

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 7, 2015

The Honorable Thomas M. Bakk
Majority Leader, Minnesota Senate
232 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 16 appropriations from the Outdoor Heritage Fund, as required by law. This proposed legislation contains the Council's seventh 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 46 requests totaling over \$221 million from a cross-section of public and non-profit organizations and levels of government. The Council's FY 16 recommendations include 35 proposed appropriations with expenditures totaling \$100 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:

- 11,952 acres of wetlands and wetland systems protected, restored, and enhanced;
- 50,373 acres of prairies and prairie systems protected, restored, and enhanced;
- 10,309 acres of forest protected, restored and enhanced; and
- 5,732 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 55,000 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. Habitat restoration and enhancement activity puts money on the ground by creating and supporting jobs in local economies.

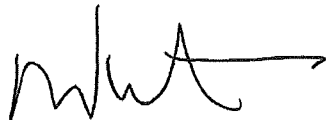
The Council remains focused on recommending funding for those programs with the potential greatest impact on habitat heritage for future generations. Several on-going programs focusing on the prairie regions of the state are recommended for funding, including the Accelerating the Wildlife Management 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.

The Council also supports the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources' \$250,000 appropriation recommendation to fund a conservation easement study on easement valuation. The Council views this study as an important undertaking in its evaluation of proposals to fund future conservation easements and urges legislative support this session.

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.

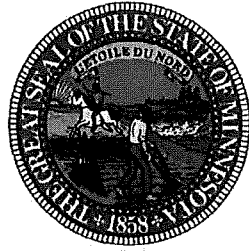
Sincerely,

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

David Hartwell
Chair, Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

C: 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
Members and staff, Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

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 7, 2015

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

Dear Speaker Daudt,

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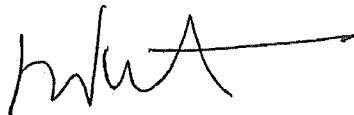
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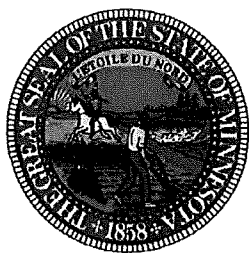
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David Hartwell
Chair, Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

C: House Environment & Natural Resources Policy and Finance Chair, Representative Denny
McNamara
House Legacy Committee Chair, Representative Dean Urdahl
Legislative Assistant to the Speaker, Kelly Hansen
Members and staff, Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

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 7, 2015

The Honorable Mark Dayton
Governor of Minnesota
116 Veterans Service Building
20 W 12th Street
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Governor Dayton,

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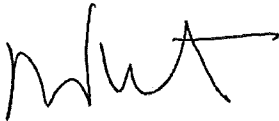
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David Hartwell
Chair, Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

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

Attachment: Jacketed bill

1.1 A bill for an act
 1.2 relating to natural resources; appropriating money from outdoor heritage fund;
 1.3 modifying requirements for use of outdoor heritage fund money; modifying
 1.4 previous appropriation; amending Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 97A.056,
 1.5 subdivision 8, by adding subdivisions; Laws 2014, chapter 256, article 1, section
 1.6 2, subdivision 5.

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

1.8 Section 1. **OUTDOOR HERITAGE APPROPRIATION.**

1.9 The sums shown in the columns marked "Appropriations" are appropriated to the
 1.10 agencies and for the purposes specified in this act. The appropriations are from the outdoor
 1.11 heritage fund for the fiscal year indicated for each purpose. The figures "2016" and "2017"
 1.12 used in this act mean that the appropriations listed under the figure are available for the
 1.13 fiscal year ending June 30, 2016, and June 30, 2017, respectively. The "first year" is fiscal
 1.14 year 2016. The "second year" is fiscal year 2017. The "biennium" is fiscal years 2016 and
 1.15 2017, respectively. The appropriations in this act are onetime.

1.16		<u>APPROPRIATIONS</u>	
1.17		<u>Available for the Year</u>	
1.18		<u>Ending June 30</u>	
1.19		<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>

1.20 Sec. 2. **OUTDOOR HERITAGE FUND**

1.21 **Subdivision 1. Total Appropriation** **\$ 100,008,000** **\$ 607,000**

1.22 This appropriation is from the outdoor
 1.23 heritage fund. The amounts that may be
 1.24 spent for each purpose are specified in the
 1.25 following subdivisions.

2.1	<u>Subd. 2. Prairies</u>	<u>40,948,000</u>	<u>-0-</u>
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2.2 **(a) DNR Wildlife Management Area and**
 2.3 **Scientific and Natural Area Acquisition - Phase**
 2.4 **VII**

2.5 \$4,570,000 in the first year is to the
 2.6 commissioner of natural resources to acquire
 2.7 land in fee for wildlife management purposes
 2.8 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,
 2.9 subdivision 8, and to acquire land in fee
 2.10 for scientific and natural area purposes
 2.11 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,
 2.12 subdivision 5. Subject to evaluation criteria
 2.13 in Minnesota Rules, part 6136.0900, priority
 2.14 must be given to acquisition of lands that
 2.15 are eligible for the native prairie bank under
 2.16 Minnesota Statutes, section 84.96, or lands
 2.17 adjacent to protected native prairie. A list of
 2.18 proposed land and permanent conservation
 2.19 easement acquisitions must be provided as
 2.20 part of the required accomplishment plan.

2.21 **(b) Accelerating Wildlife Management Area**
 2.22 **Acquisition - Phase VII**

2.23 \$7,452,000 in the first year is to the
 2.24 commissioner of natural resources for an
 2.25 agreement with Pheasants Forever to acquire
 2.26 land in fee for wildlife management area
 2.27 purposes under Minnesota Statutes, section
 2.28 86A.05, subdivision 8. Subject to evaluation
 2.29 criteria in Minnesota Rules, part 6136.0900,
 2.30 priority must be given to acquisition of
 2.31 lands that are eligible for the native prairie
 2.32 bank under Minnesota Statutes, section
 2.33 84.96, or lands adjacent to protected native
 2.34 prairie. A list of proposed land acquisitions
 2.35 must be provided as part of the required
 2.36 accomplishment plan.

