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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-EIGHTH SESSION

H. F. No. 207

01/28/2013 Authored by Lillie; Persell; Ward, J.E., and Dill

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

03/18/2013 Adoption of Report: Pass as Amended and re-referred to the Committee on Legacy

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to natural resources; appropriating money from the outdoor heritage
1.3 fund; modifying restoration evaluation requirements; establishing certain land
1.4 acquisition requirements; amending Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 97A.056,
1.5 subdivision 10, by adding subdivisions.

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

1.7 Section 1. OUTDOOR HERITAGE APPROPRIATION.

1.8 The sums shown in the columns marked "Appropriations" are appropriated to the
1.9 agencies and for the purposes specified in this act. The appropriations are from the outdoor
1.10 heritage fund for the fiscal year indicated for each purpose. The figures "2014" and "2015"
1.11 used in this act mean that the appropriations listed under the figure are available for the
1.12 fiscal year ending June 30, 2014, and June 30, 2015, respectively. "The first year" is fiscal
1.13 year 2014. "The second year" is fiscal year 2015. The "biennium" is fiscal years 2014 and
1.14 2015. The appropriations in this act are onetime.

Table with 2 columns: Year (2014, 2015) and Appropriations Available for the Year Ending June 30.

1.19 Sec. 2. OUTDOOR HERITAGE FUND

1.20 Subdivision 1. Total Appropriation \$ 97,644,000 \$ -0-

1.21 This appropriation is from the outdoor
1.22 heritage fund. The amounts that may be
1.23 spent for each purpose are specified in the
1.24 following subdivisions.

2.1 Subd. 2. **Prairies** 27,730,000 -0-

2.2 (a) **Grasslands for the Future**

2.3 \$2,000,000 in the first year is to the Board of

2.4 Water and Soil Resources for a pilot project

2.5 to acquire permanent conservation easements

2.6 on grasslands in cooperation with the

2.7 Minnesota Land Trust and the Conservation

2.8 Fund. Up to \$1,850,000 may be used

2.9 for agreements with the Minnesota Land

2.10 Trust to acquire permanent conservation

2.11 easements and up to \$75,000 may be used

2.12 for establishing monitoring and enforcement

2.13 funds with the Minnesota Land Trust and

2.14 the Board of Water and Soil Resources,

2.15 as approved in the accomplishment plan

2.16 and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section

2.17 97A.056, subdivision 17. Up to \$75,000

2.18 may be used for an agreement with the

2.19 Conservation Fund for professional services.

2.20 Easements funded under this appropriation

2.21 are not subject to emergency haying and

2.22 grazing orders. Any net proceeds accruing to

2.23 a project partner from real estate transactions

2.24 related to this project must be used for the

2.25 purposes outlined in this appropriation. A

2.26 list of permanent conservation easements

2.27 must be provided as part of the required

2.28 accomplishment plan.

2.29 (b) **Accelerating Wildlife Management Area**

2.30 **Program - Phase V**

2.31 \$7,960,000 in the first year is to the

2.32 commissioner of natural resources for an

2.33 agreement with Pheasants Forever to acquire

2.34 land in fee for wildlife management purposes

2.35 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,

3.1 subdivision 8. A list of proposed land  
3.2 acquisitions must be provided as part of the  
3.3 required accomplishment plan.

3.4 **(c) DNR Wildlife Management Area, Scientific**  
3.5 **and Natural Area, and Native Prairie Bank**  
3.6 **Easement - Phase V**

3.7 \$4,940,000 in the first year is to the  
3.8 commissioner of natural resources to  
3.9 acquire land in fee for wildlife management  
3.10 purposes under Minnesota Statutes, section  
3.11 86A.05, subdivision 8; acquire land in fee  
3.12 for scientific and natural area purposes  
3.13 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,  
3.14 subdivision 5; and acquire native prairie  
3.15 bank easements under Minnesota Statutes,  
3.16 section 84.96. Up to \$42,000 is for  
3.17 establishing a monitoring and enforcement  
3.18 fund, as approved in the accomplishment  
3.19 plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes,  
3.20 section 97A.056, subdivision 17, for native  
3.21 prairie bank easements. A list of proposed  
3.22 land and permanent conservation easement  
3.23 acquisitions must be provided as part of the  
3.24 required accomplishment plan.

3.25 **(d) Minnesota Prairie Recovery Project - Phase**  
3.26 **IV**

3.27 \$5,310,000 in the first year is to the  
3.28 commissioner of natural resources for an  
3.29 agreement with The Nature Conservancy  
3.30 to acquire native prairie, wetland, and  
3.31 savanna and restore and enhance grasslands,  
3.32 wetlands, and savanna. A list of proposed  
3.33 land acquisitions must be provided as part of  
3.34 the required accomplishment plan. Annual  
3.35 income statements and balance sheets for  
3.36 income and expenses from land acquired

4.1 with this appropriation must be submitted to  
4.2 the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council  
4.3 no later than 180 days following the close of  
4.4 The Nature Conservancy's fiscal year.

