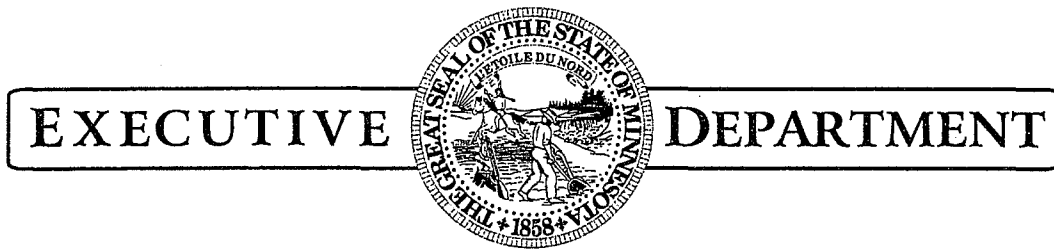


STATE of MINNESOTA



JESSE VENTURA
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER 00-02
DIRECTING STATE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES
TO FOLLOW A "NO-NET LOSS" POLICY
IN REGARD TO WETLANDS

I, JESSE VENTURA, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the applicable statutes, do hereby issue this Executive Order:

WHEREAS, wetlands provide economic as well as ecological benefits to the state by protecting and preserving water supplies; by providing for natural storage and retention of flood waters; by serving as transition zones between dry land and lakes and rivers, thereby retarding soil erosion; by functioning as nature's biological filters, assimilating nutrients; by providing essential habitats for fish and wildlife; by interacting with groundwater supplies; by providing aesthetic and recreational opportunities; by providing outdoor educational resources; and by adding to Minnesota's ecological diversity; and

WHEREAS, over eighty percent of the state's original prairie pothole wetlands have been drained and over sixty percent of the state's total original wetland base has been drained, filled or otherwise diminished; and

WHEREAS, the continued loss of wetlands harms the economic and environmental welfare of the state; and

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest to protect the functions and values of wetlands; and

WHEREAS, the state, through public agencies and units of government, must provide leadership in the stewardship of wetlands for all projects on the lands and waters entrusted to the state by the public;

NOW, THEREFORE, I hereby order that:

- A. All responsible departments and agencies of the State of Minnesota shall protect, enhance, and restore Minnesota's wetlands to the fullest extent of their authority;
- B. All responsible departments and agencies of the State of Minnesota shall operate to the fullest extent of their authority under the strict concept of "NO-NET LOSS" of wetlands of the state in regard to projects under their jurisdiction;
- C. All responsible departments and agencies of the State of Minnesota shall identify all wetlands on land being acquired by or donated to the state and on public lands threatened by development activities. Acquisition decisions and subsequent management plans shall mitigate ecological impacts as a result of development activities;

D. All responsible departments and agencies of the State of Minnesota shall be guided by the following prioritized criteria in the implementation of this "NO-NET LOSS" executive order;

- 1) AVOID the impact altogether by not taking a certain action or actions;
- 2) MINIMIZE the impact by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action by using appropriate technologies or by considering alternatives and then taking affirmative steps to avoid or reduce the impact;
- 3) MITIGATE all functional values of the wetlands that have been diminished.

Mitigation must, in order of importance, be accomplished by restoration of drained or diminished wetlands, creation of new wetlands, or other actions that improve the quantity and quality of wetlands;

E. The head of each department or agency shall, by appropriate means, ensure that all staff are advised of this order and shall by February 1 of each year report to the Board of Water and Soil Resources and Commissioner of Natural Resources on efforts to comply with this order; and

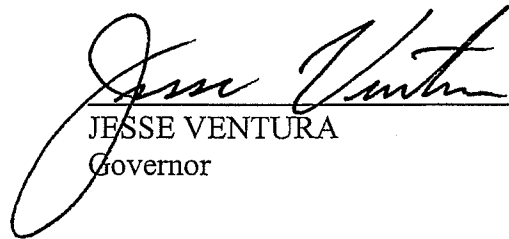
F. The Board of Water and Soil Resources and Commissioner of Natural Resources shall report to the Governor and the chairs of the Senate and House environment committees in accordance with provisions of the Wetland Conservation Act.

In addition, I hereby encourage all local units of government to adopt "NO-NET LOSS" wetlands resolutions guiding public actions within their jurisdiction.

This Order shall be reviewed by the Governor, in consultation with the affected agency or agencies, every two years in order to assess its reasonableness and need.

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 1998, section 4.035, subd. 2, this Order shall be effective fifteen (15) days after publication in the State Register and filing with the Secretary of State and shall remain in effect until rescinded by proper authority or it expires in accordance with Minnesota Statutes 1998, section 4.035, subd. 3.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have set my hand this fourteenth day of April, 2000.


JESSE VENTURA
Governor

Filed According to Law:


MARY KIFFMEYER
Secretary of State