3.1 **(c) Minnesota Prairie Recovery Project - Phase**
3.2 **VI**

3.3 \$4,032,000 in the first year is to the
3.4 commissioner of natural resources for an
3.5 agreement with The Nature Conservancy
3.6 to acquire native prairie, wetlands, and
3.7 savanna and restore and enhance grasslands,
3.8 wetlands, and savanna. Subject to evaluation
3.9 criteria in Minnesota Rules, part 6136.0900,
3.10 priority must be given to acquisition of lands
3.11 that are eligible for the native prairie bank
3.12 under Minnesota Statutes, section 84.96, or
3.13 lands adjacent to protected native prairie.
3.14 Annual income statements and balance sheets
3.15 for income and expenses from land acquired
3.16 with this appropriation must be submitted
3.17 to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage
3.18 Council no later than 180 days following
3.19 the close of The Nature Conservancy's fiscal
3.20 year. A list of proposed land acquisitions
3.21 must be provided as part of the required
3.22 accomplishment plan and must be consistent
3.23 with the priorities identified in the Minnesota
3.24 Prairie Conservation Plan.

3.25 **(d) Northern Tallgrass Prairie National**
3.26 **Wildlife Refuge Land Acquisition - Phase V**

3.27 \$3,430,000 in the first year is to the
3.28 commissioner of natural resources for an
3.29 agreement with The Nature Conservancy
3.30 in cooperation with the United States Fish
3.31 and Wildlife Service to acquire land in
3.32 fee or permanent conservation easements
3.33 within the Northern Tallgrass Prairie Habitat
3.34 Preservation Area in western Minnesota
3.35 for addition to the Northern Tallgrass
3.36 Prairie National Wildlife Refuge. Subject

4.1 to evaluation criteria in Minnesota Rules,
4.2 part 6136.0900, priority must be given to
4.3 acquisition of lands that are eligible for
4.4 the native prairie bank under Minnesota
4.5 Statutes, section 84.96, or lands adjacent to
4.6 protected native prairie. A list of proposed
4.7 land acquisitions must be provided as part
4.8 of the required accomplishment plan and
4.9 must be consistent with the priorities in the
4.10 Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan.

4.11 **(e) Accelerated Native Prairie Bank Protection**
4.12 **- Phase IV**

4.13 \$3,740,000 in the first year is to the
4.14 commissioner of natural resources
4.15 to implement the Minnesota Prairie
4.16 Conservation Plan through the acquisition
4.17 of permanent conservation easements to
4.18 protect native prairie and grasslands. Up
4.19 to \$165,000 is for establishing monitoring
4.20 and enforcement funds as approved in
4.21 the accomplishment plan and subject to
4.22 Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056,
4.23 subdivision 17. Subject to evaluation criteria
4.24 in Minnesota Rules, part 6136.0900, priority
4.25 must be given to acquisition of lands that
4.26 are eligible for the native prairie bank under
4.27 Minnesota Statutes, section 84.96, or lands
4.28 adjacent to protected native prairie. A list of
4.29 permanent conservation easements must be
4.30 provided as part of the final report.

4.31 **(f) Minnesota Buffers for Wildlife and Water**
4.32 **- Phase V**

4.33 \$4,544,000 in the first year is to the Board
4.34 of Water and Soil Resources to acquire
4.35 permanent conservation easements to protect
4.36 and enhance habitat by expanding the clean

5.1 water fund riparian buffer program for at
5.2 least equal wildlife benefits from buffers
5.3 on private land. Up to \$72,500 is for
5.4 establishing a monitoring and enforcement
5.5 fund as approved in the accomplishment plan
5.6 and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section
5.7 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of permanent
5.8 conservation easements must be provided as
5.9 part of the final report.

5.10 **(g) Cannon River Headwaters Habitat**
5.11 **Complex - Phase V**

5.12 \$1,380,000 in the first year is to the
5.13 commissioner of natural resources for an
5.14 agreement with The Trust for Public Land to
5.15 acquire and restore lands in the Cannon River
5.16 watershed for wildlife management purposes
5.17 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,
5.18 subdivision 8. Subject to evaluation criteria
5.19 in Minnesota Rules, part 6136.0900, priority
5.20 must be given to acquisition of lands that
5.21 are eligible for the native prairie bank under
5.22 Minnesota Statutes, section 84.96, or lands
5.23 adjacent to protected native prairie. A list of
5.24 proposed land acquisitions must be provided
5.25 as part of the required accomplishment plan.

5.26 **(h) Prairie Chicken Habitat Partnership of the**
5.27 **Southern Red River Valley**

5.28 \$1,800,000 in the first year is to the
5.29 commissioner of natural resources for
5.30 an agreement with Pheasants Forever in
5.31 cooperation with the Minnesota Prairie
5.32 Chicken Society to acquire and restore lands
5.33 in the southern Red River Valley for wildlife
5.34 management purposes under Minnesota
5.35 Statutes, section 86A.05, subdivision 8,
5.36 or for designation and management as

6.1 waterfowl production areas in Minnesota,
6.2 in cooperation with the United States Fish
6.3 and Wildlife Service. A list of proposed land
6.4 acquisitions must be provided as part of the
6.5 required accomplishment plan.

6.6 **(i) Protecting and Restoring Minnesota's**
6.7 **Important Bird Areas**

6.8 \$1,730,000 in the first year is to the
6.9 commissioner of natural resources for
6.10 agreements to acquire conservation
6.11 easements within important bird areas
6.12 identified in the Minnesota Prairie
6.13 Conservation Plan, to be used as follows:
6.14 \$408,000 is to Audubon Minnesota and
6.15 \$1,322,000 is to Minnesota Land Trust, of
6.16 which up to \$100,000 is for establishing
6.17 monitoring and enforcement funds as
6.18 approved in the accomplishment plan and
6.19 subject to Minnesota Statutes, section
6.20 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of permanent
6.21 conservation easements must be provided as
6.22 part of the final report.

6.23 **(j) Wild Rice River Corridor Habitat**
6.24 **Restoration**

6.25 \$2,270,000 in the first year is to the
6.26 commissioner of natural resources for an
6.27 agreement with the Wild Rice Watershed
6.28 District to acquire land in fee and permanent
6.29 conservation easement and to `restore river
6.30 and related habitat in the Wild Rice River
6.31 corridor. A list of proposed acquisitions and
6.32 restorations must be provided as part of the
6.33 required accomplishment plan.

