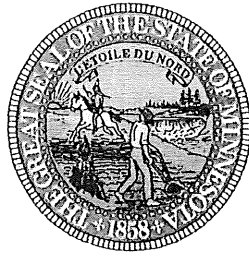


13 - 0237



Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
The State of Minnesota

State Office Building, Room G95 100 Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

January 14, 2013

The Honorable Mark Dayton
Governor of Minnesota
130 State Capitol
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Governor Dayton,

On behalf of the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council, it is my honor to present a bill jacketed for introduction incorporating the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council's recommendations for FY 15 appropriations from the Outdoor Heritage Fund. By law, the Council is required to make annual recommendations for appropriations from the Outdoor Heritage Fund and present them to the Speaker of the House and the Senate Majority Leader. The jacketed bills have been presented to legislative leadership under separate cover.

This proposed legislation contains the Council's fifth annual appropriation recommendations to protect, enhance, and restore Minnesota's prairies, wetlands, forests, and habitat for fish game and wildlife. These recommendations are consistent with and effectively address the Council's strategic statewide and regionally-based conservation and habitat priorities from the Outdoor Heritage Fund's 25-Year Framework.

The council received 39 requests totalling over \$221 million from a cross-section of public and non-profit organizations. The Council's FY 14 recommendations include 29 proposed appropriations with expenditures totaling \$91 million.

The Council's recommendations are consistent with constitutionally-specified uses of the Outdoor Heritage Fund and promise to have lasting and positive impact on the state's natural resource based habitats. The following outputs are associated with these recommendations:

- 25,749 acres of wetlands and wetland systems protected, restored, and enhanced;
- 38,235 acres of prairies and prairie systems protected, restored, and enhanced;
- 3,936 acres of forest protected, restored and enhanced; and
- 28,794 acres of aquatic habitat protected, restored, and enhanced.

Enhancement of public lands accounts for the majority of activity recommended for funding. Over 72,000 acres are to be affected and will improve habitat for a range of species, from duck habitat in the Prairie Pothole region to pheasants in the tall grass regions to trout streams in the southeast and northeast to moose in the boreal forests of northeastern Minnesota. Habitat protection and enhancement activity puts money on the ground by creating and supporting jobs in local economies.

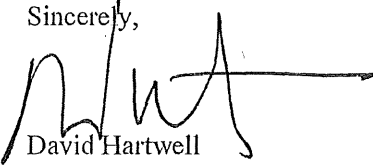
One of the council's largest recommendations, the Reinvest in Minnesota-Wetlands Reserve Program (\$13.39 million) will protect and restore over 6,800 acres of previously drained wetlands. The program has been a national leader in converting marginal farmland to a thriving wetland-upland habitat complex, while providing economic benefit to the private landholder. This recommended appropriation will leverage \$21.4 million in federal funds, bringing a total state and federal investment in the program's wetland restoration goals to \$34.79 million.

The council seeks programs focused on Minnesota's habitat goals and invests in those programs year after year so as to create a lasting habitat heritage for future generations. Several programs focus on the prairie regions of the state are recommended for a fifth year of funding, including the Accelerating the Wildlife Management Area program, the Minnesota Prairie Recovery Project, and the Accelerated Prairie Restoration and Enhancement on DNR Lands. Together, these programs support the work of the Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan and will have a powerful impact on prairie and prairie systems. These programs are recommended for a combined total of \$15.49 million and will affect some 31,462 acres.

The Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council is confident its recommendations will be broadly supported by the citizens of Minnesota. The Council stands prepared to provide any assistance and additional information necessary during the legislative session.

On behalf of the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council, I thank you for the opportunity to serve the people of Minnesota in improving our state's great outdoors habitat heritage.

Sincerely,



David Hartwell
Chair, Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Attachment

c: William J. Seuffert, Office of Governor Mark Dayton
Members and staff, Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

1.1 A bill for an act
 1.2 relating to natural resources; appropriating money from the outdoor heritage fund.
 1.3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.4 Section 1. OUTDOOR HERITAGE APPROPRIATION.

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

1.12		<u>APPROPRIATIONS</u>	
1.13		<u>Available for the Year</u>	
1.14		<u>Ending June 30</u>	
1.15		<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>

1.16 Sec. 2. OUTDOOR HERITAGE FUND

1.17	<u>Subdivision 1. Total Appropriation</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>91,203,000</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>-0-</u>
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1.18 This appropriation is from the outdoor
 1.19 heritage fund. The amounts that may be
 1.20 spent for each purpose are specified in the
 1.21 following subdivisions.

