the grant contract template and
 16.18 reimbursement manual. No money may
 16.19 be expended prior to the Lessard-Sams
 16.20 Outdoor Heritage Council's approval of the
 16.21 accomplishment plan.

16.22 **(b) Legislative Coordinating Commission**

16.23 \$608,000 in the first year and \$607,000
 16.24 in the second year are to the Legislative
 16.25 Coordinating Commission for administrative
 16.26 expenses of the Lessard-Sams Outdoor
 16.27 Heritage Council and for compensation and
 16.28 expense reimbursement of council members.
 16.29 This appropriation is available until June 30,
 16.30 2017. Minnesota Statutes, section 16A.281,
 16.31 applies to this appropriation.

16.32 **(c) Technical Evaluation Panel**

16.33 \$100,000 in the first year is to the
 16.34 commissioner of natural resources for a

17.1 technical evaluation panel to conduct up to
17.2 ten restoration evaluations under Minnesota
17.3 Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 10.

17.4 **(d) Legacy Web Site**

17.5 \$15,000 in the first year is to the Legislative
17.6 Coordinating Commission for the Web site
17.7 required in Minnesota Statutes, section
17.8 3.303, subdivision 10.

17.9 **Subd. 7. Availability of Appropriation**

17.10 Money appropriated in this section may
17.11 not be spent on activities unless they are
17.12 directly related to and necessary for a
17.13 specific appropriation and are specified in
17.14 the accomplishment plan approved by the
17.15 Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.

17.16 Money appropriated in this section must not
17.17 be spent on indirect costs or other institutional
17.18 overhead charges that are not directly related
17.19 to and necessary for a specific appropriation.

17.20 Unless otherwise provided, the amounts
17.21 in this section are available until June 30,
17.22 2018. For acquisition of real property, the
17.23 amounts in this section are available until
17.24 June 30, 2019, if a binding agreement with a
17.25 landowner or purchase agreement is entered
17.26 into by June 30, 2018, and closed no later
17.27 than June 30, 2019. Money for restoration or
17.28 enhancement is available until June 30, 2020,
17.29 or five years after acquisition, whichever is
17.30 later, in order to complete initial restoration
17.31 or enhancement work. If a project receives
17.32 at least 15 percent of its funding from federal
17.33 funds, the time period of the appropriation
17.34 may be extended to equal the availability
17.35 of federal funding to a maximum of six

18.1 years, provided the federal funding was
18.2 confirmed and included within the first draft
18.3 accomplishment plan. Money appropriated
18.4 for fee title acquisition of land may be used to
18.5 restore, enhance, and provide for public use
18.6 of the land acquired with the appropriation.
18.7 Public use facilities must have a minimal
18.8 impact on habitat in acquired lands.

18.9 **Subd. 8. Payment Conditions and Capital**
18.10 **Equipment Expenditures**

18.11 All agreements referred to in this section must
18.12 be administered on a reimbursement basis
18.13 unless otherwise provided in this section.
18.14 Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, section
18.15 16A.41, expenditures directly related
18.16 to each appropriation's purpose made
18.17 on or after July 1, 2015, or the date of
18.18 accomplishment plan approval, whichever is
18.19 later, are eligible for reimbursement unless
18.20 otherwise provided in this section. For the
18.21 purposes of administering appropriations
18.22 and legislatively authorized agreements paid
18.23 out of the outdoor heritage fund, an expense
18.24 must be considered reimbursable by the
18.25 administering agency when the recipient
18.26 presents the agency with an invoice, or
18.27 binding agreement with the landowner, and
18.28 the recipient attests that the goods have
18.29 been received or the landowner agreement
18.30 is binding. Periodic reimbursement must
18.31 be made upon receiving documentation that
18.32 the items articulated in the accomplishment
18.33 plan approved by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor
18.34 Heritage Council have been achieved,
18.35 including partial achievements as evidenced
18.36 by progress reports approved by the

19.1 Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.
19.2 Reasonable amounts may be advanced to
19.3 projects to accommodate cash flow needs,
19.4 support future management of acquired
19.5 lands, or match a federal share. The
19.6 advances must be approved as part of the
19.7 accomplishment plan. Capital equipment
19.8 expenditures for specific items in excess of
19.9 \$10,000 must be itemized in and approved as
19.10 part of the accomplishment plan.