6.34 **(k) Accelerated Prairie Restoration and**
6.35 **Enhancement on DNR Lands - Phase VII**

7.1 \$4,880,000 in the first year is to the
 7.2 commissioner of natural resources to
 7.3 accelerate the restoration and enhancement
 7.4 of prairie communities on wildlife
 7.5 management areas, scientific and natural
 7.6 areas, state forest land, and land under
 7.7 native prairie bank easements. A list of
 7.8 proposed land restorations and enhancements
 7.9 must be provided as part of the required
 7.10 accomplishment plan.

7.11 **(I) Enhanced Public Land Grasslands - Phase II**

7.12 \$1,120,000 in the first year is to the
 7.13 commissioner of natural resources for an
 7.14 agreement with Pheasants Forever to enhance
 7.15 and restore habitat on public lands. A list of
 7.16 proposed land restorations and enhancements
 7.17 must be provided as part of the final report.

7.18 **Subd. 3. Forests**

14,822,000

-0-

7.19 **(a) Protecting Forest Wildlife Habitat in the**
 7.20 **Wild Rice River Watershed**

7.21 \$2,188,000 in the first year is to the
 7.22 commissioner of natural resources for an
 7.23 agreement with the White Earth Nation
 7.24 to acquire lands in fee to be managed for
 7.25 wildlife habitat purposes. A list of proposed
 7.26 land acquisitions must be provided as part of
 7.27 the required accomplishment plan.

7.28 **(b) Camp Ripley Partnership - Phase V**

7.29 \$1,500,000 in the first year is to the
 7.30 Board of Water and Soil Resources in
 7.31 cooperation with the Morrison County Soil
 7.32 and Water Conservation District to acquire
 7.33 permanent conservation easements within
 7.34 the boundaries of the Minnesota National
 7.35 Guard Compatible Use Buffer to protect

8.1 forest wildlife habitat. Up to \$55,000 is for
8.2 establishing a monitoring and enforcement
8.3 fund, as approved in the accomplishment
8.4 plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes,
8.5 section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of
8.6 permanent conservation easements must be
8.7 provided as part of the final report.

8.8 **(c) Southeast Minnesota Protection and**
8.9 **Restoration - Phase III**

8.10 \$2,910,000 in the first year is to the
8.11 commissioner of natural resources for an
8.12 agreement with The Nature Conservancy to
8.13 acquire land in fee for wildlife management
8.14 purposes under Minnesota Statutes, section
8.15 86A.05, subdivision 8; to acquire land
8.16 in fee for scientific and natural areas
8.17 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,
8.18 subdivision 5; for state forest purposes
8.19 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,
8.20 subdivision 7; and to enhance grasslands,
8.21 forest, and savanna. A list of proposed
8.22 acquisitions must be provided as part of the
8.23 required accomplishment plan.

8.24 **(d) Protecting Pinelands Sands Aquifer**
8.25 **Forestlands - Phase II**

8.26 \$2,180,000 in the first year is to the
8.27 commissioner of natural resources to
8.28 acquire forest lands in Cass and Wadena
8.29 Counties for wildlife management purposes
8.30 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,
8.31 subdivision 8, and to acquire land in fee
8.32 for state forests under Minnesota Statutes,
8.33 section 86A.05, subdivision 7. A list of
8.34 proposed land acquisitions must be provided
8.35 as part of the required accomplishment plan.

9.1 **(e) Protect Key Forest Lands in Cass County**
9.2 **- Phase VI**

9.3 \$442,000 in the first year is to the
9.4 commissioner of natural resources for an
9.5 agreement with Cass County to acquire land
9.6 in fee in Cass County for forest wildlife
9.7 habitat or to prevent forest fragmentation.
9.8 A list of proposed land acquisitions
9.9 must be provided as part of the required
9.10 accomplishment plan.

9.11 **(f) Critical Shoreland Protection Program -**
9.12 **Phase III**

9.13 \$1,690,000 in the first year is to the
9.14 commissioner of natural resources for an
9.15 agreement with Minnesota Land Trust to
9.16 acquire permanent conservation easements
9.17 along rivers and lakes in the northern
9.18 forest region. Up to \$220,000 is for
9.19 establishing a monitoring and enforcement
9.20 fund, as approved in the accomplishment
9.21 plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes,
9.22 section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of
9.23 proposed permanent conservation easements
9.24 must be provided as part of the required
9.25 accomplishment plan.

9.26 **(g) Mississippi Headwaters Habitat**
9.27 **Partnership**

9.28 \$961,000 in the first year is to the
9.29 commissioner of natural resources to
9.30 acquire lands in fee and for permanent
9.31 conservation easements in the Mississippi
9.32 Headwaters and for agreements as follows:
9.33 \$1,217,000 to The Trust for Public Land;
9.34 and \$824,000 to Minnesota Land Trust,
9.35 of which up to \$80,000 is for establishing
9.36 a monitoring and enforcement fund as

10.1 approved in the accomplishment plan and
 10.2 subject to Minnesota Statutes, section
 10.3 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of proposed
 10.4 acquisitions must be included as part of the
 10.5 required accomplishment plan.

10.6 **(h) Southeast Forest Habitat Enhancement**

10.7 \$910,000 in the first year is to the
 10.8 commissioner of natural resources to
 10.9 enhance forests in southeastern Minnesota.
 10.10 A list of proposed land enhancements
 10.11 must be provided as part of the required
 10.12 accomplishment plan.

10.13 **Subd. 4. Wetlands**

20,390,000

-0-

10.14 **(a) Accelerating the Waterfowl Production**
 10.15 **Area Acquisition - Phase VII**

10.16 \$7,620,000 in the first year is to the
 10.17 commissioner of natural resources for an
 10.18 agreement with Pheasants Forever to acquire
 10.19 land in fee to be designated and managed as
 10.20 waterfowl production areas in Minnesota,
 10.21 in cooperation with the United States Fish
 10.22 and Wildlife Service. A list of proposed land
 10.23 acquisitions must be provided as part of the
 10.24 required accomplishment plan.

10.25 **(b) Living Shallow Lakes and Wetland**
 10.26 **Initiative - Phase V**

10.27 \$9,040,000 in the first year is to the
 10.28 commissioner of natural resources for an
 10.29 agreement with Ducks Unlimited to acquire
 10.30 land in fee for wildlife management purposes
 10.31 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,
 10.32 subdivision 8. A list of proposed acquisitions
 10.33 must be provided as part of the required
 10.34 accomplishment plan.