4.5 **(e) Minnesota Buffers for Wildlife and Water -**  
4.6 **Phase III**

4.7 \$3,520,000 in the first year is to the Board  
4.8 of Water and Soil Resources to acquire  
4.9 permanent conservation easements to protect  
4.10 and enhance habitat by expanding clean  
4.11 water fund riparian wildlife buffers on private  
4.12 land. Up to \$120,000 is for establishing  
4.13 a monitoring and enforcement fund, as  
4.14 approved in the accomplishment plan and  
4.15 subject to Minnesota Statutes, section  
4.16 97A.056, subdivision 17. Easements funded  
4.17 under this appropriation are not subject to  
4.18 emergency haying and grazing orders. A list  
4.19 of permanent conservation easements must  
4.20 be provided as part of the final report.

4.21 **(f) Cannon River Headwaters Habitat Complex**  
4.22 **- Phase III**

4.23 \$1,780,000 in the first year is to the  
4.24 commissioner of natural resources for an  
4.25 agreement with Trust for Public Land to  
4.26 acquire and restore lands in the Cannon River  
4.27 watershed for wildlife management purposes  
4.28 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,  
4.29 subdivision 8, or aquatic management area  
4.30 purposes under Minnesota Statutes, sections  
4.31 86A.05, subdivision 14, and 97C.02. A list of  
4.32 proposed land acquisitions must be provided  
4.33 as part of the required accomplishment plan.

4.34 **(g) Accelerated Prairie Restoration and**  
4.35 **Enhancement on DNR Lands - Phase V**

5.1 \$2,220,000 in the first year is to the  
 5.2 commissioner of natural resources to  
 5.3 accelerate the restoration and enhancement  
 5.4 of wildlife management areas, scientific  
 5.5 and natural areas, and land under native  
 5.6 prairie bank easements. A list of proposed  
 5.7 land restorations and enhancements  
 5.8 must be provided as part of the required  
 5.9 accomplishment plan.

5.10 Subd. 3. Forests

7,130,000

-0-

5.11 (a) Young Forest Conservation

5.12 \$1,180,000 in the first year is to the  
 5.13 commissioner of natural resources for  
 5.14 an agreement with the American Bird  
 5.15 Conservancy to acquire lands in fee to be  
 5.16 added to the wildlife management area system  
 5.17 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,  
 5.18 subdivision 8, and to restore and enhance  
 5.19 habitat on publicly protected land. A list of  
 5.20 proposed land acquisitions must be provided  
 5.21 as part of the required accomplishment plan.

5.22 (b) Camp Ripley Partnership - Phase III

5.23 \$1,150,000 in the first year is to the Board of  
 5.24 Water and Soil Resources and \$300,000 in  
 5.25 the first year is to the Department of Natural  
 5.26 Resources to acquire land in fee to be added  
 5.27 to the wildlife management area system  
 5.28 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,  
 5.29 subdivision 8, and to acquire permanent  
 5.30 conservation easements on lands adjacent  
 5.31 to the Mississippi and Crow Wing Rivers  
 5.32 and within the boundaries of the Minnesota  
 5.33 National Guard Army Compatible Use  
 5.34 Buffer. Of the amount appropriated to the  
 5.35 Board of Water and Soil Resources, \$49,900

6.1 is for a grant to the Morrison County Soil  
6.2 and Water Conservation District and up to  
6.3 \$33,600 is for establishing a monitoring  
6.4 and enforcement fund, as approved in  
6.5 the accomplishment plan and subject to  
6.6 Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056,  
6.7 subdivision 17. A list of proposed land  
6.8 acquisitions and permanent conservation  
6.9 easements must be provided as part of the  
6.10 required accomplishment plan.

6.11 **(c) Northeastern Minnesota Sharp-Tailed**  
6.12 **Grouse Habitat Program - Phase IV**

6.13 \$1,180,000 in the first year is to the  
6.14 commissioner of natural resources for  
6.15 an agreement with Pheasants Forever in  
6.16 cooperation with the Minnesota Sharp-Tailed  
6.17 Grouse Society to acquire and enhance  
6.18 lands in Aitkin, Carlton, and Kanabec  
6.19 Counties for wildlife management purposes  
6.20 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,  
6.21 subdivision 8. A list of proposed land  
6.22 acquisitions must be provided as part of the  
6.23 required accomplishment plan.

6.24 **(d) Protect Key Forest Habitat Lands in Cass**  
6.25 **County - Phase IV**

6.26 \$500,000 in the first year is to the  
6.27 commissioner of natural resources for an  
6.28 agreement with Cass County to acquire land  
6.29 in fee in Cass County for forest wildlife  
6.30 habitat or to prevent forest fragmentation.  
6.31 A list of proposed land acquisitions  
6.32 must be provided as part of the required  
6.33 accomplishment plan.

6.34 **(e) Critical Shoreline Habitat Protection**  
6.35 **Program - Phase II**

7.1 \$820,000 in the first year is to the  
 7.2 commissioner of natural resources for  
 7.3 an agreement with the Minnesota Land  
 7.4 Trust to acquire permanent conservation  
 7.5 easements along rivers and lakes in the  
 7.6 northern forest region. Up to \$160,000 is for  
 7.7 establishing a monitoring and enforcement  
 7.8 fund, as approved in the accomplishment  
 7.9 plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes,  
 7.10 section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of  
 7.11 proposed permanent conservation easements  
 7.12 must be provided as part of the required  
 7.13 accomplishment plan.