1.22	<u>Subd. 2. Prairies</u>		<u>27,730,000</u>		<u>-0-</u>
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2.1 **(a) Grasslands for the Future**

2.2 \$2,000,000 in the first year is to the Board of
2.3 Water and Soil Resources for a pilot project
2.4 to acquire permanent conservation easements
2.5 on grasslands in cooperation with the
2.6 Minnesota Land Trust and the Conservation
2.7 Fund. Up to \$1,850,000 may be used
2.8 for agreements with the Minnesota Land
2.9 Trust to acquire permanent conservation
2.10 easements and up to \$75,000 may be used
2.11 for establishing monitoring and enforcement
2.12 funds with the Minnesota Land Trust and
2.13 the Board of Water and Soil Resources,
2.14 as approved in the accomplishment plan
2.15 and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section
2.16 97A.056, subdivision 17. Up to \$75,000
2.17 may be used for an agreement with the
2.18 Conservation Fund for professional services.
2.19 Easements funded under this appropriation
2.20 are not subject to emergency haying and
2.21 grazing orders. Any net proceeds accruing to
2.22 a project partner from real estate transactions
2.23 related to this project must be used for the
2.24 purposes outlined in this appropriation. A
2.25 list of permanent conservation easements
2.26 must be provided as part of the required
2.27 accomplishment plan.

2.28 **(b) Accelerating Wildlife Management Area**
2.29 **Program - Phase V**

2.30 \$7,960,000 in the first year is to the
2.31 commissioner of natural resources for an
2.32 agreement with Pheasants Forever to acquire
2.33 land in fee for wildlife management purposes
2.34 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,
2.35 subdivision 8. A list of proposed land

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

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

3.6 \$4,940,000 in the first year is to the
3.7 commissioner of natural resources to
3.8 acquire land in fee for wildlife management
3.9 purposes under Minnesota Statutes, section
3.10 86A.05, subdivision 8; acquire land in fee
3.11 for scientific and natural area purposes
3.12 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,
3.13 subdivision 5; and acquire native prairie
3.14 bank easements under Minnesota Statutes,
3.15 section 84.96. Up to \$42,000 is for
3.16 establishing a monitoring and enforcement
3.17 fund, as approved in the accomplishment
3.18 plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes,
3.19 section 97A.056, subdivision 17, for native
3.20 prairie bank easements. A list of proposed
3.21 land and permanent conservation easement
3.22 acquisitions must be provided as part of the
3.23 required accomplishment plan.

3.24 (d) Minnesota Prairie Recovery Project - Phase
3.25 IV

3.26 \$5,310,000 in the first year is to the
3.27 commissioner of natural resources for an
3.28 agreement with The Nature Conservancy
3.29 to acquire native prairie, wetland, and
3.30 savanna and restore and enhance grasslands,
3.31 wetlands, and savanna. A list of proposed
3.32 land acquisitions must be provided as part of
3.33 the required accomplishment plan. Annual
3.34 income statements and balance sheets for
3.35 income and expenses from land acquired
3.36 with this appropriation must be submitted to

4.1 the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
4.2 no later than 180 days following the close of
4.3 The Nature Conservancy's fiscal year.

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

4.6 \$3,520,000 in the first year is to the Board
4.7 of Water and Soil Resources to acquire
4.8 permanent conservation easements to protect
4.9 and enhance habitat by expanding clean
4.10 water fund riparian wildlife buffers on private
4.11 land. Up to \$120,000 is for establishing
4.12 a monitoring and enforcement fund, as
4.13 approved in the accomplishment plan and
4.14 subject to Minnesota Statutes, section
4.15 97A.056, subdivision 17. Easements funded
4.16 under this appropriation are not subject to
4.17 emergency haying and grazing orders. A list
4.18 of permanent conservation easements must
4.19 be provided as part of the final report.

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

4.22 \$1,780,000 in the first year is to the
4.23 commissioner of natural resources for an
4.24 agreement with Trust for Public Land to
4.25 acquire and restore lands in the Cannon River
4.26 watershed for wildlife management purposes
4.27 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,
4.28 subdivision 8, or aquatic management area
4.29 purposes under Minnesota Statutes, sections
4.30 86A.05, subdivision 14, and 97C.02. A list of
4.31 proposed land acquisitions must be provided
4.32 as part of the required accomplishment plan.