11.1 **(c) Wild Rice Shoreland Protection Program**
11.2 **- Phase IV**

11.3 \$131,000 in the first year is to the
11.4 commissioner of natural resources for the
11.5 acquisition of land in fee and \$1,469,000 is
11.6 to the Board of Water and Soil Resources to
11.7 acquire permanent conservation easements
11.8 on wild rice lake shoreland habitat for native
11.9 wild rice bed protection. Of this amount, up
11.10 to \$90,000 to the Board of Water and Soil
11.11 Resources is for establishing a monitoring
11.12 and enforcement fund as approved in
11.13 the accomplishment plan and subject to
11.14 Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056,
11.15 subdivision 17. A list of proposed fee land
11.16 acquisitions must be included as part of
11.17 the required accomplishment plan by the
11.18 Department of Natural Resources and a list
11.19 of permanent conservation easements must
11.20 be provided as part of the final report by the
11.21 Board of Water and Soil Resources.

11.22 **(d) Accelerated Shallow Lakes and Wetlands**
11.23 **Enhancement - Phase VII**

11.24 \$2,130,000 in the first year is to the
11.25 commissioner of natural resources to
11.26 enhance and restore shallow lakes statewide.
11.27 A list of proposed land restorations and
11.28 enhancements must be provided as part of
11.29 the required accomplishment plan.

11.30 Subd. 5. Habitats 22,368,000 -0-

11.31 **(a) DNR Aquatic Habitat - Phase VII**

11.32 \$4,540,000 in the first year is to the
11.33 commissioner of natural resources to acquire
11.34 interests in land in fee and permanent
11.35 conservation easements for aquatic

12.1 management purposes under Minnesota
12.2 Statutes, sections 86A.05, subdivision 14,
12.3 and 97C.02, and to restore and enhance
12.4 aquatic habitat. Up to \$130,000 is for
12.5 establishing a monitoring and enforcement
12.6 fund as approved in the accomplishment
12.7 plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes,
12.8 section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of
12.9 proposed land acquisitions and restorations
12.10 and enhancements must be provided as part
12.11 of the required accomplishment plan.

12.12 **(b) Metro Big Rivers - Phase VI**

12.13 \$2,000,000 in the first year is to the
12.14 commissioner of natural resources for
12.15 agreements to acquire land in fee and in
12.16 permanent conservation easements and
12.17 to restore and enhance natural systems
12.18 associated with the Mississippi, Minnesota,
12.19 and St. Croix Rivers as follows: \$475,000 to
12.20 Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge
12.21 Trust, Inc.; \$275,000 to Friends of the
12.22 Mississippi River; \$400,000 to Great River
12.23 Greening; \$375,000 to Minnesota Land Trust;
12.24 and \$475,000 to The Trust for Public Land.
12.25 Up to \$60,000 to Minnesota Land Trust is for
12.26 establishing a monitoring and enforcement
12.27 fund as approved in the accomplishment
12.28 plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes,
12.29 section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of
12.30 proposed land acquisitions and permanent
12.31 conservation easements must be provided as
12.32 part of the required accomplishment plan.

12.33 **(c) Minnesota Trout Unlimited Coldwater Fish**
12.34 **Habitat Enhancement and Restoration - Phase**
12.35 **VII**

13.1 \$1,890,000 in the first year is to the
13.2 commissioner of natural resources for an
13.3 agreement with Minnesota Trout Unlimited
13.4 to restore and enhance habitat for trout
13.5 and other species in and along coldwater
13.6 rivers and streams in Minnesota. A list of
13.7 proposed restorations and enhancements
13.8 must be provided as part of the required
13.9 accomplishment plan.

13.10 **(d) Lake Bemidji South Shore Restoration and**
13.11 **Enhancement**

13.12 \$1,650,000 in the first year is to the
13.13 commissioner of natural resources for
13.14 an agreement with the city of Bemidji to
13.15 restore and enhance fish habitat on Lake
13.16 Bemidji. A list of proposed restorations and
13.17 enhancements must be provided as part of
13.18 the required accomplishment plan.

13.19 **(e) Sand Hill River Fish Passage**

13.20 \$990,000 in the first year is to the
13.21 commissioner of natural resources for
13.22 an agreement with the Sand Hill River
13.23 Watershed District to restore fish habitat
13.24 in the Sand Hill River watershed. A list of
13.25 proposed restorations must be provided as
13.26 part of the required accomplishment plan.

13.27 **(f) Shell Rock River Watershed Habitat**
13.28 **Restoration Program - Phase IV**

13.29 \$2,414,000 in the first year is to the
13.30 commissioner of natural resources for
13.31 an agreement with the Shell Rock River
13.32 Watershed District to protect, restore,
13.33 and enhance aquatic habitat in the Shell
13.34 Rock River watershed. A list of proposed
13.35 acquisitions, restorations, and enhancements

- 14.1 must be provided as part of the required
14.2 accomplishment plan.
- 14.3 **(g) Lake Nokomis Integrated Habitat**
14.4 **Enhancement**
- 14.5 \$444,000 in the first year is to the
14.6 commissioner of natural resources for an
14.7 agreement with the Minneapolis Park and
14.8 Recreation Board to enhance aquatic habitat
14.9 on Lake Nokomis. A list of proposed
14.10 enhancements must be provided as part of
14.11 the required accomplishment plan.
- 14.12 **(h) Conservation Partners Legacy Grant**
14.13 **Program: Statewide and Metro Habitat -**
14.14 **Phase VII**
- 14.15 \$8,440,000 in the first year is to the
14.16 commissioner of natural resources for a
14.17 program to provide competitive, matching
14.18 grants of up to \$400,000 to local, regional,
14.19 state, and national organizations for
14.20 enhancing, restoring, or protecting forests,
14.21 wetlands, prairies, or habitat for fish, game,
14.22 or wildlife in Minnesota. Of this amount,
14.23 \$3,692,000 is for grants in the seven-county
14.24 metropolitan area and cities with a population
14.25 of 50,000 or greater. Grants shall not be made
14.26 for activities required to fulfill the duties
14.27 of owners of lands subject to conservation
14.28 easements. Grants shall not be made from the
14.29 appropriation in this paragraph for projects
14.30 that have a total project cost exceeding
14.31 \$575,000. Of this appropriation, \$596,000
14.32 may be spent for personnel costs and other
14.33 direct and necessary administrative costs.
14.34 Grantees may acquire land or interests in
14.35 land. Easements must be permanent. Grants
14.36 may not be used to establish easement

