



**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 15, 2016

The Honorable Mark Dayton
Governor of Minnesota
116 Veterans Service Building
20 W 12th Street
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 17 appropriations from the Outdoor Heritage Fund, as required by law. This proposed legislation contains the Council's eighth annual appropriation recommendations to protect, enhance, and restore Minnesota's prairies, wetlands, forests, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife which 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 45 requests totaling over \$295 million from a cross-section of public and non-profit organizations and levels of government. The Council's FY 17 recommendations include 40 proposed appropriations with expenditures totaling \$115,754,000.

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:

- 17,263 acres of wetlands and wetland systems protected, restored, and enhanced;
- 72,314 acres of prairies and prairie systems protected, restored, and enhanced;
- 16,992 acres of forest protected, restored and enhanced; and
- 4,331 acres of aquatic habitat protected, restored, and enhanced.

Restoration and enhancement of public lands accounts for the majority of acres impacted by these recommendations. Over 87,000 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 habitat in the metropolitan region. Habitat restoration and enhancement activity puts money on the ground by creating and supporting jobs in local economies.

The Council remains focused on recommending funding for those programs with the potential greatest impact on habitat heritage for future generations. Several on-going programs focusing on the prairie regions of the state are recommended for funding, including the Accelerating the Wildlife Management Area program, Reinvest in Minnesota Buffers for Wildlife & Water, and the Accelerated Prairie Restoration & 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.

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,



Robert W. Anderson
Chair, Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

C: Molly Pederson, Office of Governor Mark Dayton
Members and staff, Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Attachment: Jacketed bill



**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 15, 2016

The Honorable Thomas M. Bakk
Majority Leader, Minnesota Senate
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3113
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator Bakk,

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 17 appropriations from the Outdoor Heritage Fund, as required by law. This proposed legislation contains the Council's eighth annual appropriation recommendations to protect, enhance, and restore Minnesota's prairies, wetlands, forests, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife which 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.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert W. Anderson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robert W. Anderson
Chair, Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

C: Senate Environment, Economic Development and Agriculture Budget Division Chair, Senator David Tomassoni
Senate Environment & Energy Committee Chair, Senator John Marty
Senate Subcommittee on Legacy Chair, Senator Richard Cohen
Executive Director of Rules, Thomas Kukielka
Members and staff, Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Attachment: Jacketed bill



**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 15, 2016

**The Honorable Kurt Daudt
Speaker, House of Representatives
463 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155**

Dear Speaker Daudt,

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 17 appropriations from the Outdoor Heritage Fund, as required by law. This proposed legislation contains the Council's eighth annual appropriation recommendations to protect, enhance, and restore Minnesota's prairies, wetlands, forests, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife which 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.

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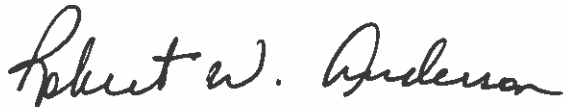
range of species, from duck habitat in the prairie pothole region, to pheasants in the tall grass regions, to trout streams in the southeast and northeast, to habitat in the metropolitan region. Habitat restoration and enhancement activity puts money on the ground by creating and supporting jobs in local economies.

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Sincerely,



Robert W. Anderson
Chair, Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

C: House Environment & Natural Resources Policy and Finance Chair, Representative Denny
McNamara
House Legacy Committee Chair, Representative Dean Urdahl
Legislative Assistant to the Speaker, Isaac Schultz
Members and staff, Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Attachment: Jacketed bill

A bill for an act

relating to natural resources; appropriating money from outdoor heritage fund; modifying evaluation provisions; modifying prior appropriations; amending Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 97A.056, subdivision 10; Laws 2015, First Special Session chapter 2, article 1, section 2, subdivisions 2, 3, 5.

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

Section 1. **OUTDOOR HERITAGE APPROPRIATION.**

The sums shown in the columns marked "Appropriations" are appropriated to the agencies and for the purposes specified in this act. The appropriations are from the outdoor heritage fund for the fiscal year indicated for each purpose. The figures "2016" and "2017" used in this act mean that the appropriations listed under them are available for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016, or June 30, 2017, respectively. "The first year" is fiscal year 2016. "The second year" is fiscal year 2017. "The biennium" is fiscal years 2016 and 2017. The appropriations in this act are onetime.

	APPROPRIATIONS	
	Available for the Year	
	Ending June 30	
	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>

Sec. 2. **OUTDOOR HERITAGE FUND**

<u>Subdivision 1. Total Appropriation</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>115,754,000</u>
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This appropriation is from the outdoor heritage fund. The amounts that may be spent for each purpose are specified in the following subdivisions.

2.1 Subd. 2. Prairies -0- 31,657,000

2.2 **(a) DNR Wildlife Management Area and**
2.3 **Scientific and Natural Area Acquisition - Phase**
2.4 **VIII**

2.5 \$3,250,000 the second year is to the
2.6 commissioner of natural resources to acquire
2.7 land in fee for wildlife management purposes
2.8 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,
2.9 subdivision 8, and to acquire land in fee
2.10 for scientific and natural area purposes
2.11 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,
2.12 subdivision 5. Subject to evaluation criteria
2.13 in Minnesota Rules, part 6136.0900, priority
2.14 must be given to acquisition of lands that
2.15 are eligible for the native prairie bank under
2.16 Minnesota Statutes, section 84.96, or lands
2.17 adjacent to protected native prairie. A list of
2.18 proposed land acquisitions must be provided
2.19 as part of the required accomplishment plan.

2.20 **(b) Accelerating Wildlife Management Area**
2.21 **Acquisition - Phase VIII**

2.22 \$5,229,000 the second year is to the
2.23 commissioner of natural resources for
2.24 an agreement with Pheasants Forever to
2.25 acquire in fee and restore lands for wildlife
2.26 management area purposes under Minnesota
2.27 Statutes, section 86A.05, subdivision 8.
2.28 Subject to evaluation criteria in Minnesota
2.29 Rules, part 6136.0900, priority must be
2.30 given to acquisition of lands that are eligible
2.31 for the native prairie bank under Minnesota
2.32 Statutes, section 84.96, or lands adjacent to
2.33 protected native prairie. A list of proposed
2.34 land acquisitions must be provided as part of
2.35 the required accomplishment plan.

3.1 **(c) Martin County/Fox Lake Wildlife**
 3.2 **Management Area Acquisition**

3.3 \$1,000,000 the second year is to the
 3.4 commissioner of natural resources for an
 3.5 agreement with Fox Lake Conservation
 3.6 League, Inc. to acquire land in fee and restore
 3.7 strategic prairie grassland, wetland, and other
 3.8 wildlife habitat for wildlife management area
 3.9 purposes under Minnesota Statutes, section
 3.10 86A.05, subdivision 8. A list of proposed
 3.11 acquisitions must be provided as part of the
 3.12 required accomplishment plan.

3.13 **(d) Northern Tallgrass Prairie National**
 3.14 **Wildlife Refuge Land Acquisition - Phase VII**

3.15 \$3,411,000 the second year is to the
 3.16 commissioner of natural resources for an
 3.17 agreement with The Nature Conservancy
 3.18 in cooperation with the United States Fish
 3.19 and Wildlife Service to acquire land in fee
 3.20 or permanent conservation easements and
 3.21 restore lands within the Northern Tallgrass
 3.22 Prairie Habitat Preservation Area in western
 3.23 Minnesota for addition to the Northern
 3.24 Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge.
 3.25 Subject to evaluation criteria in Minnesota
 3.26 Rules, part 6136.0900, priority must be
 3.27 given to acquisition of lands that are eligible
 3.28 for the native prairie bank under Minnesota
 3.29 Statutes, section 84.96, or lands adjacent to
 3.30 protected native prairie. A list of proposed
 3.31 land acquisitions must be provided as part
 3.32 of the required accomplishment plan and
 3.33 must be consistent with the priorities in the
 3.34 Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan.

