

1.1 CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT ON S.F. No. 2527

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

1.7 May 20, 2016  
1.8 The Honorable Sandra L. Pappas  
1.9 President of the Senate

1.10 The Honorable Kurt L. Daudt  
1.11 Speaker of the House of Representatives

1.12 We, the undersigned conferees for S.F. No. 2527 report that we have agreed upon  
1.13 the items in dispute and recommend as follows:

1.14 That the House recede from its amendment and that S.F. No. 2527 be further  
1.15 amended as follows:

1.16 Delete everything after the enacting clause and insert:

1.17 **"ARTICLE 1**

1.18 **OUTDOOR HERITAGE FUND**

1.19 Section 1. **OUTDOOR HERITAGE APPROPRIATION.**

1.20 The sums shown in the columns marked "Appropriations" are appropriated to the  
1.21 agencies and for the purposes specified in this article. The appropriations are from the  
1.22 outdoor heritage fund for the fiscal year indicated for each purpose. The figures "2016"  
1.23 and "2017" used in this act mean that the appropriations listed under them are available for  
1.24 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016, or June 30, 2017, respectively. "The first year" is  
1.25 fiscal year 2016. "The second year" is fiscal year 2017. "The biennium" is fiscal years  
1.26 2016 and 2017. The appropriations in this act are onetime.

1.27 **APPROPRIATIONS**  
1.28 **Available for the Year**

2.1		<u>Ending June 30</u>	
2.2		<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
2.3	<b>Sec. 2. <u>OUTDOOR HERITAGE FUND</u></b>		
2.4	<b>Subdivision 1. <u>Total Appropriation</u></b>	<b>\$ -0-</b>	<b>\$ <u>109,847,000</u></b>
2.5	<u>This appropriation is from the outdoor</u>		
2.6	<u>heritage fund. The amounts that may be</u>		
2.7	<u>spent for each purpose are specified in the</u>		
2.8	<u>following subdivisions.</u>		
2.9	<b>Subd. 2. <u>Prairies</u></b>	<b><u>-0-</u></b>	<b><u>31,000,000</u></b>
2.10	<b><u>(a) DNR Wildlife Management Area and</u></b>		
2.11	<b><u>Scientific and Natural Area Acquisition - Phase</u></b>		
2.12	<b><u>VIII</u></b>		
2.13	<u>\$3,250,000 the second year is to the</u>		
2.14	<u>commissioner of natural resources to acquire</u>		
2.15	<u>land in fee for wildlife management purposes</u>		
2.16	<u>under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,</u>		
2.17	<u>subdivision 8, and to acquire land in fee</u>		
2.18	<u>for scientific and natural area purposes</u>		
2.19	<u>under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,</u>		
2.20	<u>subdivision 5. Subject to evaluation criteria</u>		
2.21	<u>in Minnesota Rules, part 6136.0900, priority</u>		
2.22	<u>must be given to acquisition of lands that</u>		
2.23	<u>are eligible for the native prairie bank under</u>		
2.24	<u>Minnesota Statutes, section 84.96, or lands</u>		
2.25	<u>adjacent to protected native prairie. A list of</u>		
2.26	<u>proposed land acquisitions must be provided</u>		
2.27	<u>as part of the required accomplishment plan.</u>		
2.28	<b><u>(b) Accelerating Wildlife Management Area</u></b>		
2.29	<b><u>Acquisition - Phase VIII</u></b>		
2.30	<u>\$5,229,000 the second year is to the</u>		
2.31	<u>commissioner of natural resources for</u>		
2.32	<u>an agreement with Pheasants Forever to</u>		
2.33	<u>acquire in fee and restore lands for wildlife</u>		
2.34	<u>management area purposes under Minnesota</u>		
2.35	<u>Statutes, section 86A.05, subdivision 8.</u>		

3.1 Subject to evaluation criteria in Minnesota  
3.2 Rules, part 6136.0900, priority must be  
3.3 given to acquisition of lands that are eligible  
3.4 for the native prairie bank under Minnesota  
3.5 Statutes, section 84.96, or lands adjacent to  
3.6 protected native prairie. A list of proposed  
3.7 land acquisitions must be provided as part of  
3.8 the required accomplishment plan.

3.9 **(c) Martin County/Fox Lake Wildlife**  
3.10 **Management Area Acquisition**

3.11 \$1,000,000 the second year is to the  
3.12 commissioner of natural resources for an  
3.13 agreement with Fox Lake Conservation  
3.14 League, Inc. to acquire land in fee and restore  
3.15 strategic prairie grassland, wetland, and other  
3.16 wildlife habitat for wildlife management area  
3.17 purposes under Minnesota Statutes, section  
3.18 86A.05, subdivision 8. A list of proposed  
3.19 acquisitions must be provided as part of the  
3.20 required accomplishment plan.

3.21 **(d) Northern Tallgrass Prairie National**  
3.22 **Wildlife Refuge Land Acquisition - Phase VII**

3.23 \$2,754,000 the second year is to the  
3.24 commissioner of natural resources for an  
3.25 agreement with The Nature Conservancy  
3.26 in cooperation with the United States Fish  
3.27 and Wildlife Service to acquire land in fee  
3.28 or permanent conservation easements and  
3.29 restore lands within the Northern Tallgrass  
3.30 Prairie Habitat Preservation Area in western  
3.31 Minnesota for addition to the Northern  
3.32 Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge.  
3.33 Subject to evaluation criteria in Minnesota  
3.34 Rules, part 6136.0900, priority must be  
3.35 given to acquisition of lands that are eligible  
3.36 for the native prairie bank under Minnesota

4.1 Statutes, section 84.96, or lands adjacent to  
4.2 protected native prairie. A list of proposed  
4.3 land acquisitions must be provided as part  
4.4 of the required accomplishment plan and  
4.5 must be consistent with the priorities in the  
4.6 Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan.

4.7 **(e) Cannon River Headwaters Habitat**  
4.8 **Complex - Phase VI**

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

4.24 **(f) Accelerated Native Prairie Bank Protection**  
4.25 **- Phase V**

4.26 \$2,541,000 the second year is to the  
4.27 commissioner of natural resources  
4.28 to implement the Minnesota Prairie  
4.29 Conservation Plan through the acquisition of  
4.30 permanent conservation easements to protect  
4.31 and restore native prairie. Of this amount, up  
4.32 to \$120,000 is for establishing monitoring  
4.33 and enforcement funds as approved in  
4.34 the accomplishment plan and subject to  
4.35 Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056,  
4.36 subdivision 17. Subject to evaluation criteria

5.1 in Minnesota Rules, part 6136.0900, priority  
5.2 must be given to acquisition of lands that  
5.3 are eligible for the native prairie bank under  
5.4 Minnesota Statutes, section 84.96, or lands  
5.5 adjacent to protected native prairie. A list of  
5.6 permanent conservation easements must be  
5.7 provided as part of the final report.

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

5.10 \$6,708,000 the second year is to the Board  
5.11 of Water and Soil Resources to acquire  
5.12 permanent conservation easements and  
5.13 restore habitat under Minnesota Statutes,  
5.14 section 103F.515, to protect, restore, and  
5.15 enhance habitat by expanding the clean  
5.16 water fund riparian buffer program for at  
5.17 least equal wildlife benefits from buffers on  
5.18 private land. Of this amount, up to \$130,000  
5.19 is to establish a monitoring and enforcement  
5.20 fund as approved in the accomplishment plan  
5.21 and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section  
5.22 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of permanent  
5.23 conservation easements must be provided as  
5.24 part of the final report.