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

4.35 \$2,220,000 in the first year is to the
4.36 commissioner of natural resources to

5.1 accelerate the restoration and enhancement
 5.2 of wildlife management areas, scientific
 5.3 and natural areas, and land under native
 5.4 prairie bank easements. A list of proposed
 5.5 land restorations and enhancements
 5.6 must be provided as part of the required
 5.7 accomplishment plan.

5.8 **Subd. 3. Forests**

7,130,000

-0-

5.9 **(a) Young Forest Conservation**

5.10 \$1,180,000 in the first year is to the
 5.11 commissioner of natural resources for
 5.12 an agreement with the American Bird
 5.13 Conservancy to acquire lands in fee to be
 5.14 added to the wildlife management area system
 5.15 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,
 5.16 subdivision 8, and to restore and enhance
 5.17 habitat on publicly protected land. A list of
 5.18 proposed land acquisitions must be provided
 5.19 as part of the required accomplishment plan.

5.20 **(b) Camp Ripley Partnership - Phase III**

5.21 \$1,150,000 in the first year is to the Board of
 5.22 Water and Soil Resources and \$300,000 in
 5.23 the first year is to the Department of Natural
 5.24 Resources to acquire land in fee to be added
 5.25 to the wildlife management area system
 5.26 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,
 5.27 subdivision 8, and to acquire permanent
 5.28 conservation easements on lands adjacent
 5.29 to the Mississippi and Crow Wing Rivers
 5.30 and within the boundaries of the Minnesota
 5.31 National Guard Army Compatible Use
 5.32 Buffer. Of the amount appropriated to the
 5.33 Board of Water and Soil Resources, \$49,900
 5.34 is for a grant to the Morrison County Soil
 5.35 and Water Conservation District and up to

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

6.9 **(c) Northeastern Minnesota Sharp-Tailed**
6.10 **Grouse Habitat Program - Phase IV**

6.11 \$1,180,000 in the first year is to the
6.12 commissioner of natural resources for
6.13 an agreement with Pheasants Forever in
6.14 cooperation with the Minnesota Sharp-Tailed
6.15 Grouse Society to acquire and enhance
6.16 lands in Aitkin, Carlton, and Kanabec
6.17 Counties for wildlife management purposes
6.18 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,
6.19 subdivision 8. A list of proposed land
6.20 acquisitions must be provided as part of the
6.21 required accomplishment plan.

6.22 **(d) Protect Key Forest Habitat Lands in Cass**
6.23 **County - Phase IV**

6.24 \$500,000 in the first year is to the
6.25 commissioner of natural resources for an
6.26 agreement with Cass County to acquire land
6.27 in fee in Cass County for forest wildlife
6.28 habitat or to prevent forest fragmentation.
6.29 A list of proposed land acquisitions
6.30 must be provided as part of the required
6.31 accomplishment plan.

6.32 **(e) Critical Shoreline Habitat Protection**
6.33 **Program - Phase II**

6.34 \$820,000 in the first year is to the
6.35 commissioner of natural resources for
6.36 an agreement with the Minnesota Land

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

7.11 **(f) Minnesota Moose Habitat Collaborative -**
 7.12 **Phase II**

7.13 \$2,000,000 in the first year is to the
 7.14 commissioner of natural resources for an
 7.15 agreement with the Minnesota Deer Hunters
 7.16 Association to restore and enhance public
 7.17 forest lands in the northern forest region
 7.18 for moose habitat purposes. A list of
 7.19 proposed land restoration and enhancements
 7.20 must be provided as part of the required
 7.21 accomplishment plan.

7.22 **Subd. 4. Wetlands** **31,150,000** **-0-**

7.23 **(a) Reinvest in Minnesota Wetlands Reserve**
 7.24 **Program Partnership - Phase V**

7.25 \$13,390,000 in the first year is to the Board
 7.26 of Soil and Water Resources to acquire
 7.27 permanent conservation easements and
 7.28 restore wetlands and associated upland
 7.29 habitat in cooperation with the United
 7.30 States Department of Agriculture Wetlands
 7.31 Reserve Program and Ducks Unlimited,
 7.32 including \$1,000,000 for an agreement
 7.33 with Ducks Unlimited to provide technical
 7.34 and bioengineering assistance. Up to
 7.35 \$120,000 is for establishing a monitoring
 7.36 and enforcement fund, as approved in

8.1 the accomplishment plan and subject to
8.2 Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056,
8.3 subdivision 17. A list of permanent
8.4 conservation easements must be provided as
8.5 part of the final report.