15.1 stewardship accounts. Land acquired in fee
15.2 must be open to hunting and fishing during
15.3 the open season unless otherwise provided
15.4 by law. The program must require a match
15.5 of at least ten percent from nonstate sources
15.6 for all grants. The match may be cash or
15.7 in-kind resources. For grant applications
15.8 of \$25,000 or less, the commissioner shall
15.9 provide a separate, simplified application
15.10 process. Subject to Minnesota Statutes, the
15.11 commissioner of natural resources shall,
15.12 when evaluating projects of equal value,
15.13 give priority to organizations that have a
15.14 history of receiving or a charter to receive
15.15 private contributions for local conservation
15.16 or habitat projects. If acquiring land or a
15.17 conservation easement, priority must be
15.18 given to projects associated with or within
15.19 one mile of existing wildlife management
15.20 areas under Minnesota Statutes, section
15.21 86A.05, subdivision 8; scientific and natural
15.22 areas under Minnesota Statutes, sections
15.23 84.033 and 86A.05, subdivision 5; or aquatic
15.24 management areas under Minnesota Statutes,
15.25 sections 86A.05, subdivision 14, and 97C.02.
15.26 All restoration or enhancement projects
15.27 must be on land permanently protected by
15.28 a permanent covenant ensuring perpetual
15.29 maintenance and protection of restored
15.30 and enhanced habitat, by a conservation
15.31 easement, or by public ownership or in
15.32 public waters as defined in Minnesota
15.33 Statutes, section 103G.005, subdivision
15.34 15. Priority must be given to restoration
15.35 and enhancement projects on public lands.
15.36 Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056,

16.1 subdivision 13, applies to grants awarded
 16.2 under this paragraph. This appropriation is
 16.3 available until June 30, 2018. No less than
 16.4 five percent of the amount of each grant
 16.5 must be held back from reimbursement until
 16.6 the grant recipient has completed a grant
 16.7 accomplishment report by the deadline and
 16.8 in the form prescribed by and satisfactory to
 16.9 the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.
 16.10 The commissioner shall provide notice of
 16.11 the grant program in the game and fish law
 16.12 summary prepared under Minnesota Statutes,
 16.13 section 97A.051, subdivision 2.

16.14 **Subd. 6. Administration**

1,480,000

607,000

16.15 **(a) Contract Management**

16.16 \$150,000 in the first year is to the
 16.17 commissioner of natural resources for
 16.18 contract management duties assigned in this
 16.19 section. The commissioner shall provide an
 16.20 accomplishment plan in the form specified by
 16.21 the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
 16.22 on the expenditure of this appropriation.
 16.23 The accomplishment plan must include a
 16.24 copy of the grant contract template and
 16.25 reimbursement manual. No money may
 16.26 be expended prior to the Lessard-Sams
 16.27 Outdoor Heritage Council's approval of the
 16.28 accomplishment plan.

16.29 **(b) Legislative Coordinating Commission**

16.30 \$608,000 in the first year and \$607,000
 16.31 in the second year are to the Legislative
 16.32 Coordinating Commission for administrative
 16.33 expenses of the Lessard-Sams Outdoor
 16.34 Heritage Council and for compensation and
 16.35 expense reimbursement of council members.

17.1 This appropriation is available until June 30,
17.2 2017. Minnesota Statutes, section 16A.281,
17.3 applies to this appropriation.

17.4 **(c) Technical Evaluation Panel**

17.5 \$100,000 in the first year is to the
17.6 commissioner of natural resources for a
17.7 technical evaluation panel to conduct up to
17.8 ten restoration evaluations under Minnesota
17.9 Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 10.

17.10 **(d) Legacy Web Site**

17.11 \$15,000 in the first year is to the Legislative
17.12 Coordinating Commission for the Web site
17.13 required in Minnesota Statutes, section
17.14 3.303, subdivision 10.

17.15 **Subd. 7. Availability of Appropriation**

17.16 Money appropriated in this section may
17.17 not be spent on activities unless they are
17.18 directly related to and necessary for a
17.19 specific appropriation and are specified in
17.20 the accomplishment plan approved by the
17.21 Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.
17.22 Money appropriated in this section must not
17.23 be spent on indirect costs or other institutional
17.24 overhead charges that are not directly related
17.25 to and necessary for a specific appropriation.

17.26 Unless otherwise provided, the amounts
17.27 in this section are available until June 30,
17.28 2018. For acquisition of real property, the
17.29 amounts in this section are available until
17.30 June 30, 2019, if a binding agreement with a
17.31 landowner or purchase agreement is entered
17.32 into by June 30, 2018, and closed no later
17.33 than June 30, 2019. Money for restoration or
17.34 enhancement is available until June 30, 2020,

18.1 or five years after acquisition, whichever is
18.2 later, in order to complete initial restoration
18.3 or enhancement work. If a project receives
18.4 at least 15 percent of its funding from federal
18.5 funds, the time period of the appropriation
18.6 may be extended to equal the availability
18.7 of federal funding to a maximum of six
18.8 years, provided the federal funding was
18.9 confirmed and included within the first draft
18.10 accomplishment plan. Money appropriated
18.11 for fee title acquisition of land may be used to
18.12 restore, enhance, and provide for public use
18.13 of the land acquired with the appropriation.
18.14 Public use facilities must have a minimal
18.15 impact on habitat in acquired lands.

18.16 **Subd. 8. Payment Conditions and Capital**
18.17 **Equipment Expenditures**

18.18 All agreements referred to in this section must
18.19 be administered on a reimbursement basis
18.20 unless otherwise provided in this section.
18.21 Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, section
18.22 16A.41, expenditures directly related
18.23 to each appropriation's purpose made
18.24 on or after July 1, 2015, or the date of
18.25 accomplishment plan approval, whichever is
18.26 later, are eligible for reimbursement unless
18.27 otherwise provided in this section. For the
18.28 purposes of administering appropriations
18.29 and legislatively authorized agreements paid
18.30 out of the outdoor heritage fund, an expense
18.31 must be considered reimbursable by the
18.32 administering agency when the recipient
18.33 presents the agency with an invoice, or
18.34 binding agreement with the landowner, and
18.35 the recipient attests that the goods have
18.36 been received or the landowner agreement

19.1 is binding. Periodic reimbursement must
19.2 be made upon receiving documentation that
19.3 the items articulated in the accomplishment
19.4 plan approved by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor
19.5 Heritage Council have been achieved,
19.6 including partial achievements as evidenced
19.7 by progress reports approved by the
19.8 Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.
19.9 Reasonable amounts may be advanced to
19.10 projects to accommodate cash flow needs,
19.11 support future management of acquired
19.12 lands, or match a federal share. The
19.13 advances must be approved as part of the
19.14 accomplishment plan. Capital equipment
19.15 expenditures for specific items in excess of
19.16 \$10,000 must be itemized in and approved as
19.17 part of the accomplishment plan.