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

5.27 \$2,269,000 the second year is to the  
5.28 commissioner of natural resources for  
5.29 an agreement with Pheasants Forever, in  
5.30 cooperation with the Minnesota Prairie  
5.31 Chicken Society, to acquire land in fee and  
5.32 restore and enhance lands in the southern  
5.33 Red River Valley for wildlife management  
5.34 purposes under Minnesota Statutes, section  
5.35 86A.05, subdivision 8, or for designation  
5.36 and management as waterfowl production

6.1 areas in Minnesota, in cooperation with the  
6.2 United States Fish and Wildlife Service.  
6.3 Subject to evaluation criteria in Minnesota  
6.4 Rules, part 6136.0900, priority must be  
6.5 given to acquisition of lands that are eligible  
6.6 for the native prairie bank under Minnesota  
6.7 Statutes, section 84.96, or lands adjacent to  
6.8 protected native prairie. A list of proposed  
6.9 land acquisitions must be provided as part of  
6.10 the required accomplishment plan.

6.11 **(i) Grassland Conservation Partnership -**  
6.12 **Phase II**

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

7.1 **(j) Accelerated Prairie Restoration and**  
7.2 **Enhancement on DNR Lands - Phase VIII**

7.3 \$3,983,000 the second year is to the  
7.4 commissioner of natural resources to  
7.5 accelerate restoration and enhancement  
7.6 of prairies, grasslands, and savannas on  
7.7 wildlife management areas, scientific and  
7.8 natural areas, native prairie bank land,  
7.9 and bluff prairies on state forest land in  
7.10 southeastern Minnesota. A list of proposed  
7.11 land restorations and enhancements  
7.12 must be provided as part of the required  
7.13 accomplishment plan.

7.14 **(k) Anoka Sandplain Habitat Restoration and**  
7.15 **Enhancement - Phase IV**

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

7.29 Subd. 3. Forests -0- 18,379,000

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

7.31 \$1,369,000 the second year is to the  
7.32 commissioner of natural resources for  
7.33 an agreement with the American Bird  
7.34 Conservancy to restore publicly owned,  
7.35 permanently protected forest lands for

8.1 wildlife management purposes. A list  
8.2 of proposed forest land restorations  
8.3 must be provided as part of the required  
8.4 accomplishment plan.

8.5 **(b) Jack Pine Forest/Crow Wing River**  
8.6 **Watershed Habitat Acquisition**

8.7 \$3,570,000 the second year is to the  
8.8 commissioner of natural resources for an  
8.9 agreement with the Minnesota Deer Hunters  
8.10 Association to acquire in fee and restore  
8.11 and enhance forest habitat lands in Cass  
8.12 and Hubbard Counties for county forest  
8.13 purposes. A list of proposed land acquisitions  
8.14 must be provided as part of the required  
8.15 accomplishment plan.

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

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

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

8.34 \$5,000,000 the second year is to the  
8.35 commissioner of natural resources for an



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

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

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

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

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

10.18 \$500,000 the second year is to the  
10.19 commissioner of natural resources for an  
10.20 agreement with Cass County to acquire land  
10.21 in fee in Cass County for forest wildlife  
10.22 habitat or to prevent forest fragmentation.

10.23 A list of proposed land acquisitions  
10.24 must be provided as part of the required  
10.25 accomplishment plan.

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

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

10.34 **(h) Forest Habitat Protection Revolving**  
10.35 **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 Band of  
12.11 Ojibwe to acquire lands in fee in Clearwater  
12.12 County to be managed for wildlife habitat  
12.13 purposes. A list of proposed land acquisitions  
12.14 must be provided as part of the required  
12.15 accomplishment plan. As a condition of  
12.16 receiving the grant under this paragraph, the  
12.17 White Earth Band of Ojibwe shall:  
  
12.18 (1) ensure that current access roads and trails  
12.19 on the property are maintained and open to  
12.20 continue the current access to adjoining lands;  
  
12.21 (2) ensure that the property remains open to  
12.22 hunting and fishing for individuals of the  
12.23 public who are not members of a federally  
12.24 recognized tribe in a manner consistent with  
12.25 current law; and  
  
12.26 (3) not transfer fee interest in whole or in part  
12.27 to the United States either directly or through  
12.28 an intermediary in trust for the White Earth  
12.29 Band of Ojibwe.  
  
12.30 Failure to comply with the provisions of  
12.31 this paragraph shall trigger the reversion  
12.32 provisions of Minnesota Statutes, section  
12.33 97A.056, subdivision 15.  
  
12.34 **Subd. 4. Wetlands**

-0-

31,055,000

13.1 **(a) Accelerating the Waterfowl Production**  
13.2 **Area Acquisition - Phase VIII**

13.3 \$5,650,000 the second year is to the  
13.4 commissioner of natural resources for an  
13.5 agreement with Pheasants Forever to acquire  
13.6 in fee and restore and enhance wetlands and  
13.7 grasslands to be designated and managed as  
13.8 waterfowl production areas in Minnesota,  
13.9 in cooperation with the United States Fish  
13.10 and Wildlife Service. A list of proposed land  
13.11 acquisitions must be provided as part of the  
13.12 required accomplishment plan.

13.13 **(b) Shallow Lake and Wetland Protection**  
13.14 **Program - Phase V**

13.15 \$5,801,000 the second year is to the  
13.16 commissioner of natural resources for an  
13.17 agreement with Ducks Unlimited to acquire  
13.18 in fee and restore prairie lands, wetlands,  
13.19 and land buffering shallow lakes for wildlife  
13.20 management purposes under Minnesota  
13.21 Statutes, section 86A.05, subdivision 8. A list  
13.22 of proposed acquisitions must be provided as  
13.23 part of the required accomplishment plan.

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

13.25 \$13,808,000 the second year is to the Board  
13.26 of Water and Soil Resources to acquire lands  
13.27 in permanent conservation easements and  
13.28 to restore wetlands and native grassland  
13.29 habitat under Minnesota Statutes, section  
13.30 103F.515. Of this amount, up to \$195,000 is  
13.31 to establish a monitoring and enforcement  
13.32 fund as approved in the accomplishment plan  
13.33 and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section  
13.34 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of permanent

14.1 conservation easements must be provided as  
14.2 part of the final report.

14.3 **(d) Wetland Habitat Protection Program -**  
14.4 **Phase II**

14.5 \$1,629,000 the second year is to the  
14.6 commissioner of natural resources for an  
14.7 agreement with Minnesota Land Trust to  
14.8 acquire permanent conservation easements  
14.9 in high-priority wetland habitat complexes  
14.10 in the prairie and forest/prairie transition  
14.11 regions. Of this amount, up to \$180,000 is to  
14.12 establish a monitoring and enforcement fund,  
14.13 as approved in the accomplishment plan  
14.14 and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section  
14.15 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of proposed  
14.16 easement acquisitions must be provided as  
14.17 part of the final report.

