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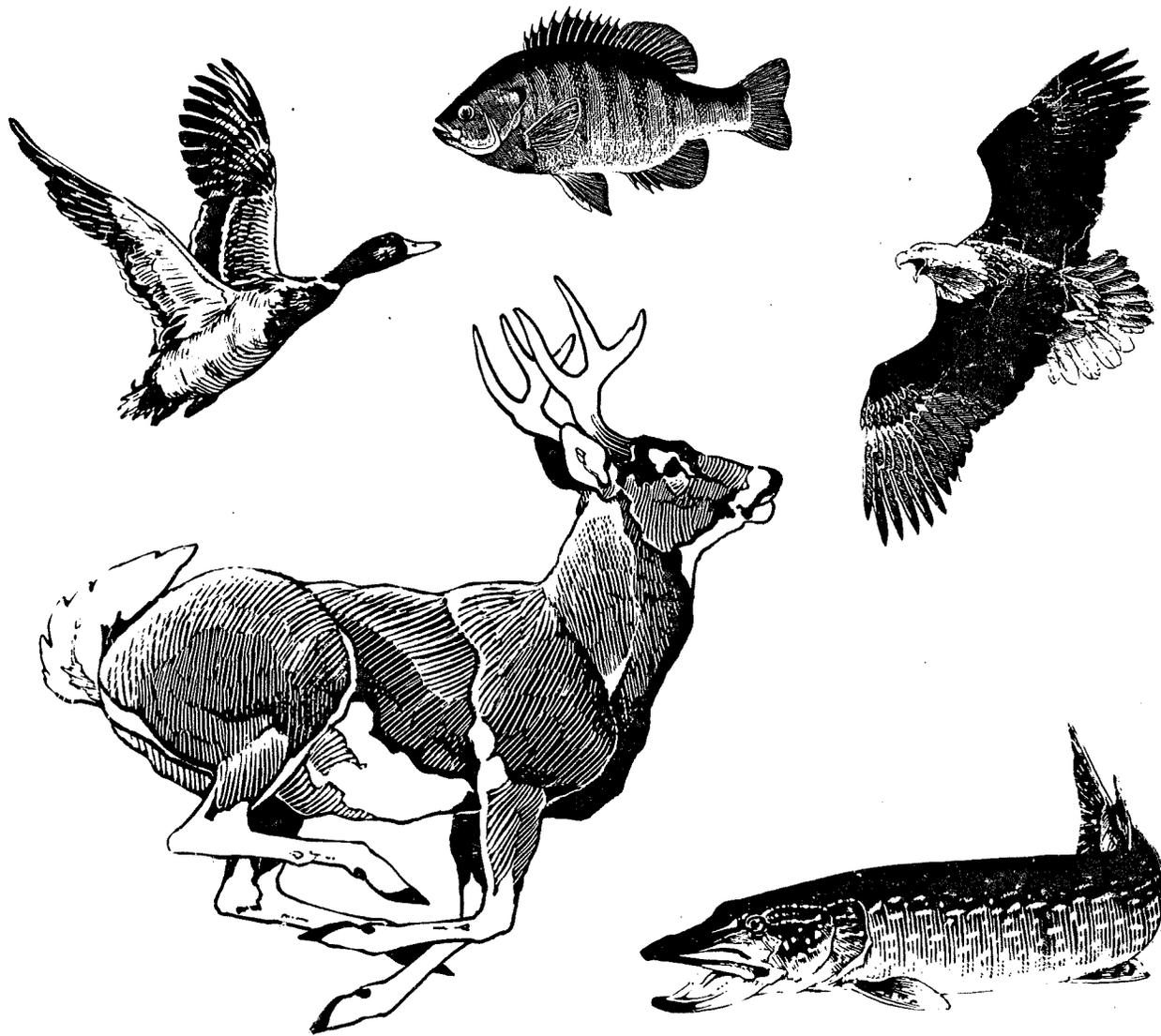
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Report of the Governor's Citizen Commission to Promote Hunting and Fishing in Minnesota

DECEMBER 1984



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December 1984

The Honorable Rudy Perpich
Governor, State of Minnesota
130 State Capitol
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Governor Perpich:

You asked our commission to report to you on ways to improve and promote hunting and fishing in Minnesota. On behalf of the commission, I am pleased to present you with our report and hope that it will help you in your efforts to improve Minnesota's economy.

Our commission is composed of 20 men and women who have great experience in this area. Some of our members have been active in fish and wildlife affairs for more than 40 years, some are businessmen with a great love and knowledge of our state's wildlife resources, some are Minnesota legislators. Our members have demonstrated outstanding leadership qualities in their respective fields and genuine concern for Minnesota's fish and wildlife resources. Our commission has been meeting since July of this year in an effort to make constructive recommendations that would truly help Minnesota's economy by utilizing our state's fish and wildlife resources.

After months of meeting, research, testimony and endless questioning, our commission reached the conclusion that Minnesota's fish and wildlife resources could not, in their present condition, offer any substantially increased tourist attraction, as they have been suffering a long term and steady process of depletion.

For many years fish and wildlife interests in Minnesota have been secondary to other interests and this long term and pervasive attitude has allowed the depletion of the fish and wildlife resources to the extent that even some important recent remedies have not substantially reversed this process.

As our state fish and wildlife resources have slowly dwindled our state sportsmen have begun a steady process of travel to other states and Canadian provinces to enjoy an outdoor tradition that is losing its quality in our homestate. This annual migration of Minnesota sportsmen exports millions of Minnesota dollars to other states that otherwise would have been spent in Minnesota. This outflow of sportsmen dollars is so great that Minnesota represents the single most important source of out-of-state license and tourist money to almost every state and Canadian province on our borders.

Outdoor recreation is a billion dollar industry that has largely been ignored. Today's economic realities have changed but we still seem caught up in a process whereby some of our leaders don't consider hunting and fishing as a serious and important economic activity.

We feel that our fish and wildlife resources have the potential, properly funded and managed, to reverse this multi-million dollar outflow of Minnesota

dollars. And we feel that with the right leadership we can overcome neglects of the past to become the year round outdoor recreation mecca and place of destination for families all over the mid-west.

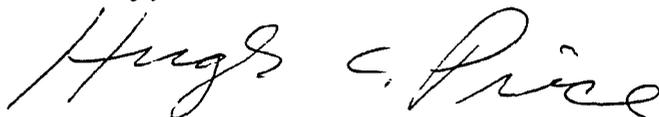
We think it is good economics to invest in one of the largest industries of our state and we think it is a legitimate request that the equivalent of the 6% sales tax on an industry that produces a billion dollars of revenue per year, be reinvested in that resource. We know that time is short and that action will have to be swift so we asked the Department of Natural Resources to begin working on a 10 year reinvestment plan that would restore our fish and wildlife resources. Our plan would keep Minnesota sportsmen in Minnesota and attract out-of-state tourism dollars from other states that have neglected their fish and wildlife resources and don't have the will or vision to restore them.