19.11 Subd. 9. **Mapping**

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

19.27 Subd. 10. **Pollinator Lethal Insecticides**

19.28 Land acquired in fee with money
19.29 appropriated in this section must not be
19.30 planted or otherwise treated with a product
19.31 that contains a pollinator lethal insecticide,
19.32 as defined under Minnesota Statutes, section
19.33 18H.02, subdivision 28a.

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

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

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

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

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

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

20.9 (5) two members of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the
20.10 house.

20.11 (b) Members appointed under paragraph (a) must not be registered lobbyists. In
20.12 making appointments, the governor, senate Subcommittee on Committees of the Committee
20.13 on Rules and Administration, and the speaker of the house shall consider geographic
20.14 balance, gender, age, ethnicity, and varying interests including hunting and fishing. The
20.15 governor's appointments to the council are subject to the advice and consent of the senate.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

21.1 (5) one public member appointed by the senate Subcommittee on Committees of the
21.2 Committee on Rules and Administration for a term ending the first Monday in January
21.3 2013; and

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

21.6 (f) Terms, compensation, and removal of public members are as provided in section
21.7 15.0575. A vacancy on the council may be filled by the appointing authority for the
21.8 remainder of the unexpired term.

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

21.13 ~~(h) Upon coordination with The Legislative Coordinating Commission, the council~~
21.14 may appoint nonpartisan staff and contract with consultants as necessary to ~~carry out~~
21.15 support the functions of the council. Up to one percent of the money appropriated from the
21.16 fund may be used to pay for administrative expenses of the council and for compensation
21.17 and expense reimbursement of council members.

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

21.19 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 97A.056, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

21.20 Subd. 5. **Open meetings.** (a) Meetings of the council and other groups the council
21.21 may establish are subject to chapter 13D. Except where prohibited by law, the council
21.22 shall establish additional processes to broaden public involvement in all aspects of its
21.23 deliberations, including recording meetings, video conferencing, and publishing minutes.
21.24 For the purposes of this subdivision, a meeting occurs when a quorum is present and the
21.25 members receive information or take action on any matter relating to the duties of the
21.26 council. The quorum requirement for the council shall be seven members.

21.27 (b) Travel to and from scheduled and publicly noticed site visits by council members
21.28 for the purposes of receiving information is not a violation of paragraph (a). Any decision
21.29 or agreement to make a decision during the travel is a violation of paragraph (a).

21.30 (c) The presence of a quorum of members of the council at a conference or a
21.31 gathering sponsored by another entity is not a meeting for purposes of this subdivision
21.32 if attendance of council members is incidental to the primary purpose of the conference
21.33 or gathering and a quorum of the council members do not discuss with each other
21.34 matters relating to business of the council. This paragraph also applies to attendance at a
21.35 conference or gathering by members of a subcommittee of the council.

22.1 (d) For legislative members of the council, enforcement of this subdivision is
22.2 governed by section 3.055, subdivision 2. For nonlegislative members of the council,
22.3 enforcement of this subdivision is governed by section 13D.06, subdivisions 1 and 2.

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

22.5 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 97A.056, subdivision 8, is amended to read:

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

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

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

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

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

22.20 Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 97A.056, is amended by adding a subdivision
22.21 to read:

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

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

23.1 Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 97A.056, is amended by adding a subdivision
 23.2 to read:

