

2011 Natural Resources Legislation

A Summary of the Actions of the 2011 Regular and Special Sessions of the Eighty-Seventh Minnesota Legislature

**Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
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**For further information contact:
Bob Meier, Director
Policy and Government Relations
651-259-5024**

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DIVISION OF ECOLOGICAL AND WATER RESOURCES

Chapter 2, First Special Session SF 3 Omnibus Environment and Natural Resources Finance

- Article 1: Division of Ecological and Water Resources appropriations
 - Provides \$18.4 million in General Fund, which represents a \$4.9 million General Fund reduction for the biennium.
 - Provides \$4.4 million per year for management, public awareness, assessment and monitoring research, law enforcement, and water access inspection to prevent the spread of invasive species; management of invasive plants in public waters; and management of terrestrial invasive species on state-administered lands.
 - Also provides \$1 million annually for law enforcement and water access inspection to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species. This is a one-time appropriation.
 - Provides \$3.2 million from the Heritage Enhancement Account for the purposes specified in M.S. 297A.94.
 - Provides \$2.4 million for the purpose of nongame wildlife management.
 - Provides grants for the Red River mediation agreement, the Mississippi Headwaters Board, and payment to the Leech Lake Band.
- Article 4: Statutory changes
 - New dedicated Water Management Account created to receive revenues generated from water use permits and other related receipts and provides a direct appropriation from this account.
 - Provides a cap on aquatic plant management permit fees at \$2,500 and requires DNR to set aquatic plant management permit fees by rule.
 - Removes requirement that a work program for the nongame wildlife checkoff program be submitted each year to the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources.

Chapter 107, Regular Session SF 1115 Aquatic Invasive Species

Effective 5-28-2011, unless otherwise noted

(Service Provider Permit, AIS Watercraft Rules Decal Effective 7-1-2011)

Water-related equipment

Water-related equipment defined as a motor vehicle, boat, watercraft, dock, boat lift, raft, vessel, trailer, tool, implement, device, or any other associated equipment or container, including but not limited to portable bait containers, live wells, ballast tanks (except those with a MPCA permit), bilge areas, and water-hauling equipment that is capable of containing or transporting AIS, aquatic macrophytes (plants), or water. This definition replaces and expands previous references to watercraft, trailers, plant harvesting equipment, and portable bait containers.

Inspections

- Compliance with AIS inspection requirements is an express condition of operating or transporting water-related equipment.
- Conservation Officers or Licensed Peace Officers may set up check stations at or near water access sites.
- Authorized inspectors can visually and tactilely inspect water related equipment.

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- Inspections include the removal, drainage, decontamination, or treatment to prevent the transportation and spread of AIS, aquatic macrophytes, and water.
- Protocols for decontamination of water-related equipment will be developed utilizing recommendations outlined in the legislation.
- Authorized inspectors may prohibit the launching or operation of water-related equipment if a person refuses to allow an inspection or does not remove and dispose of AIS, aquatic macrophytes (plants), and water.
- Refusing to allow an inspection or follow a removal order may result in a civil citation and a one year suspension of the watercraft license.

Boating

- All water-related equipment must be drained before leaving any waterbody. This includes portable bait containers.
- Transportation of aquatic macrophytes (plants) on all roads is prohibited unless specifically exempted. Current law only prohibits transportation on public roads.
- The changes allow for a criminal citation option for violations involving the transportation of aquatic macrophytes (plants), water and non-compliance with drain plug removal.
- Emergency response vehicles and equipment may be transported on a public road with the drain plug or other similar device replaced only after all water has been drained from the equipment upon leaving the water body.
- Watercraft owners or operators must obtain an AIS decal issued by the DNR and display the decal on the watercraft prior to launching, on, entering into, or operating on any waters of the state. After August 1, 2014, failure to display the required rules decal may result in a citation for a petty misdemeanor.

Property Owners

- Docks, boat lifts, and other water-related equipment that are removed from infested waters and placed on the riparian property on a seasonal basis or for short-term maintenance purposes can be returned to the same waters.