Farming, one of the other great economic interests in Minnesota, has in the past represented an interest often in conflict with our fish and wildlife resource. Because farming has become more of a business enterprise and less an idealized lifestyle, many of our modern farmers feel they can no longer preserve the ponds and woods that were an important part of the old family farm. Many of our modern farmers now make every acre productive and are less interested in other values that land might represent. Consequently over 90% of the small wetlands that existed in the early 1900's have been drained and their wildlife value destroyed.

But now for the first time in many years large numbers of farmers are anxious to divest themselves of pieces of undeveloped land that they regard as wasteland and a tax burden. We are at a unique point in history where large numbers of conservation dollars could be injected into a severely depressed farm economy that would give farmers relief while enhancing natural resources values. An additional benefit would be the reduction of the farm commodity overproduction problem. In those cases where a farmer did not want to divest himself of ownership, programs like "Water Bank" etc. would provide financial incentives and financial relief.

Our 10 year reinvestment plan would restore a high quality to Minnesota's fish and wildlife resource, promote tourism both in-state and from out of state, and directly benefit our farm economy at a time when no other relief seems to be available to the farmers. With our proposed plan we have an historic opportunity to provide national leadership by demonstrating to other states that a sweeping natural resources restoration plan can be used to benefit the state tourist economy and the state farm economy. We hope you will support our recommendations and provide the leadership that will be necessary to gain the legislative support that can make this plan a reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Hugh Price".

Hugh Price, Chairman
Governor's Citizen Commission to Promote
Hunting and Fishing in Minnesota

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INTRODUCTION

Governor Rudy Perpich established the Citizen Commission to Promote Hunting and Fishing in Minnesota in July of 1984. All commission members served on a voluntary basis and paid their own expenses.

At the Commission's first meeting on July 12 Hugh Price was elected Chairman. Several basic premises emerged from the discussion which took place following the members opening statements:

- * Minnesota first has a responsibility to its own citizens to insure a quality hunting and fishing experience that will encourage Minnesotans to "Explore Minnesota."
- * The long term goal of promoting hunting and fishing to enhance economic development is to provide a quality experience that will insure repeat visits by out-of-state tourists.
- * If Minnesota is increasing its investment to promote hunting and fishing as a part of its "Explore Minnesota" theme, then we first need to determine whether sufficient outdoor resources are available and able to withstand additional pressure.
- * If additional investments in natural resources are needed to enhance economic development, then all the citizens in Minnesota who benefit should bear the cost of investment.

The Commission requested and received presentations from the Department of Natural Resources' Division of Fish and Wildlife and the Division of Enforcement on the status of the basic fish and wildlife resource and the sufficiency of existing personnel and fiscal resources.

The Commission also received information and presentations from the Department's Bureau of Information and Education and the Office of Tourism in the Department of Energy and Economic Development as to the extent of existing efforts to promote hunting and fishing and the availability of brochures, maps and other educational materials for the public requesting information.

Based on the information gathered, the Commission made the following major findings:

- * Minnesota's diverse hunting, fishing and related outdoor recreation opportunities are the resources upon which the \$8 million "Explore Minnesota" tourism promotion is based.
- * Minnesota's fish and wildlife resources cannot, in their present condition, offer any substantially increased recreational pressure.
- * A 10 year fish and wildlife reinvestment program of \$60 million annually could increase the billion dollar hunting and fishing industry for a projected economic return of 25%.
- * Significant improvements need to be made in providing information to the public.

The members met as a full commission five times from July through December. Full commission meetings were announced in advance and notice was given to all persons who asked to be placed on the interested persons list. Time was made available during the proceedings to provide opportunity for public comment.

To expedite the work of the commission, members formed a hunting subcommittee and a fishing subcommittee. Both subcommittees met informally to prepare recommendations for presentation to the full commission.

The recommendations of the hunting and fishing subcommittees were discussed and approved at the full commission meeting on September 26. During the deliberations of the commission, members concluded that the principal recommendation of the commission would be a 10 year reinvestment program.

The reports of the hunting and fishing subcommittees are included in the following section. The plan for the 10 year reinvestment program is contained in Section III.

CITIZEN'S COMMISSION TO PROMOTE HUNTING
AND FISHING IN MINNESOTA

Final Report of Hunting Subcommittee

The purpose of the Hunting Subcommittee is to develop recommendations for achieving the following objectives.

- * Promote hunting as part of the Governor's tourism effort.
- * Achieve a reasonable balance between Minnesota's resources and the demands placed on those resources by residents and non residents.
- * Identify resource management areas that need additional funding or support and suggest ways to meet those needs.
- * Identify areas with little or no attendant costs.
- * Identify problem areas that require legislative approaches.

The recommendations and findings of the Subcommittee are presented in four groups.

- A. Establish and identify the problem and need.
 - B. Recommendations for managing and funding Minnesota's resources to achieve the dual purpose of preserving these resources for future generations while providing maximum pleasure and usage to the increasing number of residents and tourists.
 - C. Recommendations for publicizing the resource management effort.
 - D. Other concerns that have an impact on the quality of hunting in Minnesota and can be addressed with little or no cost.
- A. Establish and identify the problem and need.

Minnesota first has a responsibility to its own citizens to insure a quality outdoor experience. The citizens of this state have an almost insatiable appetite for the resource. They absorb whatever is available.

At present levels of funding, Minnesota's traditional fish and wildlife resources and their habitats cannot satisfy all of the demands of our own citizens let alone absorb the burden of additional numbers of in and out-of-state tourists. The attractiveness and economic value of our resources have depreciated over the years without an attendant replacement of capital. Without sufficient resources the newly recruited hunter and angler will not have a quality experience to encourage his/her return to Minnesota.

Minnesota has invested \$8 million in tourism promotion. However, to date there has been no commensurate investment in fish and wildlife and their habitats which represent the resource upon which the "Explore Minnesota" promotion efforts are based.

Water and soil are the issues of the future. Second to our people, Minnesota's greatest asset is water. We have learned that quantity is useless without quality.

To provide more opportunities for more people, the state of Minnesota will need more land and access available. The Resource 2000 funding program is concluding with no replacement for acquisition monies.

The dollars to support our outdoor activities are principally provided by hunters and fishermen through the purchase of licenses and through the payment of federal excise taxes on certain sporting goods and equipment. These funds constitute the Game and Fish Fund which is dedicated to the management of fish and wildlife.

All Minnesotans benefit from the financial contributions of hunters and fishermen. Hunting and fishing is a \$1 billion industry, not counting the multiplier effect in the economy. None of the sales taxes derived from this industry are returned to the Game and Fish Fund or used for reinvestment in fish and wildlife resource management. If we wish to increase the return on this asset it will be necessary for this state to make an investment and thus reverse the depreciation of our resources.