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

23.7 Sec. 8. Laws 2012, chapter 264, article 1, section 2, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

23.8 Subd. 5. **Habitats** -0- 28,620,000

23.9 **(a) DNR Aquatic Habitat - Phase IV**

23.10 \$3,480,000 in the second year is to the
 23.11 commissioner of natural resources to
 23.12 acquire interests in land in fee or permanent
 23.13 conservation easements for aquatic
 23.14 management areas under Minnesota Statutes,
 23.15 sections 86A.05, subdivision 14, and
 23.16 97C.02, and to restore and enhance aquatic
 23.17 habitat. A list of proposed land acquisitions
 23.18 must be provided as part of the required
 23.19 accomplishment plan. The accomplishment
 23.20 plan must include an easement stewardship
 23.21 plan. Up to \$25,000 is for establishing
 23.22 a monitoring and enforcement fund as
 23.23 approved in the accomplishment plan
 23.24 and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section
 23.25 97A.056, subdivision 17. An annual financial
 23.26 report is required for any monitoring and
 23.27 enforcement fund established, including
 23.28 expenditures from the fund and a description
 23.29 of annual monitoring and enforcement
 23.30 activities.

23.31 **(b) Metro Big Rivers Habitat - Phase III**

23.32 \$3,680,000 in the second year is to the
 23.33 commissioner of natural resources for
 23.34 agreements to acquire interests in land in

24.1 fee or permanent conservation easements
24.2 and to restore and enhance natural systems
24.3 associated with the Mississippi, Minnesota,
24.4 and St. Croix Rivers as follows: \$1,000,000
24.5 to the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife
24.6 Refuge Trust, Inc.; \$375,000 to the Friends
24.7 of the Mississippi; \$375,000 to Great River
24.8 Greening; \$930,000 to The Minnesota
24.9 Land Trust; and \$1,000,000 to The Trust
24.10 for Public Land. A list of proposed
24.11 acquisitions, restorations, and enhancements
24.12 must be provided as part of the required
24.13 accomplishment plan. The accomplishment
24.14 plan must include an easement stewardship
24.15 plan. Up to \$51,000 is for establishing
24.16 a monitoring and enforcement fund as
24.17 approved in the accomplishment plan
24.18 and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section
24.19 97A.056, subdivision 17. An annual financial
24.20 report is required for any monitoring and
24.21 enforcement fund established, including
24.22 expenditures from the fund and a description
24.23 of annual monitoring and enforcement
24.24 activities.

24.25 **(c) Dakota County Riparian and Lakeshore**
24.26 **Protection and Management - Phase III**

24.27 \$480,000 in the second year is to the
24.28 commissioner of natural resources for an
24.29 agreement with Dakota County to acquire
24.30 permanent conservation easements and
24.31 restore and enhance habitats along the
24.32 Mississippi, Cannon, and Vermillion Rivers.
24.33 A list of proposed acquisitions, restorations,
24.34 and enhancements must be provided as
24.35 part of the required accomplishment plan.
24.36 The accomplishment plan must include

25.1 an easement stewardship plan. Up to
25.2 \$20,000 is for establishing a monitoring
25.3 and enforcement fund as approved in
25.4 the accomplishment plan and subject to
25.5 Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056,
25.6 subdivision 17. An annual financial report is
25.7 required for any monitoring and enforcement
25.8 fund established, including expenditures
25.9 from the fund and a description of annual
25.10 monitoring and enforcement activities.

25.11 **(d) Lower St. Louis River Habitat Restoration**

25.12 \$3,670,000 in the second year is to the
25.13 commissioner of natural resources to restore
25.14 habitat in the lower St. Louis River estuary.
25.15 A list of proposed projects must be provided
25.16 as part of the required accomplishment plan.

25.17 **(e) Coldwater Fish Habitat Enhancement -**
25.18 **Phase IV**

25.19 \$2,120,000 in the second year is to the
25.20 commissioner of natural resources for an
25.21 agreement with Minnesota Trout Unlimited
25.22 to restore and enhance coldwater fish lake,
25.23 river, and stream habitats in Minnesota. A list
25.24 of proposed restorations and enhancements
25.25 must be provided as part of the required
25.26 accomplishment plan.

