

14 - 0251



Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
The State of Minnesota

State Office Building, Room G95 100 Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

January 10, 2014

The Honorable Thomas M. Bakk
Majority Leader, Minnesota Senate
226 State Capitol
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator Bakk,

On behalf of the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council, it is my honor to present a bill jacketed for introduction incorporating the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council's recommendations for FY 15 appropriations from the Outdoor Heritage Fund, as required by law. This proposed legislation contains the Council's sixth annual appropriation recommendations to protect, enhance, and restore Minnesota's prairies, wetlands, forests, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife which are consistent with and effectively address the Council's strategic statewide and regionally-based conservation and habitat priorities from the Outdoor Heritage Fund's 25-Year Framework.

The council received 56 requests totaling over \$269 million from a cross-section of public and non-profit organizations and levels of government. The Council's FY 15 recommendations include 38 proposed appropriations with expenditures totaling \$109 million.

The Council's recommendations are consistent with constitutionally-specified uses of the Outdoor Heritage Fund and promise to have lasting and positive impact on the state's natural resource based habitats. The following outputs are associated with these recommendations:

- 14,627 acres of wetlands and wetland systems protected, restored, and enhanced;
- 24,045 acres of prairies and prairie systems protected, restored, and enhanced;
- 5,999 acres of forest protected, restored and enhanced; and
- 9,670 acres of aquatic habitat protected, restored, and enhanced.

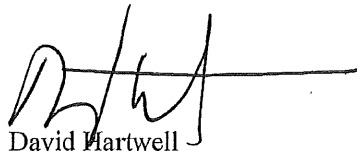
Restoration and enhancement of public lands accounts for the majority of acres impacted by these recommendations. Over 54,000 acres are to be affected and will improve habitat for a range of species, from duck habitat in the prairie pothole region, to pheasants in the tall grass regions, to trout streams in the southeast and northeast, to habitat in metropolitan regional parks and open spaces. Habitat restoration and enhancement activity puts money on the ground by creating and supporting jobs in local economies.

The council remains focused on recommending funding for those programs with the potential greatest impact on habitat heritage for future generations. Several on-going programs focusing on the prairie regions of the state are recommended for funding, including the Accelerating the Wildlife Management Area program, the Minnesota Prairie Recovery Project, and the Accelerated Prairie Restoration and Enhancement on DNR Lands. Together, these programs support the work of the Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan and will have a powerful impact on prairie and prairie systems. These programs are recommended for a combined total of \$15.82 million and will affect 14,697 acres.

The Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council is confident its recommendations will be broadly supported by the citizens of Minnesota. The Council stands prepared to provide any assistance and additional information necessary during the legislative session.

On behalf of the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council, I thank you for the opportunity to serve the people of Minnesota in improving our state's great outdoors habitat heritage.

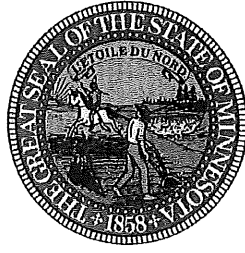
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Hartwell', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

David Hartwell
Chair, Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

C: Council Members
Senate Environment Finance Chair, Senator David Tomassoni
Senate Environment Policy Chair, Senator John Marty
Senate Legacy Committee Chair, Senator Richard Cohen
Executive Director of Rules, Thomas Kukielka

Attachment: Jacketed bill



Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
The State of Minnesota

State Office Building, Room G95 100 Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

January 10, 2014

The Honorable Paul Thissen
Speaker, House of Representatives
463 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Speaker Thissen,

On behalf of the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council, it is my honor to present a bill jacketed for introduction incorporating the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council's recommendations for FY 15 appropriations from the Outdoor Heritage Fund, as required by law. This proposed legislation contains the Council's sixth annual appropriation recommendations to protect, enhance, and restore Minnesota's prairies, wetlands, forests, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife which are consistent with and effectively address the Council's strategic statewide and regionally-based conservation and habitat priorities from the Outdoor Heritage Fund's 25-Year Framework.

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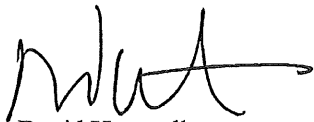
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David Hartwell
Chair, Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

C: Council Members
House Environment Finance Chair, Representative Jean Wagenius
House Environment Policy Chair, Representative David Dill
House Legacy Committee Chair, Representative Phyllis Kahn
Legislative Assistant to the Speaker, Urszula Gryska

Attachment: Jacketed bill



Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
The State of Minnesota

State Office Building, Room G95 100 Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

January 10, 2014

The Honorable Mark Dayton
Governor of Minnesota
130 State Capitol
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Governor Dayton,

On behalf of the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council, it is my honor to present a bill jacketed for introduction incorporating the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council's recommendations for FY 15 appropriations from the Outdoor Heritage Fund, as required by law. This proposed legislation contains the Council's sixth annual appropriation recommendations to protect, enhance, and restore Minnesota's prairies, wetlands, forests, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife which are consistent with and effectively address the Council's strategic statewide and regionally-based conservation and habitat priorities from the Outdoor Heritage Fund's 25-Year Framework.

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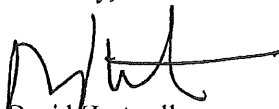
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Sincerely,

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David Hartwell

Chair, Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Attachment

c: Molly Pederson, Office of Governor Mark Dayton
Members and staff, Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

This Document can be made available in alternative formats upon request

State of Minnesota
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-EIGHTH SESSION

H. F. No. 1926

01/13/2014 Authored by Hansen, McNamara and Lillie

The bill was referred to the Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to natural resources; appropriating money from outdoor heritage fund.

1.3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.4 Section 1. **OUTDOOR HERITAGE APPROPRIATION.**

1.5 The sums shown in the columns marked "Appropriations" are appropriated to the
1.6 agencies and for the purposes specified in this act. The appropriations are from the
1.7 outdoor heritage fund for the fiscal year indicated for each purpose. The figures "2014"
1.8 and "2015" used in this act mean that the appropriations listed under them are available for
1.9 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014, or June 30, 2015, respectively. "The first year" is
1.10 fiscal year 2014. "The second year" is fiscal year 2015. "The biennium" is fiscal years
1.11 2014 and 2015. The appropriations in this act are onetime.

