

M.L. 2027 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)
LCCMR Recommendations for FY 2028

Overall Topic Area	\$ Recommended	Percentage of Total Recommended	Number Recommended	Percentage of Number Recommended
Resiliency	\$7,865,000	6.07%	9	7.76%
Water	\$15,695,000	12.11%	17	14.66%
Education and Outdoor Recreation	\$56,104,000	43.29%	50	43.10%
Fish and Wildlife	\$22,995,000	17.74%	23	19.83%
Energy	\$1,017,000	0.78%	1	0.86%
Land	\$21,131,000	16.31%	13	11.21%
Administration	\$4,788,000	3.69%	3	2.59%
Total	\$129,595,000	100.00%	116	100.00%

Fund Source	\$ Amount
FY2028 - Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund	\$ 127,469,000
Unspent Funds from FY 2025 and FY 2026 Emerging Issues Account	\$ 2,126,000
Total \$	\$ 129,595,000

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As of July 30, 2026, the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) has selected 116 proposals totaling \$129,595,000 to recommend to the 2027 Minnesota Legislature for funding from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF). \$127,510,000 is available for appropriation from the ENRTF for FY 2028. The LCCMR is also recommending using \$2,126,000 of unspent funds from previous appropriations. In response to LCCMR's 2027 Request for Proposal (RFP), 434 proposals requesting a total of approximately \$375 million were received and considered through a competitive, multi-stage evaluation. The following recommendations range from funding the full proposal and dollar amount requested to partial funding for specific proposal elements.

Proposal ID	Title	Amount Recommended	Summary	Organization	Project Manager	Region*
A. Resiliency (9 Recommendations = \$7,865,000)						
2027-141	Measuring Enhanced Greenhouse Gas Capture by Restored Peatlands	\$1,072,000	This project would build upon ongoing work to quantify the effect of peatland restoration in northern Minnesota on enhancing greenhouse gas capture by focusing on more heavily degraded peatlands.	U of MN, Duluth - NRRI	Mark Green	NE
2027-154	Restoring Prairies, Supporting Communities	\$296,000	Support communities in west central Minnesota with transitioning mowed areas to prairie plantings, complemented by a regional campaign to increase awareness and adoption of prairie plantings for climate resilience.	West Central Initiative	Cedar Walters	Central, NW
2027-157	Evaluating Native Prairie Willow for Managed Landscape Applications	\$75,000	This project aims to characterize the soil moisture tolerances of Minnesota native shrub, prairie willow, to determine its suitability for managed landscape applications and potentially identify superior adaptable selections.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	Brandon Miller	Statewide
2027-160	Scandia Cemetery Shoreline Restoration Project	\$1,510,000	Construct a shoreline stabilization project for the Scandia Cemetery property to cease the uncovering of graves and exposure of human remains, prevent sediment erosion, and combat Lake Superior's weather events.	St. Louis County	Rachel Gregg	NE
2027-235	Building Resilient Urban Forests for Climate Change 2	\$820,000	Great River Greening will expand climate-resilient urban tree canopies in areas impacted by heat islands and tree loss through planting and establishment in partnership with cities, school districts, and volunteers.	Great River Greening	Katie Edmond	Central, Metro, SE, NW

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2027-242	Developing Biological Benchmarks for Resilient Lakes	\$342,000	We will evaluate biological recovery of Minnesota lakes after meeting water quality standards and identify any mismatches between chemical, contaminant, and biological standards inclusive of aquatic plants, zooplankton, and fish.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	Tyler Butts	Statewide
2027-347	Wildfire Early Detection and Prescribed-Burn Management Using Drones	\$823,000	We propose to develop autonomous long-range drone swarm systems equipped with advanced sensors for wildfire early detection and safer prescribed burns to improve air quality and wildfire response strategies.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	Ce Yang	Statewide
2027-435	TickWise Minnesota: A First-Of-Its-Kind Minnesota Lyme Disease Forecast	\$501,000	TickWise Minnesota will develop a first-of-its-kind Lyme disease forecast informed by participatory science and an Extension education program to help foster safe use and enjoyment of Minnesota's natural environment.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	Ryan Harp	Statewide
2027-558	Gap-Filling Weather Data to Improve Watersheds/Community Resilience	\$2,426,000	Improve Minnesota natural resource management by providing high-resolution weather radar data to fill observation gaps, enhancing flood forecasting, water quality monitoring, agricultural and community resilience, and wildfire awareness statewide.	Kandiyohi County	Ace Bonnema	Statewide
	Subtotal	\$7,865,000				
Water (17 Recommendations = \$15,695,000)						
2027-006	Freeing Minnesota Biosolids of Their PFAS Burden	\$799,000	Pending	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	Matt Simcik	Statewide
2027-035	Mapping Southwest Minnesota's Hidden Aquifers	\$606,000	Improve our knowledge of the limited groundwater availability in Southwest Minnesota by conducting airborne electromagnetic (AEM) surveys over Rural Water Districts and Source Water Protection Areas.	U of MN, MN Geological Survey	Aaron Hirsch	SW

