

## **REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF APPROPRIATION AVAILABILITY**

### **Cooperative Habitat Research in Deep Lakes**

M.L. 2009, Chp. 143, Sec. 2, Subd. 5c – \$825,000

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### **Appropriation Language**

\$825,000 is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources to assess the consequences of large ecological drivers of change on water quality and habitat dynamics of deep water lakes with coldwater fish populations. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2012, at which time the project must be completed and final products delivered, unless an earlier date is specified in the work program.

### **Project Overview**

Deep, cold-water lakes have different physical properties and support different wildlife than their more numerous shallow counterparts. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is using this appropriation to conduct a study that will help identify, monitor, and predict the consequences of climate change and land use changes on water quality, habitat dynamics, and fish populations in deep, cold-water lakes. Using 24 "sentinel" lakes as their study area, this effort is expected to help inform revisions to lake monitoring programs, provide an empirical foundation for proposed watershed "best management practices", and inform climate change adaptation policies related to lake management.

**Current Completion Date:** 6/30/2012

### **Amendment Request to Extend Availability to 06/30/2013**

To extend the availability of the appropriation for one year until June 30, 2013. Project is likely to be completed sooner, but a one year extension is requested since legislative extensions must be done in full year increments.

Additional background on Request: Previous amendment request was approved (12/02/11) that shifted cost savings from personnel, contracts with Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and Minnesota Department of Health, tools/equipment, and travel in Minnesota to instead increase the budget for a contract with the Minnesota Office of Enterprise Technology. The increased budget will allow for additional database and data migration work and allow for an additional outcome of developing a new SLICE database web application that DNR staff can use for managing water resources and aquatic communities. This additional work will require expenditures to occur beyond the appropriation availability of 06/30/12.