3.35 **(e) Cannon River Headwaters Habitat**
 3.36 **Complex - Phase VI**

4.1 \$583,000 the second year is to the
4.2 commissioner of natural resources for an
4.3 agreement with The Trust for Public Land
4.4 to acquire land in fee and restore lands in
4.5 the Cannon River watershed for wildlife
4.6 management purposes under Minnesota
4.7 Statutes, section 86A.05, subdivision 8.
4.8 Subject to evaluation criteria in Minnesota
4.9 Rules, part 6136.0900, priority must be
4.10 given to acquisition of lands that are eligible
4.11 for the native prairie bank under Minnesota
4.12 Statutes, section 84.96, or lands adjacent to
4.13 protected native prairie. A list of proposed
4.14 land acquisitions must be provided as part of
4.15 the required accomplishment plan.

4.16 **(f) Accelerated Native Prairie Bank Protection**
4.17 **- Phase V**

4.18 \$2,541,000 the second year is to the
4.19 commissioner of natural resources
4.20 to implement the Minnesota Prairie
4.21 Conservation Plan through the acquisition of
4.22 permanent conservation easements to protect
4.23 and restore native prairie. Of this amount, up
4.24 to \$120,000 is for establishing monitoring
4.25 and enforcement funds as approved in
4.26 the accomplishment plan and subject to
4.27 Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056,
4.28 subdivision 17. Subject to evaluation criteria
4.29 in Minnesota Rules, part 6136.0900, priority
4.30 must be given to acquisition of lands that
4.31 are eligible for the native prairie bank under
4.32 Minnesota Statutes, section 84.96, or lands
4.33 adjacent to protected native prairie. A list of
4.34 permanent conservation easements must be
4.35 provided as part of the final report.

5.1 **(g) Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) Buffers for**
5.2 **Wildlife and Water - Phase VI**

5.3 \$6,708,000 the second year is to the Board
5.4 of Water and Soil Resources to acquire
5.5 permanent conservation easements and
5.6 restore habitat under Minnesota Statutes,
5.7 section 103F.515, to protect, restore, and
5.8 enhance habitat by expanding the clean
5.9 water fund riparian buffer program for at
5.10 least equal wildlife benefits from buffers on
5.11 private land. Of this amount, up to \$130,000
5.12 is to establish a monitoring and enforcement
5.13 fund as approved in the accomplishment plan
5.14 and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section
5.15 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of permanent
5.16 conservation easements must be provided as
5.17 part of the final report.

5.18 **(h) Prairie Chicken Habitat Partnership of the**
5.19 **Southern Red River Valley - Phase II**

5.20 \$2,269,000 the second year is to the
5.21 commissioner of natural resources for
5.22 an agreement with Pheasants Forever, in
5.23 cooperation with the Minnesota Prairie
5.24 Chicken Society, to acquire land in fee and
5.25 restore and enhance lands in the southern
5.26 Red River Valley for wildlife management
5.27 purposes under Minnesota Statutes, section
5.28 86A.05, subdivision 8, or for designation
5.29 and management as waterfowl production
5.30 areas in Minnesota, in cooperation with the
5.31 United States Fish and Wildlife Service.
5.32 Subject to evaluation criteria in Minnesota
5.33 Rules, part 6136.0900, priority must be
5.34 given to acquisition of lands that are eligible
5.35 for the native prairie bank under Minnesota
5.36 Statutes, section 84.96, or lands adjacent to

6.1 protected native prairie. A list of proposed
 6.2 land acquisitions must be provided as part of
 6.3 the required accomplishment plan.

6.4 **(i) Grassland Conservation Partnership -**
 6.5 **Phase II**

6.6 \$1,475,000 the second year is to the
 6.7 commissioner of natural resources for an
 6.8 agreement with The Conservation Fund, in
 6.9 cooperation with Minnesota Land Trust, to
 6.10 acquire permanent conservation easements
 6.11 and restore high priority grassland, prairie,
 6.12 and wetland habitats as follows: \$64,000
 6.13 to The Conservation Fund; and \$1,411,000
 6.14 to Minnesota Land Trust, of which up to
 6.15 \$100,000 is for establishing a monitoring
 6.16 and enforcement fund, as approved in
 6.17 the accomplishment plan and subject to
 6.18 Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056,
 6.19 subdivision 17. Subject to evaluation criteria
 6.20 in Minnesota Rules, part 6136.0900, priority
 6.21 must be given to acquisition of lands that
 6.22 are eligible for the native prairie bank under
 6.23 Minnesota Statutes, section 84.96, or lands
 6.24 adjacent to protected native prairie. A list of
 6.25 proposed acquisitions must be provided as
 6.26 part of the required accomplishment plan and
 6.27 must be consistent with the priorities in the
 6.28 Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan.

6.29 **(j) Accelerated Prairie Restoration and**
 6.30 **Enhancement on DNR Lands - Phase VIII**

6.31 \$3,983,000 the second year is to the
 6.32 commissioner of natural resources to
 6.33 accelerate restoration and enhancement
 6.34 of prairies, grasslands, and savannas on
 6.35 wildlife management areas, scientific and
 6.36 natural areas, native prairie bank land,

7.1 and bluff prairies on state forest land in
 7.2 southeastern Minnesota. A list of proposed
 7.3 land restorations and enhancements
 7.4 must be provided as part of the required
 7.5 accomplishment plan.

7.6 **(k) Anoka Sandplain Habitat Restoration and**
 7.7 **Enhancement - Phase IV**

7.8 \$1,208,000 the second year is to the
 7.9 commissioner of natural resources for
 7.10 agreements to restore and enhance wildlife
 7.11 habitat on public lands in Anoka, Isanti,
 7.12 Morrison, Sherburne, and Todd Counties as
 7.13 follows: \$93,000 to Anoka Conservation
 7.14 District; \$25,000 to Isanti County Parks
 7.15 and Recreation Department; \$813,000 to
 7.16 Great River Greening; and \$277,000 to the
 7.17 National Wild Turkey Federation. A list of
 7.18 proposed land restorations and enhancements
 7.19 must be provided as part of the required
 7.20 accomplishment plan.

7.21 **Subd. 3. Forests** -0- 20,341,000

7.22 **(a) Young Forest Conservation - Phase II**

7.23 \$1,369,000 the second year is to the
 7.24 commissioner of natural resources for
 7.25 an agreement with the American Bird
 7.26 Conservancy to restore publicly owned,
 7.27 permanently protected forest lands for
 7.28 wildlife management purposes. A list
 7.29 of proposed forest land restorations
 7.30 must be provided as part of the required
 7.31 accomplishment plan.

7.32 **(b) Jack Pine Forest/Crow Wing River**
 7.33 **Watershed Habitat Acquisition**

7.34 \$5,532,000 the second year is to the
 7.35 commissioner of natural resources for an

8.1 agreement with the Minnesota Deer Hunters
 8.2 Association to acquire in fee and restore
 8.3 and enhance forest habitat lands in Cass,
 8.4 Hubbard, and Wadena Counties. Annual
 8.5 income statements and balance sheets for
 8.6 income and expenses from land acquired in
 8.7 fee with this appropriation and not transferred
 8.8 to state or local government ownership must
 8.9 be submitted to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor
 8.10 Heritage Council no later than 180 days
 8.11 following the close of the Minnesota Deer
 8.12 Hunters Association's fiscal year. A list of
 8.13 proposed land acquisitions must be provided
 8.14 as part of the required accomplishment plan.

8.15 **(c) Camp Ripley Partnership - Phase VI**

8.16 \$1,500,000 the second year is to the Board
 8.17 of Water and Soil Resources, in cooperation
 8.18 with the Morrison County Soil and Water
 8.19 Conservation District, to acquire permanent
 8.20 conservation easements and restore forest
 8.21 wildlife habitat within the boundaries
 8.22 of the Minnesota National Guard Camp
 8.23 Ripley Compatible Use Buffer. Of this
 8.24 amount, up to \$72,000 is to establish
 8.25 a monitoring and enforcement fund, as
 8.26 approved in the accomplishment plan and
 8.27 subject to Minnesota Statutes, section
 8.28 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of permanent
 8.29 conservation easements must be provided as
 8.30 part of the final report.