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2027-057	Reduction of Persistent Industrial Chemicals in Minnesota's Water	\$209,000	MnTAP will protect and conserve Minnesota's drinking water through technical assistance that identifies and reduces the use of persistent chemicals of high concern and decreases water consumption in Minnesota industries.	U of MN, School of Public Health	Kelsey Klucas	Central, SW, SE, Metro, NW, NE
2027-073	Hybrid Deconstruction of Persistent PFAS Toward Complete Mineralization	\$452,000	This project aims to achieve complete PFAS destruction and mineralization while significantly reducing energy demand and costs through an innovative hybrid treatment train that integrates plasma, photocatalysis, and biological methods.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	Xiaowen Chen	Statewide
2027-075	A Comprehensive Approach to Advancing Forever Green Agriculture	\$3,806,000	The Forever Green Initiative will fund research, farmer adoption, and commercialization projects focused on protecting water, the climate, wildlife, and other natural resources by developing and deploying new over-wintering crops.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	Mitchell Hunter	Statewide
2027-121	Strengthening the Lake Steward Program: It's Shore Important!	\$204,000	Expanding the Lake Steward Program from 65 lakes to an additional 30 lakes, increasing awareness of natural shoreline loss and encouraging new norms around shoreline development and stewardship.	Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Protection and Education	Lily Carr	Statewide
2027-170	Mississippi Riverwalk Restoration and Public Access Enhancement Project	\$1,714,000	This project will restore and enhance the Mississippi Riverwalk corridor by improving public access, connectivity, and recreational opportunities while protecting St. Cloud's drinking water supply and supporting long-term environmental stewardship.	City of St. Cloud	Luke Langner	Central
2027-178	Biochar Applications for Stormwater Pond Management and Remediation	\$574,000	Researching how novel applications of biochar amendments in stormwater ponds can be used to maximize pollution remediation while minimizing negative effects on freshwater communities.	U of MN, College of Biological Sciences	Lea Pollack	Statewide
2027-227	Evaluating Sulfate, Chloride, and PFAS Wastewater Treatment Technologies	\$570,000	Revise existing evaluations of wastewater treatment technologies for chloride, sulfate, and PFAS to include new technologies, revised cost estimates, and an affordability assessment, providing permittees resources to make informed decisions.	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency	Ashley Kneemueller	Statewide

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2027-288	Novel Algae Based Sustainable Bioproducts from Mining Wastewater	\$300,000	This study will explore the potential use of mining wastewater as a growth medium for the robust microalgae with a focus on sustainable bioproduct production as an emerging circular bioeconomy.	U of MN, WCROC	Veluchamy Chitraichamy	Statewide
2027-293	Impacts of Winter Angling on Tribal Water Quality	\$455,000	Contaminant sampling and fish tissue analysis to determine environmental impacts of human waste from winter angling on Tribal lakes. Program evaluation and recommendations for improved waste disposal and fish consumption.	U of MN, Water Resources Center	Bonnie Keeler	Statewide
2027-332	Minnesota River Basin Water Storage BMP Prioritization	\$468,000	Create a Minnesota River Basin model to prioritize the locations of water storage BMPs throughout the basin and evaluate the effects of the BMPs on the Minnesota River.	Board of Water and Soil Resources	Rita Weaver	Central, SE, SW, Metro
2027-362	DNR County Groundwater Atlas	\$3,012,000	This project supports continuing development of County Groundwater Atlases for approximately three years. The goal is to provide these valuable water and resource management tools to every county in Minnesota.	MN DNR, Ecological and Water Resources Division	Vanessa Baratta-Person	Statewide
2027-418	Water Education and Well Testing for Karst Communities	\$295,000	SMM will provide Karst residents free nitrate well screening and train K-5 teachers with custom groundwater models to protect vital regional water resources and improve community science literacy.	Science Museum of Minnesota	Andy Chambers	SE
2027-432	Geologic Atlases for Water Resource Management-FY27	\$1,297,000	Geologic atlases provide maps/databases essential for improved management of groundwater, surface water, and other natural resources. This proposal will continue efforts and start new counties equaling about 3 atlases.	U of MN, MN Geological Survey	Barbara Lusardi	Statewide
2027-455	Inventory Aquatic Resources in Minnesota's Scientific/Natural Areas	\$635,000	We will survey water quality, identify aquatic bioindicators, and share the the amazing diversity of Scientific and Natural Areas across Minnesota to insure long-term management support for these treasured resources.	Science Museum of Minnesota, St. Croix Watershed Research Station	Mark Edlund	Statewide