Service Providers

- Service providers are individuals or businesses hired to install or remove water-related equipment or structures from waters of the state.
- Service providers must obtain a permit from DNR before providing any services and must have a valid permit in possession while providing services.
- Service providers must complete invasive species training and pass an examination in order to qualify for a permit. Permits are valid for 3 years.
- Persons working for service providers that have a permit are required to complete DNR aquatic invasive species training.

Bait Harvesting

- Annual AIS training is required from DNR before receiving a bait harvest permit for working in infested waters or working for a permittee.

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- Equipment authorized for minnow harvest in a designated infested water may not be transported to or used in any other waters unless specifically authorized by a permit.
- Anyone (including the DNR) that harvests aquatic life from waters of the state for the purpose of transporting and stocking is required to bring the aquatic life to a holding facility for a minimum of ten hours and to examine for the presence of invasive species.

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DIVISION OF ENFORCEMENT

Chapter 1, First Special Session SF 1 Omnibus Judiciary and Public Safety

- Police pursuit in-service training every five years (was four)

Chapter 2, First Special Session SF 3 Omnibus Environment and Natural Resources Finance

- Article 1: Division of Enforcement appropriations
 - No general fund reduction for the Division of Enforcement
 - Conservation Officer academy funding provided from a combination of game & fish and natural resource funds, six officers in FY 2012 and ten in FY 2013
 - Snowmobile LE grants, ATV trail ambassador grant, OHV LE grants, boat and water LE grants
- Article 4: Statutory changes
 - Peace officer (CO) training account technical clarifications with direct appropriation
 - Feedlot permits more closely comply with federal law, definition of pasture includes winter forage locations and concentration of animals
 - CIBRS clarify Enforcement Division is a law enforcement agency for purposes of information sharing under the system
 - Silencers for wildlife control, sunset removed

Chapter 9, Regular Session HF141 Public safety dog injury penalty increased

- Felony to cause great or substantial bodily harm to police dog.
- Misdemeanor assault dog involved in law enforcement or in custody or control of peace officer.
- Mandatory restitution for vet expenses, purchase/training of replacement dog

Chapter 32, Regular Session HF361 Fleeing a peace office crime modified

- Fleeing in a motor vehicle 'or subsequently by other means' term added to penalty language.

Chapter 107, Regular Session SF1115 Omnibus Natural Resources Policy

- OHV seasonal restrictions on state forest lands commissioner authority to prescribe repealed.
- Clarifying OHMs can have dual registration for highway use and off-highway use, DNR and traffic laws amended.
- ORV non-resident trail pass:
 - ATV definition maximum cc's increased to 1000cc (was 960cc).
 - ATV safety training fee structure changed to accommodate future online education program, direct appropriation of training fees to Enforcement.
 - ATV youth operators may carry parent or legal guardian as a passenger
- ATV/OHM - other vehicles may not operate on trails designated for ATV or OHM use only (was only from Dec 1 thru April 1)
- Watercraft titling, titles to owner (vs first secured party)
- 'Utility task vehicle' and ATV size restrictions amended in the traffic code permit to operate on public roads without driver's license (usually disability related), section also includes mini-trucks, local ordinance, three year permit, general operation provisions

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- Wetland Conservation Act changes: allow electronic transmission of contractor notification forms and other specified notices, Great Lakes and Rainy River watershed basins considered single watershed for wetland replacement ratios, wetland replacement ratios, WCA appeals of restoration or replacement orders, and other technical changes
- Shallow lakes management report due to legislature by 1-1-2012

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DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Chapter 2, First Special Session SF 3 Omnibus Environment and Natural Resources Finance