The 1980 figure of \$1 billion has been producing \$60 million in revenue to the state in sales taxes.

B. Recommendations for managing and funding Minnesota's resources to achieve the dual purpose of preserving these resources for future generations while providing maximum pleasure and usage to the increasing number of residents and tourists.

1. It is our recommendation that Minnesota undertake a 10 year fish and wildlife investment effort of \$60 million annually. To insure long term effectiveness of this program, a ten year plan outlining the annual \$60 million reinvestment program should be developed. This plan should be developed and presented by the Department of Natural Resources in detail prior to presentation to the Legislature in this session. The intent of this program is to restore the attractiveness and enhance the economic value of our Minnesota outdoor resources. The plan should include a statewide land and water use program.

Wildlife, 45% or 27 millions
Fisheries, 45% or 27 millions
Support and enforcement, 10% or 6 millions

Forty percent (10.8 million) of the wildlife budget to be used for acquisition each year. The remainder of 16.2 million would be spent equally on public and private land for habitat

improvement projects. The demand for cost sharing projects exists and leverages public monies in an excellent manner.

2. Undertake an intensive management plan and investment on public and consolidated conservation lands in northern Minnesota and develop an extensive advertising and hunting promotion effort to aid economic development.
3. Interest on nongame funds should accrue to the nongame program in the same manner as Game and Fish Fund interest accrues to the Game and Fish Fund.
4. Minnesota needs to maximize use of the federal dollars available under the Dingell-Johnson and Pittman-Robertson programs. Certain legislative actions have reduced the levels of the Game and Fish Fund needed to qualify for reimbursement, for example, legislative action to provide for the elimination of license requirements for special groups such as senior citizens has removed an estimated \$450,000 in contribution to the Game and Fish Fund.

We recommend that the loss of license revenues from special groups such as senior citizens be mitigated through the payment of a minimum fee and assistance from the general fund.

5. Payment in-lieu-of-taxes on state lands such as state forests, state parks and public access sites are paid for through appropriation from the general fund. Payment of in-lieu-of-taxes on wildlife lands however, are paid for out of the Game and Fish Fund and are estimated at \$625,000 annually.

We recommend the payment in-lieu-of-taxes on wildlife lands be made from the general fund.

6. The department should be encouraged in their acquisition efforts of small wetland areas. A high priority in this area is good for wildlife as well as providing ground water recharge and flood and erosion control.
7. There is a significant problem in that there is a shortage of wildlife managers to work with forestry planners. A request by the DNR for \$410,000 in funding from the LCMR was denied. The legislature should consider funding this request.

C. Recommendations for publicizing the resource management effort.

Promotional materials available through the Office of Tourism include hunting regulations and very generalized information on fishing. Minnesota's advertising campaign does not include hunting and tends to feature fishing for walleye to the exclusion of other fishing opportunities.

The Department of Natural Resource's information and education efforts are fragmented and not responsive to public needs nor are they getting out the full story about the good management activities the Department is accomplishing on behalf of fish and wildlife. The Volunteer magazine has a limited subscription which if expanded could reach more Minnesotans as well as visitors to Minnesota.

1. Upgrade and consolidate the Department of Natural Resource's information and educational efforts. Communication in the past has been inadequate and resulted in a negative image.
2. Expand the Volunteer utilizing paid subscriptions.
3. The Department of Natural Resources and the Office of Tourism should be required to develop a joint annual plan to promote hunting and fishing in Minnesota which should be funded from a portion of the \$8 million appropriation.

D. Other concerns that have an impact on the quality of hunting in Minnesota and can be addressed with little or no cost.

Minnesota has some species that are presently underutilized which could be promoted to encourage Minnesota residents to "Explore Minnesota" as well as to promote tourists from out-of-state.

1. The dove is the #1 game bird in several states. Minnesota's dove population could support a hunting season that could add to hunting opportunities in Minnesota. Legislation to establish a dove season should be initiated in earnest with the cooperation and support of the many conservation organizations in Minnesota. Dove hunting is a social and in many cases a family activity. The economic impact derived would be widespread throughout the majority of Minnesota counties.
2. Certain species are readily available but are considered less desirable by Minnesota's traditional hunters and fishermen. Many of these species, however, are viewed as desirable by residents of other states and can serve as a resource base for additional promotion. The coyote, racoon, and fox are examples.
3. Trespass on private lands is an understandably sensitive issue. However, certain aspects of the law tend to discourage participation in the hunting of certain predator species and could be modified. The trespass law is a response to the sensitive issue of landowner rights, however, the effects of the legislation should be examined to see if the law inadvertently tends to discourage hunting of certain predatory species during the winter season (January and February) and if so, whether modifications can be made that can continue to protect landowner rights while simultaneously providing opportunity for an increasingly popular hunting experience.

4. Promote grouse and woodcock hunting in years of high population cycles to benefit the state's economy.
5. The drainage laws, sec. 105 & 106 should be rewritten to streamline the archaic patchwork of laws now in existence.
6. Economically depressed areas in the northern part of the state contain large acreages of consolidated conservation area lands which are already owned by the state and which have tremendous potential for wildlife production and public use of benefit to the local economy. These lands should be transferred to wildlife management area status.
7. Forestry at both the state and national levels should be encouraged to manage our forests for the benefit of wildlife as well as timber production.
8. The Timber Wolf exhibit which first appeared at the Science Museum of Minnesota is currently on national tour until 1988. This could be combined in a permanent exhibit of all Minnesota wildlife including nongame species to provide a valuable educational opportunity and a tourist attraction. Among the possible sites discussed was the Twin Cities airport terminal. We recommend planning and site selection start as soon as possible.
9. All agricultural programs initiated, funded or monitored by Congress, the legislature, and the federal and state departments of agriculture should encourage and incorporate measures and practices beneficial to wildlife.

Minnesota has invested in an increased tourism promotion effort and must now invest in fish and wildlife management and in fish and wildlife habitat to enhance the attractiveness and economic value of our resources to:

- * Keep Minnesotans at home.
- * Attract the out-of-state visitor, assure a quality experience, and encourage the visitor to tell others about what Minnesota has to offer and return to experience the other varied recreational opportunities.

Supporting and informational material:

Alaska magazine
Minnesota Volunteer
The Mourning Dove in Minnesota. 1980 DNR

CITIZEN'S COMMISSION TO PROMOTE HUNTING
AND FISHING IN MINNESOTA

Final Report of Fishing Subcommittee

The purpose of the Fishing Subcommittee is to develop recommendations for achieving the following objectives.

- * Promote fishing as part of the Governor's tourism effort.
- * Achieve a reasonable balance between Minnesota's fishing resources and the demands placed on those resources by resident anglers and tourists.
- * Identify resource management areas that need additional funding or support and suggest ways to meet those needs.
- * Identify problem areas that require legislative approaches.