8.31 **(d) Southeast Minnesota Protection and**
 8.32 **Restoration - Phase IV**

8.33 \$5,000,000 the second year is to the
 8.34 commissioner of natural resources for an
 8.35 agreement with The Nature Conservancy, in

9.1 cooperation with The Trust for Public Land
 9.2 and Minnesota Land Trust, to acquire land
 9.3 in fee for wildlife management purposes
 9.4 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,
 9.5 subdivision 8, to acquire land in fee for
 9.6 scientific and natural areas under Minnesota
 9.7 Statutes, section 86A.05, subdivision
 9.8 5, to acquire land in fee for state forest
 9.9 purposes under Minnesota Statutes, section
 9.10 86A.05, subdivision 7, to acquire permanent
 9.11 conservation easements, and to restore
 9.12 and enhance prairie, grasslands, forest,
 9.13 and savanna as follows: \$1,506,000 to
 9.14 The Nature Conservancy; \$2,930,000 to
 9.15 The Trust for Public Land; and \$564,000
 9.16 to Minnesota Land Trust, of which up to
 9.17 \$80,000 to Minnesota Land Trust is to
 9.18 establish a monitoring and enforcement fund,
 9.19 as approved in the accomplishment plan
 9.20 and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section
 9.21 97A.056, subdivision 17. Annual income
 9.22 statements and balance sheets for income
 9.23 and expenses from land acquired in fee with
 9.24 this appropriation and not transferred to
 9.25 state or local government ownership must
 9.26 be submitted to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor
 9.27 Heritage Council. A list of proposed land
 9.28 acquisitions must be provided as part of the
 9.29 required accomplishment plan.

9.30 **(e) Minnesota Forests for the Future - Phase IV**

9.31 \$1,840,000 the second year is to the
 9.32 commissioner of natural resources to
 9.33 acquire forest, wetland, and shoreline
 9.34 habitat through working forest permanent
 9.35 conservation easements under the Minnesota
 9.36 forests for the future program pursuant

10.1 to Minnesota Statutes, section 84.66.
 10.2 A conservation easement acquired with
 10.3 money appropriated under this paragraph
 10.4 must comply with Minnesota Statutes,
 10.5 section 97A.056, subdivision 13. The
 10.6 accomplishment plan must include an
 10.7 easement monitoring and enforcement
 10.8 plan. Of this amount, up to \$25,000 is to
 10.9 establish a monitoring and enforcement fund
 10.10 as approved in the accomplishment plan
 10.11 and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section
 10.12 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of permanent
 10.13 conservation easements must be provided as
 10.14 part of the final report.

10.15 **(f) Protect Key Forest Lands in Cass County -**
 10.16 **Phase VII**

10.17 \$500,000 the second year is to the
 10.18 commissioner of natural resources for an
 10.19 agreement with Cass County to acquire land
 10.20 in fee in Cass County for forest wildlife
 10.21 habitat or to prevent forest fragmentation.
 10.22 A list of proposed land acquisitions
 10.23 must be provided as part of the required
 10.24 accomplishment plan.

10.25 **(g) State Forest Acquisitions - Phase III**

10.26 \$1,000,000 the second year is to the
 10.27 commissioner of natural resources to acquire
 10.28 lands in fee for wildlife habitat purposes
 10.29 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,
 10.30 subdivision 7. A list of proposed land
 10.31 acquisitions must be provided as part of the
 10.32 required accomplishment plan.

10.33 **(h) Forest Habitat Protection Revolving**
 10.34 **Account**

11.1 \$1,000,000 the second year is to the
 11.2 commissioner of natural resources to acquire
 11.3 lands in fee and permanent conservation
 11.4 easements for wildlife habitat purposes,
 11.5 for forest consolidation and connective
 11.6 corridor purposes, or to prevent forest
 11.7 fragmentation under Minnesota Statutes,
 11.8 section 86A.05, subdivision 7. Proceeds
 11.9 from any subsequent sale of lands acquired
 11.10 with this appropriation must be used for the
 11.11 purposes of this appropriation. Any sale
 11.12 proceeds remaining unused upon close of the
 11.13 appropriation availability must be returned to
 11.14 the outdoor heritage fund. A list of proposed
 11.15 land acquisitions must be provided as part of
 11.16 the required accomplishment plan. Unless
 11.17 otherwise provided, this appropriation is
 11.18 available until June 30, 2022. For acquisition
 11.19 of real property, this appropriation is
 11.20 available until June 30, 2023, if a binding
 11.21 agreement with a landowner or purchase
 11.22 agreement is entered into by June 30,
 11.23 2022, and closed no later than June 30,
 11.24 2023. Of this amount, up to \$50,000 is to
 11.25 establish a monitoring and enforcement fund
 11.26 as approved in the accomplishment plan
 11.27 and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section
 11.28 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of permanent
 11.29 conservation easements must be provided as
 11.30 part of the final report.

11.31 **(i) Mississippi River Floodplain Forest**
 11.32 **Enhancement - Phase II**

11.33 \$412,000 the second year is to the
 11.34 commissioner of natural resources for an
 11.35 agreement with the National Audubon
 11.36 Society to restore and enhance floodplain

12.1 forest habitat for wildlife on public
 12.2 lands along the Mississippi River. A
 12.3 list of restorations and enhancements
 12.4 must be provided as part of the required
 12.5 accomplishment plan.

12.6 **(j) Protecting Forest Wildlife Habitat in the**
 12.7 **Wild Rice River Watershed**

12.8 \$2,188,000 the second year is to the
 12.9 commissioner of natural resources for an
 12.10 agreement with the White Earth Nation to
 12.11 acquire lands in fee in Clearwater County to
 12.12 be managed for wildlife habitat purposes.

12.13 A list of proposed land acquisitions
 12.14 must be provided as part of the required
 12.15 accomplishment plan. The White Earth
 12.16 Nation and the commissioner of natural
 12.17 resources shall create a special single
 12.18 hunting zone on property acquired with this
 12.19 appropriation that is based on the White Earth
 12.20 Nation's tribal hunting, fishing, trapping, and
 12.21 gathering seasons and limits.

12.22 **Subd. 4. Wetlands** -0- 31,712,000

12.23 **(a) Accelerating the Waterfowl Production**
 12.24 **Area Acquisition - Phase VIII**

12.25 \$6,307,000 the second year is to the
 12.26 commissioner of natural resources for an
 12.27 agreement with Pheasants Forever to acquire
 12.28 in fee and restore and enhance wetlands and
 12.29 grasslands to be designated and managed as
 12.30 waterfowl production areas in Minnesota,
 12.31 in cooperation with the United States Fish
 12.32 and Wildlife Service. A list of proposed land
 12.33 acquisitions must be provided as part of the
 12.34 required accomplishment plan.

12.35 **(b) Shallow Lake and Wetland Protection**
 12.36 **Program - Phase V**

13.1 \$5,801,000 the second year is to the
 13.2 commissioner of natural resources for an
 13.3 agreement with Ducks Unlimited to acquire
 13.4 in fee and restore prairie lands, wetlands,
 13.5 and land buffering shallow lakes for wildlife
 13.6 management purposes under Minnesota
 13.7 Statutes, section 86A.05, subdivision 8. A list
 13.8 of proposed acquisitions must be provided as
 13.9 part of the required accomplishment plan.

13.10 **(c) RIM Wetlands Partnership - Phase VII**

13.11 \$13,808,000 the second year is to the Board
 13.12 of Water and Soil Resources to acquire lands
 13.13 in permanent conservation easements and
 13.14 to restore wetlands and native grassland
 13.15 habitat under Minnesota Statutes, section
 13.16 103F.515. Of this amount, up to \$195,000 is
 13.17 to establish a monitoring and enforcement
 13.18 fund as approved in the accomplishment plan
 13.19 and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section
 13.20 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of permanent
 13.21 conservation easements must be provided as
 13.22 part of the final report.

