

SF1464 - 0 - Sustainable Foraging Task Force Established

Chief Author: **Susan Pha**
 Committee: **Environment, Climate, And Legacy**
 Date Completed: **3/5/2025 4:00:48 PM**
 Lead Agency: **Natural Resources Dept**
 Other Agencies:
 Legislature

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	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
Legislature					
General Fund	-	9	7	-	-
Natural Resources Dept					
General Fund	-	421	196	-	-
State Total					
General Fund	-	430	203	-	-
Total	-	430	203	-	-
Biennial Total			633		-

Full Time Equivalent Positions (FTE)		Biennium		Biennium	
	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
Legislature					
General Fund	-	-	-	-	-
Natural Resources Dept					
General Fund	-	2.37	1.19	-	-
Total	-	2.37	1.19	-	-

Lead 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:** 3/5/2025 4:00:48 PM
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State Cost (Savings) Calculation Details

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

State Cost (Savings) = 1-2		Biennium			Biennium	
Dollars in Thousands		FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
Legislature						
General Fund	-	9	7	-	-	-
Natural Resources Dept						
General Fund	-	421	196	-	-	-
Total	-	430	203	-	-	-
Biennial Total			633			-
1 - Expenditures, Absorbed Costs*, Transfers Out*						
Legislature						
General Fund	-	9	7	-	-	-
Natural Resources Dept						
General Fund	-	421	196	-	-	-
Total	-	430	203	-	-	-
Biennial Total			633			-
2 - Revenues, Transfers In*						
Legislature						
General Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
Natural Resources Dept						
General Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Biennial Total			-			-

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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	
	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
Dollars in Thousands					
General Fund	-	421	196	-	-
Total	-	421	196	-	-
Biennial Total			617		-

Full Time Equivalent Positions (FTE)	Biennium			Biennium	
	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
General Fund	-	2.37	1.19	-	-
Total	-	2.37	1.19	-	-

LBO Analyst's Comment

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

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State Cost (Savings) Calculation Details

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

State Cost (Savings) = 1-2		Biennium		Biennium	
Dollars in Thousands	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
General Fund	-	421	196	-	-
Total	-	421	196	-	-
Biennial Total			617		-
1 - Expenditures, Absorbed Costs*, Transfers Out*					
General Fund	-	421	196	-	-
Total	-	421	196	-	-
Biennial Total			617		-
2 - Revenues, Transfers In*					
General Fund	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-
Biennial Total			-		-

Bill Description

This bill establishes a 17-member multidisciplinary task force administered through the Department of Natural Resources to develop recommendations for foraging regulations on state lands. Task force membership includes representatives from legislature, Department of Natural Resources, academic institutions, and community groups and organizations with interest and expertise related to foraging.

The task force is responsible for reviewing existing regulations on state lands; reviewing scientific data on foraging impacts on species resilience and ecosystem health; drafting recommendations for foraging guidelines on state lands in the form of statutory or rule language; developing educational materials and recommendations for public education relating to foraging; soliciting public input; and developing a permitting model which allows volunteerism as a payment option. The task force must submit a written report containing its findings and recommendations to the commissioner of natural resources and to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with primary jurisdiction over natural resources policy by December 1, 2026. The task force expires September 1, 2026, or upon submission of the written report, whichever occurs later.

Assumptions

DNR is the responsible administrator for approximately 5.4 million acres of state land comprised of multiple designations including: state forests; state and federal fish and wildlife management areas; state parks, state trails; waterways; school trust; consolidated conservation; and several other smaller acreage designations. Management practices are primarily governed by state and federal statutes for each land designation which direct allowable uses of land, priorities for management, and treatment of associated costs and revenues. This fiscal note assumes the general purpose and intended use of each land type as identified in state statute. Because of the varying land types and governance structures, extensive internal engagement within DNR will be required to provide effective and accurate recommendations to support task force duties. It is assumed the DNR's current interdivisional Foraging Project Team will inform DNR representation on the task force created by this bill.

Creation of educational materials will be limited as the task force recommendation report would not be available to incorporate into new materials until the end of the project timeline. This fiscal note assumes that creation of educational materials during the project period includes limited enhancement of currently available materials through existing DNR communications and Foraging Project Team work and that further recommendations and associated costs would be described in the required report.

Baseline data are not currently available for many species and ecological communities as they relate to foraging interests. This fiscal note assumes the task force will access currently available data sets, research, and information. Collection of

additional ecological survey data or conducting additional primary research is considered out of scope. Limited existing baseline data will limit the scope of recommendations included in the task force final report.

Project management, task force administration, facilitation of public input meetings and surveys, developing educational materials, and completion of report recommendations are assumed to be additional responsibilities needed to manage task force activities over the project timeline. These are reflected primarily as staff FTE costs but some activities could potentially be contracted at similar or higher cost based on comparatively sized projects completed.

Paid time for task force members is calculated only for state employees. Non-state employees are assumed to be compensated through the organization being represented or serving as volunteers. Travel and per diem costs for task force members (other than House or Senate members) are assumed to be reimbursable expenses and are included in this fiscal note.

Multiple public input sessions and surveys involving translation (Hmong, Karen, Spanish, etc) will be required to inform task force recommendations, including time to prepare, facilitate, and summarize results.