- Article 1: Division Fish and Wildlife appropriations
 - The division base budget is essentially unchanged from FY2010-FY2011.
 - Dedicated accounts (mainly stamps) were appropriated statutorily, which means we can spend what is in the accounts for their statutory purposes, without needing specific appropriations.
 - A one-time \$600,000 appropriation for WMA acquisition from funds deposited from sale of an easement on Lamprey Pass WMA.
 - Provides for the transfer of money from the game and fish fund to the forest management investment account for certified forestry costs on game and fish lands.
- Article 5: Game and fish policy
 - Section 1 [Compensation for elk damage] adds fence damage and destruction by elk as eligible for compensation under the elk damage compensation program.
 - Section 2 [State contract restrictions; aquaculture exception] provides that the \$100,000 limitation on annual contracts does not apply to a private aquaculture business involved in state stocking contracts.
 - Section 3 [Containment facility definition] modifies the definition of “containment facility” for the purposes of the aquaculture laws to include species on the viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS) susceptible list.
 - Section 4 [Fish collector definition] adds a definition of “fish collector” for the purposes of the aquaculture laws.
 - Section 5 [Fish health inspection definition] broadens the definition of “fish health inspection” for the purposes of the aquaculture laws to include aquatic animal diseases.
 - Section 6 [Fish health inspector definition] broadens the definition of “fish health inspector” for the purposes of the aquaculture laws to broaden the term to include a person certified as an aquatic animal health inspector.
 - Section 7 [Fish sample collecting] provides for fish collector training and certification.
 - Section 8 [Fish health inspection] adds a fish health inspection requirement for species on the VHS susceptible list when there is a discharge to public waters.
 - Section 9 [Sales of fish eggs and fry by the state] removes the two percent cap on fish egg and fry sales and expands the program to allow barter.
 - Section 10 [Sucker eggs] removes the licensed water acreage requirement for obtaining sucker eggs; establishes criteria for the commissioner to allocate distribution of sucker eggs to licensed individuals.
 - Sections 11 and 12 [Fish and wildlife planning] eliminates obsolete language relating to fish and wildlife planning requirements.
 - Section 13 [Fish stocking restrictions] removes the 10-hour holding restriction that was enacted in Laws 2011, chapter 107.
 - Section 14 [Harvest of bait from infested waters] expands the permits to harvest bait from infested waters to include ones with certifiable diseases of fish and to allow certain taking of cisco and rainbow smelt.
 - Section 15 [Game birds definition; sandhill crane] adds sandhill crane to the definition of “game birds.”
 - Section 16 [Small game definition; gray wolf] adds gray wolf to the definition of “small game.”

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- Section 17 [Undressed bird definition] clarifies the definition of “undressed birds” for the purposes of transporting the bird under the game and fish laws. For all birds, other than ducks, the bird may have only a fully feathered wing intact. For ducks, the definition will continue to be one with both a fully feathered wing and head attached. For pheasant, Hungarian partridge, or wild turkey the definition also allows only one leg and foot intact.
- Section 18 [Unprotected birds definition; Eurasian collared dove] adds Eurasian collared dove to the definition of “unprotected birds.”
- Section 19 [Wild animal definition] clarifies that definition of “wild animal” includes dead wild animals.
- Section 20 [Emergency deterrent materials assistance] allows for emergency deterrent materials assistance for destruction of crops or pasture by elk within the native elk range. This section also increases the maximum amounts of assistance under the program.
- Section 21 [Walleye stamp revenue] specifies that all of the revenue from walleye stamp sales will be used for stocking walleyes purchased from the private sector.
- Section 22 [Minnow harvest in designated wildlife lakes] allows the taking of minnows to be restricted on lakes designated for wildlife management purposes.
- Section 23 [License refunds] provides that license refunds may be issued for requests made within 90 days of purchase and adds another criteria for refunding license fees if the applicant is not required by law to purchase a license to participate in the activity.
- Section 24 [Civil penalty; dog mortally wounding big game] provides for the elevated civil penalty when a dog mortally wounds a big game animal.
- Section 25 [Gross misdemeanor penalty for hunting big game while under revocation] makes it a gross misdemeanor to take big game during the time a person is prohibited from obtaining a license to take big game.
- Section 26 [Pictorial stamp purchases] removes the statutory \$2 price to purchase a pictorial stamp and allows the DNR to set the price to cover the cost of producing and mailing the stamp.
- Section 27 [Game and fish license transfer] allows a game and fish license transfer to a person with a severe disability or critical illness who is participating in a special program sponsored by a nonprofit.
- Section 28 [Dealers, tanners, and taxidermist reports] allows the DNR the option to approve report forms for dealers, tanners, and taxidermists instead of supplying the forms.
- Section 29 [Elk license selection] requires the commissioner to hold a separate drawing for 20 percent of the elk licenses issued each year for previously unsuccessful applicants who have applied at least ten times.
- Section 30 [Turkey license issuance] clarifies authorities of the commissioner for issuing licenses to take wild turkeys.
- Section 31 [Ice fishing without a license in state parks] expands authorization to fish in state parks without a license to include ice fishing.
- Section 32 [Preference for service members; Purple Heart Medal] provides for a preference for service members with a Purple Heart Medal or 100 percent disability for certain game and fish drawings.
- Section 33 [Nonresident fishing license surcharge; youth exemption] provides that nonresidents under age 16 who purchase a fishing license will not be assessed the nonresident fishing license surcharge.
- Section 34 [Deer killed by motor vehicle] clarifies that a person may keep a deer killed by the person’s vehicle.