The recommendations of the Fishing Subcommittee are presented in five groups.

- A. Recommendations for increasing the quantity and quality of fishing activity in Minnesota.
 - B. Recommendations for managing Minnesota's fishing resources to achieve the dual purpose of preserving these resources for future generations while providing maximum fishing pleasure to the rapidly increasing number of resident anglers and tourists.
 - C. Recommendations for publicizing the resource management effort.
 - D. Recommendations for funding expanded resource management programs to meet the needs of an expanded fishing constituency due to the increased tourism effort.
 - E. Other concerns that have an impact on the quality of fishing in Minnesota.
- A. Increasing the quantity and quality of fishing activity in Minnesota

Sport fishing is big business in Minnesota contributing more than \$700 million to the state's economy each year. To expand this very profitable business by increasing the number of anglers who utilize Minnesota's fishing resources, we submit the following recommendations.

1. To entice anglers from other parts of the country, we should widely publicize the fact that our state far outranks Wisconsin and Michigan in the quantity of fish available to the angler,

especially the more popular species such as muskie, northern pike, bass and walleye.

Minnesota also has more acres of fishable inland waters than neighboring states. These inland waters offer a more economical opportunity for family fishing than the Great Lakes.

These facts should be highlighted in the next tourism brochure, TV ad, etc. Or better yet, we could follow the example of the aggressive (and effective) direct mail advertisers and use this data as an eye-catcher splashed across the mailing envelopes of tourism promotional materials.

2. We should also encourage conventioners and business visitors to extend their stay in the Twin Cities and take advantage of the fantastic fishing resources available in the seven-county metro region. Every convention packet and every hotel room should contain a brochure on metro fishing resources, shore fishing hotspots, boat and equipment rentals, fishing guides, local fishing publications, etc. The local sport-fishing industry could offer special fishing packages for conventioners -- group rates for guided fishing trips to metro lakes. State agencies should work with the Twin Cities hotel and motel industry and the convention bureaus to encourage conventioners to combine business with pleasure and spend some of their vacation dollars in Minnesota.
3. Metro-area fishing as well as state-wide fishing activities should be included in the promotional materials and displays designed for the Twin Cities International Airport.
4. Getting the tourists to come to Minnesota isn't enough. We need to find ways to help them have an enjoyable fishing experience while they're here. It has been mentioned that anglers come to Minnesota, go home empty-handed and don't come back. The implication is that the lakes are fished out and that DNR should increase the quantities of fish they stock in the lakes.

To meet this need, state agencies should provide the leadership to form a network of resort owners, bait stores, boat and tackle manufacturers, and other fishing-related businesses who would share information and work together to ensure that their customers have an enjoyable fishing experience in Minnesota. Here are some of the things resort owners and local businesses could do to ensure that their tourist customers will return year after year.

- a. Provide contour maps of area lakes with hotspots marked.
- b. Provide handouts on who to contact for guide service, equipment repair, tackle, etc.

- c. Share information about which lakes are hot and try to distribute the fishing pressure among the various species of fish. For example, if a popular bass lake isn't producing, suggest that guests fish for northern pike on another area lake.
 - d. Work together to conduct frequent seminars on how to fish local lakes - what lures and techniques are most effective, what the seasonal patterns are, etc.
5. In addition to the tourists, young anglers also provide an excellent opportunity to increase fishing activity in Minnesota and ensure the future of the sport fishing industry in our state. The DNR should continue to take an active role in encouraging community groups, fishing organizations, bait store, and tackle manufacturers to sponsor youth fishing activities such as clubs, clinics, contests, and boat safety seminars. Anglers who begin while they're young tend to make fishing a life-long habit. A recent study by Sports Network indicates that 75% of today's anglers began to fish before they were twelve years old. The economic incentives for the tackle industry are quite clear, but an added bonus is that many educators and youth leaders are convinced that getting youngsters involved in fishing at an early age (5 or 6 years old) helps them avoid some of the negative social pressures that could be overwhelming during the teen years. At the present time, more than 50% of Minnesota youth under the age of 16 are anglers. This is the highest percentage in the nation and bodes well for the future of the sport fishing industry which contributes thousands of dollars in tax revenues to the State of Minnesota every year.
6. DNR Metro Region's program to stock designated Children's Fishing Ponds to provide fishing opportunities for urban youngsters is an excellent example of what should be done to encourage young anglers. This type of program should be extended to the other urban areas in Minnesota.
7. For the benefit of resident sportsmen as well as tourists, the Tourism Division of the Department of Energy and Economic Development should consider providing county maps for both hunting and fishing. These maps should designate the type of land ownership (private, county, state, or federal) and the location of areas where the public has access to these lands for hunting or fishing.
8. As part of the tourism effort, the U of M Extension Division should increase their efforts to assist resort owners to develop effective marketing programs related to fishing. The Department of Economic Development should also increase their efforts to assist resort owners. Further development of the fishing resort industry could add hundreds of jobs in some of the economically depressed areas of the state.

B. Managing Minnesota's fishing resources

Managing Minnesota's vast natural resources in a responsible manner that permits maximum public usage while protecting wildlife habitat and preserving Minnesota's natural assets is a tremendous task. To assist DNR in accomplishing this task, we submit the following recommendations.

1. Extensive efforts should be made to distribute fishing pressure among species other than walleye by providing more visibility to other species in promotional materials. We noted that the Minnesota advertising campaign tends to feature walleye fishing to the exclusion of other fishing opportunities. This Commission feels that to preserve the walleye resources, the state's tourism effort should be careful not to "preprogram" tourists to expect trophy catches of walleye everytime they get on the water. We recommend that promotional materials provide greater visibility to other species such as northern pike, lake trout (Lake Superior), bass and panfish.
2. We encourage the Department of Natural Resources to establish flexible possession limits for northern pike, subject to appropriate size limits, in areas where this species is abundant. The Commissioner now has the authority to authorize limits of up to five.
3. DNR should also investigate the advisability of establishing "Trophy Fish" limits for some species of game fish such as northern pike, walleye, and trout. For example, on lakes where northern pike are abundant there could be a possession limit of five but only one of the five fish could be in the "Trophy" class. Other states are experimenting with this concept which discourages the reckless harvesting of large quantities of big fish.
4. DNR should be supported in their efforts to manage each lake and stream individually with emphasis on what is required for that particular area. Ideally, the DNR Regions should develop a management plan for each fishable lake and stream.
5. Fish management programs for urban lakes and streams present some unique problems due to intense fishing pressure and the impact of urban development and drainage systems of fish habitat. The DNR Metro Region has developed considerable expertise in the management of urban fishing resources and works closely with local units of government to encourage the development of shore fishing areas, the installation of aeration systems and fishing docks, the establishment of Children's Fishing Ponds, and the stocking of marginal fishing waters in urban areas.