13.23 **(d) Wetland Habitat Protection Program -**
 13.24 **Phase II**

13.25 \$1,629,000 the second year is to the
 13.26 commissioner of natural resources for an
 13.27 agreement with Minnesota Land Trust to
 13.28 acquire permanent conservation easements
 13.29 in high-priority wetland habitat complexes
 13.30 in the prairie and forest/prairie transition
 13.31 regions. Of this amount, up to \$180,000 is to
 13.32 establish a monitoring and enforcement fund,
 13.33 as approved in the accomplishment plan
 13.34 and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section
 13.35 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of proposed

14.1 easement acquisitions must be provided as
14.2 part of the final report.

14.3 **(e) Accelerated Shallow Lakes and Wetlands**
14.4 **Enhancement - Phase VIII**

14.5 \$2,167,000 the second year is to the
14.6 commissioner of natural resources to enhance
14.7 and restore shallow lakes and wetland habitat
14.8 statewide. A list of proposed land restorations
14.9 and enhancements must be provided as part
14.10 of the required accomplishment plan.

14.11 **(f) Marsh Lake - Phase II**

14.12 \$2,000,000 the second year is to the
14.13 commissioner of natural resources to modify
14.14 the dam at Marsh Lake for improved habitat
14.15 management and to return the historic outlet
14.16 of the Pomme de Terre River to Lac Qui Parle.

14.17 Subd. 5. Habitats -0- 31,769,000

14.18 **(a) DNR Aquatic Habitat Protection - Phase**
14.19 **VIII**

14.20 \$1,578,000 the second year is to the
14.21 commissioner of natural resources to acquire
14.22 land in fee and permanent conservation
14.23 easements for aquatic management purposes
14.24 under Minnesota Statutes, sections 86A.05,
14.25 subdivision 14, and 97C.02, to acquire
14.26 permanent conservation easements under
14.27 the Minnesota forests for the future
14.28 program pursuant to Minnesota Statutes,
14.29 section 84.66, and to restore and enhance
14.30 aquatic and adjacent upland habitat.
14.31 Of this amount, up to \$153,000 is to
14.32 establish a monitoring and enforcement
14.33 fund as approved in the accomplishment
14.34 plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes,
14.35 section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of

15.1 proposed land acquisitions, conservation
 15.2 easements, restorations, and enhancements
 15.3 must be provided as part of the required
 15.4 accomplishment plan.

15.5 **(b) Metro Big Rivers Habitat - Phase VII**

15.6 \$4,000,000 the second year is to the
 15.7 commissioner of natural resources for
 15.8 agreements to acquire land in fee and
 15.9 permanent conservation easements and
 15.10 to restore and enhance natural systems
 15.11 associated with the Mississippi, Minnesota,
 15.12 and St. Croix Rivers within the metropolitan
 15.13 area as follows: \$500,000 to Minnesota
 15.14 Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust,
 15.15 Inc.; \$430,000 to Friends of the Mississippi
 15.16 River; \$1,170,000 to Great River Greening;
 15.17 \$800,000 to The Trust for Public Land; and
 15.18 \$1,100,000 to Minnesota Land Trust, of
 15.19 which up to \$60,000 to Minnesota Land Trust
 15.20 is to establish a monitoring and enforcement
 15.21 fund as approved in the accomplishment
 15.22 plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes,
 15.23 section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of
 15.24 proposed land acquisitions and permanent
 15.25 conservation easements must be provided as
 15.26 part of the required accomplishment plan.

15.27 **(c) Mississippi Headwaters Habitat Corridor**
 15.28 **Partnership - Phase II**

15.29 \$3,150,000 the second year is to the
 15.30 commissioner of natural resources for
 15.31 agreements to acquire lands in fee in the
 15.32 Mississippi Headwaters and for agreements
 15.33 as follows: \$76,000 to the Mississippi
 15.34 Headwaters Board; and \$2,029,000 to
 15.35 The Trust for Public Land. \$1,045,000

16.1 the second year is to the Board of Water
 16.2 and Soil Resources to acquire permanent
 16.3 conservation easements and to restore
 16.4 wildlife habitat, of which up to \$78,000 is
 16.5 to establish a monitoring and enforcement
 16.6 fund as approved in the accomplishment plan
 16.7 and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section
 16.8 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of proposed
 16.9 acquisitions must be included as part of the
 16.10 required accomplishment plan.

16.11 **(d) Fisheries Habitat Protection on Strategic**
 16.12 **North Central Minnesota Lakes - Phase II**

16.13 \$1,425,000 the second year is to the
 16.14 commissioner of natural resources for
 16.15 agreements with the Leech Lake Area
 16.16 Watershed Foundation and Minnesota Land
 16.17 Trust to acquire land in fee and permanent
 16.18 conservation easements to sustain healthy
 16.19 fish habitat on cold water lakes in Aitkin,
 16.20 Cass, Crow Wing, and Hubbard Counties
 16.21 as follows: \$480,000 to Leech Lake Area
 16.22 Watershed Foundation; and \$945,000 to
 16.23 Minnesota Land Trust, of which up to
 16.24 \$180,000 to Minnesota Land Trust is to
 16.25 establish a monitoring and enforcement fund
 16.26 as approved in the accomplishment plan
 16.27 and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section
 16.28 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of proposed
 16.29 land acquisitions must be provided as part of
 16.30 the required accomplishment plan.

16.31 **(e) Minnesota Trout Unlimited Coldwater Fish**
 16.32 **Habitat Enhancement and Restoration - Phase**
 16.33 **VIII**

16.34 \$2,632,000 the second year is to the
 16.35 commissioner of natural resources for an
 16.36 agreement with Minnesota Trout Unlimited

17.1 to restore or enhance habitat for trout and
 17.2 other species in and along cold water rivers,
 17.3 lakes, and streams in Minnesota. A list of
 17.4 proposed restorations and enhancements
 17.5 must be provided as part of the required
 17.6 accomplishment plan.

17.7 **(f) DNR Stream Habitat**

17.8 \$2,074,000 the second year is to the
 17.9 commissioner of natural resources to restore
 17.10 and enhance habitat to facilitate fish passage,
 17.11 degraded streams, and critical aquatic species
 17.12 habitat. A list of proposed land restorations
 17.13 and enhancements must be provided as part
 17.14 of the required accomplishment plan.

17.15 **(g) St. Louis River Restoration Initiative -**
 17.16 **Phase III**

17.17 \$2,707,000 the second year is to the
 17.18 commissioner of natural resources to restore
 17.19 aquatic habitats in the St. Louis River
 17.20 estuary. A list of proposed restorations
 17.21 must be provided as part of the required
 17.22 accomplishment plan.

17.23 **(h) Sand Hill River Fish Passage - Phase II**

17.24 \$828,000 the second year is to the
 17.25 commissioner of natural resources for
 17.26 an agreement with the Sand Hill River
 17.27 Watershed District, in cooperation with
 17.28 the Department of Natural Resources and
 17.29 Army Corps of Engineers, to restore and
 17.30 enhance fish passage and habitat in the Sand
 17.31 Hill River watershed. A list of proposed
 17.32 restorations must be provided as part of the
 17.33 required accomplishment plan.

17.34 **(i) Shell Rock River Watershed Habitat**
 17.35 **Restoration Program - Phase V**

18.1 \$1,200,000 the second year is to the
18.2 commissioner of natural resources for
18.3 an agreement with the Shell Rock River
18.4 Watershed District to acquire in fee, restore,
18.5 and enhance aquatic habitat in the Shell
18.6 Rock River watershed. A list of proposed
18.7 acquisitions, restorations, and enhancements
18.8 must be provided as part of the required
18.9 accomplishment plan.

18.10 **(j) Roseau Lake Rehabilitation**

18.11 \$2,763,000 the second year is to the
18.12 commissioner of natural resources to acquire
18.13 land in fee and permanent conservation
18.14 easements for wildlife management purposes
18.15 in Roseau County under Minnesota Statutes,
18.16 section 86A.05, subdivision 8, to restore
18.17 and enhance wildlife habitat. A list of
18.18 proposed land acquisitions and restorations
18.19 and enhancements must be provided as part
18.20 of the required accomplishment plan.

