

September 16, 2011

The Honorable Bill Ingebrigtsen, Chair
Environment and Natural Resources Committee
303 Capitol Building
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

The Honorable Denny McNamara, Chair
Environment, Energy and Natural
Resources Policy and Finance Committee
375 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Chair Ingebrigtsen and Chair McNamara:

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) appreciates the opportunity to present to you the following report, as required by Minnesota Laws of 2009, Chapter 37, Section 4, Subd. 9, on the redirection of the \$800,000 general fund reduction to the department per year for FY 2010-11 and the outcomes of this redirection on the DNR operations.

The commissioner may redirect the general fund reduction of \$800,000 in fiscal year 2010 and \$800,000 in fiscal year 2011, to other subdivisions of this section. No grants may be reduced. The commissioner shall report by October 1, 2011, to the chairs of the legislative committees having primary jurisdiction over environment and natural resources policy and finance regarding any redirection and what department outcomes were affected by the redirection.

A total of \$800,000 annually in general fund was reduced from the department's FY 2010-11 biennial budget. The impacts of this reduction are as follows:

Division of Forestry:

- Special Event Recreation Activities

The Division of Forestry's general fund was reduced by \$240,200 each year and the responsibility for special event recreation activities was transitioned to the Division of Parks and Trails, enabling the department to better coordinate and manage recreational activities that occur in state forests.

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- Impact to Parks and Trails

There was some overlap of work between the Division of Forestry and the Division of Parks and Trails. This reduction was absorbed by the Division of Parks and Trails. The work was redistributed to existing employees within the Division of Parks and Trails.

Division of Fish and Wildlife:

- Fisheries Management

The Division of Fish and Wildlife's general fund was reduced by \$205,000 each year. This eliminates general fund support for the aquatic plant management and the tribal treaty management programs. DNR continues to fully support these programs by the game and fish fund. The redirection subsequently reduced staff time spent on population surveys, lake management plans, public coordination, and technical assistance.

Operations Support:

- Community Assistance Program

The Regional Operations general fund was reduced by \$354,800 each year and the responsibility for the Community Assistance Program was shifted to the Division of Ecological and Water Resources, enabling the department to better coordinate and manage this work and ensure these activities are in strategic alignment with the division's strategic direction.

- Approximately \$180,000 was redirected from flood damage reduction efforts to this effort, resulting in fewer studies and small projects.
- Another \$174,800 was redirected from field botany and ecology work to this effort, resulting in reduced endangered plant surveys and recovery activities and reduced technical assistance related to prairie ecology and management.

We appreciate the opportunity to report to you on the impacts of this redirection, and look forward to working with you further to ensure the state's natural resources are sustained for current and future generations of Minnesotans.

Sincerely,

Denise Anderson, CFO
Office of Management and Budget Services

DATE: September 16, 2011

LEGISLATIVE REPORT – Cost of Preparation

NAME OF LEGISLATIVE REPORT – Ops Support; Redirection and Outcome Report

Based on: _____

Minnesota Statute Reference: Laws 2009, Chapter 37, Section 4, Subd. 9

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Description of Cost	Further explanation if necessary	Amount
Staff Time	2 hours @ \$50/hour	100.00
Duplication Cost (includes paper)		
Other:		
TOTAL TO PREPARE REPORT <i>(Note: Right click on amount cell and choose update to complete)</i>		\$ 100.00