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- Section 35 [Possession of unlawful fish taken in Canada] specifies that a person who possess unlawful fish from Canada may be charged in the same manner as if the fish were unlawful in Minnesota.
- Section 36 [Game bird transportation] clarifies that doves may be shipped or transported in accordance with federal law. Current federal law allows doves to be shipped and transported fully dressed.
- Section 37 [Parent or guardian responsibility; violation] makes it a violation for a parent or guardian to knowingly permit a person under age 18 to hunt in violation of specific license, permit, certification, or training requirements in the game and fish laws.
- Section 38 [Apprentice hunter validation requirements] modifies the qualifying age for obtaining an apprentice hunter validation; and allows use of apprentice hunter validation for two years in a lifetime instead of one year.
- Sections 39, 42, and 44 [Medical evidence for disability permits] provides that certified nurse practitioners and certified physician assistants working under the direction of licensed physicians may complete the medical evidence information required for various disability hunting permit applications.
- Section 40 [Guns allowed while hunting by muzzleloader] provides that a person while hunting with a muzzleloader license may only have a muzzleloader and a handgun in possession.
- Section 41 [Uncased firearms] removes the requirement to have firearms cased in a motor vehicle while traveling to a hunting location in cities with a population less than 2,500 outside of Anoka, Ramsey, and Hennepin counties.
- Section 43 [Hunting hours] removes statutory hunting hours on the opening day for ducks.
- Section 45 [Possession of a firearm while hunting deer by archery] allows a person with a permit to carry a handgun to have a handgun in possession while hunting deer by archery.
- Section 46 [Deer stand restrictions] eliminates the height restrictions on deer stands.
- Section 47 [Bear license] requires a person selected in a drawing to purchase a license by August 1.
- Section 48 [Bear bait station identification] allows a person to mark their bear baiting station with their DNR license number.
- Section 49 [Bear baiting with a drum] allows a person to use a drum to bait bear on the person's private land.
- Section 50 [Taking elk causing damage or nuisance] provides the commissioner with authority to issue licenses to hunters to take elk that are causing damage or nuisance from September 1 to March 1. Licensees who are issued licenses under this provision are exempt from the "once-in-a-lifetime" restrictions.
- Section 51 [Gray wolf open season] allows for an open season on gray wolves after they are delisted under the federal Endangered Species Act.
- Section 52 [Beaver removal] allows a road authority to remove and kill beavers.
- Section 53 [Waterfowl seasons] eliminates the prohibition on opening the duck season prior to the Saturday nearest October 1 and would continue to require the commissioner to prescribe waterfowl seasons in accordance with federal law.
- Section 54 [1837 ceded territory fishing regulations adjustments] allows the commissioner to make midseason adjustments in daily possession or size limits on special management waters in the 1837 Ceded Territory by written order published in the State Register. The changes are based on available harvest, angling pressure, and population data, and limited to those necessary to manage the fisheries in compliance with the court orders in *Mille Lacs Band of Chippewa v. Minnesota*, 119 S. Ct. 1187

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(1999). The written order is not effective until the commissioner attempts to notify persons and groups affected by the change.