18.21 **(k) Conservation Partners Legacy Grant**
18.22 **Program: Statewide and Metro Habitat -**
18.23 **Phase VIII**

18.24 \$9,412,000 the second year is to the
18.25 commissioner of natural resources for a
18.26 program to provide competitive, matching
18.27 grants of up to \$400,000 to local, regional,
18.28 state, and national organizations for
18.29 enhancing, restoring, or protecting forests,
18.30 wetlands, prairies, or habitat for fish, game, or
18.31 wildlife in Minnesota. Of this amount, up to
18.32 \$2,500,000 is for grants in the seven-county
18.33 metropolitan area and cities with a population
18.34 of 50,000 or greater. Grants shall not be made
18.35 for activities required to fulfill the duties
18.36 of owners of lands subject to conservation

19.1 easements. Grants shall not be made from the
19.2 appropriation in this paragraph for projects
19.3 that have a total project cost exceeding
19.4 \$575,000. Of the total appropriation,
19.5 \$588,000 may be spent for personnel costs
19.6 and other direct and necessary administrative
19.7 costs. Grantees may acquire land or interests
19.8 in land. Easements must be permanent.
19.9 Grants may not be used to establish easement
19.10 stewardship accounts. Land acquired in fee
19.11 must be open to hunting and fishing during
19.12 the open season unless otherwise provided
19.13 by law. The program must require a match
19.14 of at least ten percent from nonstate sources
19.15 for all grants. The match may be cash or
19.16 in-kind resources. For grant applications
19.17 of \$25,000 or less, the commissioner shall
19.18 provide a separate, simplified application
19.19 process. Subject to Minnesota Statutes, the
19.20 commissioner of natural resources shall,
19.21 when evaluating projects of equal value,
19.22 give priority to organizations that have a
19.23 history of receiving or a charter to receive
19.24 private contributions for local conservation
19.25 or habitat projects. If acquiring land in fee
19.26 or a conservation easement, priority must be
19.27 given to projects associated with or within
19.28 one mile of existing wildlife management
19.29 areas under Minnesota Statutes, section
19.30 86A.05, subdivision 8; scientific and natural
19.31 areas under Minnesota Statutes, sections
19.32 84.033 and 86A.05, subdivision 5; or aquatic
19.33 management areas under Minnesota Statutes,
19.34 sections 86A.05, subdivision 14, and 97C.02.
19.35 All restoration or enhancement projects
19.36 must be on land permanently protected by

20.1 a permanent covenant ensuring perpetual
 20.2 maintenance and protection of restored
 20.3 and enhanced habitat, by a conservation
 20.4 easement, by public ownership, or in public
 20.5 waters as defined in Minnesota Statutes,
 20.6 section 103G.005, subdivision 15. Priority
 20.7 must be given to restoration and enhancement
 20.8 projects on public lands. Minnesota Statutes,
 20.9 section 97A.056, subdivision 13, applies
 20.10 to grants awarded under this paragraph.
 20.11 This appropriation is available until June
 20.12 30, 2020. No less than five percent of the
 20.13 amount of each grant must be held back from
 20.14 reimbursement until the grant recipient has
 20.15 completed a grant accomplishment report by
 20.16 the deadline and in the form prescribed by
 20.17 and satisfactory to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor
 20.18 Heritage Council. The commissioner shall
 20.19 provide notice of the grant program in
 20.20 the game and fish law summary prepared
 20.21 under Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.051,
 20.22 subdivision 2.

20.23 Subd. 6. Administration -0- 275,000

20.24 **(a) Contract Management**

20.25 \$150,000 the second year is to the
 20.26 commissioner of natural resources for
 20.27 contract management duties assigned in this
 20.28 section. The commissioner shall provide an
 20.29 accomplishment plan in the form specified by
 20.30 the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
 20.31 on the expenditure of this appropriation.
 20.32 The accomplishment plan must include
 20.33 a copy of the grant contract template
 20.34 and reimbursement manual. No money
 20.35 may be expended prior to Lessard-Sams

21.1 Outdoor Heritage Council approval of the
21.2 accomplishment plan.

21.3 **(b) Technical Evaluation Panel**

21.4 \$125,000 the second year is to the
21.5 commissioner of natural resources for a
21.6 technical evaluation panel to conduct up to
21.7 15 restoration and enhancement evaluations
21.8 under Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056,
21.9 subdivision 10.

21.10 **Subd. 7. Availability of Appropriation**

21.11 Money appropriated in this section may
21.12 not be spent on activities unless they are
21.13 directly related to and necessary for a
21.14 specific appropriation and are specified in
21.15 the accomplishment plan approved by the
21.16 Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.
21.17 Money appropriated in this section must not
21.18 be spent on indirect costs or other institutional
21.19 overhead charges that are not directly related
21.20 to and necessary for a specific appropriation.
21.21 Unless otherwise provided, the amounts
21.22 in this section are available until June 30,
21.23 2019. For acquisition of real property, the
21.24 amounts in this section are available until
21.25 June 30, 2020, if a binding agreement with a
21.26 landowner or purchase agreement is entered
21.27 into by June 30, 2019, and closed no later
21.28 than June 30, 2020. Funds for restoration
21.29 or enhancement are available until June
21.30 30, 2021, or five years after acquisition,
21.31 whichever is later, in order to complete initial
21.32 restoration or enhancement work. If a project
21.33 receives at least 15 percent of its funding
21.34 from federal funds, the time period of the
21.35 appropriation may be extended to equal the

22.1 availability of federal funding to a maximum
 22.2 of six years, provided the federal funding
 22.3 was confirmed and included in the first draft
 22.4 accomplishment plan. Money appropriated
 22.5 for fee title acquisition of land may be used to
 22.6 restore, enhance, and provide for public use
 22.7 of the land acquired with the appropriation.
 22.8 Public use facilities must have a minimal
 22.9 impact on habitat in acquired lands.

22.10 **Subd. 8. Payment Conditions and Capital**
 22.11 **Equipment Expenditures**

22.12 All agreements referred to in this section must
 22.13 be administered on a reimbursement basis
 22.14 unless otherwise provided in this section.
 22.15 Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, section
 22.16 16A.41, expenditures directly related
 22.17 to each appropriation's purpose made
 22.18 on or after July 1, 2016, or the date of
 22.19 accomplishment plan approval, whichever is
 22.20 later, are eligible for reimbursement unless
 22.21 otherwise provided in this section. For the
 22.22 purposes of administering appropriations
 22.23 and legislatively authorized agreements paid
 22.24 out of the outdoor heritage fund, an expense
 22.25 must be considered reimbursable by the
 22.26 administering agency when the recipient
 22.27 presents the agency with an invoice, or
 22.28 binding agreement with the landowner, and
 22.29 the recipient attests that the goods have
 22.30 been received or the landowner agreement
 22.31 is binding. Periodic reimbursement must
 22.32 be made upon receiving documentation that
 22.33 the items articulated in the accomplishment
 22.34 plan approved by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor
 22.35 Heritage Council have been achieved,
 22.36 including partial achievements as evidenced

23.1 by progress reports approved by the
 23.2 Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.
 23.3 Reasonable amounts may be advanced to
 23.4 projects to accommodate cash flow needs,
 23.5 support future management of acquired
 23.6 lands, or match a federal share. The
 23.7 advances must be approved as part of the
 23.8 accomplishment plan. Capital equipment
 23.9 expenditures for specific items in excess of
 23.10 \$10,000 must be itemized in and approved as
 23.11 part of the accomplishment plan.

23.12 Subd. 9. **Mapping**

23.13 Each direct recipient of money appropriated
 23.14 in this section, as well as each recipient of
 23.15 a grant awarded pursuant to this section,
 23.16 must provide geographic information to the
 23.17 Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
 23.18 for mapping of any lands acquired in fee
 23.19 with funds appropriated in this section and
 23.20 open to public taking of fish and game. The
 23.21 commissioner of natural resources shall
 23.22 include the lands acquired in fee with money
 23.23 appropriated in this section on maps showing
 23.24 public recreation opportunities. Maps must
 23.25 include information on and acknowledgment
 23.26 of the outdoor heritage fund, including a
 23.27 notation of any restrictions.