8.6 **(b) Accelerating Waterfowl Production Area**
8.7 **Acquisition - Phase V**

8.8 \$6,830,000 in the first year is to the
8.9 commissioner of natural resources for an
8.10 agreement with Pheasants Forever to acquire
8.11 land in fee to be designated and managed as
8.12 waterfowl production areas in Minnesota,
8.13 in cooperation with the United States Fish
8.14 and Wildlife Service. A list of proposed land
8.15 acquisitions must be provided as part of the
8.16 required accomplishment plan.

8.17 **(c) Living Shallow Lakes and Wetland**
8.18 **Initiative - Phase III**

8.19 \$3,530,000 in the first year is to the
8.20 commissioner of natural resources for an
8.21 agreement with Ducks Unlimited to acquire
8.22 land in fee for wildlife management purposes
8.23 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,
8.24 subdivision 8. A list of proposed land
8.25 acquisitions must be provided as part of the
8.26 required accomplishment plan.

8.27 **(d) Wild Rice Shoreland Protection Program**
8.28 **- Phase II**

8.29 \$1,630,000 in the first year is to the Board
8.30 of Water and Soil Resources to acquire
8.31 in fee wild rice lake shoreland habitat
8.32 for native wild rice bed protection and to
8.33 acquire permanent conservation easements
8.34 in cooperation with Ducks Unlimited. Of
8.35 this amount, \$100,000 is for an agreement
8.36 with Ducks Unlimited for acquisition of land

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

9.9 **(e) Wetland Habitat Program**

9.10 \$1,980,000 in the first year is to the
9.11 commissioner of natural resources for an
9.12 agreement with the Minnesota Land Trust to
9.13 acquire permanent conservation easements
9.14 in high-priority wetland complexes in
9.15 the prairie and forest/prairie transition
9.16 regions. Up to \$280,000 is for establishing
9.17 a monitoring and enforcement fund, as
9.18 approved in the accomplishment plan and
9.19 subject to Minnesota Statutes, section
9.20 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of proposed
9.21 land acquisitions must be included as part of
9.22 the required accomplishment plan.

9.23 **(f) Accelerated Shallow Lakes and Wetlands**
9.24 **Enhancement - Phase V**

9.25 \$1,790,000 in the first year is to the
9.26 commissioner of natural resources to
9.27 enhance and restore shallow lakes, including
9.28 \$210,000 for an agreement with Ducks
9.29 Unlimited to help implement restorations
9.30 and enhancements. A list of proposed
9.31 land restorations and enhancements
9.32 must be provided as part of the required
9.33 accomplishment plan.

9.34 **(g) Pelican Lake Enhancement**

10.1 \$2,000,000 in the first year is to the
 10.2 commissioner of natural resources for an
 10.3 agreement with Ducks Unlimited to construct
 10.4 a gravity outlet, water control structure, and
 10.5 pump station lift to enhance aquatic habitat
 10.6 in Pelican Lake in Wright County. A list of
 10.7 proposed land restoration and enhancements
 10.8 must be included as part of the required
 10.9 accomplishment plan.

10.10 **Subd. 5. Habitats**

23,987,000

-0-

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

10.12 \$5,250,000 in the first year is to the
 10.13 commissioner of natural resources to
 10.14 acquire interests in land in fee for aquatic
 10.15 management purposes under Minnesota
 10.16 Statutes, sections 86A.05, subdivision 14,
 10.17 and 97C.02, and to restore and enhance
 10.18 aquatic habitat. A list of proposed
 10.19 land acquisitions and restorations and
 10.20 enhancements must be provided as part of
 10.21 the required accomplishment plan.