25.27 **(f) Grand Marais Creek Outlet Restoration**

25.28 \$2,320,000 in the second year is to the
25.29 commissioner of natural resources for an
25.30 agreement with the Red Lake Watershed
25.31 District to restore and enhance stream and
25.32 related habitat in Grand Marais Creek. A list
25.33 of proposed restorations and enhancements
25.34 must be provided as part of the required
25.35 accomplishment plan.

26.1 **(g) Knife River Habitat Restoration**

26.2 \$380,000 in the second year is to the
26.3 commissioner of natural resources for an
26.4 agreement with the Lake Superior Steelhead
26.5 Association to restore trout habitat in the
26.6 Upper Knife River Watershed. A list of
26.7 proposed restorations must be provided as
26.8 part of the required accomplishment plan.
26.9 Notwithstanding rules of the commissioner
26.10 of natural resources, restorations conducted
26.11 pursuant to this paragraph may be
26.12 accomplished by excavation.

26.13 **(h) Protect Aquatic Habitat from Asian**
26.14 **Invasive Carp**

26.15 \$7,500,000 in the second year is to the
26.16 commissioner of natural resources ~~to~~ for
26.17 ~~design, construct, operate, and evaluate~~
26.18 construction, including acquisition,
26.19 operation, and evaluation of structural
26.20 deterrents for Asian invasive carp to protect
26.21 Minnesota's aquatic habitat. Use of this
26.22 money requires a one-to-one match for
26.23 projects on state boundary waters.

26.24 **(i) Outdoor Heritage Conservation Partners**
26.25 **Grant Program - Phase IV**

26.26 \$4,990,000 in the second year is to the
26.27 commissioner of natural resources for a
26.28 program to provide competitive, matching
26.29 grants of up to \$400,000 to local, regional,
26.30 state, and national organizations for
26.31 enhancing, restoring, or protecting forests,
26.32 wetlands, prairies, and habitat for fish, game,
26.33 or wildlife in Minnesota. Grants shall not be
26.34 made for activities required to fulfill the duties
26.35 of owners of lands subject to conservation

27.1 easements. Grants shall not be made from
27.2 appropriations in this paragraph for projects
27.3 that have a total project cost exceeding
27.4 \$575,000. \$366,000 of this appropriation
27.5 may be spent for personnel costs and other
27.6 direct and necessary administrative costs.
27.7 Grantees may acquire land or interests in
27.8 land. Easements must be permanent. Land
27.9 acquired in fee must be open to hunting
27.10 and fishing during the open season unless
27.11 otherwise provided by state law. The
27.12 program shall require a match of at least ten
27.13 percent from nonstate sources for all grants.
27.14 The match may be cash or in-kind resources.
27.15 For grant applications of \$25,000 or less,
27.16 the commissioner shall provide a separate,
27.17 simplified application process. Subject to
27.18 Minnesota Statutes, the commissioner of
27.19 natural resources shall, when evaluating
27.20 projects of equal value, give priority to
27.21 organizations that have a history of receiving
27.22 or charter to receive private contributions
27.23 for local conservation or habitat projects. If
27.24 acquiring land or a conservation easement,
27.25 priority shall be given to projects associated
27.26 with existing wildlife management areas
27.27 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,
27.28 subdivision 8; scientific and natural areas
27.29 under Minnesota Statutes, sections 84.033
27.30 and 86A.05, subdivision 5; and aquatic
27.31 management areas under Minnesota Statutes,
27.32 sections 86A.05, subdivision 14, and 97C.02.
27.33 All restoration or enhancement projects
27.34 must be on land permanently protected by a
27.35 conservation easement or public ownership
27.36 or in public waters as defined in Minnesota

28.1 Statutes, section 103G.005, subdivision
 28.2 15. Priority shall be given to restoration
 28.3 and enhancement projects on public lands.
 28.4 Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056,
 28.5 subdivision 13, applies to grants awarded
 28.6 under this paragraph. This appropriation is
 28.7 available until June 30, 2016. No less than
 28.8 five percent of the amount of each grant
 28.9 must be held back from reimbursement until
 28.10 the grant recipient has completed a grant
 28.11 accomplishment report by the deadline and
 28.12 in the form prescribed by and satisfactory to
 28.13 the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.
 28.14 The commissioner shall provide notice of
 28.15 the grant program in the game and fish law
 28.16 summaries that are prepared under Minnesota
 28.17 Statutes, section 97A.051, subdivision 2.