1.12		<u>APPROPRIATIONS</u>	
1.13		<u>Available for the Year</u>	
1.14		<u>Ending June 30</u>	
1.15		<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>

1.16 Sec. 2. **OUTDOOR HERITAGE FUND**

1.17	<u>Subdivision 1. Total Appropriation</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>108,620,000</u>
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1.18 This appropriation is from the outdoor
1.19 heritage fund. The amounts that may be
1.20 spent for each purpose are specified in the
1.21 following subdivisions.

1.22	<u>Subd. 2. Prairies</u>		<u>-0-</u>	<u>37,435,000</u>
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2.1 **(a) DNR Wildlife Management Area and**
2.2 **Scientific and Natural Area Acquisition -**
2.3 **Phase VI**
2.4 \$8,145,000 in the second year is to the
2.5 commissioner of natural resources to acquire
2.6 land in fee for wildlife management area
2.7 purposes under Minnesota Statutes, section
2.8 86A.05, subdivision 8, and to acquire
2.9 land in fee for scientific and natural area
2.10 purposes under Minnesota Statutes, section
2.11 86A.05, subdivision 5. Of this amount,
2.12 \$4,250,000 is for the Vermillion River
2.13 Wildlife Management Area addition in
2.14 Dakota County. Any funds not spent on
2.15 the Vermillion River Wildlife Management
2.16 Area addition must be used for acquisition
2.17 of land in the seven-county metropolitan
2.18 area. Development of a recreational trail
2.19 on land acquired under this paragraph
2.20 constitutes an alteration of the intended use
2.21 of the interest in real property and must be
2.22 handled according to Minnesota Statutes,
2.23 section 97A.056, subdivision 15. The trail
2.24 alignment and type for the development of
2.25 a recreational trail must be submitted to the
2.26 Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council for
2.27 approval. No recreational trail development
2.28 or recreational trail use is allowed unless it
2.29 is approved by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor
2.30 Heritage Council. Lands acquired with this
2.31 appropriation may not be used for emergency
2.32 haying and grazing in response to federal or
2.33 state disaster declarations. Subject to the
2.34 evaluation criteria under Minnesota Rules,
2.35 part 6136.0900, priority must be given to
2.36 acquisition of lands that are eligible for

3.1 the native prairie bank under Minnesota
 3.2 Statutes, section 84.96, or lands adjacent to
 3.3 protected native prairie. A list of proposed
 3.4 land and permanent conservation easement
 3.5 acquisitions must be provided as part of the
 3.6 required accomplishment plan.

3.7 **(b) Accelerating Wildlife Management**

3.8 **Area Acquisition - Phase VI**

3.9 \$10,350,000 in the second year is to the
 3.10 commissioner of natural resources for an
 3.11 agreement with Pheasants Forever to acquire
 3.12 land in fee for wildlife management area
 3.13 purposes under Minnesota Statutes, section
 3.14 86A.05, subdivision 8. Lands acquired
 3.15 with this appropriation may not be used for
 3.16 emergency haying and grazing in response to
 3.17 federal or state disaster declarations. Subject
 3.18 to the evaluation criteria under Minnesota
 3.19 Rules, part 6136.0900, priority must be
 3.20 given to acquisition of lands that are eligible
 3.21 for the native prairie bank under Minnesota
 3.22 Statutes, section 84.96, or lands adjacent to
 3.23 protected native prairie. A list of proposed
 3.24 land acquisitions must be provided as part of
 3.25 the required accomplishment plan.

3.26 **(c) Minnesota Prairie Recovery Project -**
 3.27 **Phase V**

3.28 \$3,940,000 in the second year is to the
 3.29 commissioner of natural resources for a
 3.30 contract with The Nature Conservancy
 3.31 to acquire native prairie, wetlands, and
 3.32 savanna and restore and enhance grasslands,
 3.33 wetlands, and savanna. A list of proposed
 3.34 land acquisitions must be provided as part of
 3.35 the required accomplishment plan and must

4.1 be consistent with the priorities identified
 4.2 in the Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan.
 4.3 Lands acquired with this appropriation
 4.4 may not be used for emergency haying
 4.5 and grazing in response to federal or
 4.6 state disaster declarations. Subject to the
 4.7 evaluation criteria under Minnesota Rules,
 4.8 part 6136.0900, priority must be given to
 4.9 acquisition of lands that are eligible for the
 4.10 native prairie bank under Minnesota Statutes,
 4.11 section 84.96, or lands adjacent to protected
 4.12 native prairie. Annual income statements
 4.13 and balance sheets for income and expenses
 4.14 from land acquired with this appropriation
 4.15 must be submitted to the Lessard-Sams
 4.16 Outdoor Heritage Council no later than 180
 4.17 days following the close of The Nature
 4.18 Conservancy's fiscal year.

4.19 **(d) Northern Tallgrass Prairie National**
 4.20 **Wildlife Refuge Land Acquisition - Phase**
 4.21 **V**
 4.22 \$2,450,000 in the second year is to the
 4.23 commissioner of natural resources for a
 4.24 contract with The Nature Conservancy in
 4.25 cooperation with the United States Fish
 4.26 and Wildlife Service to acquire land in
 4.27 fee or permanent conservation easements
 4.28 within the Northern Tallgrass Prairie Habitat
 4.29 Preservation Area in western Minnesota for
 4.30 addition to the Northern Tallgrass Prairie
 4.31 National Wildlife Refuge. Lands acquired
 4.32 with this appropriation may not be used for
 4.33 emergency haying and grazing in response to
 4.34 federal or state disaster declarations. Subject
 4.35 to the evaluation criteria under Minnesota
 4.36 Rules, part 6136.0900, priority must be

5.1 given to acquisition of lands that are eligible
 5.2 for the native prairie bank under Minnesota
 5.3 Statutes, section 84.96, or lands adjacent to
 5.4 protected native prairie. A list of proposed
 5.5 land acquisitions must be provided as part
 5.6 of the required accomplishment plan and
 5.7 must be consistent with the priorities in the
 5.8 Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan.