We recommend that this type of program should be developed in other urban areas in Minnesota and that urban fish management specialists should be hired by DNR for this purpose.

6. We recommend that DNR work with the legislature to develop regulations to prevent (or limit) the sale of public land that is suitable for fish and wildlife management. We also recommend that DNR seek ways to simplify and accelerate the process for acquiring additional lands that are suitable for fish and wildlife management.
7. Illegal netting of walleyes for sale to restaurants and food stores is a serious threat to our walleye resource. To discourage this practice, we recommend that both the sale and the purchase of illegally taken fish should be made a gross misdemeanor and that penalties for the seller and the buyer should be increased substantially to provide a meaningful deterrent.
8. Trout streams provide better fishing when stream improvements are made. Natural reproduction should be emphasized over hatchery reared trout wherever conditions permit.
9. All public waters should have public access and DNR should expand its access acquisition and improvement program to achieve this goal. Public easements or public ownership should be provided along the banks of designated trout streams.
10. The public access plan for Lake Minnetonka should be implemented as soon as possible. This plan includes the development of shore fishing areas, public accesses, and parking facilities.

C. Publicizing the resource management effort

DNR should greatly increase its efforts to inform the public about its activities and call attention to resource management issues. Much of the negative comment about DNR and much of the opposition to resource management programs stems from the public not understanding what DNR is trying to accomplish. In this regard, we submit the following recommendations.

1. More press releases should go to local newspapers and fishing publications. Information about DNR programs should be distributed regularly to newspapers, fishing clubs, bait stores, resort owners, tackle manufacturers, etc. to inform them of DNR issues, programs, and activities. We feel that this will do more to generate support for responsible resource management than any number of public hearings.
2. The Regional Offices should increase their efforts to inform local fishing organizations, fishing-related businesses, and news media about activities and programs that affect local fishing lakes and streams.
3. DNR should consider developing a semi-annual publication (Minnesota Angler, for example) with a much larger distribution than the Volunteer to promote fishing activities and publicize

fish management programs. It has also been suggested that DNR publish a free monthly bulletin on where to fish in Minnesota with emphasis on distributing the fishing pressure among all species of game fish, promoting kids fishing opportunities, and advocating catch and release.

4. DNR should utilize the network of resort owners, bait stores, etc. (see recommendation A-4) to disseminate information about resource management programs and to educate network participants about such issues as catch-and-release and the need to distribute fishing pressure among the species.

D. Funding expanded resource management programs

The DNR's budget for Fish Management activity sustained significant cuts in FY83 (\$100,000), FY84 (\$300,000) and FY85 (\$313,000). Additional appropriations granted for FY85 provided only 88% of required salary increases. All operating costs have increased significantly during these years and the result is that programs are being cut. Unless additional funds are provided soon, even such programs as the Children's Fishing Ponds and spring spawn-taking operations for walleye, northern pike, and muskie will have to be seriously curtailed or discontinued.

In this report, we have submitted recommendations that DNR expand many of its existing programs and initiate new ones to meet the needs of the rapidly increasing number of resident anglers as well as tourists attracted to our state by the governor's tourism effort. It is apparent that all of these recommendations are tied to funding considerations. To support the concepts we have proposed in this report, we submit the following recommendations for increased funding for DNR.

1. To support continuation of fish management programs at the present level, the \$300,000 that was cut to help balance the budget for FY85 should be appropriated as soon as possible. In addition, monies from the fishing license surcharge should also be immediately appropriated in order that new programs can begin.
2. A large scale tax revenue is generated by goods sold in the state, including items related to fisheries management activities. It is appropriate that some of these tax funds should be used for resource management. The committee identified three options for generating additional revenue to fund fisheries management activities.
 - a. A percentage of the total sales tax income.
 - b. A percentage of sales tax monies attributable to the sale of fishing related goods and services.
 - c. All tax revenue generated from fishing related activities.

These options are essentially an expansion of the user-fee concept to require contributions from all those who benefit - not just licensed anglers and hunters. For example, the present taxing structure does not provide for the resort industry which derives tremendous benefit from outdoor recreation activities to contribute anything to the Game and Fish fund. We recommend that the taxing structure be changed to require a more equitable contribution from all those who benefit from resource management programs.

3. Federal aid for fisheries management has been liberally expanded and is formulated on the basis of the number of licenses sold. To derive the greatest potential amount of federal aid, the license structure should be revised so that the more than 500,000 anglers not presently required to be licensed are subject to a nominal license fee (approximately \$2.50) that meets the federal guidelines. There are several aspects of this proposal that should be considered.
 - a. For fiscally sound resource management programs, we should ensure that the greatest amounts of potential revenue is generated from a variety of funding sources.
 - b. The changing demographic structure necessitates a reconsideration of present funding mechanisms. The Congressional Office of Technology Assessment reports that the population of senior citizens has increased from 4% of the total population in 1900 to 11.5% in 1983 and will constitute almost 14% by 2010. In view of this trend, it may not be practical to continue to provide unlicensed fishing for all senior citizens.
 - c. At the present time, Pitman-Robertson funds provide \$4 to \$5 per licensed hunter while Dingell-Johnson funds provide 80¢ to 90¢ per licensed angler. In the coming year, revised federal guidelines will increase the amount of Dingell-Johnson aid to approximately \$3 per licensed angler. By establishing a nominal license fee for senior citizens, Minnesota would qualify for an additional \$1.5 million in federal aid.
 - d. The new federal guidelines will also allow more variety in the type of fishing waters that qualify for these funds. Efforts by coastal states to license salt-water anglers will increase Minnesota's competition for an equitable share of these federal funds.
4. To help preserve the Game and Fish fund and to assure that payment-in-lieu-of-tax monies for lands managed by DNR are handled in the same manner for all resource management activities, monies allocated to counties for land controlled by the Fish and Wildlife Division should be taken from the general fund rather than the Game and Fish fund. These lands are enjoyed by many others besides hunters and anglers.

5. Explore additional funding through cooperation with the Department of Transportation to increase the percentage of gas tax from boats and motors that is transferable for public access activities.
6. We support DNR's request that additional funds be allocated for fisheries field work.

E. Other Concerns

Acid rain is the most serious threat to Minnesota's fishing resources. Unless this problem is solved, all of our other recommendations to increase fishing activities in our state could become meaningless. Therefore, we strongly recommend that Minnesota take the lead in eliminating the causes of acid rain.



SIERRA CLUB

North Star Chapter

October 11, 1984

Hugh C. Price, Commission Chair
MN Wildlife Heritage Foundation
Suite 325
5701 Normandale Rd.
Mpls. MN 55424

Dear Mr. Price,

I appreciated the opportunity to appear before the Sept. 26th meeting of the Citizen's Commission to Promote Hunting and Fishing in Minnesota. Again, I would like to say that I believe that your commission has done a fine job on a difficult task and the Sierra Club would actively support most of the recommendations that appeared in your draft report.