28.18 Sec. 9. Laws 2014, chapter 256, article 1, section 2, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

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

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

28.21 \$2,560,000 in the second year is to the
 28.22 commissioner of natural resources to acquire
 28.23 interests in land in fee and permanent
 28.24 conservation easements for aquatic
 28.25 management purposes under Minnesota
 28.26 Statutes, sections 86A.05, subdivision 14,
 28.27 and 97C.02, and to restore and enhance
 28.28 aquatic habitat. Up to \$32,500 is for
 28.29 establishing a monitoring and enforcement
 28.30 fund as approved in the accomplishment
 28.31 plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes,
 28.32 section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of
 28.33 proposed land acquisitions and restorations

29.1 and enhancements must be provided as part
29.2 of the required accomplishment plan.

29.3 **(b) Fisheries Habitat Protection on**
29.4 **Strategic North Central Minnesota Lakes**

29.5 \$2,130,000 in the second year is to the
29.6 commissioner of natural resources for
29.7 agreements with the Leech Lake Area
29.8 Watershed Foundation and Minnesota Land
29.9 Trust to acquire land in fee and permanent
29.10 conservation easements to sustain healthy
29.11 fish habitat on lakes in Aitkin, Cass, Crow
29.12 Wing, and Hubbard Counties as follows:
29.13 \$1,150,300 to Leech Lake Area Watershed
29.14 Foundation; and \$979,700 to Minnesota
29.15 Land Trust, of which up to \$120,000 to
29.16 Minnesota Land Trust is for establishing
29.17 a monitoring and enforcement fund as
29.18 approved in the accomplishment plan and
29.19 subject to Minnesota Statutes, section
29.20 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of proposed
29.21 land acquisitions must be provided as part of
29.22 the required accomplishment plan.

29.23 **(c) Habitat Protection in Dakota County**
29.24 **- Phase V**

29.25 \$1,190,000 in the second year is to the
29.26 commissioner of natural resources for a
29.27 contract with Dakota County to acquire
29.28 permanent conservation easements and land
29.29 in fee and to restore and enhance habitats in
29.30 rivers and lake watersheds in Dakota County.
29.31 Up to \$15,000 to Dakota County is for
29.32 establishing a monitoring and enforcement
29.33 fund as approved in the accomplishment
29.34 plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes,
29.35 section 97A.056, subdivision 17. Lands

30.1 acquired or lands with easements acquired
30.2 with this appropriation may not be used for
30.3 emergency haying and grazing in response
30.4 to federal or state disaster declarations.
30.5 Conservation grazing under a management
30.6 plan that is already being implemented may
30.7 continue. A list of proposed land acquisitions
30.8 and restorations and enhancements must
30.9 be provided as part of the required
30.10 accomplishment plan.

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

30.12 \$2,650,000 in the second year is to the
30.13 commissioner of natural resources for
30.14 agreements to acquire land in fee and
30.15 permanent conservation easements and
30.16 to restore and enhance natural systems
30.17 associated with the Mississippi, Minnesota,
30.18 and St. Croix Rivers as follows: \$600,000
30.19 to Minnesota Valley National Wildlife
30.20 Refuge Trust, Inc.; \$160,000 to Friends of
30.21 the Mississippi River; \$400,000 to Great
30.22 River Greening; \$590,000 to Minnesota
30.23 Land Trust, of which up to \$77,000 is for
30.24 establishing a monitoring and enforcement
30.25 fund as approved in the accomplishment plan
30.26 and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section
30.27 97A.056, subdivision 17; and \$900,000 to
30.28 The Trust for Public Land. Lands acquired
30.29 or lands with easements acquired with
30.30 this appropriation may not be used for
30.31 emergency haying and grazing in response
30.32 to federal or state disaster declarations.
30.33 Conservation grazing under a management
30.34 plan that is already being implemented may
30.35 continue. A list of proposed land acquisitions
30.36 and permanent conservation easements

31.1 must be provided as part of the required
31.2 accomplishment plan.