14.18 **(e) Accelerated Shallow Lakes and Wetlands**  
14.19 **Enhancement - Phase VIII**

14.20 \$2,167,000 the second year is to the  
14.21 commissioner of natural resources to enhance  
14.22 and restore shallow lakes and wetland habitat  
14.23 statewide. A list of proposed land restorations  
14.24 and enhancements must be provided as part  
14.25 of the required accomplishment plan.

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

14.27 \$2,000,000 the second year is to the  
14.28 commissioner of natural resources to modify  
14.29 the dam at Marsh Lake for improved habitat  
14.30 management and to return the historic outlet  
14.31 of the Pomme de Terre River to Lac Qui Parle.

14.32 Subd. 5. **Habitats** -0- 29,138,000

14.33 **(a) DNR Aquatic Habitat Protection - Phase**  
14.34 **VIII**

15.1 \$1,578,000 the second year is to the  
15.2 commissioner of natural resources to acquire  
15.3 land in fee and permanent conservation  
15.4 easements for aquatic management purposes  
15.5 under Minnesota Statutes, sections 86A.05,  
15.6 subdivision 14, and 97C.02, to acquire  
15.7 permanent conservation easements under  
15.8 the Minnesota forests for the future  
15.9 program pursuant to Minnesota Statutes,  
15.10 section 84.66, and to restore and enhance  
15.11 aquatic and adjacent upland habitat.  
15.12 Of this amount, up to \$153,000 is to  
15.13 establish a monitoring and enforcement  
15.14 fund as approved in the accomplishment  
15.15 plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes,  
15.16 section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of  
15.17 proposed land acquisitions, conservation  
15.18 easements, restorations, and enhancements  
15.19 must be provided as part of the required  
15.20 accomplishment plan.

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

15.22 \$4,000,000 the second year is to the  
15.23 commissioner of natural resources for  
15.24 agreements to acquire land in fee and  
15.25 permanent conservation easements and  
15.26 to restore and enhance natural systems  
15.27 associated with the Mississippi, Minnesota,  
15.28 and St. Croix Rivers within the metropolitan  
15.29 area as follows: \$500,000 to Minnesota  
15.30 Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust,  
15.31 Inc.; \$430,000 to Friends of the Mississippi  
15.32 River; \$1,170,000 to Great River Greening;  
15.33 \$800,000 to The Trust for Public Land; and  
15.34 \$1,100,000 to Minnesota Land Trust, of  
15.35 which up to \$60,000 to Minnesota Land Trust  
15.36 is to establish a monitoring and enforcement

16.1 fund as approved in the accomplishment  
16.2 plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes,  
16.3 section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of  
16.4 proposed land acquisitions and permanent  
16.5 conservation easements must be provided as  
16.6 part of the required accomplishment plan.

16.7 **(c) Mississippi Headwaters Habitat Corridor**  
16.8 **Partnership - Phase II**

16.9 \$2,105,000 the second year is to the  
16.10 commissioner of natural resources for  
16.11 agreements to acquire lands in fee in the  
16.12 Mississippi Headwaters and for agreements  
16.13 as follows: \$76,000 to the Mississippi  
16.14 Headwaters Board; and \$2,029,000 to  
16.15 The Trust for Public Land. \$1,045,000  
16.16 the second year is to the Board of Water  
16.17 and Soil Resources to acquire permanent  
16.18 conservation easements and to restore  
16.19 wildlife habitat, of which up to \$78,000 is  
16.20 to establish a monitoring and enforcement  
16.21 fund as approved in the accomplishment plan  
16.22 and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section  
16.23 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of proposed  
16.24 acquisitions must be included as part of the  
16.25 required accomplishment plan.

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

16.28 \$1,425,000 the second year is to the  
16.29 commissioner of natural resources for  
16.30 agreements with the Leech Lake Area  
16.31 Watershed Foundation and Minnesota Land  
16.32 Trust to acquire land in fee and permanent  
16.33 conservation easements to sustain healthy  
16.34 fish habitat on cold water lakes in Aitkin,  
16.35 Cass, Crow Wing, and Hubbard Counties  
16.36 as follows: \$480,000 to Leech Lake Area



17.1 Watershed Foundation; and \$945,000 to  
17.2 Minnesota Land Trust, of which up to  
17.3 \$180,000 to Minnesota Land Trust is to  
17.4 establish a monitoring and enforcement fund  
17.5 as approved in the accomplishment plan  
17.6 and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section  
17.7 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of proposed  
17.8 land acquisitions must be provided as part of  
17.9 the required accomplishment plan.

17.10 **(e) Minnesota Trout Unlimited Coldwater Fish**  
17.11 **Habitat Enhancement and Restoration - Phase**  
17.12 **VIII**

17.13 \$1,975,000 the second year is to the  
17.14 commissioner of natural resources for an  
17.15 agreement with Minnesota Trout Unlimited  
17.16 to restore or enhance habitat for trout and  
17.17 other species in and along cold water rivers,  
17.18 lakes, and streams in Minnesota. A list of  
17.19 proposed restorations and enhancements  
17.20 must be provided as part of the required  
17.21 accomplishment plan.

17.22 **(f) DNR Stream Habitat**

17.23 \$2,074,000 the second year is to the  
17.24 commissioner of natural resources to restore  
17.25 and enhance habitat to facilitate fish passage,  
17.26 degraded streams, and critical aquatic species  
17.27 habitat. A list of proposed land restorations  
17.28 and enhancements must be provided as part  
17.29 of the required accomplishment plan.

17.30 **(g) St. Louis River Restoration Initiative -**  
17.31 **Phase III**

17.32 \$2,707,000 the second year is to the  
17.33 commissioner of natural resources to restore  
17.34 aquatic habitats in the St. Louis River  
17.35 estuary. A list of proposed restorations

18.1 must be provided as part of the required  
18.2 accomplishment plan.

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

18.4 \$828,000 the second year is to the  
18.5 commissioner of natural resources for  
18.6 an agreement with the Sand Hill River  
18.7 Watershed District, in cooperation with  
18.8 the Department of Natural Resources and  
18.9 Army Corps of Engineers, to restore and  
18.10 enhance fish passage and habitat in the Sand  
18.11 Hill River watershed. A list of proposed  
18.12 restorations must be provided as part of the  
18.13 required accomplishment plan.

18.14 **(i) Shell Rock River Watershed Habitat**  
18.15 **Restoration Program - Phase V**

18.16 \$1,200,000 the second year is to the  
18.17 commissioner of natural resources for  
18.18 an agreement with the Shell Rock River  
18.19 Watershed District to acquire in fee, restore,  
18.20 and enhance aquatic habitat in the Shell  
18.21 Rock River watershed. A list of proposed  
18.22 acquisitions, restorations, and enhancements  
18.23 must be provided as part of the required  
18.24 accomplishment plan.

18.25 **(j) Roseau Lake Rehabilitation**

18.26 \$2,763,000 the second year is to the  
18.27 commissioner of natural resources to acquire  
18.28 land in fee and permanent conservation  
18.29 easements for wildlife management purposes  
18.30 in Roseau County under Minnesota Statutes,  
18.31 section 86A.05, subdivision 8, to restore  
18.32 and enhance wildlife habitat. A list of  
18.33 proposed land acquisitions and restorations  
18.34 and enhancements must be provided as part  
18.35 of the required accomplishment plan.