10.22 **(b) Habitat Protection in Dakota County -**
 10.23 **Phase IV**

10.24 \$4,100,000 in the first year is to the
 10.25 commissioner of natural resources for an
 10.26 agreement with Dakota County to acquire,
 10.27 restore, and enhance lands in Dakota County
 10.28 for fish and wildlife management purposes
 10.29 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,
 10.30 subdivision 8, or aquatic management area
 10.31 purposes under Minnesota Statutes, sections
 10.32 86A.05, subdivision 14, and 97C.02, and to
 10.33 acquire permanent conservation easements
 10.34 and restore and enhance habitats in rivers
 10.35 and lake watersheds in Dakota County. Up

11.1 to \$60,000 is for establishing a monitoring
11.2 and enforcement fund, as approved in
11.3 the accomplishment plan and subject to
11.4 Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056,
11.5 subdivision 17. A list of proposed land
11.6 acquisitions and permanent conservation
11.7 easements must be provided as part of the
11.8 required accomplishment plan.

11.9 **(c) Root River Protection and Restoration**

11.10 \$2,750,000 in the first year is to the
11.11 commissioner of natural resources for
11.12 agreements to acquire land in fee for
11.13 scientific and natural areas under Minnesota
11.14 Statutes, sections 86A.05, subdivision 5, and
11.15 for state forest purposes under Minnesota
11.16 Statutes, section 86A.05, subdivision 7,
11.17 and to acquire permanent conservation
11.18 easements as follows: \$2,122,000 to The
11.19 Nature Conservancy and \$628,000 to the
11.20 Minnesota Land Trust. Up to \$100,000 is for
11.21 establishing a monitoring and enforcement
11.22 fund, as approved in the accomplishment
11.23 plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes,
11.24 section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list
11.25 of proposed acquisitions and permanent
11.26 conservation easements must be provided as
11.27 part of the required accomplishment plan.

11.28 **(d) Metro Big Rivers Habitat - Phase IV**

11.29 \$1,720,000 in the first year is to the
11.30 commissioner of natural resources for
11.31 agreements to acquire land in fee and as
11.32 permanent conservation easements and
11.33 to restore and enhance natural systems
11.34 associated with the Mississippi, Minnesota,
11.35 and St. Croix Rivers as follows: \$450,000

- 12.1 to the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife
12.2 Refuge Trust, Inc.; \$160,000 to the Friends
12.3 of the Mississippi; \$210,000 to the Great
12.4 River Greening; \$450,000 to the Minnesota
12.5 Land Trust; and \$450,000 to the Trust
12.6 for Public Land. Up to \$80,000 is for
12.7 establishing a monitoring and enforcement
12.8 fund, as approved in the accomplishment
12.9 plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes,
12.10 section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of
12.11 proposed land acquisitions and permanent
12.12 conservation easements must be provided as
12.13 part of the required accomplishment plan.
- 12.14 **(e) Minnesota Landscape Arboretum**
- 12.15 \$1,000,000 in the first year is to the Board
12.16 of Regents of the University of Minnesota
12.17 to acquire land in fee surrounding Lake
12.18 Tamarack in Carver County to be added to
12.19 the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. A land
12.20 description must be provided as part of the
12.21 required accomplishment plan.
- 12.22 **(f) Lower Mississippi River Habitat**
12.23 **Partnership - Phase III**
- 12.24 \$1,710,000 in the first year is to the
12.25 commissioner of natural resources to
12.26 enhance aquatic habitat. Of this amount,
12.27 \$450,000 is for an agreement with the
12.28 United States Fish and Wildlife Service
12.29 to enhance aquatic habitat in the lower
12.30 Mississippi River watershed. A list of
12.31 proposed land restorations and enhancements
12.32 must be provided as part of the required
12.33 accomplishment plan.
- 12.34 **(g) Coldwater Fish Habitat Enhancement -**
12.35 **Phase V**

13.1 \$2,470,000 in the first year is to the
13.2 commissioner of natural resources for an
13.3 agreement with Minnesota Trout Unlimited
13.4 to restore and enhance coldwater river and
13.5 stream habitats in Minnesota. A list of
13.6 proposed land restorations and enhancements
13.7 must be provided as part of the required
13.8 accomplishment plan.

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

13.11 \$1,127,000 in the first year is to the
13.12 commissioner of natural resources for
13.13 an agreement with the Shell Rock River
13.14 Watershed District to construct structural
13.15 deterrents and lake level controls to enhance
13.16 aquatic habitat on Albert Lea Lake in
13.17 Freeborn County. A list of proposed
13.18 land restorations and enhancements
13.19 must be provided as part of the required
13.20 accomplishment plan.