5.9 **(e) Accelerated Protection of Grassland**
 5.10 **and Prairie Habitat with Reinvest in**
 5.11 **Minnesota and Native Prairie Bank**
 5.12 **Easements**

5.13 \$3,000,000 in the second year is to the
 5.14 commissioner of natural resources and
 5.15 \$2,450,000 in the second year is to the Board
 5.16 of Water and Soil Resources to implement
 5.17 the Minnesota Prairie Conservation
 5.18 Plan through acquisition of permanent
 5.19 conservation easements to protect native
 5.20 prairie and grasslands. Of these amounts,
 5.21 up to \$112,000 to the Department of
 5.22 Natural Resources and up to \$65,000 to the
 5.23 Board of Water and Soil Resources are for
 5.24 establishing monitoring and enforcement
 5.25 funds as approved in the accomplishment
 5.26 plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes,
 5.27 section 97A.056, subdivision 17. Lands with
 5.28 easements acquired with this appropriation
 5.29 may not be used for emergency haying and
 5.30 grazing in response to federal or state disaster
 5.31 declarations. Subject to the evaluation criteria
 5.32 under Minnesota Rules, part 6136.0900,
 5.33 priority must be given to acquisition of lands
 5.34 that are eligible for the native prairie bank
 5.35 under Minnesota Statutes, section 84.96, or
 5.36 lands adjacent to protected native prairie. A

6.1 list of permanent conservation easements
6.2 must be provided as part of the final report.

6.3 **(f) Minnesota Buffers for Wildlife and**
6.4 **Water - Phase IV**

6.5 \$2,200,000 in the second year is to the Board
6.6 of Water and Soil Resources to acquire
6.7 permanent conservation easements to protect
6.8 and enhance habitat by expanding the clean
6.9 water fund riparian buffer program for at
6.10 least equal wildlife benefits from buffers
6.11 on private land. Up to \$112,500 is for
6.12 establishing a monitoring and enforcement
6.13 fund as approved in the accomplishment
6.14 plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes,
6.15 section 97A.056, subdivision 17. Lands with
6.16 easements acquired with this appropriation
6.17 may not be used for emergency haying
6.18 and grazing in response to federal or state
6.19 disaster declarations. A list of permanent
6.20 conservation easements must be provided as
6.21 part of the final report.

6.22 **(g) Cannon River Headwaters Habitat**
6.23 **Complex - Phase IV**

6.24 \$1,430,000 in the second year is to the
6.25 commissioner of natural resources for an
6.26 agreement with The Trust for Public Land to
6.27 acquire and restore lands in the Cannon River
6.28 watershed for wildlife management area
6.29 purposes under Minnesota Statutes, section
6.30 86A.05, subdivision 8. Lands acquired
6.31 with this appropriation may not be used for
6.32 emergency haying and grazing in response to
6.33 federal or state disaster declarations. Subject
6.34 to the evaluation criteria under Minnesota
6.35 Rules, part 6136.0900, priority must be

7.1 given to acquisition of lands that are eligible
 7.2 for the native prairie bank under Minnesota
 7.3 Statutes, section 84.96, or lands adjacent to
 7.4 protected native prairie. A list of proposed
 7.5 land acquisitions must be provided as part of
 7.6 the required accomplishment plan.

7.7 **(h) Accelerated Prairie Restoration and**
 7.8 **Enhancement on DNR Lands - Phase VI**

7.9 \$1,530,000 in the second year is to
 7.10 the commissioner of natural resources to
 7.11 accelerate the restoration and enhancement of
 7.12 prairie communities in wildlife management
 7.13 areas, scientific and natural areas, aquatic
 7.14 management areas, state forest land, and land
 7.15 under native prairie bank easements. A list of
 7.16 proposed land restorations and enhancements
 7.17 must be provided as part of the required
 7.18 accomplishment plan.

7.19 **(i) Anoka Sandplain Habitat Restoration**
 7.20 **and Enhancement - Phase III**

7.21 \$1,190,000 in the second year is to the
 7.22 commissioner of natural resources for
 7.23 agreements to restore and enhance wildlife
 7.24 habitat on public lands in Anoka, Benton,
 7.25 Isanti, Morrison, Sherburne, and Stearns
 7.26 Counties as follows: \$155,000 is to Anoka
 7.27 Conservation District; \$79,000 is to Isanti
 7.28 County Parks Department; \$901,000 is to
 7.29 Great River Greening; and \$55,000 is to
 7.30 Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation
 7.31 District. A list of proposed land restorations
 7.32 and enhancements must be provided as part
 7.33 of the required accomplishment plan.

7.34 **(j) Crow-Hassen Prairie Complex**
 7.35 **Restoration and Enhancement**

8.1 \$370,000 in the second year is to the
 8.2 commissioner of natural resources for an
 8.3 agreement with Three Rivers Park District
 8.4 to restore and enhance prairie habitat
 8.5 within the Crow-Hassen Park Reserve.
 8.6 A restoration and enhancement plan and
 8.7 a list of proposed land restorations and
 8.8 enhancements must be provided as part of
 8.9 the required accomplishment plan.

8.10 **(k) Prairie and Oak Savanna Restoration**
 8.11 **along Mississippi and Rum Rivers**

8.12 \$380,000 in the second year is to the
 8.13 commissioner of natural resources for an
 8.14 agreement with Anoka County to restore
 8.15 and enhance riparian and upland habitat in
 8.16 the Rum River Central Regional Park/Cedar
 8.17 Creek Conservation Area complex and
 8.18 in the Mississippi West Regional Park.
 8.19 A restoration and enhancement plan and
 8.20 a list of proposed land restorations and
 8.21 enhancements must be provided as part of
 8.22 the required accomplishment plan.