31.3 **(e) Mustinka River Fish and Wildlife**
31.4 **Habitat Corridor Rehabilitation**

31.5 \$2,440,000 in the second year is to the
31.6 commissioner of natural resources for
31.7 an agreement with the Bois de Sioux
31.8 Watershed District to acquire land in fee
31.9 and to restore natural systems associated
31.10 with the Mustinka River located within the
31.11 Bois de Sioux Watershed. Lands acquired
31.12 with this appropriation may not be used for
31.13 emergency haying and grazing in response
31.14 to federal or state disaster declarations.
31.15 Conservation grazing under a management
31.16 plan that is already being implemented may
31.17 continue. A list of proposed land acquisitions
31.18 must be provided as part of the required
31.19 accomplishment plan.

31.20 **(f) Minnesota Trout Unlimited Coldwater**
31.21 **Fish Habitat Enhancement and**
31.22 **Restoration - Phase VI**

31.23 \$1,900,000 in the second year is to the
31.24 commissioner of natural resources for an
31.25 agreement with Minnesota Trout Unlimited
31.26 to restore and enhance habitat for trout
31.27 and other species in and along coldwater
31.28 rivers and streams in Minnesota. A list of
31.29 proposed land restorations and enhancements
31.30 must be provided as part of the required
31.31 accomplishment plan.

31.32 **(g) St. Louis River Restoration Initiative -**
31.33 **Phase II**

31.34 \$2,290,000 in the second year is to the
31.35 commissioner of natural resources to restore

32.1 habitat in the lower St. Louis River estuary.
32.2 Of this appropriation, up to \$500,000 is for
32.3 an agreement with Minnesota Land Trust. A
32.4 list of proposed restorations must be provided
32.5 as part of the required accomplishment plan.

32.6 **(h) Knife River Habitat Rehabilitation -**
32.7 **Phase II**

32.8 \$1,410,000 in the second year is to the
32.9 commissioner of natural resources for an
32.10 agreement with the Lake Superior Steelhead
32.11 Association to enhance trout habitat in the
32.12 Knife River watershed. A list of proposed
32.13 enhancements must be provided as part of
32.14 the required accomplishment plan.

32.15 **(i) Restoration and Enhancement of**
32.16 **Washington County Public Lands**

32.17 \$430,000 in the second year is to the
32.18 commissioner of natural resources for an
32.19 agreement with Washington County to
32.20 restore and enhance habitat on public lands
32.21 in Washington County. A restoration and
32.22 enhancement plan and a list of proposed
32.23 land restorations and enhancements
32.24 must be provided as part of the required
32.25 accomplishment plan.

32.26 **(j) Wirth Park Enhancements**

32.27 \$600,000 in the second year is to the
32.28 commissioner of natural resources for an
32.29 agreement with the Minneapolis Park Board
32.30 to enhance riparian and upland habitat
32.31 within Wirth Park in Hennepin County.
32.32 A restoration and enhancement plan and
32.33 a list of proposed land restorations and
32.34 enhancements must be provided as part of
32.35 the required accomplishment plan.

33.1 **(k) Evaluate Effectiveness of Aquatic**
33.2 **Invasive Species Prevention Strategies**
33.3 \$4,040,000 in the second year is to the
33.4 commissioner of natural resources for an
33.5 agreement with the Central Minnesota
33.6 Initiative Fund to develop a series of pilot
33.7 projects to enhance aquatic habitat by
33.8 preventing the spread of aquatic invasive
33.9 species, including pilot projects conducting
33.10 education and outreach, inspection and
33.11 decontamination, enforcement, and other
33.12 activities. All pilot projects must be
33.13 conducted on a reimbursement basis and
33.14 require a match of nonoutdoor heritage fund
33.15 dollars. A required evaluation of results
33.16 must be funded with nonoutdoor heritage
33.17 fund dollars. The required evaluation must
33.18 evaluate the efficacy of inspection and
33.19 decontamination activities utilized in any of
33.20 the pilot projects in preventing the spread
33.21 of aquatic invasive species. A list of pilot
33.22 projects must be included in the required final
33.23 report. This appropriation is available until
33.24 June 30, 2019. The accomplishment plan
33.25 must accelerate the start of the pilot project.