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2027-492	HAB Early Warning Using Imaging Triggered eDNA Analysis	\$299,000	Pilot an automated harmful algal bloom early-warning workflow using imaging-triggered eDNA analysis. Deliver validated alert thresholds, manager-ready deployment playbooks, and a public dataset linking cyanobacteria dynamics to Minnesota water conditions.	U of MN, St. Anthony Falls Laboratory	Jiarong Hong	Statewide
	Subtotal	\$15,695,000				
Education and Outdoor Recreation (50 Recommendations = \$56,104,000)						
2027-083	Developing Leadership Pipeline for Minnesota's Natural Environment	\$941,000	Camp Fire Minnesota will provide comprehensive Environmental Education and self-development for 18,762 youth, reducing gaps in STEM education, access to nature; increasing the pipeline of Minnesotan land/water stewards.	Camp Fire Minnesota	Sara Lemke	Metro
2027-088	Minnesota Sustainable Foraging: Participant Research and Educational Outreach	\$649,000	Develop a community-informed foraging education program that promotes safe and sustainable foraging practices and meets information gaps identified by the state task force with research on foraging participation.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	Ingrid Schneider	Statewide
2027-092	Caring for Minnesota's Premier Hiking Trail	\$627,000	Renew 12 miles of the oldest section of the Superior Hiking Trail and professionally assess the next five trail sections in most need of rehabilitation and renewal.	Superior Hiking Trail Association	Lisa Luokkala	NE
2027-115	Minnesota State Trails Development	\$7,250,000	This project proposes to expand recreational opportunities on Minnesota State Trails through the development or rehabilitation of select new or existing State Trail Segments.	MN DNR, State Parks and Trails Division	Kent Skaar	Statewide
2027-120	Native American Veterans Memorial Plaza and Shoreline Restoration	\$466,000	Native American Veterans Memorial Plaza, loop trail connections, interpretive signage to honor Native American veterans, enhancing wetland habitat, new bioretention basin for stormwater and pond, shoreline, and prairie restorations.	Dakota County	Tony Wotzka	Metro

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2027-124	Indigenous Practice, Modern Threat: Brain-Tanning and CWD	\$389,000	We will explore and mitigate human-mediated dispersal and exposure to CWD prions by examining the potential for leather products to be contaminated with CWD prions through traditional brain-tanning practices.	U of MN, College of Veterinary Medicine	Tiffany Wolf	Statewide
2027-125	CP Rail Regional Trail - South Segment Construction	\$1,932,000	This project will construct a 4.7-mile, 10-foot-wide, paved, off-road, multiuse trail between Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail in Edina to the southern boundary of Hyland Park Reserve in Bloomington.	Three Rivers Park District	Maggie Heurung	Metro
2027-139	Mississippi River Learning Center - Peninsula Restoration	\$2,802,000	Peninsula restoration including earthwork, habitat creation, native plant establishment, and introduction of outdoor learning elements including a forest classroom, Indigenous education space, and river overlooks.	City of St. Paul	Anne Gardner	Statewide
2027-151	Increasing Education and Outdoor Recreation Camps for Youth and Families	\$199,000	Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center will provide meaningful, hands-on environmental education learning experiences to underserved rural and metro-area children and families through our day-use and overnight youth and family camps.	Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center	Bryan Wood	Statewide
2027-152	The Boundary Waters Is Our Backyard	\$616,000	Increasing access for Northeastern Minnesota students, teachers, and families to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness through immersive outdoor education, training opportunities for educators, and supportive family programming.	Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness	Alison Nyenhuis	NE
2027-166	Improving Access to Recreational Trails at Eagle Bluff	\$32,000	Improve and increase the use, safety and educational value of Eagle Bluff's campus trail system through accessible design and trail/trailhead improvements.	Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center	Colleen Foehrenbacher	Statewide
2027-175	Two Harbors Waterfront: Enhancing the North Shore Experience	\$1,479,000	The City of Two Harbors seeks to develop a park on 20+ acres of formerly industrial Lake Superior Agate Bay waterfront legislatively conveyed to the City by MN DNR.	City of Two Harbors	Kjersti Monson	NE