8.23 Subd. 3. Forests -0- 16,100,000

8.24 **(a) Preventing Forest Fragmentation**
 8.25 **and Protecting and Restoring Lake and**
 8.26 **Stream Habitat in St. Louis River**

8.27 \$2,800,000 in the second year is to the
 8.28 commissioner of natural resources for a
 8.29 contract with the Fond du Lac Band of Lake
 8.30 Superior Chippewa to acquire lands in fee in
 8.31 the St. Louis River watershed to be managed
 8.32 for fish and wildlife purposes. A list of
 8.33 proposed land acquisitions must be provided
 8.34 as part of the required accomplishment plan.

9.1 **(b) Northeastern Minnesota Sharp-Tailed**
 9.2 **Grouse Habitat Program - Phase V**
 9.3 \$3,150,000 in the second year is to the
 9.4 commissioner of natural resources for
 9.5 an agreement with Pheasants Forever in
 9.6 cooperation with the Minnesota Sharp-Tailed
 9.7 Grouse Society to acquire and enhance lands
 9.8 in Aitkin, Carlton, Kanabec, Pine, and St.
 9.9 Louis Counties for wildlife management area
 9.10 purposes under Minnesota Statutes, section
 9.11 86A.05, subdivision 8. Lands acquired
 9.12 with this appropriation may not be used for
 9.13 emergency haying and grazing in response to
 9.14 federal or state disaster declarations. A list of
 9.15 proposed land acquisitions must be provided
 9.16 as part of the required accomplishment plan.

9.17 **(c) Protecting Pineland Sands Aquifer**
 9.18 **Forest Lands**
 9.19 \$1,050,000 in the second year is to the
 9.20 commissioner of natural resources to acquire
 9.21 forest lands in Cass, Hubbard, and Wadena
 9.22 Counties for wildlife management area
 9.23 purposes under Minnesota Statutes, section
 9.24 86A.05, subdivision 8; to acquire land in
 9.25 fee for scientific and natural area purposes
 9.26 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,
 9.27 subdivision 5; or to acquire land in fee
 9.28 for state forests under Minnesota Statutes,
 9.29 section 86A.05, subdivision 7. A list of
 9.30 proposed land acquisitions must be provided
 9.31 as part of the required accomplishment plan.

9.32 **(d) Protecting Key Forest Lands in Cass**
 9.33 **County - Phase V**
 9.34 \$880,000 in the second year is to the
 9.35 commissioner of natural resources for a

10.1 contract with Cass County to acquire land in
 10.2 fee in Cass County for forest wildlife habitat
 10.3 or to prevent forest fragmentation. A list of
 10.4 proposed land acquisitions must be provided
 10.5 as part of the required accomplishment plan.

10.6 **(e) State Forest Acquisitions - Phase II**

10.7 \$950,000 in the second year is to the
 10.8 commissioner of natural resources to acquire
 10.9 lands in fee and permanent management
 10.10 easements, including for habitat purposes,
 10.11 in the Richard J. Dorer State Forest under
 10.12 Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,
 10.13 subdivision 7. A list of proposed land
 10.14 acquisitions must be provided as part of the
 10.15 required accomplishment plan.

10.16 **(f) Southeast Minnesota Protection and**
 10.17 **Restoration - Phase II**

10.18 \$5,770,000 in the second year is to the
 10.19 commissioner of natural resources for
 10.20 agreements to acquire land in fee for wildlife
 10.21 management area purposes under Minnesota
 10.22 Statutes, section 86A.05, subdivision 8; to
 10.23 acquire land in fee for scientific and natural
 10.24 areas under Minnesota Statutes, section
 10.25 86A.05, subdivision 5; to acquire land in fee
 10.26 for state forest purposes under Minnesota
 10.27 Statutes, section 86A.05, subdivision 7; for
 10.28 permanent conservation easements; and
 10.29 to restore and enhance habitat on publicly
 10.30 protected lands as follows: \$4,800,000 to
 10.31 The Nature Conservancy; and \$970,000
 10.32 to Minnesota Land Trust, of which up to
 10.33 \$160,000 to Minnesota Land Trust is for
 10.34 establishing a monitoring and enforcement
 10.35 fund as approved in the accomplishment

11.1 plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes,
 11.2 section 97A.056, subdivision 17. Lands
 11.3 acquired or lands with easements acquired
 11.4 with this appropriation may not be used for
 11.5 emergency haying and grazing in response
 11.6 to federal or state disaster declarations. A
 11.7 list of proposed acquisitions, permanent
 11.8 conservation easements, and restorations and
 11.9 enhancements must be provided as part of
 11.10 the required accomplishment plan.

11.11 **(g) Camp Ripley Partnership - Phase IV**
 11.12 \$1,200,000 in the second year is to the
 11.13 Board of Water and Soil Resources in
 11.14 cooperation with the Morrison County Soil
 11.15 and Water Conservation District to acquire
 11.16 permanent conservation easements within
 11.17 the boundaries of the Minnesota National
 11.18 Guard Compatible Use Buffer to protect
 11.19 forest wildlife habitat. Up to \$45,000 is for
 11.20 establishing a monitoring and enforcement
 11.21 fund as approved in the accomplishment plan
 11.22 and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section
 11.23 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of permanent
 11.24 conservation easements must be provided as
 11.25 part of the final report.

11.26 **(h) Floodplain Forest Enhancement on**
 11.27 **Mississippi River**
 11.28 \$300,000 is to the commissioner of natural
 11.29 resources for an agreement with National
 11.30 Audubon Society to enhance floodplain forest
 11.31 habitat for wildlife on public lands along the
 11.32 Mississippi River. A list of restorations and
 11.33 enhancements must be provided as part of
 11.34 the required accomplishment plan.