19.1 **(k) Conservation Partners Legacy Grant**  
19.2 **Program: Statewide and Metro Habitat -**  
19.3 **Phase VIII**

19.4 \$7,438,000 the second year is to the  
19.5 commissioner of natural resources for a  
19.6 program to provide competitive, matching  
19.7 grants of up to \$400,000 to local, regional,  
19.8 state, and national organizations for  
19.9 enhancing, restoring, or protecting forests,  
19.10 wetlands, prairies, or habitat for fish, game, or  
19.11 wildlife in Minnesota. Of this amount, up to  
19.12 \$2,500,000 is for grants in the seven-county  
19.13 metropolitan area and cities with a population  
19.14 of 50,000 or greater. Grants shall not be made  
19.15 for activities required to fulfill the duties  
19.16 of owners of lands subject to conservation  
19.17 easements. Grants shall not be made from the  
19.18 appropriation in this paragraph for projects  
19.19 that have a total project cost exceeding  
19.20 \$575,000. Of the total appropriation,  
19.21 \$588,000 may be spent for personnel costs  
19.22 and other direct and necessary administrative  
19.23 costs. Grantees may acquire land or interests  
19.24 in land. Easements must be permanent.  
19.25 Grants may not be used to establish easement  
19.26 stewardship accounts. Land acquired in fee  
19.27 must be open to hunting and fishing during  
19.28 the open season unless otherwise provided  
19.29 by law. The program must require a match  
19.30 of at least ten percent from nonstate sources  
19.31 for all grants. The match may be cash or  
19.32 in-kind resources. For grant applications  
19.33 of \$25,000 or less, the commissioner shall  
19.34 provide a separate, simplified application  
19.35 process. Subject to Minnesota Statutes, the  
19.36 commissioner of natural resources shall,

20.1 when evaluating projects of equal value,  
20.2 give priority to organizations that have a  
20.3 history of receiving or a charter to receive  
20.4 private contributions for local conservation  
20.5 or habitat projects. If acquiring land in fee  
20.6 or a conservation easement, priority must be  
20.7 given to projects associated with or within  
20.8 one mile of existing wildlife management  
20.9 areas under Minnesota Statutes, section  
20.10 86A.05, subdivision 8; scientific and natural  
20.11 areas under Minnesota Statutes, sections  
20.12 84.033 and 86A.05, subdivision 5; or aquatic  
20.13 management areas under Minnesota Statutes,  
20.14 sections 86A.05, subdivision 14, and 97C.02.  
20.15 All restoration or enhancement projects  
20.16 must be on land permanently protected by  
20.17 a permanent covenant ensuring perpetual  
20.18 maintenance and protection of restored  
20.19 and enhanced habitat, by a conservation  
20.20 easement, by public ownership, or in public  
20.21 waters as defined in Minnesota Statutes,  
20.22 section 103G.005, subdivision 15. Priority  
20.23 must be given to restoration and enhancement  
20.24 projects on public lands. Minnesota Statutes,  
20.25 section 97A.056, subdivision 13, applies  
20.26 to grants awarded under this paragraph.  
20.27 This appropriation is available until June  
20.28 30, 2020. No less than five percent of the  
20.29 amount of each grant must be held back from  
20.30 reimbursement until the grant recipient has  
20.31 completed a grant accomplishment report by  
20.32 the deadline and in the form prescribed by  
20.33 and satisfactory to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor  
20.34 Heritage Council. The commissioner shall  
20.35 provide notice of the grant program in  
20.36 the game and fish law summary prepared

21.1 under Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.051,  
21.2 subdivision 2.

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

21.4 **(a) Contract Management**

21.5 \$150,000 the second year is to the  
21.6 commissioner of natural resources for  
21.7 contract management duties assigned in this  
21.8 section. The commissioner shall provide an  
21.9 accomplishment plan in the form specified by  
21.10 the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council  
21.11 on the expenditure of this appropriation.  
21.12 The accomplishment plan must include  
21.13 a copy of the grant contract template  
21.14 and reimbursement manual. No money  
21.15 may be expended prior to Lessard-Sams  
21.16 Outdoor Heritage Council approval of the  
21.17 accomplishment plan.

21.18 **(b) Technical Evaluation Panel**

21.19 \$125,000 the second year is to the  
21.20 commissioner of natural resources for a  
21.21 technical evaluation panel to conduct up to  
21.22 15 restoration and enhancement evaluations  
21.23 under Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056,  
21.24 subdivision 10.

21.25 **Subd. 7. Availability of Appropriation**

21.26 Money appropriated in this section may  
21.27 not be spent on activities unless they are  
21.28 directly related to and necessary for a  
21.29 specific appropriation and are specified in  
21.30 the accomplishment plan approved by the  
21.31 Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.  
21.32 Money appropriated in this section must not  
21.33 be spent on indirect costs or other institutional  
21.34 overhead charges that are not directly related

22.1 to and necessary for a specific appropriation.  
22.2 Unless otherwise provided, the amounts  
22.3 in this section are available until June 30,  
22.4 2019. For acquisition of real property, the  
22.5 amounts in this section are available until  
22.6 June 30, 2020, if a binding agreement with a  
22.7 landowner or purchase agreement is entered  
22.8 into by June 30, 2019, and closed no later  
22.9 than June 30, 2020. Funds for restoration  
22.10 or enhancement are available until June  
22.11 30, 2021, or five years after acquisition,  
22.12 whichever is later, in order to complete initial  
22.13 restoration or enhancement work. If a project  
22.14 receives at least 15 percent of its funding  
22.15 from federal funds, the time period of the  
22.16 appropriation may be extended to equal the  
22.17 availability of federal funding to a maximum  
22.18 of six years, provided the federal funding  
22.19 was confirmed and included in the first draft  
22.20 accomplishment plan. Money appropriated  
22.21 for fee title acquisition of land may be used to  
22.22 restore, enhance, and provide for public use  
22.23 of the land acquired with the appropriation.  
22.24 Public use facilities must have a minimal  
22.25 impact on habitat in acquired lands.

22.26 **Subd. 8. Payment Conditions and Capital**  
22.27 **Equipment Expenditures**

22.28 All agreements referred to in this section must  
22.29 be administered on a reimbursement basis  
22.30 unless otherwise provided in this section.  
22.31 Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, section  
22.32 16A.41, expenditures directly related  
22.33 to each appropriation's purpose made  
22.34 on or after July 1, 2016, or the date of  
22.35 accomplishment plan approval, whichever is  
22.36 later, are eligible for reimbursement unless

23.1 otherwise provided in this section. For the  
23.2 purposes of administering appropriations  
23.3 and legislatively authorized agreements paid  
23.4 out of the outdoor heritage fund, an expense  
23.5 must be considered reimbursable by the  
23.6 administering agency when the recipient  
23.7 presents the agency with an invoice, or  
23.8 binding agreement with the landowner, and  
23.9 the recipient attests that the goods have  
23.10 been received or the landowner agreement  
23.11 is binding. Periodic reimbursement must  
23.12 be made upon receiving documentation that  
23.13 the items articulated in the accomplishment  
23.14 plan approved by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor  
23.15 Heritage Council have been achieved,  
23.16 including partial achievements as evidenced  
23.17 by progress reports approved by the  
23.18 Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.  
23.19 Reasonable amounts may be advanced to  
23.20 projects to accommodate cash flow needs,  
23.21 support future management of acquired  
23.22 lands, or match a federal share. The  
23.23 advances must be approved as part of the  
23.24 accomplishment plan. Capital equipment  
23.25 expenditures for specific items in excess of  
23.26 \$10,000 must be itemized in and approved as  
23.27 part of the accomplishment plan.