23.28 Subd. 10. **RIM Buffers for Wildlife and Water**
 23.29 **Restorations**

23.30 The following appropriations to the Board
 23.31 of Water and Soil Resources for the RIM
 23.32 buffers for wildlife and water program
 23.33 may be used for restoration of lands
 23.34 acquired by conservation easement with the
 23.35 appropriations:

- 24.1 (1) Laws 2015, First Special Session
 24.2 chapter 2, article 1, section 2, subdivision 2,
 24.3 paragraph (f);
 24.4 (2) Laws 2014, chapter 256, article 1, section
 24.5 2, subdivision 2, paragraph (f);
 24.6 (3) Laws 2013, chapter 137, article 1, section
 24.7 2, subdivision 2, paragraph (e);
 24.8 (4) Laws 2012, chapter 264, article 1, section
 24.9 2, subdivision 2, paragraph (a); and
 24.10 (5) Laws 2011, First Special Session
 24.11 chapter 6, article 1, section 2, subdivision 2,
 24.12 paragraph (c).

24.13 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 97A.056, subdivision 10, is amended to read:

24.14 Subd. 10. **Restoration and enhancements evaluations.** The commissioner of
 24.15 natural resources and the Board of Water and Soil Resources ~~may~~ must convene a technical
 24.16 evaluation panel comprised of five members, including one technical representative from
 24.17 the Board of Water and Soil Resources, one technical representative from the Department of
 24.18 Natural Resources, one technical expert from the University of Minnesota or the Minnesota
 24.19 State Colleges and Universities, and two representatives with expertise in the project
 24.20 being evaluated. The board and the commissioner may add a technical representative from
 24.21 a unit of federal or local government. The members of the technical evaluation panel
 24.22 may not be associated with the restoration or enhancement, may vary depending upon
 24.23 the projects being reviewed, and shall avoid any potential conflicts of interest. Each year,
 24.24 the board and the commissioner may assign a coordinator to identify ~~a sample of up to~~
 24.25 ~~ten~~ habitat restoration or enhancement projects completed with outdoor heritage funding.
 24.26 The coordinator shall secure the ~~restoration~~ plans for the projects specified and direct
 24.27 the technical evaluation panel to evaluate the restorations and enhancements relative to
 24.28 the law, current science, and the stated goals and standards in the ~~restoration~~ project
 24.29 plan and, when applicable, to the Board of Water and Soil Resources' native vegetation
 24.30 establishment and enhancement guidelines. The coordinator shall summarize the findings
 24.31 of the panel and provide a report to the chair of the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage
 24.32 Council and the chairs of the respective house of representatives and senate policy and
 24.33 finance committees with jurisdiction over natural resources and spending from the outdoor
 24.34 heritage fund. The report shall determine if the restorations and enhancements are meeting

25.1 planned goals, any problems with the implementation of restorations and enhancements,
 25.2 and, if necessary, recommendations on improving restorations and enhancements. The
 25.3 report shall be focused on improving future restorations and enhancements. At least
 25.4 one-tenth of one percent of forecasted receipts from the outdoor heritage fund must be
 25.5 used for restoration and enhancements evaluations under this section.

25.6 Sec. 4. Laws 2015, First Special Session chapter 2, article 1, section 2, subdivision 2,
 25.7 is amended to read:

25.8 Subd. 2. **Prairies** 40,948,000 -0-

25.9 **(a) DNR Wildlife Management Area and**
 25.10 **Scientific and Natural Area Acquisition - Phase**
 25.11 **VII**

25.12 \$4,570,000 in the first year is to the
 25.13 commissioner of natural resources to acquire
 25.14 land in fee for wildlife management purposes
 25.15 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,
 25.16 subdivision 8, and to acquire land in fee
 25.17 for scientific and natural area purposes
 25.18 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,
 25.19 subdivision 5. Subject to evaluation criteria
 25.20 in Minnesota Rules, part 6136.0900, priority
 25.21 must be given to acquisition of lands that
 25.22 are eligible for the native prairie bank under
 25.23 Minnesota Statutes, section 84.96, or lands
 25.24 adjacent to protected native prairie. A list of
 25.25 proposed land and permanent conservation
 25.26 easement acquisitions must be provided as
 25.27 part of the required accomplishment plan.

25.28 **(b) Accelerating Wildlife Management Area**
 25.29 **Acquisition - Phase VII**

25.30 \$7,452,000 in the first year is to the
 25.31 commissioner of natural resources for an
 25.32 agreement with Pheasants Forever to acquire
 25.33 land in fee for wildlife management area
 25.34 purposes under Minnesota Statutes, section
 25.35 86A.05, subdivision 8. Subject to evaluation

26.1 criteria in Minnesota Rules, part 6136.0900,
 26.2 priority must be given to acquisition of
 26.3 lands that are eligible for the native prairie
 26.4 bank under Minnesota Statutes, section
 26.5 84.96, or lands adjacent to protected native
 26.6 prairie. A list of proposed land acquisitions
 26.7 must be provided as part of the required
 26.8 accomplishment plan.

26.9 **(c) Minnesota Prairie Recovery Project - Phase**
 26.10 **VI**

26.11 \$4,032,000 in the first year is to the
 26.12 commissioner of natural resources for an
 26.13 agreement with The Nature Conservancy
 26.14 to acquire native prairie, wetlands, and
 26.15 savanna and restore and enhance grasslands,
 26.16 wetlands, and savanna. Subject to evaluation
 26.17 criteria in Minnesota Rules, part 6136.0900,
 26.18 priority must be given to acquisition of lands
 26.19 that are eligible for the native prairie bank
 26.20 under Minnesota Statutes, section 84.96, or
 26.21 lands adjacent to protected native prairie.
 26.22 Annual income statements and balance sheets
 26.23 for income and expenses from land acquired
 26.24 with this appropriation must be submitted
 26.25 to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage
 26.26 Council no later than 180 days following
 26.27 the close of The Nature Conservancy's fiscal
 26.28 year. A list of proposed land acquisitions
 26.29 must be provided as part of the required
 26.30 accomplishment plan and must be consistent
 26.31 with the priorities identified in the Minnesota
 26.32 Prairie Conservation Plan.

26.33 **(d) Northern Tallgrass Prairie National**
 26.34 **Wildlife Refuge Land Acquisition - Phase ~~V~~ VI**

26.35 \$3,430,000 in the first year is to the
 26.36 commissioner of natural resources for an

27.1 agreement with The Nature Conservancy
27.2 in cooperation with the United States Fish
27.3 and Wildlife Service to acquire land in
27.4 fee or permanent conservation easements
27.5 within the Northern Tallgrass Prairie Habitat
27.6 Preservation Area in western Minnesota
27.7 for addition to the Northern Tallgrass
27.8 Prairie National Wildlife Refuge. Subject
27.9 to evaluation criteria in Minnesota Rules,
27.10 part 6136.0900, priority must be given to
27.11 acquisition of lands that are eligible for
27.12 the native prairie bank under Minnesota
27.13 Statutes, section 84.96, or lands adjacent to
27.14 protected native prairie. A list of proposed
27.15 land acquisitions must be provided as part
27.16 of the required accomplishment plan and
27.17 must be consistent with the priorities in the
27.18 Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan.

27.19 **(e) Accelerated Native Prairie Bank Protection**
27.20 **- Phase IV**

27.21 \$3,740,000 in the first year is to the
27.22 commissioner of natural resources
27.23 to implement the Minnesota Prairie
27.24 Conservation Plan through the acquisition
27.25 of permanent conservation easements to
27.26 protect native prairie and grasslands. Up
27.27 to \$165,000 is for establishing monitoring
27.28 and enforcement funds as approved in
27.29 the accomplishment plan and subject to
27.30 Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056,
27.31 subdivision 17. Subject to evaluation criteria
27.32 in Minnesota Rules, part 6136.0900, priority
27.33 must be given to acquisition of lands that
27.34 are eligible for the native prairie bank under
27.35 Minnesota Statutes, section 84.96, or lands
27.36 adjacent to protected native prairie. A list of

28.1 permanent conservation easements must be
28.2 provided as part of the final report.