The interest shown in the recent exhibit at the Minnesota Science Museum in St. Paul, Wolves and Humans, seems to indicate that the wolf would be an important wildlife resource to promote tourism in Minnesota. As you know, the wolf exhibit closed on July 29, 1984 and is now in storage but will go on tour in June 1985 and will be shown at the State Historical Society in Boise, Idaho; Yellowstone National Park; the Science Museum of Boston; the American Museum of Natural History in New York City; the Fort Worth Museum in Fort Worth Texas; Nevill Public Museum in Green Bay, Wisconsin, and the National Geographic Exposition Building in Washington, D.C..

This exhibit was financed thru a \$350,000. grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Staff time was provided by the museum. When the exhibit completes its tour in June 1988 it will be trashed unless we can find a permanent home for it in Minnesota. We believe that this exhibit could serve 2 important functions - both as a wildlife interpretive center and as a tourist attraction.

I am enclosing a copy of a Proposal for PROMOTION OF THE WOLF AS AN ATTRACTION FOR TOURISM IN MINNESOTA by Dr. L. David Mech, wolf researcher, which spells out in detail some ideas that could be implemented at a wolf interpretive center. Also, the recent Associated Press article (attached) which appeared in the October 7th Mpls. Star and Tribune indicates that the Wolves and Humans exhibit was seen by 384,000 visitors and created a substantial dollar surplus for the museum.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need any additional information on this issue.

Sincerely yours,


Harriet Lykken, Chair
Wildlife Task Force

4600 Emerson Av. S. Mpls. 55409

Boyd Place, Suite N • 2929 4th Avenue South • Minneapolis, MN 55408 • (612) 827-3562

Production Credit Association of Worthington

Box 774, Pipestone, Minnesota 56164
Telephone 825-5494



September 27, 1984

Mr. Hugh Price
Director of Minn. Wildlife Heritage Foundation
5701 Normandale Road
Minneapolis, MN 55424

Dear Mr. Price:

I am writing this letter to seek information on your wildlife foundation for the purpose of buying marginal type real estate in our local area.

You are aware, I am sure that many farm families in our state, and particularly in Pipestone County that are experiencing very, very severe financial problems, and in many cases the only possible salvation for many of them is to liquidate real estate to reduce their existing debt position.

In our particular county we do have a rather large existance of marginal type land that is not productive. Because of the economic conditions that presently exist, this type of land is not ready marketable to prospective buyers which greatly adds to the financial stress of many of our farm families.

In many cases where real estate must be liquidated, and in particular the marginal type is involved, it could very well mean the difference of these farm families to continue to operate their business, or liquidate their entire unit.

If the wild life heritage foundation would have sufficient funds available to purchase this type of real estate, it may well serve as a deferment to farm families who are faced with the possibility of losing 100% of their assets, and possibly keep them from being forced into bankruptcy and local welfare service programs.

I wish to express my thanks to you and your staff for any help that you may have available at this time.

Sincerely,

PRODUCTION CREDIT ASSOCIATION
WORTHINGTON, MINNESOTA

Harold Carrow
Sr. Loan Officer
PCA Pipestone

jj



Viking-Land usa



206 N. Broadway, Alexandria, MN 56308
Phone: 612-763-3162

Hugh Price, Chairman
Citizens Commission on Hunting & Fishing
5701 Normandale Road, Suite 325
Minneapolis, MN 55244

Dear Mr. Price:

As we discussed on the phone, fishing and hunting is of prime importance to the tourist industry in the Viking-Land Tourism Region.

From the fishing opener in May to the ice fishing in the winter, thousands of individuals come to our area to partake in this sport. I think it is safe to say fishing is one of the prime reasons people come to the Viking-Land Region to spend their vacations.

A number of individuals come to the Viking-Land Region to hunt, although not in great numbers as in fishing. One of the problems that face visiting hunters is knowing where to hunt. Other than public hunting areas, the hunter must know a landowner in order to obtain permission to hunt. Many of our resorts and motels do not promote hunting for this reason.

Tourism is vital to the economy of the Viking-Land Region. It is one of the major businesses in the area.

If I can be of further assistance to you, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Jim Dye
Executive Director

TEN YEAR RESOURCE REINVESTMENT PROGRAM
FOR MINNESOTA FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES

Prepared by the Governor's Citizen Commission
to Promote Hunting and Fishing
with Technical Assistance from
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Program and Expenditure Summary

Minnesota's fish and wildlife resources, a major basis of the state's tourism industry, are in critical need of help. Increasing human population, a decreasing habitat base, and inadequate funding are starting to limit recreational opportunities and lower Minnesota's nationally-known quality of life. It is the goal of this comprehensive reinvestment program to increase economic activity in the recreation sector by 25 percent.

The situation is parallel to that of an aging factory owned by stockholders who enjoy huge dividends by disregarding management's pleas to maintain and improve a deteriorating production line. Eventually, production declines as well as the dividends. Likewise, those who enjoy and/or earn their living from Minnesota's fish and wildlife should not expect the resource to keep on producing without adequate reinvestment. The "factory" is declining and dividends are suffering.

Fish and wildlife-related activities generate \$1 billion annually for Minnesota's economy. Yet, the fish and wildlife management budget is only 2.2% of this amount with most of that from hunting and fishing license fees. Like the aging factory that needs major investments to insure continuing returns to the stockholders, Minnesota's fish and wildlife resources also need major expenditures. These expenditures are required for soil and water protection and for increased habitat acquisition and restoration. The payoffs to Minnesota's "stockholders" are improved hunting, fishing and other recreational opportunities and a boost to the rural economy and tourist industry of the state.

A comprehensive reinvestment program is needed to improve soil, water, fish and wildlife. Integrating this with existing fish and wildlife operations is not difficult because many effective programs already exist for each resource. In order to produce bigger and more noticeable benefits, these programs need increased funding for management practices, personnel, facilities and equipment.

The eleven program priorities and their 10 year funding levels are addressed below. The total cost for reinvestment in Minnesota's fish and wildlife resources is \$60 million annually over 10 years.

Plan Items

1. & 2. Planning, Administration/Implementation \$ 15 million
A comprehensive investment program will require close coordination with citizens and other governmental units as well as field staff. This large effort will require adequate planning, operations, and administrative staff.

3. Research \$ 39 million
Research and inventory provide the data base and set the stage for this comprehensive investment program, and will continue to be an important function. New ideas, approaches, and techniques developed in the next 10 years will pay significant dividends. Evaluation of the investments will also be an important function.

4. Special Surveys \$ 16 million
An accelerated development and protection program will require, at the onset, comprehensive surveys of potential habitat development or improvement sites to set priorities. These surveys of lakes, streams, wetlands, deer yards, waterfowl lakes, and pheasant wintering areas will provide enormous private and public dividends. This data will also be available in easily understood form for public recreation and private investment.