11.35 Subd. 4. **Wetlands** -0- 24,010,000

- 12.1 **(a) Reinvest in Minnesota Wetlands**
- 12.2 **Reserve Program Partnership - Phase VI**
- 12.3 \$9,710,000 in the second year is to the
- 12.4 Board of Soil and Water Resources to
- 12.5 acquire permanent conservation easements
- 12.6 and restore wetlands and associated upland
- 12.7 habitat in cooperation with the United
- 12.8 States Department of Agriculture and
- 12.9 Ducks Unlimited, including \$645,000
- 12.10 for an agreement with Ducks Unlimited
- 12.11 to provide technical and bioengineering
- 12.12 assistance. Up to \$190,000 to the Board of
- 12.13 Water and Soil Resources is for establishing
- 12.14 a monitoring and enforcement fund as
- 12.15 approved in the accomplishment plan and
- 12.16 subject to Minnesota Statutes, section
- 12.17 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of permanent
- 12.18 conservation easements must be provided as
- 12.19 part of the final report.
- 12.20 **(b) Accelerating Waterfowl Production**
- 12.21 **Area Acquisition - Phase VI**
- 12.22 \$7,280,000 in the second year is to the
- 12.23 commissioner of natural resources for a
- 12.24 contract with Pheasants Forever to acquire
- 12.25 land in fee to be designated and managed as
- 12.26 waterfowl production areas in Minnesota,
- 12.27 in cooperation with the United States Fish
- 12.28 and Wildlife Service. A list of proposed land
- 12.29 acquisitions must be provided as part of the
- 12.30 required accomplishment plan.
- 12.31 **(c) Living Shallow Lakes and Wetland**
- 12.32 **Initiative - Phase IV**
- 12.33 \$4,910,000 in the second year is to the
- 12.34 commissioner of natural resources for
- 12.35 an agreement with Ducks Unlimited to

13.1 assess, enhance, and restore shallow lakes
 13.2 and wetlands, including bioengineering,
 13.3 technical assistance, feasibility investigation,
 13.4 survey, and design to develop new
 13.5 enhancement and restoration projects for
 13.6 future implementation. A list of proposed
 13.7 enhancements and restorations to be
 13.8 constructed through this appropriation
 13.9 must be provided as part of the required
 13.10 accomplishment plan.

13.11 **(d) Wild Rice Shoreland Protection**

13.12 **Program - Phase III**

13.13 \$197,700 in the second year is to the
 13.14 commissioner of natural resources for
 13.15 acquisition of land in fee and \$862,300 is to
 13.16 the Board of Water and Soil Resources to
 13.17 acquire permanent conservation easements
 13.18 on wild rice lake shoreland habitat for native
 13.19 wild rice bed protection. Of this amount, up
 13.20 to \$70,000 to the Board of Water and Soil
 13.21 Resources is for establishing a monitoring
 13.22 and enforcement fund as approved in
 13.23 the accomplishment plan and subject to
 13.24 Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056,
 13.25 subdivision 17. A list of proposed fee land
 13.26 acquisitions must be included as part of
 13.27 the required accomplishment plan by the
 13.28 Department of Natural Resources and a list
 13.29 of permanent conservation easements must
 13.30 be provided as part of the final report by the
 13.31 Board of Water and Soil Resources.

13.32 **(e) Accelerated Shallow Lakes and**

13.33 **Wetlands Enhancement - Phase VI**

13.34 \$1,050,000 in the second year is to the
 13.35 commissioner of natural resources to enhance

14.1 and restore shallow lakes statewide. A list of
 14.2 proposed land restorations and enhancements
 14.3 must be provided as part of the required
 14.4 accomplishment plan.

14.5 Subd. 5. Habitats -0- 30,190,000

14.6 **(a) DNR Aquatic Habitat - Phase VI**

14.7 \$2,560,000 in the second year is to the
 14.8 commissioner of natural resources to
 14.9 acquire interests in land in fee for aquatic
 14.10 management purposes under Minnesota
 14.11 Statutes, sections 86A.05, subdivision 14,
 14.12 and 97C.02, and to restore and enhance
 14.13 aquatic habitat. A list of proposed
 14.14 land acquisitions and restorations and
 14.15 enhancements must be provided as part of
 14.16 the required accomplishment plan.

14.17 **(b) Fisheries Habitat Protection on**
 14.18 **Strategic North Central Minnesota Lakes**

14.19 \$2,130,000 in the second year is to the
 14.20 commissioner of natural resources for
 14.21 agreements with the Leech Lake Area
 14.22 Watershed Foundation and Minnesota Land
 14.23 Trust to acquire land in fee and permanent
 14.24 conservation easements to sustain healthy
 14.25 fish habitat on lakes in Aitkin, Cass, Crow
 14.26 Wing, and Hubbard Counties as follows:
 14.27 \$1,150,300 to Leech Lake Area Watershed
 14.28 Foundation; and \$979,700 to Minnesota
 14.29 Land Trust, of which up to \$120,000 to
 14.30 Minnesota Land Trust is for establishing
 14.31 a monitoring and enforcement fund as
 14.32 approved in the accomplishment plan and
 14.33 subject to Minnesota Statutes, section
 14.34 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of proposed

15.1 land acquisitions must be provided as part of
 15.2 the required accomplishment plan.

15.3 **(c) Habitat Protection in Dakota County**
 15.4 **- Phase V**

15.5 \$1,190,000 in the second year is to the
 15.6 commissioner of natural resources for a
 15.7 contract with Dakota County to acquire
 15.8 permanent conservation easements and land
 15.9 in fee and to restore and enhance habitats in
 15.10 rivers and lake watersheds in Dakota County.
 15.11 Up to \$15,000 to Dakota County is for
 15.12 establishing a monitoring and enforcement
 15.13 fund as approved in the accomplishment
 15.14 plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes,
 15.15 section 97A.056, subdivision 17. Lands
 15.16 acquired or lands with easements acquired
 15.17 with this appropriation may not be used for
 15.18 emergency haying and grazing in response to
 15.19 federal or state disaster declarations. A list of
 15.20 proposed land acquisitions and restorations
 15.21 and enhancements must be provided as part
 15.22 of the required accomplishment plan.