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2027-184	Minnesota Master Naturalist Teacher Institute	\$399,000	Minnesota Master Naturalist Teacher Institute trains 72 middle and high school teachers in Minnesota biomes, building content knowledge and confidence to engage students in rigorous scientific investigations and outdoor learning.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	Robert Blair	Statewide
2027-192	Mikinaake: Connecting Indigenous Youth to Land-Based Learning	\$749,000	Belwin will expand access to experiential outdoor learning opportunities for Indigenous youth and families, while incorporating traditional ecological knowledge in our collaborative restoration work at Belwin's Indigenous Learning Site.	Belwin Conservancy	Hannah Brithón	Metro
2027-193	Revitalizing Hunting, Fishing, and Trapping in White Earth	\$530,000	This project promotes participation in traditional subsistence activities and revitalizes traditional cultural knowledge of these practices in White Earth through the co-development of a community-based GIS and experiential learning classroom.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	Marissa Milstein	Statewide
2027-209	Blaine Wetland Sanctuary Trail Development	\$2,167,000	Construction of an ADA compliant bike/pedestrian connection via a wetland boardwalk and trail connecting various neighborhoods to city trails, regional trails, and other recreational and environmental resources.	City of Blaine	Brent Larson	Metro
2027-231	The Living Lab: A Science and Art Experience	\$178,000	Pop up labs and art studios in Duluth area engage adults in air/water quality experiments, converting science and data into art, fostering science literacy, stewardship, and connection.	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency	Jennifer Maki	Statewide
2027-236	Mobile Nature Center Serving Southwest Minnesota	\$258,000	Wild Compass Environmental Education will bring evidence-based, hands-on outdoor environmental education to schools, community organizations and county fairs throughout Southwest Minnesota, building on our strong history.	Wild Compass Environmental Education	Alisha Paplow	Statewide
2027-238	Future Stewards: Expanding Native Habitat and Outdoor Education	\$299,000	Great River Greening will enhance Minnesota schools by restoring school forests and creating on-campus outdoor classrooms with native habitat, while engaging students and volunteers in hands-on education and stewardship.	Great River Greening	Brennan Blue	Central, Metro, SE, SW

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2027-285	Casting Lines, Growing Habitat, Connecting Community	\$501,000	Hutchinson requests ENRTF funding to build two fishing piers, improve safety and shoreline habitat at Otter Lake, and expand equitable, accessible outdoor recreation for the community for residents to enjoy.	City of Hutchinson	Michael Stifter	Central
2027-307	Braiding Knowledge for Biodiversity Conservation	\$589,000	This professional development program will empower Native participants to harmonize Western approaches to conserving non-human relatives with traditional ecological knowledge to better protect Minnesota's natural resources.	Science Museum of Minnesota	Catherine Early	Statewide
2027-310	Season Watch: Nature for Every Generation	\$201,000	Season Watch strengthens multi generational stewardship by providing accessible seasonal education, classroom phenology training, and Indigenous ecological knowledge that increase understanding and care for Minnesota's land, water, and wildlife.	Northern Community Radio, Inc.	Sarah Bignall	Statewide
2027-312	Local Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas Grant Programs	\$4,365,000	Provide approximately 18 matching grants for local parks, trails, acquisition of natural and areas and trails to connect people safely to desirable community locations and regional or state facilities.	MN DNR, State Parks and Trails Division	Jenni Bubke	Statewide
2027-341	Mesabi Trail Multiple Segments Eveleth, Gilbert, and Tower	\$1,515,000	(1.) Construct the final 2.5 miles from West Two River to Tower and (2.) Reconstruct a 3.68-mile segment between Eveleth and Gilbert, including a 0.32-mile relocation.	St. Louis & Lake Counties Regional Railroad Authority	Sarah Ciochetto	NE
2027-372	Restoration of the Historic Laurentian Environmental Center's Mission	\$160,000	The Laurentian Environmental Center's unique ecosystem encompasses all aspects of Minnesota's natural resources. Shuttered since 2020, NESC will engage LEC's legacy partners to restore its long-term accessibility, stewardship, and sustainability.	Northeast Service Cooperative	Paul Brinkman	Statewide
2027-387	Leveraging Nature for Mental Health	\$300,000	This project will develop training and guidance for student support personnel and teachers in public schools that incorporate time outside and nature-based activities into mental health practices with students.	MN DNR, State Parks and Trails Division	Arielle Courtney	Statewide

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2027-425	Bugs Below Zero: Engaging Communities with Winter Science	\$404,000	Bugs Below Zero connects classrooms and communities to winter science, builds understanding of stream food webs through hands-on experiences, and fosters future scientific researchers and environmental stewards statewide.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	Rebecca Swenson	Statewide
2027-426	Increasing Access to Outdoor Recreation for 21,000 Minnesotans	\$1,501,000	Wilderness Inquiry will engage 21,000 Minnesota youth and families through a progression of outdoor recreation experiences that inspire learning, environmental stewardship, and future careers in the outdoors.	Wilderness Inquiry	Nell Holden	Statewide
2027-428	Glacial Edge Regional Trail - Cabbage Hill Segment	\$1,683,000	Construction of the Cabbage Hill Segment (5.0 miles) of the 14-mile Glacial Edge Regional Trail that will connect the City of Fergus Falls to West Red River Lake.	Otter Tail County	Kevin Fellbaum	Central
2027-429	Lake Elmo Park Reserve - Single Track Trail	\$1,413,000	Construct a 10-mile single track trail system in Washington County's Lake Elmo Park Reserve to enhance and expand outdoor recreational opportunities.	Washington County	Andrea Rehm	Metro
2027-480	Nature for New Minnesotans: Expanding Inclusive Environmental Education	\$300,000	Nature for New Minnesotans will improve existing ELL environmental education curriculum offerings by developing and piloting curriculum reflective of Dakota and Ojibwe perspectives.	U of MN, Bell Museum	Natalie Kennedy	Statewide
2027-485	Expanding Fishing Education and Shore Fishing Opportunities.	\$3,851,000	Expand fishing opportunities in urban areas, teach more kids and families how to fish, expand accessible shore fishing sites throughout Minnesota, and create a webpage with shore fishing locations.	MN DNR, Fish and Wildlife Division	Brian Nerbonne	Statewide
2027-499	Accessible Tree Canopy Walk at Eloise Butler Garden	\$644,000	This project will create a new accessible tree canopy walk at the entrance of Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden to enhance access to nature and protect a woodland ecosystem.	Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board	Adam Arvidson	Metro
2027-505	Voyageurs Dark Sky Science and Stewardship Education	\$959,000	Connecting communities to dark skies, citizen science, and Indigenous knowledge through classroom visits, outdoor recreation, stewardship programs, and educator residencies delivering 22,000 learning experiences statewide and building conservation knowledge.	Voyageurs Conservancy	Breanna Trygg	Statewide