7.14 **(f) Minnesota Moose Habitat Collaborative -**  
 7.15 **Phase II**

7.16 \$2,000,000 in the first year is to the  
 7.17 commissioner of natural resources for an  
 7.18 agreement with the Minnesota Deer Hunters  
 7.19 Association to restore and enhance public  
 7.20 forest lands in the northern forest region  
 7.21 for moose habitat purposes. A list of  
 7.22 proposed land restoration and enhancements  
 7.23 must be provided as part of the required  
 7.24 accomplishment plan.

7.25 **Subd. 4. Wetlands**

**31,150,000**

**-0-**

7.26 **(a) Reinvest in Minnesota Wetlands Reserve**  
 7.27 **Program Partnership - Phase V**

7.28 \$13,390,000 in the first year is to the Board  
 7.29 of Soil and Water Resources to acquire  
 7.30 permanent conservation easements and  
 7.31 restore wetlands and associated upland  
 7.32 habitat in cooperation with the United  
 7.33 States Department of Agriculture Wetlands  
 7.34 Reserve Program and Ducks Unlimited,  
 7.35 including \$1,000,000 for an agreement  
 7.36 with Ducks Unlimited to provide technical

8.1 and bioengineering assistance. Up to  
8.2 \$120,000 is for establishing a monitoring  
8.3 and enforcement fund, as approved in  
8.4 the accomplishment plan and subject to  
8.5 Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056,  
8.6 subdivision 17. A list of permanent  
8.7 conservation easements must be provided as  
8.8 part of the final report.

8.9 **(b) Accelerating Waterfowl Production Area**  
8.10 **Acquisition - Phase V**

8.11 \$6,830,000 in the first year is to the  
8.12 commissioner of natural resources for an  
8.13 agreement with Pheasants Forever to acquire  
8.14 land in fee to be designated and managed as  
8.15 waterfowl production areas in Minnesota,  
8.16 in cooperation with the United States Fish  
8.17 and Wildlife Service. A list of proposed land  
8.18 acquisitions must be provided as part of the  
8.19 required accomplishment plan.

8.20 **(c) Living Shallow Lakes and Wetland**  
8.21 **Initiative - Phase III**

8.22 \$3,530,000 in the first year is to the  
8.23 commissioner of natural resources for an  
8.24 agreement with Ducks Unlimited to acquire  
8.25 land in fee for wildlife management purposes  
8.26 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,  
8.27 subdivision 8. A list of proposed land  
8.28 acquisitions must be provided as part of the  
8.29 required accomplishment plan.

8.30 **(d) Wild Rice Shoreland Protection Program**  
8.31 **- Phase II**

8.32 \$1,630,000 in the first year is to the Board  
8.33 of Water and Soil Resources to acquire  
8.34 in fee wild rice lake shoreland habitat  
8.35 for native wild rice bed protection and to  
8.36 acquire permanent conservation easements

9.1 in cooperation with Ducks Unlimited. Of  
9.2 this amount, \$100,000 is for an agreement  
9.3 with Ducks Unlimited for acquisition of land  
9.4 or interests in land to protect native wild  
9.5 rice beds. Up to \$48,000 is for establishing  
9.6 a monitoring and enforcement fund, as  
9.7 approved in the accomplishment plan and  
9.8 subject to Minnesota Statutes, section  
9.9 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of proposed  
9.10 land acquisitions must be included as part of  
9.11 the required accomplishment plan.

9.12 **(e) Wetland Habitat Program**

9.13 \$1,980,000 in the first year is to the  
9.14 commissioner of natural resources for an  
9.15 agreement with the Minnesota Land Trust to  
9.16 acquire permanent conservation easements  
9.17 in high-priority wetland complexes in  
9.18 the prairie and forest/prairie transition  
9.19 regions. Up to \$280,000 is for establishing  
9.20 a monitoring and enforcement fund, as  
9.21 approved in the accomplishment plan and  
9.22 subject to Minnesota Statutes, section  
9.23 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of proposed  
9.24 land acquisitions must be included as part of  
9.25 the required accomplishment plan.

9.26 **(f) Accelerated Shallow Lakes and Wetlands**  
9.27 **Enhancement - Phase V**

9.28 \$1,790,000 in the first year is to the  
9.29 commissioner of natural resources to  
9.30 enhance and restore shallow lakes, including  
9.31 \$210,000 for an agreement with Ducks  
9.32 Unlimited to help implement restorations  
9.33 and enhancements. A list of proposed  
9.34 land restorations and enhancements

10.1 must be provided as part of the required  
10.2 accomplishment plan.

10.3 **(g) Pelican Lake Enhancement**

10.4 \$2,000,000 in the first year is to the  
10.5 commissioner of natural resources for an  
10.6 agreement with Ducks Unlimited to construct  
10.7 a gravity outlet, water control structure, and  
10.8 pump station lift to enhance aquatic habitat  
10.9 in Pelican Lake in Wright County. A list of  
10.10 proposed land restoration and enhancements  
10.11 must be included as part of the required  
10.12 accomplishment plan.