23.28 Subd. 9. **Mapping**

23.29 Each direct recipient of money appropriated  
23.30 in this section, as well as each recipient of  
23.31 a grant awarded pursuant to this section,  
23.32 must provide geographic information to the  
23.33 Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council  
23.34 for mapping of any lands acquired in fee  
23.35 with funds appropriated in this section and  
23.36 open to public taking of fish and game. The

24.1 commissioner of natural resources shall  
24.2 include the lands acquired in fee with money  
24.3 appropriated in this section on maps showing  
24.4 public recreation opportunities. Maps must  
24.5 include information on and acknowledgment  
24.6 of the outdoor heritage fund, including a  
24.7 notation of any restrictions.

24.8 **Subd. 10. RIM Buffers for Wildlife and Water**  
24.9 **Restorations**

24.10 The following appropriations to the Board  
24.11 of Water and Soil Resources for the RIM  
24.12 buffers for wildlife and water program  
24.13 may be used for restoration of lands  
24.14 acquired by conservation easement with the  
24.15 appropriations:

24.16 (1) Laws 2015, First Special Session  
24.17 chapter 2, article 1, section 2, subdivision 2,  
24.18 paragraph (f);

24.19 (2) Laws 2014, chapter 256, article 1, section  
24.20 2, subdivision 2, paragraph (f);

24.21 (3) Laws 2013, chapter 137, article 1, section  
24.22 2, subdivision 2, paragraph (e);

24.23 (4) Laws 2012, chapter 264, article 1, section  
24.24 2, subdivision 2, paragraph (a); and

24.25 (5) Laws 2011, First Special Session  
24.26 chapter 6, article 1, section 2, subdivision 2,  
24.27 paragraph (c).

24.28 **Subd. 11. Carryforward of Appropriation**

24.29 (a) The availability of the appropriation in  
24.30 Laws 2013, chapter 137, article 1, section  
24.31 2, subdivision 5, paragraph (b), for Habitat  
24.32 Protection in Dakota County - Phase IV is  
24.33 extended to June 30, 2017.



25.1 (b) Paragraph (a) is effective the day  
25.2 following final enactment.

25.3 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 97A.056, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

25.4 Subd. 2. **Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.** (a) The Lessard-Sams  
25.5 Outdoor Heritage Council of 12 members is created in the legislative branch, consisting of:

25.6 (1) two public members appointed by the senate Subcommittee on Committees of  
25.7 the Committee on Rules and Administration;

25.8 (2) two public members appointed by the speaker of the house;

25.9 (3) four public members appointed by the governor;

25.10 (4) two members of the senate appointed by the senate Subcommittee on Committees  
25.11 of the Committee on Rules and Administration; and

25.12 (5) two members of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the  
25.13 house.

25.14 (b) Members appointed under paragraph (a) must not be registered lobbyists. In  
25.15 making appointments, the governor, senate Subcommittee on Committees of the Committee  
25.16 on Rules and Administration, and the speaker of the house shall consider geographic  
25.17 balance, gender, age, ethnicity, and varying interests including hunting and fishing. The  
25.18 governor's appointments to the council are subject to the advice and consent of the senate.

25.19 (c) Public members appointed under paragraph (a) shall have practical experience  
25.20 or expertise or demonstrated knowledge in the science, policy, or practice of restoring,  
25.21 protecting, and enhancing wetlands, prairies, forests, and habitat for fish, game, and  
25.22 wildlife.

25.23 (d) Legislative members appointed under paragraph (a) shall include the chairs  
25.24 of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over environment and natural resources  
25.25 finance or their designee, one member from the minority party of the senate, and one  
25.26 member from the minority party of the house of representatives.

25.27 (e) Public members serve four-year terms. Appointed legislative members serve  
25.28 at the pleasure of the appointing authority. Public and legislative members continue to  
25.29 serve until their successors are appointed. Public members shall be initially appointed  
25.30 according to the following schedule of terms:

25.31 (1) two public members appointed by the governor for a term ending the first  
25.32 Monday in January 2011;

25.33 (2) one public member appointed by the senate Subcommittee on Committees of the  
25.34 Committee on Rules and Administration for a term ending the first Monday in January 2011;

26.1 (3) one public member appointed by the speaker of the house for a term ending  
26.2 the first Monday in January 2011;

26.3 (4) two public members appointed by the governor for a term ending the first  
26.4 Monday in January 2013;

26.5 (5) one public member appointed by the senate Subcommittee on Committees of the  
26.6 Committee on Rules and Administration for a term ending the first Monday in January  
26.7 2013; and

26.8 (6) one public member appointed by the speaker of the house for a term ending  
26.9 the first Monday in January 2013.

26.10 (f) Terms, compensation, and removal of public members are as provided in section  
26.11 15.0575. A vacancy on the council may be filled by the appointing authority for the  
26.12 remainder of the unexpired term.

26.13 (g) ~~The first meeting of the council shall be convened by the chair of the Legislative~~  
26.14 ~~Coordinating Commission no later than December 1, 2008.~~ Members shall elect a chair,  
26.15 vice-chair, secretary, and other officers as determined by the council. The chair may  
26.16 convene meetings as necessary to conduct the duties prescribed by this section.

26.17 (h) ~~Upon coordination with The Legislative Coordinating Commission, the council~~  
26.18 may appoint nonpartisan staff and contract with consultants as necessary to ~~carry out~~  
26.19 support the functions of the council. The council has final approval authority for the  
26.20 hiring of a candidate for executive director. Up to one percent of the money appropriated  
26.21 from the fund may be used to pay for administrative expenses of the council and for  
26.22 compensation and expense reimbursement of council members.

26.23 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

26.24 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 97A.056, subdivision 10, is amended to read:

26.25 Subd. 10. **Restoration and enhancements evaluations.** The commissioner of  
26.26 natural resources and the Board of Water and Soil Resources ~~may~~ must convene a technical  
26.27 evaluation panel comprised of five members, including one technical representative from  
26.28 the Board of Water and Soil Resources, one technical representative from the Department of  
26.29 Natural Resources, one technical expert from the University of Minnesota or the Minnesota  
26.30 State Colleges and Universities, and two representatives with expertise in the project  
26.31 being evaluated. The board and the commissioner may add a technical representative from  
26.32 a unit of federal or local government. The members of the technical evaluation panel  
26.33 may not be associated with the restoration or enhancement, may vary depending upon  
26.34 the projects being reviewed, and shall avoid any potential conflicts of interest. Each year,  
26.35 the board and the commissioner may assign a coordinator to identify ~~a sample of up to~~

27.1 ~~ten~~ habitat restoration or enhancement projects completed with outdoor heritage funding.  
 27.2 The coordinator shall secure the ~~restoration~~ plans for the projects specified and direct  
 27.3 the technical evaluation panel to evaluate the restorations and enhancements relative to  
 27.4 the law, current science, and the stated goals and standards in the ~~restoration~~ project  
 27.5 plan and, when applicable, to the Board of Water and Soil Resources' native vegetation  
 27.6 establishment and enhancement guidelines. The coordinator shall summarize the findings  
 27.7 of the panel and provide a report to the chair of the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage  
 27.8 Council and the chairs of the respective house of representatives and senate policy and  
 27.9 finance committees with jurisdiction over natural resources and spending from the outdoor  
 27.10 heritage fund. The report shall determine if the restorations and enhancements are meeting  
 27.11 planned goals, any problems with the implementation of restorations and enhancements,  
 27.12 and, if necessary, recommendations on improving restorations and enhancements. The  
 27.13 report shall be focused on improving future restorations and enhancements. At least  
 27.14 one-tenth of one percent of forecasted receipts from the outdoor heritage fund must be  
 27.15 used for restoration and enhancements evaluations under this section.