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2027-508	River Bend Nature Center Outdoor Diversity Initiative Expansion	\$296,000	River Bend Nature Center will actively engage 300 underrepresented youth in reforestation and environmental education through a youth conservation workforce leadership program addressing Emerald Ash Borer impacts in Faribault.	River Bend Nature Center	Brad Bourn	SE
2027-511	Southwest Chaska Park - Phase 1 Improvements	\$3,047,000	Deliver phase 1 improvements at Southwest Chaska Park, including the nature play area, outdoor amphitheater, community/sensory garden, prairie sledding hill, stormwater features, trail nodes, and Big Woods nature trails.	City of Chaska	Ashley Cauley	Metro
2027-540	Fergus Falls Multiuse Recreational Building	\$1,624,000	Design and construction of a multiuse recreational facility on city-owned property bordering Pebble Lake, transforming an underutilized seasonal asset into a year-round outdoor recreation destination.	City of Fergus Falls	Klara Beck	NW
2027-546	Expanding Conservation Education Access in Northeast MN	\$270,000	The Lake Superior Zoological Society requests \$270,000 to expand conservation education across Northeast Minnesota by removing cost and transportation barriers for under-resourced youth and communities.	Arrowhead Zoological Society	Sarah Wilcox	NE
2027-551	Agriculture–Energy Innovation Talent Development Camp (Morris, MN)	\$391,000	Development of a weeklong summer residential educational experience for high school students on the campus of UMN Morris where students will learn about rural and agricultural energy innovation.	U of MN, Morris	Clement Loo	Statewide
2027-555	Tettegouche State Park Entrance Bridge Replacement	\$4,262,000	Removal and replacement of the Tettegouche State Park Entrance Bridge (Bridge 3459) spanning the Baptism River which serves as the main connection to interior public use areas.	MN DNR, State Parks and Trails Division	Scott Haugen	Statewide
2027-565	Connecting Minnesota Youth to the Lake Superior Watershed	\$444,000	Engage 8,400 Minnesota youth in hands-on watershed education, including co-designed programs specifically for underserved youth, and develop interpretive and inclusive materials supporting understanding of Lake Superior ecosystem and restoration.	Hartley Nature Center	Amy Demmer	NE, NW, Central

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2027-566	Pathways to Environmental Careers	\$858,000	This collaborative project creates a college-to-workforce pathway for underrepresented students interested in pursuing careers in environmental and natural resources by reducing barriers to successful educational attainment.	MN DNR, Operational Services Division	May Yang-Lee	Statewide
2027-575	Field Township Northwoods Nature Pedestrian Trail	\$797,000	The Northwoods Nature Trail project in Field Township, Minnesota, aims to create an accessible, immersive, and educational outdoor space with ADA-compliant trails, pedestrian bridges, boardwalks, parking, restrooms, and educational kiosks.	Field Township	Pat Chapman	NE
2027-582	Building Climate-Resilient Conservation Leadership in Minnesota	\$538,000	Through outdoor events, Climate Stewardship Cohorts, College Tours, and educational media, COPAL will strengthen conservation literacy, climate adaptation, ecosystem awareness, and recreational practices among communities historically underrepresented in outdoor experiences.	Comunidades Organizando el Poder y la Accion Latina	Geanella Ochoa	Statewide
2027-584	Growing Environmental Stewardship Through Trout in the Classroom	\$295,000	Trout in the Classroom programming provides daily natural resource education to students across the income spectrum, fostering genuine connections to our natural world.	Minnesota Trout Unlimited	John Lenczewski	Statewide
2027-586	Expanding Outdoor Leadership Through Minnesota's Natural Resources	\$350,000	This project expands equitable access to Minnesota's lakes, forests, rivers, and public lands through field-based outdoor recreation and environmental education delivered by Bemidji State University's Outdoor Leadership Center.	Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, Bemidji State University	Anna Carlson	NW, NE, Central
2027-598	Watershed Resilience: Youth, Science, and Dakota Cultural Knowledge	\$300,000	The Will Dilg Chapter engages youth, families, and volunteers in watershed monitoring, habitat stewardship, outdoor education, and Dakota-led learning to strengthen community resilience and protect water, land, fish, and wildlife.	Izaak Walton League of America, Will Dilg Chapter	Anne Conway	SE
2027-604	Asian Youth Arts and Environmental Leadership	\$921,000	Arts-centered environmental leadership program engaging Southeast Asian youth in outdoor recreation, citizen science, and watershed stewardship while expanding equitable access to Minnesota's parks, lakes, and natural areas.	Asian Economic Development Association	VaMegn Thoj	Metro