28.3 **(f) Minnesota Buffers for Wildlife and Water**
28.4 **- Phase V**

28.5 \$4,544,000 in the first year is to the Board
28.6 of Water and Soil Resources to acquire
28.7 permanent conservation easements to protect
28.8 and enhance habitat by expanding the clean
28.9 water fund riparian buffer program for at
28.10 least equal wildlife benefits from buffers
28.11 on private land. Up to \$72,500 is for
28.12 establishing a monitoring and enforcement
28.13 fund as approved in the accomplishment plan
28.14 and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section
28.15 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of permanent
28.16 conservation easements must be provided as
28.17 part of the final report.

28.18 **(g) Cannon River Headwaters Habitat**
28.19 **Complex - Phase V**

28.20 \$1,380,000 in the first year is to the
28.21 commissioner of natural resources for an
28.22 agreement with The Trust for Public Land to
28.23 acquire and restore lands in the Cannon River
28.24 watershed for wildlife management purposes
28.25 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,
28.26 subdivision 8. Subject to evaluation criteria
28.27 in Minnesota Rules, part 6136.0900, priority
28.28 must be given to acquisition of lands that
28.29 are eligible for the native prairie bank under
28.30 Minnesota Statutes, section 84.96, or lands
28.31 adjacent to protected native prairie. A list of
28.32 proposed land acquisitions must be provided
28.33 as part of the required accomplishment plan.

28.34 **(h) Prairie Chicken Habitat Partnership of the**
28.35 **Southern Red River Valley**

29.1 \$1,800,000 in the first year is to the
 29.2 commissioner of natural resources for
 29.3 an agreement with Pheasants Forever in
 29.4 cooperation with the Minnesota Prairie
 29.5 Chicken Society to acquire and restore lands
 29.6 in the southern Red River Valley for wildlife
 29.7 management purposes under Minnesota
 29.8 Statutes, section 86A.05, subdivision 8,
 29.9 or for designation and management as
 29.10 waterfowl production areas in Minnesota,
 29.11 in cooperation with the United States Fish
 29.12 and Wildlife Service. A list of proposed land
 29.13 acquisitions must be provided as part of the
 29.14 required accomplishment plan.

29.15 **(i) Protecting and Restoring Minnesota's**
 29.16 **Important Bird Areas**

29.17 \$1,730,000 in the first year is to the
 29.18 commissioner of natural resources for
 29.19 agreements to acquire conservation
 29.20 easements within important bird areas
 29.21 identified in the Minnesota Prairie
 29.22 Conservation Plan, to be used as follows:
 29.23 \$408,000 is to Audubon Minnesota and
 29.24 \$1,322,000 is to Minnesota Land Trust, of
 29.25 which up to \$100,000 is for establishing
 29.26 monitoring and enforcement funds as
 29.27 approved in the accomplishment plan and
 29.28 subject to Minnesota Statutes, section
 29.29 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of permanent
 29.30 conservation easements must be provided as
 29.31 part of the final report.

29.32 **(j) Wild Rice River Corridor Habitat**
 29.33 **Restoration**

29.34 \$2,270,000 in the first year is to the
 29.35 commissioner of natural resources for an
 29.36 agreement with the Wild Rice Watershed

30.1 District to acquire land in fee and permanent
 30.2 conservation easement and to `restore river
 30.3 and related habitat in the Wild Rice River
 30.4 corridor. A list of proposed acquisitions and
 30.5 restorations must be provided as part of the
 30.6 required accomplishment plan.

30.7 **(k) Accelerated Prairie Restoration and**
 30.8 **Enhancement on DNR Lands - Phase VII**

30.9 \$4,880,000 in the first year is to the
 30.10 commissioner of natural resources to
 30.11 accelerate the restoration and enhancement
 30.12 of prairie communities on wildlife
 30.13 management areas, scientific and natural
 30.14 areas, state forest land, and land under
 30.15 native prairie bank easements. A list of
 30.16 proposed land restorations and enhancements
 30.17 must be provided as part of the required
 30.18 accomplishment plan.

30.19 **(l) Enhanced Public Land Grasslands - Phase II**

30.20 \$1,120,000 in the first year is to the
 30.21 commissioner of natural resources for an
 30.22 agreement with Pheasants Forever to enhance
 30.23 and restore habitat on public lands. A list of
 30.24 proposed land restorations and enhancements
 30.25 must be provided as part of the final report.

30.26 Sec. 5. Laws 2015, First Special Session chapter 2, article 1, section 2, subdivision 3,
 30.27 is amended to read:

30.28 Subd. 3. **Forests** 12,634,000 -0-

30.29 **(a) Camp Ripley Partnership - Phase V**

30.30 \$1,500,000 in the first year is to the
 30.31 Board of Water and Soil Resources in
 30.32 cooperation with the Morrison County Soil
 30.33 and Water Conservation District to acquire
 30.34 permanent conservation easements within

31.1 the boundaries of the Minnesota National
 31.2 Guard Compatible Use Buffer to protect
 31.3 forest wildlife habitat. Up to \$55,000 is for
 31.4 establishing a monitoring and enforcement
 31.5 fund, as approved in the accomplishment
 31.6 plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes,
 31.7 section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of
 31.8 permanent conservation easements must be
 31.9 provided as part of the final report.

31.10 **(b) Southeast Minnesota Protection and**
 31.11 **Restoration - Phase III**

31.12 \$2,910,000 in the first year is to the
 31.13 commissioner of natural resources for an
 31.14 agreement with The Nature Conservancy to
 31.15 acquire land in fee for wildlife management
 31.16 purposes under Minnesota Statutes, section
 31.17 86A.05, subdivision 8; to acquire land
 31.18 in fee for scientific and natural areas
 31.19 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,
 31.20 subdivision 5; for state forest purposes
 31.21 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,
 31.22 subdivision 7; and to enhance grasslands,
 31.23 forest, and savanna. A list of proposed
 31.24 acquisitions must be provided as part of the
 31.25 required accomplishment plan.

31.26 **(c) Protecting Pinelands Sands Aquifer**
 31.27 **Forestlands - Phase II**

31.28 \$2,180,000 in the first year is to the
 31.29 commissioner of natural resources to acquire
 31.30 forest lands in Cass, Hubbard, and Wadena
 31.31 Counties for wildlife management purposes
 31.32 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,
 31.33 subdivision 8, and to acquire land in fee
 31.34 for state forests under Minnesota Statutes,
 31.35 section 86A.05, subdivision 7. A list of

32.1 proposed land acquisitions must be provided
 32.2 as part of the required accomplishment plan.

32.3 **(d) Protect Key Forest Lands in Cass County**
 32.4 **- Phase VI**

32.5 \$442,000 in the first year is to the
 32.6 commissioner of natural resources for an
 32.7 agreement with Cass County to acquire land
 32.8 in fee in Cass County for forest wildlife
 32.9 habitat or to prevent forest fragmentation.

32.10 A list of proposed land acquisitions
 32.11 must be provided as part of the required
 32.12 accomplishment plan.

32.13 **(e) Critical Shoreland Protection Program -**
 32.14 **Phase III**

32.15 \$1,690,000 in the first year is to the
 32.16 commissioner of natural resources for an
 32.17 agreement with Minnesota Land Trust to
 32.18 acquire permanent conservation easements
 32.19 along rivers and lakes in the northern
 32.20 forest region. Up to \$220,000 is for
 32.21 establishing a monitoring and enforcement
 32.22 fund, as approved in the accomplishment
 32.23 plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes,
 32.24 section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of
 32.25 proposed permanent conservation easements
 32.26 must be provided as part of the required
 32.27 accomplishment plan.

32.28 **(f) Mississippi Headwaters Habitat Partnership**

32.29 \$3,002,000 in the first year is to the
 32.30 commissioner of natural resources to
 32.31 acquire lands in fee and for permanent
 32.32 conservation easements in the Mississippi
 32.33 Headwaters and for agreements as follows:
 32.34 \$1,217,000 to The Trust for Public Land;
 32.35 and \$824,000 to Minnesota Land Trust,

33.1 of which up to \$80,000 is for establishing
 33.2 a monitoring and enforcement fund as
 33.3 approved in the accomplishment plan and
 33.4 subject to Minnesota Statutes, section
 33.5 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of proposed
 33.6 acquisitions must be included as part of the
 33.7 required accomplishment plan.