15.23 **(d) Metro Big Rivers - Phase V**

15.24 \$2,650,000 in the second year is to the
 15.25 commissioner of natural resources for
 15.26 agreements to acquire land in fee and
 15.27 permanent conservation easements and
 15.28 to restore and enhance natural systems
 15.29 associated with the Mississippi, Minnesota,
 15.30 and St. Croix Rivers as follows: \$600,000
 15.31 to Minnesota Valley National Wildlife
 15.32 Refuge Trust, Inc.; \$160,000 to Friends of
 15.33 the Mississippi River; \$400,000 to Great
 15.34 River Greening; \$590,000 to Minnesota
 15.35 Land Trust, of which up to \$77,000 is for

16.1 establishing a monitoring and enforcement
 16.2 fund as approved in the accomplishment plan
 16.3 and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section
 16.4 97A.056, subdivision 17; and \$900,000 to
 16.5 The Trust for Public Land. Lands acquired
 16.6 or lands with easements acquired with this
 16.7 appropriation may not be used for emergency
 16.8 haying and grazing in response to federal
 16.9 or state disaster declarations. A list of
 16.10 proposed land acquisitions and permanent
 16.11 conservation easements must be provided as
 16.12 part of the required accomplishment plan.

16.13 **(e) Mustinka River Fish and Wildlife**

16.14 **Habitat Corridor Rehabilitation**

16.15 \$2,440,000 in the second year is to the
 16.16 commissioner of natural resources for an
 16.17 agreement with the Bois de Sioux Watershed
 16.18 District to acquire land in fee and to
 16.19 restore natural systems associated with the
 16.20 Mustinka River located within the Bois de
 16.21 Sioux Watershed. Lands acquired with this
 16.22 appropriation may not be used for emergency
 16.23 haying and grazing in response to federal or
 16.24 state disaster declarations. A list of proposed
 16.25 land acquisitions must be provided as part of
 16.26 the required accomplishment plan.

16.27 **(f) Minnesota Trout Unlimited Coldwater**

16.28 **Fish Habitat Enhancement and**

16.29 **Restoration - Phase VI**

16.30 \$1,900,000 in the second year is to the
 16.31 commissioner of natural resources for an
 16.32 agreement with Minnesota Trout Unlimited
 16.33 to restore and enhance habitat for trout
 16.34 and other species in and along coldwater
 16.35 rivers and streams in Minnesota. A list of

17.1 proposed land restorations and enhancements
 17.2 must be provided as part of the required
 17.3 accomplishment plan.

17.4 **(g) St. Louis River Restoration Initiative -**
 17.5 **Phase II**

17.6 \$2,290,000 in the second year is to the
 17.7 commissioner of natural resources to restore
 17.8 habitat in the lower St. Louis River estuary.
 17.9 Of this appropriation, up to \$500,000 is for
 17.10 an agreement with Minnesota Land Trust. A
 17.11 list of proposed restorations must be provided
 17.12 as part of the required accomplishment plan.

17.13 **(h) Knife River Habitat Rehabilitation -**
 17.14 **Phase II**

17.15 \$1,410,000 in the second year is to the
 17.16 commissioner of natural resources for an
 17.17 agreement with the Lake Superior Steelhead
 17.18 Association to enhance trout habitat in the
 17.19 Knife River watershed. A list of proposed
 17.20 enhancements must be provided as part of
 17.21 the required accomplishment plan.

17.22 **(i) Restoration and Enhancement of**
 17.23 **Washington County Public Lands**

17.24 \$430,000 in the second year is to the
 17.25 commissioner of natural resources for an
 17.26 agreement with Washington County to
 17.27 restore and enhance habitat on public lands
 17.28 in Washington County. A restoration and
 17.29 enhancement plan and a list of proposed
 17.30 land restorations and enhancements
 17.31 must be provided as part of the required
 17.32 accomplishment plan.

17.33 **(j) Wirth Park Enhancements**

18.1 \$600,000 in the second year is to the
 18.2 commissioner of natural resources for an
 18.3 agreement with the Minneapolis Park Board
 18.4 to enhance riparian and upland habitat
 18.5 within Wirth Park in Hennepin County.
 18.6 A restoration and enhancement plan and
 18.7 a list of proposed land restorations and
 18.8 enhancements must be provided as part of
 18.9 the required accomplishment plan.

18.10 **(k) Evaluate Effectiveness of Aquatic**
 18.11 **Invasive Species Prevention Strategies**

18.12 \$4,040,000 in the second year is to the
 18.13 commissioner of natural resources for an
 18.14 agreement with the Central Minnesota
 18.15 Initiative Fund to develop a series of pilot
 18.16 projects to enhance aquatic habitat by
 18.17 preventing the spread of aquatic invasive
 18.18 species. All pilot projects must be conducted
 18.19 on a reimbursement basis and require a
 18.20 match of nonoutdoor heritage fund dollars. A
 18.21 required evaluation of results must be funded
 18.22 with nonoutdoor heritage fund dollars. A
 18.23 list of pilot projects must be included in the
 18.24 required final report.