10.13 **Subd. 5. Habitats**

**30,383,000**

**-0-**

10.14 **(a) DNR Aquatic Habitat - Phase V**

10.15 \$5,250,000 in the first year is to the  
10.16 commissioner of natural resources to  
10.17 acquire interests in land in fee for aquatic  
10.18 management purposes under Minnesota  
10.19 Statutes, sections 86A.05, subdivision 14,  
10.20 and 97C.02, and to restore and enhance  
10.21 aquatic habitat. A list of proposed  
10.22 land acquisitions and restorations and  
10.23 enhancements must be provided as part of  
10.24 the required accomplishment plan.

10.25 **(b) Habitat Protection in Dakota County -**  
10.26 **Phase IV**

10.27 \$4,100,000 in the first year is to the  
10.28 commissioner of natural resources for an  
10.29 agreement with Dakota County to acquire,  
10.30 restore, and enhance lands in Dakota County  
10.31 for fish and wildlife management purposes  
10.32 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,  
10.33 subdivision 8, or aquatic management area  
10.34 purposes under Minnesota Statutes, sections  
10.35 86A.05, subdivision 14, and 97C.02, and to

- 11.1 acquire permanent conservation easements  
11.2 and restore and enhance habitats in rivers  
11.3 and lake watersheds in Dakota County. Up  
11.4 to \$60,000 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 land  
11.9 acquisitions and permanent conservation  
11.10 easements must be provided as part of the  
11.11 required accomplishment plan.
- 11.12 **(c) Root River Protection and Restoration**
- 11.13 \$2,750,000 in the first year is to the  
11.14 commissioner of natural resources for  
11.15 agreements to acquire land in fee for  
11.16 scientific and natural areas under Minnesota  
11.17 Statutes, sections 86A.05, subdivision 5, and  
11.18 for state forest purposes under Minnesota  
11.19 Statutes, section 86A.05, subdivision 7,  
11.20 and to acquire permanent conservation  
11.21 easements as follows: \$2,122,000 to The  
11.22 Nature Conservancy and \$628,000 to the  
11.23 Minnesota Land Trust. Up to \$100,000 is for  
11.24 establishing a monitoring and enforcement  
11.25 fund, as approved in the accomplishment  
11.26 plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes,  
11.27 section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list  
11.28 of proposed acquisitions and permanent  
11.29 conservation easements must be provided as  
11.30 part of the required accomplishment plan.
- 11.31 **(d) Metro Big Rivers Habitat - Phase IV**
- 11.32 \$1,720,000 in the first year is to the  
11.33 commissioner of natural resources for  
11.34 agreements to acquire land in fee and as  
11.35 permanent conservation easements and

12.1 to restore and enhance natural systems  
12.2 associated with the Mississippi, Minnesota,  
12.3 and St. Croix Rivers as follows: \$450,000  
12.4 to the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife  
12.5 Refuge Trust, Inc.; \$160,000 to the Friends  
12.6 of the Mississippi; \$210,000 to the Great  
12.7 River Greening; \$450,000 to the Minnesota  
12.8 Land Trust; and \$450,000 to the Trust  
12.9 for Public Land. Up to \$80,000 is for  
12.10 establishing a monitoring and enforcement  
12.11 fund, as approved in the accomplishment  
12.12 plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes,  
12.13 section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of  
12.14 proposed land acquisitions and permanent  
12.15 conservation easements must be provided as  
12.16 part of the required accomplishment plan.

12.17 **(e) Minnesota Landscape Arboretum**

12.18 \$1,000,000 in the first year is to the Board  
12.19 of Regents of the University of Minnesota  
12.20 to acquire land in fee surrounding Lake  
12.21 Tamarack in Carver County to be added to  
12.22 the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. A land  
12.23 description must be provided as part of the  
12.24 required accomplishment plan.

12.25 **(f) Lower Mississippi River Habitat**  
12.26 **Partnership - Phase III**

12.27 \$1,710,000 in the first year is to the  
12.28 commissioner of natural resources to  
12.29 enhance aquatic habitat. Of this amount,  
12.30 \$450,000 is for an agreement with the  
12.31 United States Fish and Wildlife Service  
12.32 to enhance aquatic habitat in the lower  
12.33 Mississippi River watershed. A list of  
12.34 proposed land restorations and enhancements

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

13.3 **(g) Coldwater Fish Habitat Enhancement -**  
13.4 **Phase V**

13.5 \$2,470,000 in the first year is to the  
13.6 commissioner of natural resources for an  
13.7 agreement with Minnesota Trout Unlimited  
13.8 to restore and enhance coldwater river and  
13.9 stream habitats in Minnesota. A list of  
13.10 proposed land restorations and enhancements  
13.11 must be provided as part of the required  
13.12 accomplishment plan.