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2027-609	Sudheimer Park Project	\$983,000	The City of Waconia is requesting ENRTF funding to construct bituminous and natural trails, trail nodes, natural play areas, interpretive signage, and a boardwalk in Sudheimer Park.	City of Waconia	Casey Byers	Metro
2027-611	Mobile Water Safety Education	\$380,000	In response to urgent community requests for water safety education, this proposal builds upon a successful indoor Family Water Safety Workshop to launch an outdoor-focused mobile water safety initiative.	Three Rivers Park District	Jason McGrew-King	Metro
	Subtotal	\$56,104,000				
Fish and Wildlife						
(23 Recommendations = \$22,995,000)						
2027-031	Recovering and Restoring Rare Native Minnesota Eastern Hemlocks	\$170,000	Restore native germplasm and revive resiliency of native hemlock trees in Minnesota through collection and propagation of genetically-identified native seeds and cuttings. Enable repopulation project in collaboration with the DNR.	U of MN, Landscape Arboretum	David Remucal	NE
2027-041	Fond du Lac Deer Study - Phase 2	\$2,164,000	Deer are important to the FDL Band and future elk reestablishment could alter deer population dynamics. Baseline data will better inform deer management by the RMD and Minnesota DNR.	Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, Bemidji State University	Jacob Haus	NE
2027-109	Critical Information for Science-Based Management of Minnesota's Wolves	\$2,339,000	This 6-group, statewide collaboration integrates historic & current biological data, mortality & survival analyses, pack composition tracking, and community-engaged monitoring to establish science-supported management strategies, ensuring long-term Minnesota wolf population viability.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	Joseph Bump	Statewide
2027-111	Building a Superior Understanding of Minnesota's Small Mammals	\$632,000	We will mobilize data from small mammal specimens to identify factors driving Lyme disease expansion and support emerging pathogen research on these species that are key to ecosystem function.	Science Museum of Minnesota	Dakota Rowsey	Statewide

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2027-136	Enhancing Fisher Management with Population and Health Data	\$785,000	We will determine survival, reproduction, and disease exposure of fishers in southern Minnesota to evaluate population viability and vulnerability to changing conditions and provide critical data to guide fisher management.	U of MN, Duluth - NRRI	Michael Joyce	Statewide
2027-194	Advancing Bioacoustics Beyond Species Detection in Minnesota	\$299,000	We will link bird song characteristics to population vital rates—survival, productivity, and recruitment—transforming bioacoustic monitoring from species detection into demographic assessment for evidence-based conservation.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	Elena West	Statewide
2027-280	Expanding MN Prescribed Fire Implementation and Landowner Education	\$1,564,000	Grasslands are dynamic ecosystems that depend on frequent disturbance. This project will enhance grassland communities and wildlife populations through direct fire implementation and demonstrations, private landowner education & hands-on fire training.	The Nature Conservancy	Liz Beery	NW, Central, SW
2027-284	Moose Pathogen Surveillance and Genotyping Using Engorged Ticks	\$129,000	We will test moose blood found in engorged Winter ticks to determine what blood-borne pathogens are present in MN moose and develop a genotype database for identifying individual moose.	U of MN, School of Public Health	Jonathan Oliver	Statewide
2027-303	Lake Sturgeon Restoration at Great Lakes Aquarium	\$130,000	Great Lakes Aquarium aims to restore lake sturgeon to the St. Louis River through a new exhibit and rearing program, encouraging community involvement in conservation activities.	Lake Superior Authority	Jay Walker	NE
2027-329	Minnesota Mammal Atlas	\$294,000	The Minnesota Mammal Atlas will be a one-stop source for knowledge and data on all Minnesota mammal species. It will be used by agencies, scientists, students, and citizens of Minnesota.	U of MN, Duluth - NRRI	Ron Moen	Statewide
2027-345	Status of Mollusks in the Minnesota River Watershed	\$685,000	We will conduct mussel surveys to assess the status and potential recovery of mollusks (mussels, snails, pea clams) in the Minnesota River Watershed and to inform ongoing DNR conservation planning.	MN DNR, Ecological and Water Resources Division	Kathryn Holcomb	Statewide