Expenditure and/or Revenue Formula

Task Force Expenses:

- 8 online meetings (2 hr/each), 8 in-person meetings (4 hr/each), 6 public input sessions
- Travel for in-person meetings for task force members: Average 200 miles per person (round trip) at \$.70/mile x 13 members x 8 meetings = \$14,560
- Task force per diem reimbursement and incidentals: \$5,000
- Public input sessions travel: Assumed with timeline and location that public input sessions would have task force representation but not full group. Average 200 miles per person (round trip) at \$.70/mile x 4 members x 6 meetings = \$3,360.
- Room rental, interpretive services, incidentals, 6 meetings @ \$1200/meeting = \$7,200

DNR Staff Time:

- Task force appointee staff time (attend meetings above, travel time, preparation, and follow up assignments): .12 FTE per year x 1.5 year = .18 FTE
- DNR project manager (coordinate task force meetings, facilitate input sessions, lead report writing, manage follow up, research, participation on DNR Foraging Project Team etc): 1 FTE per year for 1.5 yr = 1.5 FTE
- Communications specialist (developing education materials including audience research, product development, translation, outreach plan and implementation, etc): assuming communication implementation will require time beyond report completion (.5 FTE per year for 1.5 years = .75 FTE)
- Additional engagement for current DNR Foraging Project team (research, policy review, assisting task force, interdivisional coordination across land ownerships, etc): 30 hr/week distributed across approximately 10 staff: .75 FTE per year for 1.5 year = 1.13 FTE

Estimated Expenses by Type:

	FY26	FY27
DNR Staff	\$391,050	\$195,525
Travel (Task Force Meetings)	\$14,560	
Per Diem and Incidental	\$5,000	
Travel (Public Information Sessions)	\$3,360	
Room Rental, Interpretive Services, etc	\$7,200	
Total	\$421,170	\$195,525

Long-Term Fiscal Considerations

Because of the short timeline for completion and limited scope of the task force to form recommendations, long-term fiscal considerations are limited. However, recommendations resulting from task force activities may require substantial financial resources to implement and may have short-term and long-term fiscal impacts. Potential fiscal impacts related to implementation that may require future consideration include (but are not limited to):

- Technology and infrastructure for new permitting system
- Creation and maintenance of educational materials, signage, etc
- Volunteer program coordination
- Change in permit revenue may be positive or negative depending on structure
- Monitoring and enforcement

Local Fiscal Impact

N/A

References/Sources

N/A

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SF1464 - 0 - Sustainable Foraging Task Force Established

Chief Author: **Susan Pha**
 Committee: **Environment, Climate, And Legacy**
 Date Completed: **3/5/2025 4:00:48 PM**
 Agency: **Legislature**

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

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Dollars in Thousands	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	
General Fund	-	9	7	-	-	
Total	-	9	7	-	-	
Biennial Total			16			

Full Time Equivalent Positions (FTE)	Biennium			Biennium	
	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
General Fund	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-

LBO Analyst's Comment

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

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State Cost (Savings) Calculation Details

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Dollars in Thousands		FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
General Fund	-	9	7	-	-	-
Total	-	9	7	-	-	-
Biennial Total			16			-
1 - Expenditures, Absorbed Costs*, Transfers Out*						
General Fund	-	9	7	-	-	-
Total	-	9	7	-	-	-
Biennial Total			16			-
2 - Revenues, Transfers In*						
General Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Biennial Total			-			-

Bill Description

The bill establishes a Minnesota Sustainable Foraging Task Force that is composed of 17 members including two senators and two representatives. The task force must be established by September 1, 2025, and must meet at least monthly. The task force must submit a report containing its findings and recommendations by December 1, 2026, and expires on September 1, 2026, or upon submission of its report, whichever occurs later. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) must establish and staff the task force.

Assumptions

1. The task force will meet 22 times at minimum once a month beginning September 2025 and concluding November 2026. Eight of the meetings will be fully remote, eight of the meetings will be in-person, and six of the meetings will be for public input. The DNR provided the number of meetings and the format type. To align fiscal notes, we have used the same assumption in the legislature's fiscal note. For FY26, eight meetings will occur during interim and eight will occur during session. For this note we assume that the eight meetings occurring during session will be fully remote. For FY27, all six meetings will occur during interim. For this fiscal note we assume that all the in-person and public engagement meetings will be held within the Capitol campus or at DNR St. Paul facility with full participation of all legislative members in all meetings. If this was to change with meetings held at locations that are outside the of the Capitol campus or St. Paul, additional resources may be needed.
2. The bill does not provide for payment of per diems or for the reimbursement of expenses of legislators serving on the task force. However, legislative members could request reimbursement for expenses of engaging in legislative activity. This fiscal note is based on the assumption that the legislative members will be paid per diems and reimbursement for their expenses for interim meetings. Additional funds will be needed.
3. Legislative member meeting participation costs includes the following per member, per legislative interim meeting: per diem (\$86 senators, \$86 representatives), and \$106 round trip mileage (152 round trip mile average). Half of the legislative members will be reimbursed for lodging expenses (\$150/night senators, \$175/night representatives).
4. We assume that the cost of the non-legislative members of the task force will be addressed in the fiscal note by the DNR.

Expenditure and/or Revenue Formula

Task Force Legislative Member Meeting Participation Cost					
Cost Category	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29

Senate Member Mtg Participation Cost	0	4,278	3,209	0	0
House Member Mtg Participation Cost	0	4,478	3,359	0	0
Total Member Mtg Participation Cost (rounded)	0	9,000	7,000	0	0

Long-Term Fiscal Considerations

N/A

Local Fiscal Impact

N/A

References/Sources

Emily Adriaens, House of Representatives
Matt Gehring, House of Representatives
Eric Nauman, Minnesota Senate
Alexis Stangl, Minnesota Senate
Michelle Yurich, Legislative Coordinating Commission

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