13.21 **(i) Outdoor Heritage Conservation Partners**
13.22 **Grant Program - Phase V**

13.23 \$3,860,000 in the first year is to the
13.24 commissioner of natural resources for a
13.25 program to provide competitive, matching
13.26 grants of up to \$400,000 to local, regional,
13.27 state, and national organizations for
13.28 enhancing, restoring, or protecting forests,
13.29 wetlands, prairies, and habitat for fish, game,
13.30 or wildlife in Minnesota. Grants shall not
13.31 be made for activities required to fulfill
13.32 the duties of owners of lands subject to
13.33 conservation easements. Grants shall not be
13.34 made from appropriations in this paragraph
13.35 for projects that have a total project cost
13.36 exceeding \$575,000. Of this appropriation,

14.1 \$366,000 may be spent for personnel costs
14.2 and other direct and necessary administrative
14.3 costs. Grantees may acquire land or interests
14.4 in land. Easements must be permanent.
14.5 Land acquired in fee must be open to
14.6 hunting and fishing during the open season
14.7 unless otherwise provided by state law. The
14.8 program shall require a match of at least ten
14.9 percent from nonstate sources for all grants.
14.10 The match may be cash or in-kind resources.
14.11 For grant applications of \$25,000 or less,
14.12 the commissioner shall provide a separate,
14.13 simplified application process. Subject to
14.14 Minnesota Statutes, the commissioner of
14.15 natural resources shall, when evaluating
14.16 projects of equal value, give priority to
14.17 organizations that have a history of receiving
14.18 or charter to receive private contributions
14.19 for local conservation or habitat projects. If
14.20 acquiring land or a conservation easement,
14.21 priority shall be given to projects associated
14.22 with existing wildlife management areas
14.23 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,
14.24 subdivision 8; scientific and natural areas
14.25 under Minnesota Statutes, sections 84.033
14.26 and 86A.05, subdivision 5; and aquatic
14.27 management areas under Minnesota Statutes,
14.28 sections 86A.05, subdivision 14, and 97C.02.
14.29 All restoration or enhancement projects
14.30 must be on land permanently protected by a
14.31 conservation easement or public ownership
14.32 or in public waters as defined in Minnesota
14.33 Statutes, section 103G.005, subdivision
14.34 15. Priority shall be given to restoration
14.35 and enhancement projects on public lands.
14.36 Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056,

15.1 subdivision 13, applies to grants awarded
 15.2 under this paragraph. This appropriation is
 15.3 available until June 30, 2017. No less than
 15.4 five percent of the amount of each grant
 15.5 must be held back from reimbursement until
 15.6 the grant recipient has completed a grant
 15.7 accomplishment report by the deadline and
 15.8 in the form prescribed by and satisfactory to
 15.9 the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.
 15.10 The commissioner shall provide notice of
 15.11 the grant program in the game and fish law
 15.12 summaries that are prepared under Minnesota
 15.13 Statutes, section 97A.051, subdivision 2.

15.14 **Subd. 6. Administration**

1,206,000

-0-

15.15 **(a) Contract Management**

15.16 \$175,000 in the first year is to the
 15.17 commissioner of natural resources for
 15.18 contract management duties assigned in this
 15.19 section. The commissioner shall provide an
 15.20 accomplishment plan in the form specified by
 15.21 the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
 15.22 on the expenditure of this appropriation.
 15.23 The accomplishment plan must include
 15.24 a copy of the grant contract template
 15.25 and reimbursement manual. No money
 15.26 may be expended prior to Lessard-Sams
 15.27 Outdoor Heritage Council approval of the
 15.28 accomplishment plan.

15.29 **(b) Legislative Coordinating Commission**

15.30 \$936,000 in the first year is to the Legislative
 15.31 Coordinating Commission for administrative
 15.32 expenses of the Lessard-Sams Outdoor
 15.33 Heritage Council and for compensation and
 15.34 expense reimbursement of council members.
 15.35 Funds in this appropriation are available until

16.1 June 30, 2015. Minnesota Statutes, section
16.2 16A.281, applies to this appropriation.

16.3 **(c) Technical Evaluation Panel**

16.4 \$45,000 in the first year is to the
16.5 commissioner of natural resources for a
16.6 technical evaluation panel to conduct up to
16.7 ten restoration evaluations under Minnesota
16.8 Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 10.