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

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

27.19 **(a) DNR Wildlife Management Area and**  
 27.20 **Scientific and Natural Area Acquisition - Phase**  
 27.21 **VII**

27.22 \$4,570,000 in the first year is to the  
 27.23 commissioner of natural resources to acquire  
 27.24 land in fee for wildlife management purposes  
 27.25 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,  
 27.26 subdivision 8, and to acquire land in fee  
 27.27 for scientific and natural area purposes  
 27.28 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,  
 27.29 subdivision 5. Subject to evaluation criteria  
 27.30 in Minnesota Rules, part 6136.0900, priority  
 27.31 must be given to acquisition of lands that  
 27.32 are eligible for the native prairie bank under  
 27.33 Minnesota Statutes, section 84.96, or lands  
 27.34 adjacent to protected native prairie. A list of  
 27.35 proposed land and permanent conservation

28.1 easement acquisitions must be provided as  
28.2 part of the required accomplishment plan.

28.3 **(b) Accelerating Wildlife Management Area**  
28.4 **Acquisition - Phase VII**

28.5 \$7,452,000 in the first year is to the  
28.6 commissioner of natural resources for an  
28.7 agreement with Pheasants Forever to acquire  
28.8 land in fee for wildlife management area  
28.9 purposes under Minnesota Statutes, section  
28.10 86A.05, subdivision 8. Subject to evaluation  
28.11 criteria in Minnesota Rules, part 6136.0900,  
28.12 priority must be given to acquisition of  
28.13 lands that are eligible for the native prairie  
28.14 bank under Minnesota Statutes, section  
28.15 84.96, or lands adjacent to protected native  
28.16 prairie. A list of proposed land acquisitions  
28.17 must be provided as part of the required  
28.18 accomplishment plan.

28.19 **(c) Minnesota Prairie Recovery Project - Phase**  
28.20 **VI**

28.21 \$4,032,000 in the first year is to the  
28.22 commissioner of natural resources for an  
28.23 agreement with The Nature Conservancy  
28.24 to acquire native prairie, wetlands, and  
28.25 savanna and restore and enhance grasslands,  
28.26 wetlands, and savanna. Subject to evaluation  
28.27 criteria in Minnesota Rules, part 6136.0900,  
28.28 priority must be given to acquisition of lands  
28.29 that are eligible for the native prairie bank  
28.30 under Minnesota Statutes, section 84.96, or  
28.31 lands adjacent to protected native prairie.  
28.32 Annual income statements and balance sheets  
28.33 for income and expenses from land acquired  
28.34 with this appropriation must be submitted  
28.35 to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage  
28.36 Council no later than 180 days following

29.1 the close of The Nature Conservancy's fiscal  
29.2 year. A list of proposed land acquisitions  
29.3 must be provided as part of the required  
29.4 accomplishment plan and must be consistent  
29.5 with the priorities identified in the Minnesota  
29.6 Prairie Conservation Plan.

29.7 **(d) Northern Tallgrass Prairie National**  
29.8 **Wildlife Refuge Land Acquisition - Phase V VI**

29.9 \$3,430,000 in the first year is to the  
29.10 commissioner of natural resources for an  
29.11 agreement with The Nature Conservancy  
29.12 in cooperation with the United States Fish  
29.13 and Wildlife Service to acquire land in  
29.14 fee or permanent conservation easements  
29.15 within the Northern Tallgrass Prairie Habitat  
29.16 Preservation Area in western Minnesota  
29.17 for addition to the Northern Tallgrass  
29.18 Prairie National Wildlife Refuge. Subject  
29.19 to evaluation criteria in Minnesota Rules,  
29.20 part 6136.0900, priority must be given to  
29.21 acquisition of lands that are eligible for  
29.22 the native prairie bank under Minnesota  
29.23 Statutes, section 84.96, or lands adjacent to  
29.24 protected native prairie. A list of proposed  
29.25 land acquisitions must be provided as part  
29.26 of the required accomplishment plan and  
29.27 must be consistent with the priorities in the  
29.28 Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan.

29.29 **(e) Accelerated Native Prairie Bank Protection**  
29.30 **- Phase IV**

29.31 \$3,740,000 in the first year is to the  
29.32 commissioner of natural resources  
29.33 to implement the Minnesota Prairie  
29.34 Conservation Plan through the acquisition  
29.35 of permanent conservation easements to  
29.36 protect native prairie and grasslands. Up

30.1 to \$165,000 is for establishing monitoring  
30.2 and enforcement funds as approved in  
30.3 the accomplishment plan and subject to  
30.4 Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056,  
30.5 subdivision 17. Subject to evaluation criteria  
30.6 in Minnesota Rules, part 6136.0900, priority  
30.7 must be given to acquisition of lands that  
30.8 are eligible for the native prairie bank under  
30.9 Minnesota Statutes, section 84.96, or lands  
30.10 adjacent to protected native prairie. A list of  
30.11 permanent conservation easements must be  
30.12 provided as part of the final report.

30.13 **(f) Minnesota Buffers for Wildlife and Water**  
30.14 **- Phase V**

30.15 \$4,544,000 in the first year is to the Board  
30.16 of Water and Soil Resources to acquire  
30.17 permanent conservation easements to protect  
30.18 and enhance habitat by expanding the clean  
30.19 water fund riparian buffer program for at  
30.20 least equal wildlife benefits from buffers  
30.21 on private land. Up to \$72,500 is for  
30.22 establishing a monitoring and enforcement  
30.23 fund as approved in the accomplishment plan  
30.24 and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section  
30.25 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of permanent  
30.26 conservation easements must be provided as  
30.27 part of the final report.

30.28 **(g) Cannon River Headwaters Habitat**  
30.29 **Complex - Phase V**

30.30 \$1,380,000 in the first year is to the  
30.31 commissioner of natural resources for an  
30.32 agreement with The Trust for Public Land to  
30.33 acquire and restore lands in the Cannon River  
30.34 watershed for wildlife management purposes  
30.35 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,  
30.36 subdivision 8. Subject to evaluation criteria

31.1 in Minnesota Rules, part 6136.0900, priority  
31.2 must be given to acquisition of lands that  
31.3 are eligible for the native prairie bank under  
31.4 Minnesota Statutes, section 84.96, or lands  
31.5 adjacent to protected native prairie. A list of  
31.6 proposed land acquisitions must be provided  
31.7 as part of the required accomplishment plan.