33.8 **(g) Southeast Forest Habitat Enhancement**

33.9 \$910,000 in the first year is to the
 33.10 commissioner of natural resources to
 33.11 enhance forests in southeastern Minnesota.
 33.12 A list of proposed land enhancements
 33.13 must be provided as part of the required
 33.14 accomplishment plan.

33.15 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective retroactively from July 1, 2015.

33.16 Sec. 6. Laws 2015, First Special Session chapter 2, article 1, section 2, subdivision 5,
 33.17 is amended to read:

33.18	Subd. 5. Habitats	22,368,000	-0-
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33.19 **(a) DNR Aquatic Habitat - Phase VII**

33.20 \$4,540,000 in the first year is to the
 33.21 commissioner of natural resources to acquire
 33.22 interests in land in fee and permanent
 33.23 conservation easements for aquatic
 33.24 management purposes under Minnesota
 33.25 Statutes, sections 86A.05, subdivision 14,
 33.26 and 97C.02, to acquire interests in land in
 33.27 permanent conservation easements for fish
 33.28 and wildlife habitat under Minnesota Statutes,
 33.29 section 84.66, and to restore and enhance
 33.30 aquatic habitat. Up to \$130,000 is for
 33.31 establishing a monitoring and enforcement
 33.32 fund as approved in the accomplishment
 33.33 plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes,

34.1 section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of
34.2 proposed land acquisitions and restorations
34.3 and enhancements must be provided as part
34.4 of the required accomplishment plan.

34.5 **(b) Metro Big Rivers - Phase VI**

34.6 \$2,000,000 in the first year is to the
34.7 commissioner of natural resources for
34.8 agreements to acquire land in fee and in
34.9 permanent conservation easements and
34.10 to restore and enhance natural systems
34.11 associated with the Mississippi, Minnesota,
34.12 and St. Croix Rivers as follows: \$475,000 to
34.13 Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge
34.14 Trust, Inc.; \$275,000 to Friends of the
34.15 Mississippi River; \$400,000 to Great River
34.16 Greening; \$375,000 to Minnesota Land Trust;
34.17 and \$475,000 to The Trust for Public Land.
34.18 Up to \$60,000 to Minnesota Land Trust is for
34.19 establishing a monitoring and enforcement
34.20 fund as approved in the accomplishment
34.21 plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes,
34.22 section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of
34.23 proposed land acquisitions and permanent
34.24 conservation easements must be provided as
34.25 part of the required accomplishment plan.

34.26 **(c) Minnesota Trout Unlimited Coldwater Fish**
34.27 **Habitat Enhancement and Restoration - Phase**
34.28 **VII**

34.29 \$1,890,000 in the first year is to the
34.30 commissioner of natural resources for an
34.31 agreement with Minnesota Trout Unlimited
34.32 to restore and enhance habitat for trout
34.33 and other species in and along coldwater
34.34 rivers and streams in Minnesota. A list of
34.35 proposed restorations and enhancements

35.1 must be provided as part of the required
35.2 accomplishment plan.

35.3 **(d) Lake Bemidji South Shore Restoration and**
35.4 **Enhancement**

35.5 \$1,650,000 in the first year is to the
35.6 commissioner of natural resources for
35.7 an agreement with the city of Bemidji to
35.8 restore and enhance fish habitat on Lake
35.9 Bemidji. A list of proposed restorations and
35.10 enhancements must be provided as part of
35.11 the required accomplishment plan.

35.12 **(e) Sand Hill River Fish Passage**

35.13 \$990,000 in the first year is to the
35.14 commissioner of natural resources for
35.15 an agreement with the Sand Hill River
35.16 Watershed District to restore fish habitat
35.17 in the Sand Hill River watershed. A list of
35.18 proposed restorations must be provided as
35.19 part of the required accomplishment plan.

35.20 **(f) Shell Rock River Watershed Habitat**
35.21 **Restoration Program - Phase IV**

35.22 \$2,414,000 in the first year is to the
35.23 commissioner of natural resources for
35.24 an agreement with the Shell Rock River
35.25 Watershed District to protect, restore,
35.26 and enhance aquatic habitat in the Shell
35.27 Rock River watershed. A list of proposed
35.28 acquisitions, restorations, and enhancements
35.29 must be provided as part of the required
35.30 accomplishment plan.

35.31 **(g) Lake Nokomis Integrated Habitat**
35.32 **Enhancement**

35.33 \$444,000 in the first year is to the
35.34 commissioner of natural resources for an
35.35 agreement with the Minneapolis Park and

36.1 Recreation Board to enhance aquatic habitat
36.2 on Lake Nokomis. A list of proposed
36.3 enhancements must be provided as part of
36.4 the required accomplishment plan.

36.5 **(h) Conservation Partners Legacy Grant**
36.6 **Program: Statewide and Metro Habitat -**
36.7 **Phase VII**

36.8 \$8,440,000 in the first year is to the
36.9 commissioner of natural resources for a
36.10 program to provide competitive, matching
36.11 grants of up to \$400,000 to local, regional,
36.12 state, and national organizations for
36.13 enhancing, restoring, or protecting forests,
36.14 wetlands, prairies, or habitat for fish, game,
36.15 or wildlife in Minnesota. Of this amount,
36.16 \$3,692,000 is for grants in the seven-county
36.17 metropolitan area and cities with a population
36.18 of 50,000 or greater. Grants shall not be made
36.19 for activities required to fulfill the duties
36.20 of owners of lands subject to conservation
36.21 easements. Grants shall not be made from the
36.22 appropriation in this paragraph for projects
36.23 that have a total project cost exceeding
36.24 \$575,000. Of this appropriation, \$596,000
36.25 may be spent for personnel costs and other
36.26 direct and necessary administrative costs.
36.27 Grantees may acquire land or interests in
36.28 land. Easements must be permanent. Grants
36.29 may not be used to establish easement
36.30 stewardship accounts. Land acquired in fee
36.31 must be open to hunting and fishing during
36.32 the open season unless otherwise provided
36.33 by law. The program must require a match
36.34 of at least ten percent from nonstate sources
36.35 for all grants. The match may be cash or
36.36 in-kind resources. For grant applications

37.1 of \$25,000 or less, the commissioner shall
37.2 provide a separate, simplified application
37.3 process. Subject to Minnesota Statutes, the
37.4 commissioner of natural resources shall,
37.5 when evaluating projects of equal value,
37.6 give priority to organizations that have a
37.7 history of receiving or a charter to receive
37.8 private contributions for local conservation
37.9 or habitat projects. If acquiring land or a
37.10 conservation easement, priority must be
37.11 given to projects associated with or within
37.12 one mile of existing wildlife management
37.13 areas under Minnesota Statutes, section
37.14 86A.05, subdivision 8; scientific and natural
37.15 areas under Minnesota Statutes, sections
37.16 84.033 and 86A.05, subdivision 5; or aquatic
37.17 management areas under Minnesota Statutes,
37.18 sections 86A.05, subdivision 14, and 97C.02.
37.19 All restoration or enhancement projects
37.20 must be on land permanently protected by
37.21 a permanent covenant ensuring perpetual
37.22 maintenance and protection of restored
37.23 and enhanced habitat, by a conservation
37.24 easement, or by public ownership or in
37.25 public waters as defined in Minnesota
37.26 Statutes, section 103G.005, subdivision
37.27 15. Priority must be given to restoration
37.28 and enhancement projects on public lands.
37.29 Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056,
37.30 subdivision 13, applies to grants awarded
37.31 under this paragraph. This appropriation is
37.32 available until June 30, ~~2018~~ 2019. No less
37.33 than five percent of the amount of each grant
37.34 must be held back from reimbursement until
37.35 the grant recipient has completed a grant
37.36 accomplishment report by the deadline and

38.1 in the form prescribed by and satisfactory to
38.2 the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.
38.3 The commissioner shall provide notice of
38.4 the grant program in the game and fish law
38.5 summary prepared under Minnesota Statutes,
38.6 section 97A.051, subdivision 2.