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Proposal ID	Title	Amount Recommended	Summary	Organization	Project Manager	Region*
2027-360	Health Assessment, Tracking, and Conservation of Wild Turkeys	\$1,582,000	Through a statewide community science and telemetry research project, MNDNR biologists will estimate disease prevalence and evaluate effects on wild turkey behavior, survival, and fecundity to inform management.	MN DNR, Fish and Wildlife Division	Elizabeth Baker	Statewide
2027-402	Investigating Social Interactions and Relationships of Urban Coyotes	\$672,000	We will assess the habitat use, social associations and genetic relationships between coyotes in St. Paul to rigorously address the population structure of coyotes in Minnesota's urban landscapes.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	Geoffrey Miller	Metro, Central, NE, SE
2027-403	Integrating Biodiversity Data to Improve Conservation Decisions	\$1,709,000	Create a statewide health assessment and system-specific decision tools to conserve and manage MN's native plant communities; fill information gaps in MN's biodiversity data to inform modern, complex conservation challenges.	MN DNR, Ecological and Water Resources Division	Holly Bernardo	Statewide
2027-409	Invasive Carp Tagging, Tracking and Removal	\$1,035,000	Monitoring, tagging, tracking and removal of invasive carp will help to prevent their establishment in Minnesota. Tagging and tracking of native fish will increase our knowledge of impacts from barriers.	MN DNR, Fish and Wildlife Division	Brian Nerbonne	Central, SW, SE
2027-417	Evaluating American Kestrel Declines to Inform Conservation Action	\$424,000	The Minnesota Zoo and partners will study the long-term decline of American kestrels; addressing knowledge gaps related to demographics, diet, movements, and potential threats to inform conservation action.	Minnesota Zoological Board	Tricia Markle	Statewide
2027-442	Saving Common Terns: Decoding Drivers of Population Decline	\$290,000	Minnesota's state-threatened Common Tern faces declining colony productivity. This project integrates long-term monitoring, mercury exposure, and environmental data to identify drivers of decline and guide conservation actions supporting population recovery.	U of MN, Duluth - NRRI	Annie Bracey	Statewide
2027-451	Protect and Sustain Red Lake's Fisheries and Peatlands	\$1,206,000	Past peatland management has impacted Red Lake area water quality, fisheries, and peatlands. We will test how to best manage our peatlands to protect fisheries, natural resources, and traditional uses.	Science Museum of Minnesota, St. Croix Watershed Research Station	Mark Edlund	Statewide

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2027-456	AIS Solutions for Minnesota - Innovation, Translation, Leadership	\$5,186,000	Using innovative and collaborative approaches, MAISRC will launch 16-20 high-priority projects aimed at solving Minnesota's AIS problems. Impacts will be realized with strong end-user engagement and an emphasis on research-implementation.	U of MN, MAISRC	Nicholas Phelps	Statewide
2027-483	Moose Monitoring on the Leech Lake Reservation	\$597,000	We will monitor and assess moose population dynamics, spatial ecology and health data in a moose population that is outside of core moose range on the Leech Lake Reservation.	Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	Tanya Roerick	Statewide
2027-528	Assessing Recruitment Threats for Imperiled Blanding's Turtles	\$308,000	We will help conserve Blanding's turtles by improving our understanding of hatchling survival rates and genetic variation, to inform conservation actions and bolster populations.	Department of Military Affairs	Josh Pennington	Statewide
2027-574	Understanding Minnesota's Migratory Bats to Advance Conservation	\$478,000	We will advance bat conservation by deploying transmitters that leverage Minnesota's expanded Motus wildlife tracking network to document movement patterns and by evaluating new long-term transmitter attachment methods.	Minnesota Zoological Board	Mary Mallinger	Statewide
2027-600	Aerial Infrared Surveys of Sharp-Tailed Grouse and Prairie-Chickens	\$317,000	We will conduct aerial infrared surveys to locate and count display grounds of two native gamebirds vulnerable to habitat loss so population data are sufficient to inform adaptive management.	MN DNR, Fish and Wildlife Division	Charlotte Roy	Statewide
	Subtotal	\$22,995,000				
Energy						
(1 Recommendation = \$1,017,000)						
2027-412	Minnesota Solar for Soil, Water, and Wildlife	\$1,017,000	The project will strengthen natural resource and agricultural co-benefits of increasing solar deployment through co-designed educational materials, land use planning tools, outreach and engagement, technical assistance, and a train-the-trainer approach.	U of MN, Extension Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships	Melissa Birch	Statewide
	Subtotal	\$1,017,000				