33.26 **(l) Albert Lea Lake Management and**
33.27 **Invasive Species Control Structure -**
33.28 **Supplement**
33.29 \$700,000 in the second year is added to
33.30 the appropriation contained in Laws 2013,
33.31 chapter 137, article 1, section 2, subdivision
33.32 5, paragraph (h), to the commissioner of
33.33 natural resources for an agreement with
33.34 the Shell Rock River Watershed District to

34.1 construct structural deterrents and lake level
34.2 controls.

34.3 **(m) Conservation Partners Legacy Grant**
34.4 **Program - Phase VI**

34.5 \$4,550,000 in the second year is to the
34.6 commissioner of natural resources for a
34.7 program to provide competitive, matching
34.8 grants of up to \$400,000 to local, regional,
34.9 state, and national organizations for
34.10 enhancing, restoring, or protecting forests,
34.11 wetlands, prairies, or habitat for fish, game,
34.12 or wildlife in Minnesota. Grants shall not
34.13 be made for activities required to fulfill
34.14 the duties of owners of lands subject to
34.15 conservation easements. Grants shall not
34.16 be made from the appropriation in this
34.17 paragraph for projects that have a total
34.18 project cost exceeding \$575,000. Of this
34.19 appropriation, \$460,000 may be spent
34.20 for personnel costs and other direct and
34.21 necessary administrative costs. Grantees may
34.22 acquire land or interests in land. Easements
34.23 must be permanent. Grants may not be used
34.24 to establish easement stewardship accounts.
34.25 Land acquired in fee must be open to hunting
34.26 and fishing during the open season unless
34.27 otherwise provided by law. Lands acquired
34.28 or lands with easements acquired with this
34.29 appropriation may not be used for emergency
34.30 haying and grazing in response to federal
34.31 or state disaster declarations. Conservation
34.32 grazing under a management plan that is
34.33 already being implemented may continue.
34.34 The program shall require a match of at
34.35 least ten percent from nonstate sources
34.36 for all grants. The match may be cash or

35.1 in-kind resources. For grant applications
35.2 of \$25,000 or less, the commissioner shall
35.3 provide a separate, simplified application
35.4 process. Subject to Minnesota Statutes, the
35.5 commissioner of natural resources shall,
35.6 when evaluating projects of equal value,
35.7 give priority to organizations that have a
35.8 history of receiving or charter to receive
35.9 private contributions for local conservation
35.10 or habitat projects. If acquiring land or a
35.11 conservation easement, priority shall be
35.12 given to projects associated with or within
35.13 one mile of existing wildlife management
35.14 areas under Minnesota Statutes, section
35.15 86A.05, subdivision 8; scientific and natural
35.16 areas under Minnesota Statutes, sections
35.17 84.033 and 86A.05, subdivision 5; or aquatic
35.18 management areas under Minnesota Statutes,
35.19 sections 86A.05, subdivision 14, and 97C.02.
35.20 All restoration or enhancement projects
35.21 must be on land permanently protected by
35.22 a permanent covenant ensuring perpetual
35.23 maintenance and protection of restored
35.24 and enhanced habitat, by a conservation
35.25 easement, or by public ownership or in public
35.26 waters as defined in Minnesota Statutes,
35.27 section 103G.005, subdivision 15. Priority
35.28 shall be given to restoration and enhancement
35.29 projects on public lands. Minnesota Statutes,
35.30 section 97A.056, subdivision 13, applies
35.31 to grants awarded under this paragraph.
35.32 This appropriation is available until June
35.33 30, 2018. No less than five percent of the
35.34 amount of each grant must be held back from
35.35 reimbursement until the grant recipient has
35.36 completed a grant accomplishment report by

36.1 the deadline and in the form prescribed by
36.2 and satisfactory to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor
36.3 Heritage Council. The commissioner shall
36.4 provide notice of the grant program in
36.5 the game and fish law summary prepared
36.6 under Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.051,
36.7 subdivision 2.