18.25 **(l) Conservation Partners Legacy Grant**
 18.26 **Program - Phase V**

18.27 \$4,550,000 in the second year is to the
 18.28 commissioner of natural resources for a
 18.29 program to provide competitive, matching
 18.30 grants of up to \$400,000 to local, regional,
 18.31 state, and national organizations for
 18.32 enhancing, restoring, or protecting forests,
 18.33 wetlands, prairies, or habitat for fish, game,
 18.34 or wildlife in Minnesota. Grants shall not
 18.35 be made for activities required to fulfill

19.1 the duties of owners of lands subject to
19.2 conservation easements. Grants shall not be
19.3 made from the appropriation in this paragraph
19.4 for projects that have a total project cost
19.5 exceeding \$575,000. Of this appropriation,
19.6 \$460,000 may be spent for personnel costs
19.7 and other direct and necessary administrative
19.8 costs. Grantees may acquire land or interests
19.9 in land. Easements must be permanent.
19.10 Grants may not be used to establish easement
19.11 stewardship accounts. Land acquired in fee
19.12 must be open to hunting and fishing during
19.13 the open season unless otherwise provided
19.14 by state law. Lands acquired or lands with
19.15 easements acquired with this appropriation
19.16 may not be used for emergency haying and
19.17 grazing in response to federal or state disaster
19.18 declarations. The program shall require a
19.19 match of at least ten percent from nonstate
19.20 sources for all grants. The match may be cash
19.21 or in-kind resources. For grant applications
19.22 of \$25,000 or less, the commissioner shall
19.23 provide a separate, simplified application
19.24 process. Subject to Minnesota Statutes, the
19.25 commissioner of natural resources shall,
19.26 when evaluating projects of equal value,
19.27 give priority to organizations that have a
19.28 history of receiving or charter to receive
19.29 private contributions for local conservation
19.30 or habitat projects. If acquiring land or a
19.31 conservation easement, priority shall be
19.32 given to projects associated with or within
19.33 one mile of existing wildlife management
19.34 areas under Minnesota Statutes, section
19.35 86A.05, subdivision 8; scientific and natural
19.36 areas under Minnesota Statutes, sections

20.1 84.033 and 86A.05, subdivision 5; or aquatic
20.2 management areas under Minnesota Statutes,
20.3 sections 86A.05, subdivision 14, and 97C.02.
20.4 All restoration or enhancement projects
20.5 must be on land permanently protected by
20.6 a permanent covenant ensuring perpetual
20.7 maintenance and protection of restored
20.8 and enhanced habitat, by a conservation
20.9 easement, or by public ownership or in public
20.10 waters as defined in Minnesota Statutes,
20.11 section 103G.005, subdivision 15. Priority
20.12 shall be given to restoration and enhancement
20.13 projects on public lands. Minnesota Statutes,
20.14 section 97A.056, subdivision 13, applies
20.15 to grants awarded under this paragraph.
20.16 This appropriation is available until June
20.17 30, 2018. No less than five percent of the
20.18 amount of each grant must be held back from
20.19 reimbursement until the grant recipient has
20.20 completed a grant accomplishment report by
20.21 the deadline and in the form prescribed by
20.22 and satisfactory to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor
20.23 Heritage Council. The commissioner shall
20.24 provide notice of the grant program in
20.25 the game and fish law summary prepared
20.26 under Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.051,
20.27 subdivision 2.

20.28 **(m) Conservation Partners Legacy Metro**
20.29 **Grant Program**

20.30 \$4,000,000 in the second year is to the
20.31 commissioner of natural resources for a
20.32 program to provide competitive, matching
20.33 grants of up to \$400,000 to local, regional,
20.34 state, and national organizations for
20.35 enhancing, restoring, or protecting forests,
20.36 wetlands, prairies, or habitat for fish, game,

21.1 or wildlife in the seven-county metropolitan
21.2 area and cities with a population of 50,000
21.3 or greater. Grants shall not be made for
21.4 activities required to fulfill the duties of
21.5 owners of lands subject to conservation
21.6 easements. Grants shall not be made from the
21.7 appropriation in this paragraph for projects
21.8 that have a total project cost exceeding
21.9 \$575,000. Of this appropriation, \$70,000
21.10 may be spent for direct and necessary
21.11 administrative costs. Grantees may acquire
21.12 land or interests in land. Easements must
21.13 be permanent. Grants may not be used to
21.14 establish easement stewardship accounts.
21.15 Land acquired in fee must be open to hunting
21.16 and fishing during the open season unless
21.17 otherwise provided by state law. Lands
21.18 acquired or lands with easements acquired
21.19 with this appropriation may not be used for
21.20 emergency haying and grazing in response
21.21 to federal or state disaster declarations. The
21.22 program shall require a match of at least ten
21.23 percent from nonstate sources for all grants.
21.24 The match may be cash or in-kind resources.
21.25 For grant applications of \$25,000 or less,
21.26 the commissioner shall provide a separate,
21.27 simplified application process. Subject to
21.28 Minnesota Statutes, the commissioner of
21.29 natural resources shall, when evaluating
21.30 projects of equal value, give priority to
21.31 organizations that have a history of receiving
21.32 or charter to receive private contributions
21.33 for local conservation or habitat projects. If
21.34 acquiring land or a conservation easement,
21.35 priority shall be given to projects associated
21.36 with or within one mile of existing wildlife

22.1 management areas under Minnesota Statutes,
 22.2 section 86A.05, subdivision 8; scientific
 22.3 and natural areas under Minnesota Statutes,
 22.4 sections 84.033 and 86A.05, subdivision
 22.5 5; or aquatic management areas under
 22.6 Minnesota Statutes, sections 86A.05,
 22.7 subdivision 14, and 97C.02. All restoration
 22.8 or enhancement projects must be on land
 22.9 permanently protected by a permanent
 22.10 covenant ensuring perpetual maintenance
 22.11 and protection of restored and enhanced
 22.12 habitat, by a conservation easement, or
 22.13 by public ownership or in public waters
 22.14 as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section
 22.15 103G.005, subdivision 15. Priority shall
 22.16 be given to restoration and enhancement
 22.17 projects on public lands. Minnesota Statutes,
 22.18 section 97A.056, subdivision 13, applies
 22.19 to grants awarded under this paragraph.
 22.20 This appropriation is available until June
 22.21 30, 2018. No less than five percent of the
 22.22 amount of each grant must be held back from
 22.23 reimbursement until the grant recipient has
 22.24 completed a grant accomplishment report by
 22.25 the deadline and in the form prescribed by
 22.26 and satisfactory to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor
 22.27 Heritage Council. The commissioner shall
 22.28 provide notice of the grant program in
 22.29 the game and fish law summary prepared
 22.30 under Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.051,
 22.31 subdivision 2.