16.9 **(d) High-Priority Pre-Transaction Service**
16.10 **Acceleration for Lessard-Sams Outdoor**
16.11 **Heritage Council**

16.12 \$50,000 in the first year is to the
16.13 commissioner of natural resources to provide
16.14 land acquisition pre-transaction services
16.15 including, but not limited to, appraisals,
16.16 surveys, or title research for acquisition
16.17 proposals under consideration by the
16.18 Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council. A
16.19 list of activities must be included in the final
16.20 accomplishment plan.

16.21 **Subd. 7. Availability of Appropriation**

16.22 Money appropriated in this section may
16.23 not be spent on activities unless they are
16.24 directly related to and necessary for a
16.25 specific appropriation and are specified in
16.26 the accomplishment plan approved by the
16.27 Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.
16.28 Money appropriated in this section must
16.29 not be spent on indirect costs or other
16.30 institutional overhead charges that are not
16.31 directly related to and necessary for a specific
16.32 appropriation. Unless otherwise provided,
16.33 the amounts in this section are available
16.34 until June 30, 2016. For acquisition of real
16.35 property, the amounts in this section are

17.1 available until June 30, 2017, if a binding
17.2 agreement with a landowner or purchase
17.3 agreement is entered into by June 30, 2016,
17.4 and closed no later than June 30, 2017. Funds
17.5 for restoration or enhancement are available
17.6 until June 30, 2018, or four years after
17.7 acquisition, whichever is later, in order to
17.8 complete initial restoration or enhancement
17.9 work. If a project receives federal funds, the
17.10 time period of the appropriation is extended
17.11 to equal the availability of federal funding.
17.12 Funds appropriated for fee title acquisition
17.13 of land may be used to restore, enhance, and
17.14 provide for public use of the land acquired
17.15 with the appropriation. Public use facilities
17.16 must have a minimal impact on habitat in
17.17 acquired lands.

17.18 **Subd. 8. Payment Conditions and Capital**
17.19 **Equipment Expenditures**

17.20 All agreements referred to in this section must
17.21 be administered on a reimbursement basis
17.22 unless otherwise provided in this section.
17.23 Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, section
17.24 16A.41, expenditures directly related
17.25 to each appropriation's purpose made
17.26 on or after July 1, 2013, or the date of
17.27 accomplishment plan approval, whichever is
17.28 later, are eligible for reimbursement unless
17.29 otherwise provided in this section. For the
17.30 purposes of administering appropriations
17.31 and legislatively authorized agreements
17.32 paid out of the outdoor heritage fund, an
17.33 expense must be considered reimbursable
17.34 by the administering agency when the
17.35 recipient presents the agency with an invoice
17.36 or binding agreement with the landowner

18.1 and the recipient attests that the goods have
18.2 been received or the landowner agreement
18.3 is binding. Periodic reimbursement must
18.4 be made upon receiving documentation that
18.5 the items articulated in the accomplishment
18.6 plan approved by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor
18.7 Heritage Council have been achieved,
18.8 including partial achievements as evidenced
18.9 by progress reports approved by the
18.10 Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.
18.11 Reasonable amounts may be advanced to
18.12 projects to accommodate cash flow needs,
18.13 support future management of acquired
18.14 lands, or match a federal share. The
18.15 advances must be approved as part of the
18.16 accomplishment plan. Capital equipment
18.17 expenditures for specific items in excess of
18.18 \$10,000 must be itemized in and approved as
18.19 part of the accomplishment plan.

18.20 **Subd. 9. Mapping**

18.21 Each direct recipient of money appropriated
18.22 in this section, as well as each recipient of
18.23 a grant awarded pursuant to this section,
18.24 must provide geographic information to
18.25 the Department of Natural Resources for
18.26 mapping any lands acquired in fee with
18.27 funds appropriated in this section and open
18.28 to public taking of fish and game. The
18.29 commissioner of natural resources shall
18.30 include the lands acquired in fee with
18.31 money appropriated in this section on maps
18.32 showing public recreation opportunities.
18.33 Maps shall include information on and
18.34 acknowledgement of the outdoor heritage
18.35 fund, including a notation of any restrictions.