36.8 **(n) Conservation Partners Legacy Metro**
36.9 **Grant Program**

36.10 \$4,000,000 in the second year is to the
36.11 commissioner of natural resources for a
36.12 program to provide competitive, matching
36.13 grants of up to \$400,000 to local, regional,
36.14 state, and national organizations for
36.15 enhancing, restoring, or protecting forests,
36.16 wetlands, prairies, or habitat for fish, game,
36.17 or wildlife in the seven-county metropolitan
36.18 area and cities with a population of 50,000
36.19 or greater. Grants shall not be made for
36.20 activities required to fulfill the duties of
36.21 owners of lands subject to conservation
36.22 easements. Grants shall not be made from the
36.23 appropriation in this paragraph for projects
36.24 that have a total project cost exceeding
36.25 \$575,000. Of this appropriation, \$70,000
36.26 may be spent for direct and necessary
36.27 administrative costs. Grantees may acquire
36.28 land or interests in land. Easements must
36.29 be permanent. Grants may not be used to
36.30 establish easement stewardship accounts.
36.31 Land acquired in fee must be open to hunting
36.32 and fishing during the open season unless
36.33 otherwise provided by law. Lands acquired
36.34 or lands with easements acquired with this
36.35 appropriation may not be used for emergency
36.36 haying and grazing in response to federal

37.1 or state disaster declarations. Conservation
37.2 grazing under a management plan that is
37.3 already being implemented may continue.
37.4 The program shall require a match of at
37.5 least ten percent from nonstate sources
37.6 for all grants. The match may be cash or
37.7 in-kind resources. For grant applications
37.8 of \$25,000 or less, the commissioner shall
37.9 provide a separate, simplified application
37.10 process. Subject to Minnesota Statutes, the
37.11 commissioner of natural resources shall,
37.12 when evaluating projects of equal value,
37.13 give priority to organizations that have a
37.14 history of receiving or charter to receive
37.15 private contributions for local conservation
37.16 or habitat projects. If acquiring land or a
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37.18 given to projects associated with or within
37.19 one mile of existing wildlife management
37.20 areas under Minnesota Statutes, section
37.21 86A.05, subdivision 8; scientific and natural
37.22 areas under Minnesota Statutes, sections
37.23 84.033 and 86A.05, subdivision 5; or aquatic
37.24 management areas under Minnesota Statutes,
37.25 sections 86A.05, subdivision 14, and 97C.02.
37.26 All restoration or enhancement projects
37.27 must be on land permanently protected by
37.28 a permanent covenant ensuring perpetual
37.29 maintenance and protection of restored
37.30 and enhanced habitat, by a conservation
37.31 easement, or by public ownership or in public
37.32 waters as defined in Minnesota Statutes,
37.33 section 103G.005, subdivision 15. Priority
37.34 shall be given to restoration and enhancement
37.35 projects on public lands. Minnesota Statutes,
37.36 section 97A.056, subdivision 13, applies

38.1 to grants awarded under this paragraph.
38.2 This appropriation is available until June
38.3 30, 2018. No less than five percent of the
38.4 amount of each grant must be held back from
38.5 reimbursement until the grant recipient has
38.6 completed a grant accomplishment report by
38.7 the deadline and in the form prescribed by
38.8 and satisfactory to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor
38.9 Heritage Council. The commissioner shall
38.10 provide notice of the grant program in
38.11 the game and fish law summary prepared
38.12 under Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.051,
38.13 subdivision 2.

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