31.8 **(h) Prairie Chicken Habitat Partnership of the**  
31.9 **Southern Red River Valley**

31.10 \$1,800,000 in the first year is to the  
31.11 commissioner of natural resources for  
31.12 an agreement with Pheasants Forever in  
31.13 cooperation with the Minnesota Prairie  
31.14 Chicken Society to acquire and restore lands  
31.15 in the southern Red River Valley for wildlife  
31.16 management purposes under Minnesota  
31.17 Statutes, section 86A.05, subdivision 8,  
31.18 or for designation and management as  
31.19 waterfowl production areas in Minnesota,  
31.20 in cooperation with the United States Fish  
31.21 and Wildlife Service. A list of proposed land  
31.22 acquisitions must be provided as part of the  
31.23 required accomplishment plan.

31.24 **(i) Protecting and Restoring Minnesota's**  
31.25 **Important Bird Areas**

31.26 \$1,730,000 in the first year is to the  
31.27 commissioner of natural resources for  
31.28 agreements to acquire conservation  
31.29 easements within important bird areas  
31.30 identified in the Minnesota Prairie  
31.31 Conservation Plan, to be used as follows:  
31.32 \$408,000 is to Audubon Minnesota and  
31.33 \$1,322,000 is to Minnesota Land Trust, of  
31.34 which up to \$100,000 is for establishing  
31.35 monitoring and enforcement funds as  
31.36 approved in the accomplishment plan and

32.1 subject to Minnesota Statutes, section  
32.2 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of permanent  
32.3 conservation easements must be provided as  
32.4 part of the final report.

32.5 **(j) Wild Rice River Corridor Habitat**  
32.6 **Restoration**

32.7 \$2,270,000 in the first year is to the  
32.8 commissioner of natural resources for an  
32.9 agreement with the Wild Rice Watershed  
32.10 District to acquire land in fee and permanent  
32.11 conservation easement and to `restore river  
32.12 and related habitat in the Wild Rice River  
32.13 corridor. A list of proposed acquisitions and  
32.14 restorations must be provided as part of the  
32.15 required accomplishment plan.

32.16 **(k) Accelerated Prairie Restoration and**  
32.17 **Enhancement on DNR Lands - Phase VII**

32.18 \$4,880,000 in the first year is to the  
32.19 commissioner of natural resources to  
32.20 accelerate the restoration and enhancement  
32.21 of prairie communities on wildlife  
32.22 management areas, scientific and natural  
32.23 areas, state forest land, and land under  
32.24 native prairie bank easements. A list of  
32.25 proposed land restorations and enhancements  
32.26 must be provided as part of the required  
32.27 accomplishment plan.

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

32.29 \$1,120,000 in the first year is to the  
32.30 commissioner of natural resources for an  
32.31 agreement with Pheasants Forever to enhance  
32.32 and restore habitat on public lands. A list of  
32.33 proposed land restorations and enhancements  
32.34 must be provided as part of the final report.



33.1 Sec. 6. Laws 2015, First Special Session chapter 2, article 1, section 2, subdivision 3,  
33.2 is amended to read:

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

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

33.5 \$1,500,000 in the first year is to the  
33.6 Board of Water and Soil Resources in  
33.7 cooperation with the Morrison County Soil  
33.8 and Water Conservation District to acquire  
33.9 permanent conservation easements within  
33.10 the boundaries of the Minnesota National  
33.11 Guard Compatible Use Buffer to protect  
33.12 forest wildlife habitat. Up to \$55,000 is for  
33.13 establishing a monitoring and enforcement  
33.14 fund, as approved in the accomplishment  
33.15 plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes,  
33.16 section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of  
33.17 permanent conservation easements must be  
33.18 provided as part of the final report.

33.19 **(b) Southeast Minnesota Protection and**  
33.20 **Restoration - Phase III**

33.21 \$2,910,000 in the first year is to the  
33.22 commissioner of natural resources for an  
33.23 agreement with The Nature Conservancy to  
33.24 acquire land in fee for wildlife management  
33.25 purposes under Minnesota Statutes, section  
33.26 86A.05, subdivision 8; to acquire land  
33.27 in fee for scientific and natural areas  
33.28 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,  
33.29 subdivision 5; for state forest purposes  
33.30 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,  
33.31 subdivision 7; and to enhance grasslands,  
33.32 forest, and savanna. A list of proposed  
33.33 acquisitions must be provided as part of the  
33.34 required accomplishment plan.

34.1 **(c) Protecting Pinelands Sands Aquifer**  
34.2 **Forestlands - Phase II**

34.3 \$2,180,000 in the first year is to the  
34.4 commissioner of natural resources to acquire  
34.5 forest lands in Cass, Hubbard, and Wadena  
34.6 Counties for wildlife management purposes  
34.7 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,  
34.8 subdivision 8, and to acquire land in fee  
34.9 for state forests under Minnesota Statutes,  
34.10 section 86A.05, subdivision 7. A list of  
34.11 proposed land acquisitions must be provided  
34.12 as part of the required accomplishment plan.

34.13 **(d) Protect Key Forest Lands in Cass County**  
34.14 **- Phase VI**

34.15 \$442,000 in the first year is to the  
34.16 commissioner of natural resources for an  
34.17 agreement with Cass County to acquire land  
34.18 in fee in Cass County for forest wildlife  
34.19 habitat or to prevent forest fragmentation.  
34.20 A list of proposed land acquisitions  
34.21 must be provided as part of the required  
34.22 accomplishment plan.

34.23 **(e) Critical Shoreland Protection Program -**  
34.24 **Phase III**

34.25 \$1,690,000 in the first year is to the  
34.26 commissioner of natural resources for an  
34.27 agreement with Minnesota Land Trust to  
34.28 acquire permanent conservation easements  
34.29 along rivers and lakes in the northern  
34.30 forest region. Up to \$220,000 is for  
34.31 establishing a monitoring and enforcement  
34.32 fund, as approved in the accomplishment  
34.33 plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes,  
34.34 section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of  
34.35 proposed permanent conservation easements

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

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

35.4 \$3,002,000 in the first year is to the  
35.5 commissioner of natural resources to  
35.6 acquire lands in fee and for permanent  
35.7 conservation easements in the Mississippi  
35.8 Headwaters and for agreements as follows:  
35.9 \$1,217,000 to The Trust for Public Land;  
35.10 and \$824,000 to Minnesota Land Trust,  
35.11 of which up to \$80,000 is for establishing  
35.12 a monitoring and enforcement fund as  
35.13 approved in the accomplishment plan and  
35.14 subject to Minnesota Statutes, section  
35.15 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of proposed  
35.16 acquisitions must be included as part of the  
35.17 required accomplishment plan.

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

35.19 \$910,000 in the first year is to the  
35.20 commissioner of natural resources to  
35.21 enhance forests in southeastern Minnesota.  
35.22 A list of proposed land enhancements  
35.23 must be provided as part of the required  
35.24 accomplishment plan.

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

35.26 Sec. 7. Laws 2015, First Special Session chapter 2, article 1, section 2, subdivision 5,  
35.27 is amended to read:

35.28 Subd. 5. **Habitats** 22,368,000 -0-

35.29 **(a) DNR Aquatic Habitat - Phase VII**

35.30 \$4,540,000 in the first year is to the  
35.31 commissioner of natural resources to acquire  
35.32 interests in land in fee and permanent

36.1 conservation easements for aquatic  
36.2 management purposes under Minnesota  
36.3 Statutes, sections 86A.05, subdivision 14,  
36.4 and 97C.02, to acquire interests in land in  
36.5 permanent conservation easements for fish  
36.6 and wildlife habitat under Minnesota Statutes,  
36.7 section 84.66, and to restore and enhance  
36.8 aquatic habitat. Up to \$130,000 is for  
36.9 establishing a monitoring and enforcement  
36.10 fund as approved in the accomplishment  
36.11 plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes,  
36.12 section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of  
36.13 proposed land acquisitions and restorations  
36.14 and enhancements must be provided as part  
36.15 of the required accomplishment plan.