13.13 **(h) Albert Lea Lake Management and Invasive**  
13.14 **Species Control Structure - Phase III**

13.15 \$1,127,000 in the first year is to the  
13.16 commissioner of natural resources for  
13.17 an agreement with the Shell Rock River  
13.18 Watershed District to construct structural  
13.19 deterrents and lake level controls to enhance  
13.20 aquatic habitat on Albert Lea Lake in  
13.21 Freeborn County. A list of proposed  
13.22 land restorations and enhancements  
13.23 must be provided as part of the required  
13.24 accomplishment plan.

13.25 **(i) Metropolitan Regional Parks Wildlife**  
13.26 **Habitat Protection and Restoration**

13.27 \$6,396,000 in the first year is to the  
13.28 Metropolitan Council to restore and enhance  
13.29 fish and wildlife habitat in forests, prairies,  
13.30 and wetlands in the metropolitan regional  
13.31 parks system. Of this amount:  
13.32 (1) \$500,000 is for Dakota County to convert  
13.33 existing agricultural land and low-quality  
13.34 woods and grassland in Whitetail Woods  
13.35 Regional Park to prairie and oak savanna

- 14.1 centered around an existing wetland,  
14.2 resulting in substantial habitat improvements  
14.3 for waterfowl and other wildlife;
- 14.4 (2) \$60,000 is for Dakota County to protect  
14.5 and enhance Miesville Ravine Park Reserve  
14.6 through earth shaping, slope stabilization,  
14.7 and perhaps piping of one severe gully  
14.8 erosion situation and other eroding sites that  
14.9 are presently contributing sediment to Trout  
14.10 Brook, impairing water quality and the brook  
14.11 trout population;
- 14.12 (3) \$500,000 is for the city of St. Paul  
14.13 to restore two acres of prairie adjacent to  
14.14 Pickerel Lake and to plant and enhance  
14.15 an additional two acres of prairie, five  
14.16 acres of forest, and one acre of wetland in  
14.17 Lilydale Regional Park. This will enhance  
14.18 connectivity of existing natural resources  
14.19 including floodplain forest, upland prairie,  
14.20 and emergent marsh;
- 14.21 (4) \$915,000 is for the Minneapolis Park and  
14.22 Recreation Board to protect, restore, and  
14.23 enhance shorelines; reduce invasive upland  
14.24 species; and repair erosion and unpaved  
14.25 walking paths at Sweeney and Twin Lakes  
14.26 and to enhance the Wirth Lake wetland  
14.27 complex; reduce invasive upland species;  
14.28 correct erosion problems; close unauthorized  
14.29 trails; and repair unpaved walking paths in  
14.30 Theodore Wirth Regional Park;
- 14.31 (5) \$468,000 is for Ramsey County to restore  
14.32 72 acres in Battle Creek Regional Park along  
14.33 the bluff of the Mississippi River, including  
14.34 restoration and enhancement of prairie,  
14.35 savanna, oak woods, and shrub swamp seeps

- 15.1 to improve waterfowl and upland game bird  
15.2 feeding and nesting habitats;
- 15.3 (6) \$210,000 is for the Three Rivers Park  
15.4 District to restore the water quality and  
15.5 game fish habitat in Lake Independence in  
15.6 Barker Park Reserve by reducing phosphorus  
15.7 loading from Spurzem and Half Moon Lakes  
15.8 through treatment with aluminum sulfate;
- 15.9 (7) \$400,000 is for the Three Rivers Park  
15.10 District to enhance and restore the quality  
15.11 of Cleary Lake and restore the fishery by  
15.12 controlling curly-leaf pondweed, reducing  
15.13 phosphorus runoff from the watershed, and  
15.14 controlling internal phosphorus cycling with  
15.15 aluminum sulfate;
- 15.16 (8) \$200,000 is for Carver County to restore  
15.17 and enhance Lake Minnewashta Regional  
15.18 Park by converting 37 acres of existing  
15.19 turf or old fields to native prairie and oak  
15.20 savanna. These areas are identified in the  
15.21 park master plan as medium to high potential  
15.22 sites for restoration;
- 15.23 (9) \$270,000 is for Anoka County to  
15.24 restore and enhance 120 acres of prairie  
15.25 and woodland habitat within the 273-acre  
15.26 Mississippi West Regional Park. Outcomes  
15.27 will include increased habitat for game and  
15.28 nongame species and benefits to migratory  
15.29 waterfowl on the Mississippi flyway;
- 15.30 (10) \$200,000 is for Anoka County to  
15.31 restore 45 acres of prairie and oak savanna  
15.32 and remove invasive species from 40  
15.33 acres of riparian forest land at Rum River  
15.34 Central Regional Park. The restoration  
15.35 will benefit the adjacent 550-acre Cedar