5. Habitat Development \$ 131 million
To realize the full potential of public lands and waters, intensive management is needed for 2000 wildlife habitat lakes, 6000 fishing lakes, 15,000 miles of streams, 950 wildlife management areas, 3 million acres of forest land, and other public lands with habitat values.

6. Land and Water Conservation \$ 150 million
Conservation practices through cost-sharing (grants) to hold soil in place, improve water quality, reduce flooding, increase ground water recharge, reduce crop surpluses, and enhance fish and wildlife populations while providing a boost to the rural economy.

7. Habitat Protection \$ 24 million
Retain public lands possessing valuable habitat and protect wildlife habitat on private lands.

| | | |
|-------|---|----------------|
| 8. | <u>Wildlife, Spawning and Trout Stream Acquisitions</u> Complete the wildlife management area system, provide more public access, and protect fish habitat. About 450,000 acres are needed by the year 2000 to complete the wildlife management area system. | \$ 130 million |
| 9. | <u>Fish Culture</u> Reinvestment in the fish culture and distribution area will include restoration and modernization of existing fish rearing facilities, replacement of old distribution equipment, development of expanded fish cultural facilities and personnel necessary for new stations. | \$ 26 million |
| 10. | <u>Information/Education</u> This effort will benefit many resource users, particularly hunters, fishermen, and resort owners. This activity will permit the Division to increase the nationwide awareness of the unique wildlife, plant, and water resources available for nonconsumptive use. Minnesota is unique in that it possesses all three major cover types of North America -- prairie, boreal and mixed hardwood forests. | \$ 12 million |
| 11. | <u>Resource Law Enforcement/Protection</u> The increased investment in fish and wildlife resources must be protected from the effects of unlawful use which could reduce expected dividends. | \$ 60 million |
| Total | | \$ 600 million |

PROPOSED ANNUAL INVESTMENT
COMPREHENSIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE REINVESTMENT PROGRAM

| Project Item | Investment Area | Allocation By Year (\$ million) | | | | | | | | | | Total |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|---------|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | |
| FISHERIES | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | Planning | 0.4 | 0.8 | 0.7 | 0.6 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.8 | 0.7 | \$ 6 |
| 2 | Administration/Implementation | 0.6 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.7 | 4 |
| 3 | Research | 3.7 | 3.1 | 3.0 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 3.0 | 29 |
| 4 | Special Surveys | 1.6 | 2.0 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 1.2 | 1.4 | 1.6 | 1.2 | 13 |
| 5 | Habitat Development | 5.0 | 7.0 | 9.0 | 10.0 | 11.0 | 10.0 | 10.0 | 10.0 | 9.0 | 9.0 | 90 |
| 6 | Land and Water Conservation | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 50 |
| 7 | Habitat Protection | 2.0 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.0 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 1.3 | 12 |
| 8 | Acquisition | 3.0 | 2.0 | 2.5 | 1.8 | 2.0 | 3.2 | 3.5 | 3.5 | 4.6 | 3.9 | 30 |
| 9 | Fish Culture | 5.0 | 3.8 | 2.7 | 2.9 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 2.0 | 1.8 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 26 |
| 10 | Information-Education | 0.7 | 1.3 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 10 |
| WILDLIFE | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | Planning | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 3 |
| 2 | Administration/Implementation | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 2 |
| 3 | Research | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 10 |
| 4 | Special Surveys | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 3 |
| 5 | Habitat Development | 4.1 | 4.1 | 4.1 | 4.1 | 4.1 | 4.1 | 4.1 | 4.1 | 4.1 | 4.1 | 41 |
| 6 | Land and Water Conservation | 10.0 | 10.0 | 10.0 | 10.0 | 10.0 | 10.0 | 10.0 | 10.0 | 10.0 | 10.0 | 100 |
| 7 | Habitat Protection | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 12 |
| 8 | Acquisition | 9.7 | 9.7 | 9.7 | 9.7 | 9.7 | 9.7 | 9.7 | 9.7 | 9.7 | 9.7 | 97 |
| 10 | Information-Education | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 2 |
| ENFORCEMENT | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11 | Planning/Implementation | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | \$ 60.0 |
| TOTAL REINVESTMENT PROGRAM | | 60 | 60 | 60 | 60 | 60 | 60 | 60 | 60 | 60 | 60 | \$600.0 |

The Eleven Point Reinvestment Program

The Governor's Citizen Commission to Promote Fishing and Hunting recommends that Minnesota greatly expand the fish and wildlife management program for the long term welfare of the state's natural resources. Our commission recommends an annual appropriation of \$60 million to the Department of Natural Resources from the General Revenue Fund. A \$54 million annual appropriation for 10 years is recommended to be used equally for fisheries and wildlife and a \$6 million appropriation is recommended for enforcement and support services. This would substantially increase the budget and provide the Department the means to attain many very important goals and objectives.

This proposal recognizes the need for initial planning to put this sizeable allocation to work. In addition, the plan recognizes the 10 year period needed to use the reinvestment opportunity to speed up lagging program areas and undertake new programs. Major areas of spending are:

1. Planning

Planning is essential to the orderly development and implementation of any program. Long range planning will establish goals and objectives for the entire fish and wildlife program statewide as well as this reinvestment initiative. The development projects will require intensive monitoring during their progress from statewide level to the actual work. Public meetings, issuance of permits and negotiations with local units of government and landowners are essential for the completion of land acquisition, public access, and development. These activities will require an information system, control and evaluation, and adherence to state and federal permit requirements. About the same level of funding will be required for each of the 10 years of the program. Managerial level personnel,

equipment and software will be required. Professional personnel will be needed to prepare strategic and program plans, and develop and evaluate specific projects. The cost for this planning effort is estimated at \$9 million over 10 years.

2. Administration/Implementation

Planning will prescribe new directions with implementation being a crucial function. Accounting, payroll, cost-sharing with citizens and local units of government, record keeping and evaluation will be a large task at the central, regional and area levels. Electronic record keeping will be required to ensure a responsive and successful reinvestment program. The proposed cost for administration is estimated at \$6 million over 10 years.

3. Research

Expanded research will be accomplished within the six existing research groups in the Division of Fish and Wildlife and the additional walleye and Lake Superior work groups. Included will be technical staff, some much needed equipment, more working and storage space, and experimental fish rearing and holding facilities. Research will be toward problem solving for management needs. Research staffs will work closely with planning and administration to determine immediate and long term research needs and management priorities. The proposed research budget is estimated at \$39 million over 10 years.