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

36.17 \$2,000,000 in the first year is to the  
36.18 commissioner of natural resources for  
36.19 agreements to acquire land in fee and in  
36.20 permanent conservation easements and  
36.21 to restore and enhance natural systems  
36.22 associated with the Mississippi, Minnesota,  
36.23 and St. Croix Rivers as follows: \$475,000 to  
36.24 Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge  
36.25 Trust, Inc.; \$275,000 to Friends of the  
36.26 Mississippi River; \$400,000 to Great River  
36.27 Greening; \$375,000 to Minnesota Land Trust;  
36.28 and \$475,000 to The Trust for Public Land.  
36.29 Up to \$60,000 to Minnesota Land Trust is for  
36.30 establishing a monitoring and enforcement  
36.31 fund as approved in the accomplishment  
36.32 plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes,  
36.33 section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of  
36.34 proposed land acquisitions and permanent  
36.35 conservation easements must be provided as  
36.36 part of the required accomplishment plan.

37.1 **(c) Minnesota Trout Unlimited Coldwater Fish**  
37.2 **Habitat Enhancement and Restoration - Phase**  
37.3 **VII**

37.4 \$1,890,000 in the first year is to the  
37.5 commissioner of natural resources for an  
37.6 agreement with Minnesota Trout Unlimited  
37.7 to restore and enhance habitat for trout  
37.8 and other species in and along coldwater  
37.9 rivers and streams in Minnesota. A list of  
37.10 proposed restorations and enhancements  
37.11 must be provided as part of the required  
37.12 accomplishment plan.

37.13 **(d) Lake Bemidji South Shore Restoration and**  
37.14 **Enhancement**

37.15 \$1,650,000 in the first year is to the  
37.16 commissioner of natural resources for  
37.17 an agreement with the city of Bemidji to  
37.18 restore and enhance fish habitat on Lake  
37.19 Bemidji. A list of proposed restorations and  
37.20 enhancements must be provided as part of  
37.21 the required accomplishment plan.

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

37.23 \$990,000 in the first year is to the  
37.24 commissioner of natural resources for  
37.25 an agreement with the Sand Hill River  
37.26 Watershed District to restore fish habitat  
37.27 in the Sand Hill River watershed. A list of  
37.28 proposed restorations must be provided as  
37.29 part of the required accomplishment plan.

37.30 **(f) Shell Rock River Watershed Habitat**  
37.31 **Restoration Program - Phase IV**

37.32 \$2,414,000 in the first year is to the  
37.33 commissioner of natural resources for  
37.34 an agreement with the Shell Rock River  
37.35 Watershed District to protect, restore,

38.1 and enhance aquatic habitat in the Shell  
38.2 Rock River watershed. A list of proposed  
38.3 acquisitions, restorations, and enhancements  
38.4 must be provided as part of the required  
38.5 accomplishment plan.

38.6 **(g) Lake Nokomis Integrated Habitat**  
38.7 **Enhancement**

38.8 \$444,000 in the first year is to the  
38.9 commissioner of natural resources for an  
38.10 agreement with the Minneapolis Park and  
38.11 Recreation Board to enhance aquatic habitat  
38.12 on Lake Nokomis. A list of proposed  
38.13 enhancements must be provided as part of  
38.14 the required accomplishment plan.

38.15 **(h) Conservation Partners Legacy Grant**  
38.16 **Program: Statewide and Metro Habitat -**  
38.17 **Phase VII**

38.18 \$8,440,000 in the first year is to the  
38.19 commissioner of natural resources for a  
38.20 program to provide competitive, matching  
38.21 grants of up to \$400,000 to local, regional,  
38.22 state, and national organizations for  
38.23 enhancing, restoring, or protecting forests,  
38.24 wetlands, prairies, or habitat for fish, game,  
38.25 or wildlife in Minnesota. Of this amount,  
38.26 \$3,692,000 is for grants in the seven-county  
38.27 metropolitan area and cities with a population  
38.28 of 50,000 or greater. Grants shall not be made  
38.29 for activities required to fulfill the duties  
38.30 of owners of lands subject to conservation  
38.31 easements. Grants shall not be made from the  
38.32 appropriation in this paragraph for projects  
38.33 that have a total project cost exceeding  
38.34 \$575,000. Of this appropriation, \$596,000  
38.35 may be spent for personnel costs and other  
38.36 direct and necessary administrative costs.

39.1 Grantees may acquire land or interests in  
39.2 land. Easements must be permanent. Grants  
39.3 may not be used to establish easement  
39.4 stewardship accounts. Land acquired in fee  
39.5 must be open to hunting and fishing during  
39.6 the open season unless otherwise provided  
39.7 by law. The program must require a match  
39.8 of at least ten percent from nonstate sources  
39.9 for all grants. The match may be cash or  
39.10 in-kind resources. For grant applications  
39.11 of \$25,000 or less, the commissioner shall  
39.12 provide a separate, simplified application  
39.13 process. Subject to Minnesota Statutes, the  
39.14 commissioner of natural resources shall,  
39.15 when evaluating projects of equal value,  
39.16 give priority to organizations that have a  
39.17 history of receiving or a charter to receive  
39.18 private contributions for local conservation  
39.19 or habitat projects. If acquiring land or a  
39.20 conservation easement, priority must be  
39.21 given to projects associated with or within  
39.22 one mile of existing wildlife management  
39.23 areas under Minnesota Statutes, section  
39.24 86A.05, subdivision 8; scientific and natural  
39.25 areas under Minnesota Statutes, sections  
39.26 84.033 and 86A.05, subdivision 5; or aquatic  
39.27 management areas under Minnesota Statutes,  
39.28 sections 86A.05, subdivision 14, and 97C.02.  
39.29 All restoration or enhancement projects  
39.30 must be on land permanently protected by  
39.31 a permanent covenant ensuring perpetual  
39.32 maintenance and protection of restored  
39.33 and enhanced habitat, by a conservation  
39.34 easement, or by public ownership or in  
39.35 public waters as defined in Minnesota  
39.36 Statutes, section 103G.005, subdivision

40.1 15. Priority must be given to restoration  
40.2 and enhancement projects on public lands.  
40.3 Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056,  
40.4 subdivision 13, applies to grants awarded  
40.5 under this paragraph. This appropriation is  
40.6 available until June 30, ~~2018~~ 2019. No less  
40.7 than five percent of the amount of each grant  
40.8 must be held back from reimbursement until  
40.9 the grant recipient has completed a grant  
40.10 accomplishment report by the deadline and  
40.11 in the form prescribed by and satisfactory to  
40.12 the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.  
40.13 The commissioner shall provide notice of  
40.14 the grant program in the game and fish law  
40.15 summary prepared under Minnesota Statutes,  
40.16 section 97A.051, subdivision 2.