19.18 **Subd. 9. Mapping**

19.19 Each direct recipient of money appropriated
19.20 in this section, as well as each recipient of
19.21 a grant awarded pursuant to this section,
19.22 must provide geographic information to the
19.23 Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
19.24 for mapping any lands acquired in fee with
19.25 money appropriated in this section and
19.26 open to public taking of fish and game.
19.27 The commissioner of natural resources
19.28 shall include the lands acquired in fee with
19.29 money appropriated in this section on maps
19.30 showing public recreation opportunities.
19.31 Maps must include information on and
19.32 acknowledgement of the outdoor heritage
19.33 fund, including a notation of any restrictions.

19.34 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 97A.056, subdivision 8, is amended to read:

20.1 Subd. 8. **Revenues.** (a) When a parcel of land that was previously purchased with
20.2 money from the outdoor heritage funds fund is transferred to the state, the owner of the
20.3 land shall disclose to the council and commissioner of natural resources:

20.4 (1) all revenues generated from activities on the land from the time the land was
20.5 purchased with money from the outdoor heritage funds fund until the land was transferred
20.6 to the state;

20.7 (2) all holding costs associated with managing the land between the time of purchase
20.8 with money from the outdoor heritage funds fund and the time the land was transferred to
20.9 the state; and

20.10 (3) the total net revenues as determined by subtracting the costs described in clause
20.11 (2) from the revenues described in clause (1).

20.12 (b) The owner of the land shall submit the total net revenues determined under
20.13 paragraph (a), clause (3), to the state no later than 60 days after the land is transferred to
20.14 the state.

20.15 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 97A.056, is amended by adding a subdivision
20.16 to read:

20.17 Subd. 20. **Donations.** A recipient shall not accept a monetary donation or payment
20.18 from an owner of land that is acquired in fee in whole or in part with an appropriation from
20.19 the outdoor heritage fund that exceeds the documented expenses that are directly related
20.20 to and necessary for activities specified in the accomplishment plan approved by the
20.21 Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council, unless expressly approved by the Lessard-Sams
20.22 Outdoor Heritage Council in the accomplishment plan. This subdivision does not apply to
20.23 donations that are not connected with the acquisition transaction or bargain sales, as defined
20.24 by Code of Federal Regulations, title 26, section 1.1011-2, provided that the purchase
20.25 price reimbursed by the state does not exceed the purchase price paid by the recipient.

20.26 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2016, and applies to money
20.27 appropriated on or after that date.

20.28 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 97A.056, is amended by adding a subdivision
20.29 to read:

20.30 Subd. 21. **Haying and grazing.** Lands acquired with money appropriated from the
20.31 outdoor heritage fund may not be used for emergency haying and grazing in response to
20.32 federal or state disaster declarations. This subdivision does not apply to conservation
20.33 grazing under a management plan implemented before the effective date of this section.

21.1 Sec. 6. Laws 2014, chapter 256, article 1, section 2, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

21.2 Subd. 5. **Habitats** -0- 30,890,000

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

21.4 \$2,560,000 in the second year is to the
 21.5 commissioner of natural resources to acquire
 21.6 interests in land in fee and permanent
 21.7 conservation easements for aquatic
 21.8 management purposes under Minnesota
 21.9 Statutes, sections 86A.05, subdivision 14,
 21.10 and 97C.02, and to restore and enhance
 21.11 aquatic habitat. Up to \$32,500 is for
 21.12 establishing a monitoring and enforcement
 21.13 fund as approved in the accomplishment
 21.14 plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes,
 21.15 section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of
 21.16 proposed land acquisitions and restorations
 21.17 and enhancements must be provided as part
 21.18 of the required accomplishment plan.

21.19 **(b) Fisheries Habitat Protection on**
 21.20 **Strategic North Central Minnesota Lakes**

21.21 \$2,130,000 in the second year is to the
 21.22 commissioner of natural resources for
 21.23 agreements with the Leech Lake Area
 21.24 Watershed Foundation and Minnesota Land
 21.25 Trust to acquire land in fee and permanent
 21.26 conservation easements to sustain healthy
 21.27 fish habitat on lakes in Aitkin, Cass, Crow
 21.28 Wing, and Hubbard Counties as follows:
 21.29 \$1,150,300 to Leech Lake Area Watershed
 21.30 Foundation; and \$979,700 to Minnesota
 21.31 Land Trust, of which up to \$120,000 to
 21.32 Minnesota Land Trust is for establishing
 21.33 a monitoring and enforcement fund as
 21.34 approved in the accomplishment plan and
 21.35 subject to Minnesota Statutes, section

22.1 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of proposed
22.2 land acquisitions must be provided as part of
22.3 the required accomplishment plan.

22.4 **(c) Habitat Protection in Dakota County**
22.5 **- Phase V**

22.6 \$1,190,000 in the second year is to the
22.7 commissioner of natural resources for a
22.8 contract with Dakota County to acquire
22.9 permanent conservation easements and land
22.10 in fee and to restore and enhance habitats in
22.11 rivers and lake watersheds in Dakota County.

22.12 Up to \$15,000 to Dakota County is for
22.13 establishing a monitoring and enforcement
22.14 fund as approved in the accomplishment
22.15 plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes,
22.16 section 97A.056, subdivision 17. Lands
22.17 acquired or lands with easements acquired
22.18 with this appropriation may not be used for
22.19 emergency haying and grazing in response
22.20 to federal or state disaster declarations.

22.21 Conservation grazing under a management
22.22 plan that is already being implemented may
22.23 continue. A list of proposed land acquisitions
22.24 and restorations and enhancements must
22.25 be provided as part of the required
22.26 accomplishment plan.