16.1 Creek Conservation Area, which is open to  
16.2 hunting and was funded through a recent  
16.3 appropriation from the outdoor heritage fund;  
16.4 (11) \$338,000 is for Scott County to restore  
16.5 and enhance 150 acres within the 1,150-acre  
16.6 conservation-focused Doyle-Kennefick  
16.7 Regional Park. The project site is part of an  
16.8 850-acre mosaic of natural lands including  
16.9 Minnesota County Biological Survey forest  
16.10 and some of the highest-quality wetlands in  
16.11 Scott County. The park master plan identifies  
16.12 this natural complex to be conserved for  
16.13 habitat and biological diversity with very  
16.14 light recreational development;  
16.15 (12) \$37,000 is for Scott County to restore  
16.16 and enhance Cedar Lake Farm Regional  
16.17 Park by partnering with the Cedar Lake  
16.18 Improvement District and Scott Watershed  
16.19 Management Organization for four years of  
16.20 treatment to control the curly-leaf pondweed  
16.21 infestation dominating Cedar Lake. The  
16.22 goal is to restore 700 acres of shallow lake,  
16.23 improve fishing opportunities, and increase  
16.24 native aquatic plant habitat;  
16.25 (13) \$1,523,000 is for Scott County to  
16.26 restore and enhance 302 acres of contiguous  
16.27 forest, wetlands, and lakeshore in Spring  
16.28 Lake Regional Park by improving habitat  
16.29 for interior forest birds, waterfowl, and  
16.30 amphibians. Adjacent to Upper Prior, Spring,  
16.31 and Arctic Lakes, this site is part of a larger  
16.32 permanent habitat network;  
16.33 (14) \$425,000 is for Washington County to  
16.34 restore and enhance Lake Elmo Park Reserve  
16.35 by creating 168 acres of interconnected

17.1 tallgrass prairie through the restoration of 12  
17.2 wetland basins that are scattered throughout  
17.3 an existing tallgrass prairie complex. These  
17.4 diverse landscapes provide critical habitat for  
17.5 native ground-nesting birds; and

17.6 (15) \$350,000 is for Washington County to  
17.7 restore and enhance rare and unique forest  
17.8 communities identified by the Department  
17.9 of Natural Resources in Lake Elmo Park  
17.10 Reserve and St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park.  
17.11 These forests provide exceptional habitat  
17.12 for native and migrating bird species and  
17.13 represent some of the best opportunities for  
17.14 avian habitat improvement in Washington  
17.15 County.

17.16 Funded projects must implement priority  
17.17 natural resource management plan  
17.18 components of regional park master plans  
17.19 approved by the Metropolitan Council.

17.20 **(j) Outdoor Heritage Conservation Partners**  
17.21 **Grant Program - Phase V**

17.22 \$3,860,000 in the first year is to the  
17.23 commissioner of natural resources for a  
17.24 program to provide competitive, matching  
17.25 grants of up to \$400,000 to local, regional,  
17.26 state, and national organizations for  
17.27 enhancing, restoring, or protecting forests,  
17.28 wetlands, prairies, and habitat for fish, game,  
17.29 or wildlife in Minnesota. Grants shall not  
17.30 be made for activities required to fulfill  
17.31 the duties of owners of lands subject to  
17.32 conservation easements. Grants shall not be  
17.33 made from appropriations in this paragraph  
17.34 for projects that have a total project cost  
17.35 exceeding \$575,000. Of this appropriation,  
17.36 \$366,000 may be spent for personnel costs

18.1 and other direct and necessary administrative  
18.2 costs, and \$10,000 is for outreach efforts to  
18.3 encourage underrepresented communities  
18.4 to apply for grants under this paragraph.  
18.5 Grantees may acquire land or interests in  
18.6 land. Easements must be permanent. Land  
18.7 acquired in fee must be open to hunting  
18.8 and fishing during the open season unless  
18.9 otherwise provided by state law. The program  
18.10 shall require a cash match of at least ten  
18.11 percent from nonstate sources for all grants.  
18.12 For grant applications of \$25,000 or less,  
18.13 the commissioner shall provide a separate,  
18.14 simplified application process. Subject to  
18.15 Minnesota Statutes, the commissioner of  
18.16 natural resources shall, when evaluating  
18.17 projects of equal value, give priority to  
18.18 organizations that have a history of receiving  
18.19 or charter to receive private contributions  
18.20 for local conservation or habitat projects. If  
18.21 acquiring land or a conservation easement,  
18.22 priority shall be given to projects associated  
18.23 with existing wildlife management areas  
18.24 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,  
18.25 subdivision 8; scientific and natural areas  
18.26 under Minnesota Statutes, sections 84.033  
18.27 and 86A.05, subdivision 5; and aquatic  
18.28 management areas under Minnesota Statutes,  
18.29 sections 86A.05, subdivision 14, and 97C.02.  
18.30 All restoration or enhancement projects  
18.31 must be on land permanently protected by a  
18.32 conservation easement or public ownership  
18.33 or in public waters as defined in Minnesota  
18.34 Statutes, section 103G.005, subdivision  
18.35 15. Priority shall be given to restoration  
18.36 and enhancement projects on public lands.

19.1 Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056,  
 19.2 subdivision 13, applies to grants awarded  
 19.3 under this paragraph. This appropriation is  
 19.4 available until June 30, 2017. No less than  
 19.5 five percent of the amount of each grant  
 19.6 must be held back from reimbursement until  
 19.7 the grant recipient has completed a grant  
 19.8 accomplishment report by the deadline and  
 19.9 in the form prescribed by and satisfactory to  
 19.10 the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.  
 19.11 The commissioner shall provide notice of  
 19.12 the grant program in the game and fish law  
 19.13 summaries that are prepared under Minnesota  
 19.14 Statutes, section 97A.051, subdivision 2.