22.32 Subd. 6. Administration -0- 885,000

22.33 (a) Contract Management
 22.34 \$150,000 in the second year is to the
 22.35 commissioner of natural resources for

23.1 contract management duties assigned in this
 23.2 section. The commissioner shall provide an
 23.3 accomplishment plan in the form specified by
 23.4 the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
 23.5 on the expenditure of this appropriation.
 23.6 The accomplishment plan must include
 23.7 a copy of the grant contract template
 23.8 and reimbursement manual. No money
 23.9 may be expended prior to Lessard-Sams
 23.10 Outdoor Heritage Council approval of the
 23.11 accomplishment plan.

23.12 **(b) Legislative Coordinating Commission**

23.13 \$570,000 in the second year is to the
 23.14 Legislative Coordinating Commission for
 23.15 administrative expenses of the Lessard-Sams
 23.16 Outdoor Heritage Council and for
 23.17 compensation and expense reimbursement
 23.18 of council members. This appropriation is
 23.19 available until June 30, 2016. Minnesota
 23.20 Statutes, section 16A.281, applies to this
 23.21 appropriation.

23.22 **(c) Technical Evaluation Panel**

23.23 \$100,000 in the second year is to the
 23.24 commissioner of natural resources for a
 23.25 technical evaluation panel to conduct up to
 23.26 ten restoration evaluations under Minnesota
 23.27 Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 10.

23.28 **(d) High Priority Pre-Transaction Service**
 23.29 **Acceleration for Lessard-Sams Outdoor**
 23.30 **Heritage Council**

23.31 \$50,000 in the second year is to the
 23.32 commissioner of natural resources to provide
 23.33 land acquisition pre-transaction services
 23.34 including but not limited to appraisals,
 23.35 surveys, or title research for acquisition

24.1 proposals under consideration by the
24.2 Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council. A
24.3 list of activities must be included in the final
24.4 accomplishment plan.

24.5 **(e) Legacy Web Site**

24.6 \$15,000 in the second year is to the
24.7 Legislative Coordinating Commission for
24.8 the Web site required in Minnesota Statutes,
24.9 section 3.303, subdivision 10.

24.10 **Subd. 7. Availability of Appropriation**

24.11 Money appropriated in this section may
24.12 not be spent on activities unless they are
24.13 directly related to and necessary for a
24.14 specific appropriation and are specified in
24.15 the accomplishment plan approved by the
24.16 Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.
24.17 Money appropriated in this section must
24.18 not be spent on indirect costs or other
24.19 institutional overhead charges that are not
24.20 directly related to and necessary for a specific
24.21 appropriation. Unless otherwise provided,
24.22 the amounts in this section are available
24.23 until June 30, 2017. For acquisition of real
24.24 property, the amounts in this section are
24.25 available until June 30, 2018, if a binding
24.26 agreement with a landowner or purchase
24.27 agreement is entered into by June 30, 2017,
24.28 and closed no later than June 30, 2018. Funds
24.29 for restoration or enhancement are available
24.30 until June 30, 2019, or five years after
24.31 acquisition, whichever is later, in order to
24.32 complete initial restoration or enhancement
24.33 work. If a project receives federal funds, the
24.34 time period of the appropriation is extended
24.35 to equal the availability of federal funding.

25.1 Funds appropriated for fee title acquisition
 25.2 of land may be used to restore, enhance, and
 25.3 provide for public use of the land acquired
 25.4 with the appropriation. Public use facilities
 25.5 must have a minimal impact on habitat in
 25.6 acquired lands.

25.7 **Subd. 8. Payment Conditions and Capital**
 25.8 **Equipment Expenditures**

25.9 All agreements referred to in this section must
 25.10 be administered on a reimbursement basis
 25.11 unless otherwise provided in this section.
 25.12 Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, section
 25.13 16A.41, expenditures directly related
 25.14 to each appropriation's purpose made
 25.15 on or after July 1, 2014, or the date of
 25.16 accomplishment plan approval, whichever is
 25.17 later, are eligible for reimbursement unless
 25.18 otherwise provided in this section. For the
 25.19 purposes of administering appropriations
 25.20 and legislatively authorized agreements
 25.21 paid out of the outdoor heritage fund, an
 25.22 expense must be considered reimbursable
 25.23 by the administering agency when the
 25.24 recipient presents the agency with an invoice
 25.25 or binding agreement with the landowner
 25.26 and the recipient attests that the goods have
 25.27 been received or the landowner agreement
 25.28 is binding. Periodic reimbursement must
 25.29 be made upon receiving documentation that
 25.30 the items articulated in the accomplishment
 25.31 plan approved by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor
 25.32 Heritage Council have been achieved,
 25.33 including partial achievements as evidenced
 25.34 by progress reports approved by the
 25.35 Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.
 25.36 Reasonable amounts may be advanced to

26.1 projects to accommodate cash flow needs,
26.2 support future management of acquired
26.3 lands, or match a federal share. The
26.4 advances must be approved as part of the
26.5 accomplishment plan. Capital equipment
26.6 expenditures for specific items in excess of
26.7 \$10,000 must be itemized in and approved as
26.8 part of the accomplishment plan.

26.9 Subd. 9. **Mapping**

26.10 Each direct recipient of money appropriated
26.11 in this section, as well as each recipient of
26.12 a grant awarded pursuant to this section,
26.13 must provide geographic information to
26.14 the Department of Natural Resources for
26.15 mapping of any lands acquired in fee with
26.16 funds appropriated in this section and open
26.17 to public taking of fish and game. The
26.18 commissioner of natural resources shall
26.19 include the lands acquired in fee with
26.20 money appropriated in this section on maps
26.21 showing public recreation opportunities.
26.22 Maps shall include information on and
26.23 acknowledgement of the outdoor heritage
26.24 fund, including a notation of any restrictions.