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

22.28 \$2,650,000 in the second year is to the
22.29 commissioner of natural resources for
22.30 agreements to acquire land in fee and
22.31 permanent conservation easements and
22.32 to restore and enhance natural systems
22.33 associated with the Mississippi, Minnesota,
22.34 and St. Croix Rivers as follows: \$600,000
22.35 to Minnesota Valley National Wildlife

23.1 Refuge Trust, Inc.; \$160,000 to Friends of
23.2 the Mississippi River; \$400,000 to Great
23.3 River Greening; \$590,000 to Minnesota
23.4 Land Trust, of which up to \$77,000 is for
23.5 establishing a monitoring and enforcement
23.6 fund as approved in the accomplishment plan
23.7 and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section
23.8 97A.056, subdivision 17; and \$900,000 to
23.9 The Trust for Public Land. Lands acquired
23.10 or lands with easements acquired with
23.11 this appropriation may not be used for
23.12 emergency haying and grazing in response
23.13 to federal or state disaster declarations.
23.14 Conservation grazing under a management
23.15 plan that is already being implemented may
23.16 continue. A list of proposed land acquisitions
23.17 and permanent conservation easements
23.18 must be provided as part of the required
23.19 accomplishment plan.

23.20 **(e) Mustinka River Fish and Wildlife**
23.21 **Habitat Corridor Rehabilitation**

23.22 \$2,440,000 in the second year is to the
23.23 commissioner of natural resources for
23.24 an agreement with the Bois de Sioux
23.25 Watershed District to acquire land in fee
23.26 and to restore natural systems associated
23.27 with the Mustinka River located within the
23.28 Bois de Sioux Watershed. Lands acquired
23.29 with this appropriation may not be used for
23.30 emergency haying and grazing in response
23.31 to federal or state disaster declarations.
23.32 Conservation grazing under a management
23.33 plan that is already being implemented may
23.34 continue. A list of proposed land acquisitions
23.35 must be provided as part of the required
23.36 accomplishment plan.

24.1 **(f) Minnesota Trout Unlimited Coldwater**
24.2 **Fish Habitat Enhancement and**
24.3 **Restoration - Phase VI**

24.4 \$1,900,000 in the second year is to the
24.5 commissioner of natural resources for an
24.6 agreement with Minnesota Trout Unlimited
24.7 to restore and enhance habitat for trout
24.8 and other species in and along coldwater
24.9 rivers and streams in Minnesota. A list of
24.10 proposed land restorations and enhancements
24.11 must be provided as part of the required
24.12 accomplishment plan.

24.13 **(g) St. Louis River Restoration Initiative -**
24.14 **Phase II**

24.15 \$2,290,000 in the second year is to the
24.16 commissioner of natural resources to restore
24.17 habitat in the lower St. Louis River estuary.
24.18 Of this appropriation, up to \$500,000 is for
24.19 an agreement with Minnesota Land Trust. A
24.20 list of proposed restorations must be provided
24.21 as part of the required accomplishment plan.

24.22 **(h) Knife River Habitat Rehabilitation -**
24.23 **Phase II**

24.24 \$1,410,000 in the second year is to the
24.25 commissioner of natural resources for an
24.26 agreement with the Lake Superior Steelhead
24.27 Association to enhance trout habitat in the
24.28 Knife River watershed. A list of proposed
24.29 enhancements must be provided as part of
24.30 the required accomplishment plan.

24.31 **(i) Restoration and Enhancement of**
24.32 **Washington County Public Lands**

24.33 \$430,000 in the second year is to the
24.34 commissioner of natural resources for an

25.1 agreement with Washington County to
25.2 restore and enhance habitat on public lands
25.3 in Washington County. A restoration and
25.4 enhancement plan and a list of proposed
25.5 land restorations and enhancements
25.6 must be provided as part of the required
25.7 accomplishment plan.

25.8 **(j) Wirth Park Enhancements**

25.9 \$600,000 in the second year is to the
25.10 commissioner of natural resources for an
25.11 agreement with the Minneapolis Park Board
25.12 to enhance riparian and upland habitat
25.13 within Wirth Park in Hennepin County.
25.14 A restoration and enhancement plan and
25.15 a list of proposed land restorations and
25.16 enhancements must be provided as part of
25.17 the required accomplishment plan.

25.18 **(k) Evaluate Effectiveness of Aquatic
25.19 Invasive Species Prevention Strategies**

25.20 \$4,040,000 in the second year is to the
25.21 commissioner of natural resources for an
25.22 agreement with the Central Minnesota
25.23 Initiative Fund to develop a series of pilot
25.24 projects to enhance aquatic habitat by
25.25 preventing the spread of aquatic invasive
25.26 species, including pilot projects conducting
25.27 education and outreach, inspection and
25.28 decontamination, enforcement, and other
25.29 activities. All pilot projects must be
25.30 conducted on a reimbursement basis and
25.31 require a match of nonoutdoor heritage fund
25.32 dollars. A required evaluation of results
25.33 must be funded with nonoutdoor heritage
25.34 fund dollars. The required evaluation must
25.35 evaluate the efficacy of inspection and

26.1 decontamination activities utilized in any of
26.2 the pilot projects in preventing the spread
26.3 of aquatic invasive species. A list of pilot
26.4 projects must be included in the required final
26.5 report. This appropriation is available until
26.6 June 30, 2019. The accomplishment plan
26.7 must accelerate the start of the pilot project.

26.8 **(l) Albert Lea Lake Management and**
26.9 **Invasive Species Control Structure -**
26.10 **Supplement**

26.11 \$700,000 in the second year is added to
26.12 the appropriation contained in Laws 2013,
26.13 chapter 137, article 1, section 2, subdivision
26.14 5, paragraph (h), to the commissioner of
26.15 natural resources for an agreement with
26.16 the Shell Rock River Watershed District to
26.17 construct structural deterrents and lake level
26.18 controls.