19.15 Subd. 6. **Administration**

1,251,000

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19.16 (a) **Contract Management**

19.17 \$175,000 in the first year is to the  
 19.18 commissioner of natural resources for  
 19.19 contract management duties assigned in this  
 19.20 section. The commissioner shall provide an  
 19.21 accomplishment plan in the form specified by  
 19.22 the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council  
 19.23 on the expenditure of this appropriation.

19.24 The accomplishment plan must include  
 19.25 a copy of the grant contract template  
 19.26 and reimbursement manual. No money  
 19.27 may be expended prior to Lessard-Sams  
 19.28 Outdoor Heritage Council approval of the  
 19.29 accomplishment plan.

19.30 (b) **Legislative Coordinating Commission**

19.31 \$936,000 in the first year is to the Legislative  
 19.32 Coordinating Commission for administrative  
 19.33 expenses of the Lessard-Sams Outdoor  
 19.34 Heritage Council and for compensation and  
 19.35 expense reimbursement of council members.

20.1 Funds in this appropriation are available until  
20.2 June 30, 2015. Minnesota Statutes, section  
20.3 16A.281, applies to this appropriation.

20.4 **(c) Technical Evaluation Panel**

20.5 \$90,000 in the first year is to the  
20.6 commissioner of natural resources for a  
20.7 technical evaluation panel to conduct up to  
20.8 ten restoration evaluations under Minnesota  
20.9 Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 10.

20.10 **(d) High-Priority Pre-Transaction Service**  
20.11 **Acceleration for Lessard-Sams Outdoor**  
20.12 **Heritage Council**

20.13 \$50,000 in the first year is to the  
20.14 commissioner of natural resources to provide  
20.15 land acquisition pre-transaction services  
20.16 including, but not limited to, appraisals,  
20.17 surveys, or title research for acquisition  
20.18 proposals under consideration by the  
20.19 Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council. A  
20.20 list of activities must be included in the final  
20.21 accomplishment plan.

20.22 **Subd. 7. Availability of Appropriation**

20.23 Money appropriated in this section may  
20.24 not be spent on activities unless they are  
20.25 directly related to and necessary for a  
20.26 specific appropriation and are specified in  
20.27 the accomplishment plan approved by the  
20.28 Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.  
20.29 Money appropriated in this section must  
20.30 not be spent on indirect costs or other  
20.31 institutional overhead charges that are not  
20.32 directly related to and necessary for a specific  
20.33 appropriation. Unless otherwise provided,  
20.34 the amounts in this section are available  
20.35 until June 30, 2016. For acquisition of real

21.1 property, the amounts in this section are  
21.2 available until June 30, 2017, if a binding  
21.3 agreement with a landowner or purchase  
21.4 agreement is entered into by June 30, 2016,  
21.5 and closed no later than June 30, 2017. Funds  
21.6 for restoration or enhancement are available  
21.7 until June 30, 2018, or four years after  
21.8 acquisition, whichever is later, in order to  
21.9 complete initial restoration or enhancement  
21.10 work. If a project receives federal funds, the  
21.11 time period of the appropriation is extended  
21.12 to equal the availability of federal funding.  
21.13 Funds appropriated for fee title acquisition  
21.14 of land may be used to restore, enhance, and  
21.15 provide for public use of the land acquired  
21.16 with the appropriation. Public use facilities  
21.17 must have a minimal impact on habitat in  
21.18 acquired lands.

21.19 **Subd. 8. Payment Conditions and Capital**  
21.20 **Equipment Expenditures**

21.21 All agreements referred to in this section must  
21.22 be administered on a reimbursement basis  
21.23 unless otherwise provided in this section.  
21.24 Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, section  
21.25 16A.41, expenditures directly related  
21.26 to each appropriation's purpose made  
21.27 on or after July 1, 2013, or the date of  
21.28 accomplishment plan approval, whichever is  
21.29 later, are eligible for reimbursement unless  
21.30 otherwise provided in this section. For the  
21.31 purposes of administering appropriations  
21.32 and legislatively authorized agreements  
21.33 paid out of the outdoor heritage fund, an  
21.34 expense must be considered reimbursable  
21.35 by the administering agency when the  
21.36 recipient presents the agency with an invoice

22.1 or binding agreement with the landowner  
22.2 and the recipient attests that the goods have  
22.3 been received or the landowner agreement  
22.4 is binding. Periodic reimbursement must  
22.5 be made upon receiving documentation that  
22.6 the items articulated in the accomplishment  
22.7 plan approved by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor  
22.8 Heritage Council have been achieved,  
22.9 including partial achievements as evidenced  
22.10 by progress reports approved by the  
22.11 Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.  
22.12 Reasonable amounts may be advanced to  
22.13 projects to accommodate cash flow needs,  
22.14 support future management of acquired  
22.15 lands, or match a federal share. The  
22.16 advances must be approved as part of the  
22.17 accomplishment plan. Capital equipment  
22.18 expenditures for specific items in excess of  
22.19 \$10,000 must be itemized in and approved as  
22.20 part of the accomplishment plan.