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Proposal ID	Title	Amount Recommended	Summary	Organization	Project Manager	Region*
Land (13 Recommendations = \$21,131,000)						
2027-051	Precision Grazing – Virtual Grazing for Ecological Outcomes	\$618,000	Evaluate how grazing paddock size influences the effectiveness of virtual fencing for prescribed targeted grazing of invasive species, protecting sensitive habitat and optimizing ecological outcomes.	Pheasants Forever Inc	Josh Pommier	Statewide
2027-181	Engaging Landowners in Conservation Easement Stewardship	\$1,156,000	Providing technical guidance on best management practices for maintaining and enhancing RIM easements by engaging and empowering landowners and the SWCDs that they work with.	Board of Water and Soil Resources	Sara Reagan	Statewide
2027-276	Northern Minnesota Integrated Reforestation and Climate Resilience Initiative	\$1,359,000	Restore forests and urban canopy in northern Minnesota following the 2025 derecho through coordinated county, city, and university efforts to improve habitat, resilience, and long-term ecological function.	Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, Bemidji State University	James Harding	NW
2027-309	Integrated PFAS Capture and Destruction on Tribal Lands	\$579,000	Demonstrate a closed-loop system capturing and destroying PFAS from groundwater and vegetation at Prairie Island Indian Community, advancing scalable land-based solutions for protecting Minnesota water, ecosystems, and cultural food systems.	Prairie Island Indian Community	Rylee Hince	Statewide
2027-334	Expanding Minnesota Grazing for Resilient Landscapes	\$2,733,000	This project accelerates adoption of managed grazing practices and expands perennial forage planting in Minnesota to improve water quality, soil health, wildlife habitat, landscape resilience, and farm diversification.	Minnesota Department of Agriculture	Megan Lennon	Statewide
2027-336	Metropolitan Regional Parks System Land Acquisition Phase 10	\$2,749,000	Acquire properties with high-quality natural resources or natural resources restoration potential for the metropolitan Regional Parks System. This project will be matched over 100% with Council and local Agency funds.	Metropolitan Council	Jessica Lee	Metro

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Proposal ID	Title	Amount Recommended	Summary	Organization	Project Manager	Region*
2027-349	Minnesota Public Lands Conservation Grazing Coordination	\$3,601,000	Ducks Unlimited will improve grassland habitat on Minnesota's prairie public lands by facilitating conservation grazing to increase management through grazing coordinators, fencing and other infrastructure, and building long-term agency capacity.	Ducks Unlimited Inc	Logan Shoup	NW, Central, SW
2027-361	Protecting the Future of the Superior Hiking Trail	\$200,000	We seek to ensure a bright future for Minnesota's premier hiking trail by creating and implementing a robust Trail Protection Program that will secure the Superior Hiking Trail corridor.	Superior Hiking Trail Association	Lisa Luokkala	NE
2027-363	Native Prairie Bank-Private Native Prairie Conservation and Outreach	\$2,248,000	Native Prairie Bank (NPB) will help landowners conserve native prairie through multiple outreach methods, restoration and enhancement of 655 acres, and protection of 100 acres through conservation easements.	MN DNR, Ecological and Water Resources Division	Heidi Wolf	Statewide
2027-371	SNA Habitat Enhancement, Public Engagement, and Biodiversity Protection	\$4,514,000	Scientific and Natural Area (SNA) habitat enhancement (~2,400 acres), increased public involvement, and strategic acquisition (~200 acres) will conserve Minnesota's most unique and rare resources for everyone's benefit.	MN DNR, Ecological and Water Resources Division	Judy Elbert	Statewide
2027-408	Minneapolis Urban Forest Ecology Restoration, Phase 1	\$300,000	This project will restore a variety of urban natural areas within the MPRB's park system and increase access to healthy green space widely across Minneapolis.	Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board	James Shaffer	Metro
2027-498	Ecological Riverbank Restoration at St. Anthony Falls	\$290,000	This project restores approximately 850 linear feet of degraded, low habitat shoreline upstream of the Upper St. Anthony Falls lock, extending restoration at the lock by Owámníyomni Okhódayapi.	Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board	Adam Arvidson	Metro
2027-541	Conservation Finance on School Trust Peatlands	\$784,000	Implement conservation finance on 2-3 School Trust peatland sites to generate new revenue for public schools while restoring critical ecosystems and creating a replicable model.	U of MN, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences	Colleen Miller	Statewide
	Subtotal	\$21,131,000				

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Administration (3 Recommendations = \$4,788,000)						
2027-001	LCCMR Administrative Budget FY2028 & FY2029	\$4,375,000		Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources	LCCMR Universal Account	Statewide
2027-002	LCC Legacy Website 2027	\$3,000		Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources	LCCMR Universal Account	Statewide
2027-214	2027 Contract Agreement Reimbursement	\$410,000	Provide contract management to ENRTF pass-through appropriation recipients for approximately 170 open grants. Ensure funds are expended in compliance with appropriation law, state statute, grants policies, and approved work plans.	MN DNR, Grants Unit	Katherine Sherman-Hoehn	Statewide
	Subtotal	\$4,788,000				
	Total	\$129,595,000				