

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

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Office of the Commissioner

651-259-5555



October 23, 2013

Senator David Tomassoni, Chair, Senate Finance Committee,
Environment and Economic Development and Agriculture Division
Senator John Marty, Chair, Senate Environment and Energy Committee
Representative Lyndon Carlson, Chair, House Ways and Means Committee
Representative David Dill, Chair, House Environment, Energy and Natural
Resources Policy Committee

RE: Report required under Minn. Stat., sec. 94.165

Dear Committee Chairs:

Minnesota Statutes, sec. 94.165, requires that the Commissioner of Natural Resources annually report to you the use of funds in the Land Acquisition Account for the purchase and sale of state land. This account is a source of funding for acquisition of lands within the outdoor recreation system, the payment of expenses incurred by DNR in rendering property for sale, and, starting in FY2014, the payment of expenses incurred by the DNR in exchanging state-owned property administered by DNR.

The attached report provides the sale and purchase information along with financial data. The account balance at the beginning of FY2013 was \$623,451, and the account balance at the end of FY2013 was \$925,489.

If you need any further information concerning the receipts into or the expenditures from the Land Acquisition Account, please contact Jess Richards, Director of the Lands and Minerals Division, at 651-259-5379.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Landwehr', written over a horizontal line.

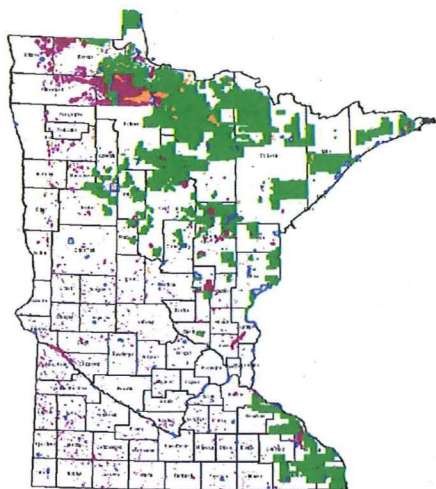
Tom Landwehr
Commissioner

c: Jess Richards



LAND ACQUISITION ACCOUNT

Fiscal Year 2013 Annual Report



(Green = State Forest, Purple = WMA's, Orange = SNAs and Blue = State Parks)



Creation and Purpose of the Account

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) administers 5.5 million acres of land within state forests, state parks, wildlife management areas, scientific and natural areas, aquatic management areas, and other recreation and access sites. The Minnesota Legislature established the Land Acquisition Account in 1984 under Minnesota Statutes 94.16 and 94.165 for the acquisition of natural resource lands or interests in land within the Outdoor Recreation System established in Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 86A.

Sources and Uses of the Funds

Receipts from the sale of acquired state natural resource land administered by the DNR are credited to the Land Acquisition Account (the "Account"). These credits provide funding to acquire additional state natural resource land in the Outdoor Recreation System and to cover the costs of sale of surplus state land. The Account helps the DNR reach the goals of: (1) consolidating state forest land into large contiguous blocks to increase forest management efficiencies and protect critical forest habitat; (2) acquiring privately owned "in-holdings" within state parks; (3) acquiring recreation access; and (4) acquiring lands with significant natural resource characteristics.

FY2013 Financial Summary

Receipts

The DNR sold five acquired parcels and credited proceeds to the Land Acquisition Account. The DNR also transferred parcels to a governmental entity.

The parcels sold covered a total of 27 acres and the parcels transferred totaled 266 acres.

The land sales were:

- 1.51 acres in Crow Wing County
- 2.35 acres in Marshall County
- 8 acres in Roseau County
- 1.4 acres in St. Louis County
- 13.56 acres in Washington County.

The land transfers were:

- 160 acres in Hovland Woods, Cook County, from the administration of the Parks and Trails Division to the Ecological and Water Resources Division, DNR, for the establishment of a SNA, with payment made for the land.
- 99.75 acres of the former Watline WMA to Watonwan County for recreational use.
- 0.21 acres in Washington County to DOT for highway purposes.
- 6.15 acres in Becker County to City of Frazee for use for a city park.

The land sale service charges credited to the Land Acquisition Account reflect the reimbursement of funds utilized from the Land Acquisition Account to pay for appraisals and professional services.

Expenditures

Land Acquisition Account revenue was used to pay (in full or part) for the land in the purchase of three properties: the Sunrise Lake AMA of 15 acres in Chisago County, the Zumbro River AMA of 5 acres in Wabasha County, and the Yaeger Lake WMA of 257 acres in Wadena County.

Forestry spent approximately 7 percent of the funds in FY 2013, Fish and Wildlife spent 66 percent, and Parks and Trails spent 26 percent. Divisions also utilize the Land Acquisition Account to pay for professional costs related to land acquisitions and the sale of surplus state owned lands (e.g. appraisals, legal notifications, and professional / technical services).

Fund Balance

The fund balance increased this year due to an increase in revenue while there was a similar amount of expenditures as in the prior year.

FY2013 Activities and Accomplishments

Approximately 53 percent of Forestry's expenditures were spent on land sale service charges with the rest spent on professional technical services charges for 5 acquisition projects, and option costs resulting in the completion in fiscal year 2013 of the acquisition of three fee acquisitions totaling 2,911 acres and consolidating state forest land. Approximately 38% of Parks and Trails expenditures and 34% of Fish and Wildlife expenditures were also spent on professional technical services for land acquisitions.

Receipts, Expenditures, and Fund Balances	
FY2013 Beginning fund balance	\$623,451
Prior year adjustment	\$0
Receipts	
Sale of land	\$327,532
Land sale costs	44,632
Sale of standing timber	39,183
Other receipts ¹	<u>33,731</u>
Total receipts	\$445,083
Expenditures	
Parks and Trails	\$37,219
Forestry	10,523
Fish & Wildlife	95,332
Ecological & Water Resources	<u>0</u>
Total expenditures	<u>\$143,075</u>
FY2013 Ending fund balance	<u>\$925,459</u>
Net change for FY2013	\$302,008

Notes

¹ Other receipts: Leasing of DNR lands, other agency deposits, lease wild rice farming, late charges and loan interest.

The 2013 Legislature enacted an amendment to Minn. Stat., sec. 94.165, so that the proceeds in the Land Acquisition Account may also be used to pay for expenses incurred by the DNR for land exchanges as well as land sales starting on July 1, 2013.

Contacts

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