22.21 Subd. 9. **Mapping**

22.22 Each direct recipient of money appropriated  
22.23 in this section, as well as each recipient of  
22.24 a grant awarded pursuant to this section,  
22.25 must provide geographic information to  
22.26 the Department of Natural Resources for  
22.27 mapping any lands acquired in fee with  
22.28 funds appropriated in this section and open  
22.29 to public taking of fish and game. The  
22.30 commissioner of natural resources shall  
22.31 include the lands acquired in fee with  
22.32 money appropriated in this section on maps  
22.33 showing public recreation opportunities.  
22.34 Maps shall include information on and  
22.35 acknowledgement of the outdoor heritage  
22.36 fund, including a notation of any restrictions.

23.1 Subd. 10. Appropriations carryforward; fee  
 23.2 title acquisition

23.3 The availability of the appropriation for the  
 23.4 following project is extended to July 1, 2015:  
 23.5 Laws 2010, chapter 361, article 1, section  
 23.6 2, subdivision 5, paragraph (h), Washington  
 23.7 County St. Croix River Land Protection, and  
 23.8 the appropriation may be spent on acquisition  
 23.9 of land in fee title to protect habitat associated  
 23.10 with the St. Croix River Valley. A list of  
 23.11 proposed acquisitions must be provided as  
 23.12 part of the accomplishment plan.

23.13 Subd. 11. Conservation Corps Minnesota

23.14 A recipient of money from an appropriation  
 23.15 under this section must give consideration  
 23.16 to and make timely written contact with  
 23.17 Conservation Corps Minnesota for possible  
 23.18 use of the corps' services to contract for  
 23.19 restoration and enhancement services. A  
 23.20 copy of the written contact must be filed with  
 23.21 the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council  
 23.22 within 15 days of execution.

23.23 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 97A.056, subdivision 10, is amended to read:

23.24 Subd. 10. **Restoration evaluations.** The commissioner of natural resources and the  
 23.25 Board of Water and Soil Resources may convene a technical evaluation panel comprised  
 23.26 of five members, including one technical representative from the Board of Water and Soil  
 23.27 Resources, one technical representative from the Department of Natural Resources, one  
 23.28 technical expert from the University of Minnesota or the Minnesota State Colleges and  
 23.29 Universities, and two representatives with expertise in the project being evaluated. The  
 23.30 board and the commissioner may add a technical representative from a unit of federal or  
 23.31 local government. The members of the technical evaluation panel may not be associated  
 23.32 with the restoration, may vary depending upon the projects being reviewed, and shall  
 23.33 avoid any potential conflicts of interest. Each year, the board and the commissioner may  
 23.34 assign a coordinator to identify a sample of ~~up to ten~~ habitat restoration projects completed

24.1 with outdoor heritage funding. The coordinator shall secure the restoration plans for the  
 24.2 projects specified and direct the technical evaluation panel to evaluate the restorations  
 24.3 relative to the law, current science, and the stated goals and standards in the restoration  
 24.4 plan and, when applicable, to the Board of Water and Soil Resources' native vegetation  
 24.5 establishment and enhancement guidelines. The coordinator shall summarize the findings  
 24.6 of the panel and provide a report to the chair of the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage  
 24.7 Council and the chairs of the respective house of representatives and senate policy and  
 24.8 finance committees with jurisdiction over natural resources and spending from the outdoor  
 24.9 heritage fund. The report shall determine if the restorations are meeting planned goals,  
 24.10 any problems with the implementation of restorations, and, if necessary, recommendations  
 24.11 on improving restorations. The report shall be focused on improving future restorations.  
 24.12 Up to one-tenth of one percent of forecasted receipts from the outdoor heritage fund may  
 24.13 be used for restoration evaluations under this section.

24.14 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 97A.056, is amended by adding a subdivision  
 24.15 to read:

24.16 Subd. 20. **Acquisitions of lands or interest in lands; commissioner approval;**  
 24.17 **appraisals.** (a) A recipient of an appropriation from the outdoor heritage fund that  
 24.18 acquires an interest in real property must receive written approval from the commissioner  
 24.19 of natural resources prior to the acquisition, if the interest is acquired in whole or in part  
 24.20 with the appropriation. Conservation easements to be held by the Board of Water and Soil  
 24.21 Resources are not subject to commissioner approval under this section.

24.22 (b) The commissioner shall approve acquisitions under this section only when the  
 24.23 interest in real property:

24.24 (1) is identified as a high priority by the commissioner and meets the objectives and  
 24.25 criteria identified in the applicable acquisition plan for the intended management status  
 24.26 of the property; or

24.27 (2) is otherwise identified by the commissioner as a priority for state financing.

24.28 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 97A.056, is amended by adding a subdivision  
 24.29 to read:

24.30 Subd. 21. **Value assessment.** Prior to acquiring an interest in real property with an  
 24.31 appropriation from the outdoor heritage fund, a recipient of an appropriation must submit  
 24.32 the most recent tax assessed value of the real property and the amount the recipient plans  
 24.33 to offer for the interest in real property to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council  
 24.34 and the commissioner of natural resources.