26.19 **(m) Conservation Partners Legacy Grant**
26.20 **Program - Phase VI**

26.21 \$4,550,000 in the second year is to the
26.22 commissioner of natural resources for a
26.23 program to provide competitive, matching
26.24 grants of up to \$400,000 to local, regional,
26.25 state, and national organizations for
26.26 enhancing, restoring, or protecting forests,
26.27 wetlands, prairies, or habitat for fish, game,
26.28 or wildlife in Minnesota. Grants shall not
26.29 be made for activities required to fulfill
26.30 the duties of owners of lands subject to
26.31 conservation easements. Grants shall not
26.32 be made from the appropriation in this
26.33 paragraph for projects that have a total
26.34 project cost exceeding \$575,000. Of this
26.35 appropriation, \$460,000 may be spent

27.1 for personnel costs and other direct and
27.2 necessary administrative costs. Grantees may
27.3 acquire land or interests in land. Easements
27.4 must be permanent. Grants may not be used
27.5 to establish easement stewardship accounts.
27.6 Land acquired in fee must be open to hunting
27.7 and fishing during the open season unless
27.8 otherwise provided by law. Lands acquired
27.9 or lands with easements acquired with this
27.10 appropriation may not be used for emergency
27.11 haying and grazing in response to federal
27.12 or state disaster declarations. Conservation
27.13 grazing under a management plan that is
27.14 already being implemented may continue.
27.15 The program shall require a match of at
27.16 least ten percent from nonstate sources
27.17 for all grants. The match may be cash or
27.18 in-kind resources. For grant applications
27.19 of \$25,000 or less, the commissioner shall
27.20 provide a separate, simplified application
27.21 process. Subject to Minnesota Statutes, the
27.22 commissioner of natural resources shall,
27.23 when evaluating projects of equal value,
27.24 give priority to organizations that have a
27.25 history of receiving or charter to receive
27.26 private contributions for local conservation
27.27 or habitat projects. If acquiring land or a
27.28 conservation easement, priority shall be
27.29 given to projects associated with or within
27.30 one mile of existing wildlife management
27.31 areas under Minnesota Statutes, section
27.32 86A.05, subdivision 8; scientific and natural
27.33 areas under Minnesota Statutes, sections
27.34 84.033 and 86A.05, subdivision 5; or aquatic
27.35 management areas under Minnesota Statutes,
27.36 sections 86A.05, subdivision 14, and 97C.02.

28.1 All restoration or enhancement projects
28.2 must be on land permanently protected by
28.3 a permanent covenant ensuring perpetual
28.4 maintenance and protection of restored
28.5 and enhanced habitat, by a conservation
28.6 easement, or by public ownership or in public
28.7 waters as defined in Minnesota Statutes,
28.8 section 103G.005, subdivision 15. Priority
28.9 shall be given to restoration and enhancement
28.10 projects on public lands. Minnesota Statutes,
28.11 section 97A.056, subdivision 13, applies
28.12 to grants awarded under this paragraph.
28.13 This appropriation is available until June
28.14 30, 2018. No less than five percent of the
28.15 amount of each grant must be held back from
28.16 reimbursement until the grant recipient has
28.17 completed a grant accomplishment report by
28.18 the deadline and in the form prescribed by
28.19 and satisfactory to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor
28.20 Heritage Council. The commissioner shall
28.21 provide notice of the grant program in
28.22 the game and fish law summary prepared
28.23 under Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.051,
28.24 subdivision 2.

28.25 **(n) Conservation Partners Legacy Metro**
28.26 **Grant Program**

28.27 \$4,000,000 in the second year is to the
28.28 commissioner of natural resources for a
28.29 program to provide competitive, matching
28.30 grants of up to \$400,000 to local, regional,
28.31 state, and national organizations for
28.32 enhancing, restoring, or protecting forests,
28.33 wetlands, prairies, or habitat for fish, game,
28.34 or wildlife in the seven-county metropolitan
28.35 area and cities with a population of 50,000
28.36 or greater. Grants shall not be made for

29.1 activities required to fulfill the duties of
29.2 owners of lands subject to conservation
29.3 easements. Grants shall not be made from the
29.4 appropriation in this paragraph for projects
29.5 that have a total project cost exceeding
29.6 \$575,000. Of this appropriation, \$70,000
29.7 may be spent for direct and necessary
29.8 administrative costs. Grantees may acquire
29.9 land or interests in land. Easements must
29.10 be permanent. Grants may not be used to
29.11 establish easement stewardship accounts.
29.12 Land acquired in fee must be open to hunting
29.13 and fishing during the open season unless
29.14 otherwise provided by law. Lands acquired
29.15 or lands with easements acquired with this
29.16 appropriation may not be used for emergency
29.17 haying and grazing in response to federal
29.18 or state disaster declarations. Conservation
29.19 grazing under a management plan that is
29.20 already being implemented may continue.
29.21 The program shall require a match of at
29.22 least ten percent from nonstate sources
29.23 for all grants. The match may be cash or
29.24 in-kind resources. For grant applications
29.25 of \$25,000 or less, the commissioner shall
29.26 provide a separate, simplified application
29.27 process. Subject to Minnesota Statutes, the
29.28 commissioner of natural resources shall,
29.29 when evaluating projects of equal value,
29.30 give priority to organizations that have a
29.31 history of receiving or charter to receive
29.32 private contributions for local conservation
29.33 or habitat projects. If acquiring land or a
29.34 conservation easement, priority shall be
29.35 given to projects associated with or within
29.36 one mile of existing wildlife management

30.1 areas under Minnesota Statutes, section
30.2 86A.05, subdivision 8; scientific and natural
30.3 areas under Minnesota Statutes, sections
30.4 84.033 and 86A.05, subdivision 5; or aquatic
30.5 management areas under Minnesota Statutes,
30.6 sections 86A.05, subdivision 14, and 97C.02.
30.7 All restoration or enhancement projects
30.8 must be on land permanently protected by
30.9 a permanent covenant ensuring perpetual
30.10 maintenance and protection of restored
30.11 and enhanced habitat, by a conservation
30.12 easement, or by public ownership or in public
30.13 waters as defined in Minnesota Statutes,
30.14 section 103G.005, subdivision 15. Priority
30.15 shall be given to restoration and enhancement
30.16 projects on public lands. Minnesota Statutes,
30.17 section 97A.056, subdivision 13, applies
30.18 to grants awarded under this paragraph.
30.19 This appropriation is available until June
30.20 30, 2018. No less than five percent of the
30.21 amount of each grant must be held back from
30.22 reimbursement until the grant recipient has
30.23 completed a grant accomplishment report by
30.24 the deadline and in the form prescribed by
30.25 and satisfactory to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor
30.26 Heritage Council. The commissioner shall
30.27 provide notice of the grant program in
30.28 the game and fish law summary prepared
30.29 under Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.051,
30.30 subdivision 2.

30.31 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.