4. Special Surveys

Completion of essential surveys to determine the current status of resources will be essential to set priorities and intensify habitat development and restoration. Expanded survey needs include:

1. Mine pit lakes
2. Boundary Waters Canoe Area periphery lakes
3. Large warm-cool water streams
4. Inland trout streams
5. Lake Superior watershed streams
6. Individual fish lakes statewide
7. Deer wintering areas
8. Waterfowl/furbearer lakes
9. Wetlands
10. Critical upland game habitats
11. Critical nongame habitats
12. Unique or threatened landscape or habitats
13. Rare, threatened and endangered species ranges
14. Furbearers
15. Socio-economic uses of fish and wildlife resources

The proposed cost for special surveys is estimated at \$16 million over 10 years.

5. Habitat Development

This portion of the reinvestment is material, labor and equipment intensive; it represents the heart of the reinvestment effort. To multiply the reinvestment, landowners, conservation organizations, cities, counties, or federal resource management agencies will be encouraged to contribute and match the state funds. Fisheries activities will include: lake or stream shore stabilization, mine pit lake shoreline sculpturing, trout stream or river habitat development, watershed stabilization (erosion control and runoff),

lake eutrophication control (septic holding or consolidated sewer or nonpoint source land management), stream enrichment control, aeration, dredge and major lake or watershed reclamations with the construction of rough fish barriers. The projects will be directed at the restoration of lost resource quality and the development and utilization of a sport fishery.

Wildlife priorities will address habitat development on public lands. These developments will also benefit soil and water conservation. Public land habitat development practices will be concentrated on wildlife management areas, state forests, and county lands. Because wildlife management areas are concentrated in the agricultural regions and forests lie within the resort region, benefits will accrue statewide. State forest projects will be focused toward white-tailed deer, moose, ruffed and sharp-tailed grouse, and other species of special concern. The proposed cost for habitat restoration is estimated at \$131 million over 10 years.

6. Land and Water Conservation

One of the major components of the 10 year reinvestment program is the creation of a Land and Water Conservation Program. This program will provide needed financial incentives to farmers for good conservation practices that will yield critical habitat. To rehabilitate wildlife populations in the agricultural regions vastly improved habitat conditions will be required. Not only must existing habitat such as wetlands, shelterbelts, woodlots, stream banks, windbreaks, grassy areas, roadsides, river bottoms and wildlife areas be preserved, but habitat components like nesting cover that are limiting the expansion of wildlife populations must be provided. This will be expensive but the rewards for greatly improved fish and wildlife populations, thus recreational opportunities, will be very evident.

This program would be patterned after the U.S. Department of Agriculture (Agriculture Conservation Program) and the Minnesota Soil and Water Conservation Board. The Land and Water Conservation Program, although designed specifically to provide more habitat components such as winter cover and nesting cover, are blended or designed to compliment other existing soil and water conservation cost-share programs. This program would concentrate on roadside improvement, rental of nesting cover on eroded or diverted lands, and purchase of conservation easements to restore drained wetlands and establish farmstead shelterbelts and field windbreaks.

The Land and Water Program will be funded at \$150 million over 10 years.

7. Habitat Protection

Protection of remaining resources is absolutely essential. This historically has been primarily through the administration of laws and regulations. Unfortunately, the shortage of personnel has kept the Division of Fish and Wildlife from fully addressing such habitat perturbations as hydropower, acid rain, alterations to the beds of protected waters and wetlands, improper land use, feedlots, hazardous wastes, pipelines and line crossings, eutrophication, stream diversion, surface water use, small wetland drainage, aquatic nuisance control, and aeration.

To provide habitat retention incentives, programs like the Wetlands Tax Credit and Exemption Program should be funded and expanded.

Of particular importance to the goal of habitat protection is the retention of state-owned lands supporting wildlife habitat and their transfer into management areas.

The estimated cost of habitat protection is \$24 million over 10 years.

8. Acquisition

Minnesota's wildlife acquisition program began in 1951 and is of national significance. The fish spawning program and trout stream easement program are also very significant. A substantial reinvestment over a 10 year period will give both Fisheries and Wildlife programs the needed thrust to reach longstanding goals. Additional access and the development of facilities are required on fish lakes, mine pit lakes, trout streams, warm and cool water rivers and Lake Superior. Development of these accesses will include concrete launch pads, docks, fish cleaning structures and maintenance. The major secondary rivers have previously not received shoreline fishing easements. This will be done along with a continuation of trout stream easements. To comply with the Resource 2000 Plan, the Section of Wildlife needs to acquire 450,000 acres of high priority tracts. Access and development sites on game lakes will also receive high priority over the next 10 years. Scientific and natural areas and special nongame sites will also be priorities. The estimated cost for acquisition and development would be \$127 million over 10 years.

9. Fish Culture and Distribution

Reinvestment in the fish culture and distribution area will include restoration and modernization of existing fish rearing facilities, replacement of old distribution equipment, development of expanded fish cultural facilities and employment of personnel necessary at undermanned stations. Major goals of the program would include:

1. Upgrading facilities at 5 existing trout and salmon hatcheries;
2. Expansion of production capacity of 4 existing trout and salmon hatcheries;

3. Expansion and renovation of one new and one existing warmwater-coolwater fish rearing stations;
4. Modernization of 3 existing walleye hatcheries;
5. Develop cost-effective agreements for private rearing of fish; and
6. Acquisition and development of a genetics management and disease isolation station for all cultured species.

The estimated cost for fish culture and distribution would be \$26 million over 10 years.

10. Information-Education

Information and education programs will be developed to serve hunters, anglers, recreationists and the industries associated with resource utilization. The Bureau of Information and Education will work with other DNR divisions to complement existing programs and utilize all forms of communication opportunities. The Advanced Hunter Education Program will receive additional funding to accelerate our hunter ethics program. Some funding should be earmarked for development of a natural resources interpretive center, descriptive of Minnesota's unique fish, wildlife and other natural resources and the opportunities they offer.

Information will be developed to assist residents and nonresidents in the pursuit of hunting and fishing opportunities, including hunting and fishing techniques, nonconsumptive uses and resource management problems and activities. The estimated cost would be \$12 million over 10 years.

11. Resource Law Enforcement/Protection

The increased investment in fish and wildlife resources must be protected to prevent the effects of unlawful use from reducing the expected dividends. Increased law enforcement demands will be met by increasing the

number of conservation officers in high resource use areas, high population areas, expansion of the covert investigation unit, and increased support staff. These people will need specialized equipment in addition to that normally required. The Division of Enforcement must upgrade patrol units that have not been replaced on schedule because of funding shortfalls. A centrally located training facility to meet the unique training needs of conservation officers should be provided. Area office expansion to house area officers with other DNR personnel is recommended to better serve the resource. The establishment of automated record keeping, cost accounting, and violation tracking through new data handling technology will greatly increase accountability and efficiency. The establishment of a limited funding grant program directed toward improving forensic science in the fish and wildlife resource area will better apply existing law enforcement techniques. The anticipated cost is \$60 million over 10 years.

COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP

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