

SF4534 - 0 - Impact of Eagles on Loons; Study Required

Chief Author: **Nathan Wesenberg**
 Committee: **Legacy and Natural Resources**
 Date Completed: **4/1/2024 8:31:07 PM**
 Agency: **Natural Resources Dept**

State Fiscal Impact	Yes	No
Expenditures	X	
Fee/Departmental Earnings		X
Tax Revenue		X
Information Technology		X
Local Fiscal Impact		X

This table shows direct impact to state government only. Local government impact, if any, is discussed in the narrative.
 Reductions shown in the parentheses.

State Cost (Savings)	Biennium			Biennium	
	Dollars in Thousands	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026
General Fund	-	-	201	-	-
Total	-	-	201	-	-
Biennial Total			201		-

Full Time Equivalent Positions (FTE)	Biennium			Biennium	
	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027
General Fund	-	-	1.5	-	-
Total	-	-	1.5	-	-

LBO Analyst's Comment

I have reviewed this fiscal note for reasonableness of content and consistency with the LBO's Uniform Standards and Procedures.

LBO Signature: Jim Carlson **Date:** 4/1/2024 8:31:06 PM
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State Cost (Savings) Calculation Details

This table shows direct impact to state government only. Local government impact, if any, is discussed in the narrative. Reductions are shown in parentheses.

*Transfers In/Out and Absorbed Costs are only displayed when reported.

State Cost (Savings) = 1-2		Biennium			Biennium	
Dollars in Thousands		FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027
General Fund	-	-	201	-	-	-
Total	-	-	201	-	-	-
Biennial Total			201			-
1 - Expenditures, Absorbed Costs*, Transfers Out*						
General Fund	-	-	201	-	-	-
Total	-	-	201	-	-	-
Biennial Total			201			-
2 - Revenues, Transfers In*						
General Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Biennial Total			-			-

Bill Description

This bill creates a requirement for the Department of Natural resources to conduct a study on the impact that eagles have on loons in Minnesota, including an assessment specifically on the impact that the presence of bald eagles has on juvenile loons and the loon population. The bill requires submittal of a report on the study results to the legislature by March 1, 2025.

Assumptions

To complete a study and report within the timeframe specified in the bill, the report would be solely existing-data-informed and not based on a specific new study investigating the cause/effect relationship of eagle depredation on common loons. Any new study that could be performed would need to occur throughout the common loon nesting period to adequately address the interaction between bald eagles and juvenile loons, and there is insufficient time to design and begin preparations for a study prior to the May/June start of common loon nesting in Minnesota. A report within the one-year timeframe could include a literature review and general trend analysis of common loons and bald eagles in MN over at least a 20-year period but would likely not provide compelling causation information.

Estimation basis:

- 1 FTE to compile the data, conduct the statistical analysis of existing data trends of both species in MN, write up the results.
- .5 FTE to conduct a literature search on the specific topic within and beyond MN, conduct interviews with researchers (authors) of reported literature, compile and write up results to determine findings.

Effort would require 1.5 FTE

Expenditure and/or Revenue Formula

The average estimated salary for a DNR employee including support costs is \$134,000 annually.

1.5 FTE x \$134,000/FTE = \$201,000

Long-Term Fiscal Considerations

none

Local Fiscal Impact

none

References/Sources

none

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