- Section 55 [Northern pike] restricts the number of lakes with special regulations for northern pike to 100.
- Sections 56 and 57 [Fishing contests] clarify the fishing contest permitting requirements.
- Section 58 [Sturgeon tag clarification] clarifies that only one tag application may be made per calendar year.
- Section 59 [Transporting and stocking fish] authorizes the commissioner to prohibit transportation of live fish by youth for aquarium purposes to help prevent spread of an emergency fish disease documented to occur in Minnesota waters.
- Section 60 [Price of game fish fry and eggs] specifies that the DNR may not sell game fish fry or eggs for less than the cost associated with their production.
- Section 61 [Using aquatic life for bait] allows the commissioner to authorize the use of game fish eggs as bait and to prescribe restrictions on their use. It also extends the current prohibition on “bait” being imported from VHS positive waters to include any bait used for taking wild animals and allows specific exemptions from this requirement for cisco and rainbow smelt.
- Section 62 [Certification of frozen or dead bait] provides for the certification for disease-free frozen or dead fish bait.
- Section 63 [BWSR powers clarification] clarifies that the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) has the powers to implement delegated purposes related to the acceptance of grants or gifts.
- Section 64 [Coyote conflict management option] allows county or town boards to offer a bounty for taking coyotes.
- Section 65 [Grazing state land] provides immunity from liability for grazing on state lands.
- Section 66 [Liability limits for walk-in program] specifies that land leased by the state for a walk-in access program is subject to liability protection afforded owners of land who give permission to use the land without charge.
- Section 67 [Rulemaking] directs the DNR to amend rules to allow game farm operators to use approved report and sales receipt formats.
- Section 68. [Cass Lake spearing] allows spearing on Cass Lake; prohibits special or experimental regulations that apply to spearing for five years.
- Section 69 [Deer hunting rules] prohibits antler point restrictions for deer after the 2012 season, unless authorized by the legislature.
- Section 70 [Repealer] repeals Minnesota Statutes 2008, sections:
84.942, subdivisions 2, 3, and 4, fish and wildlife planning requirements;
97A.015, subdivisions 26b, 27b, and 27c, deer areas;
97A.435, subdivision 5, wild turkey licensing; and
97B.511, moose stand heights
97B.515, subdivision 3, elk stand heights
97C.081, subdivision 2, fishing contests without a permit
- Section 71 [Effective date] makes this article effective retroactively from July 1, 2011.

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DIVISION OF FORESTRY

Chapter 2, First Special Session SF 3 Omnibus Environment and Natural Resources Finance

- Article 1: Division of Forestry appropriations. For the 2012-2013 biennium, the division was appropriated \$67.8 million from the General, Natural Resources, and Game and Fish funds, or \$33.9 million each year. Of this amount, the general-fund appropriation is \$19 million each year, or \$38 million over the biennium.
 - Firefighting Activities: There is an appropriation of \$7,145,000 from the General Fund each year of the biennium for prevention, presuppression, and suppression costs of emergency firefighting.
 - Firefighting Report: The department is required to report to the Legislature all firefighting costs and reimbursements by January 15 each year.
 - Forest Management Investment Account: There is an appropriation of \$13,593,000 from the Forest Management Investment Account (FMIA) in the Natural Resources Fund each year of the biennium for forest management activities specified in Minnesota Statutes, section 89.039, subdivision 2. (This is an increase of \$3,903,000 from the last biennium when the division received an appropriation of \$12,193,000 for Fiscal Year 2010 and an appropriation for \$11,093,000 for Fiscal Year 2011 from FMIA.)
 - Forest Resources Council: There is an appropriation of \$580,000 from the General Fund each year of the biennium for the council's implementation of the Sustainable Forest Resources Act. The council started with a budget of \$780,000 per year for the 2010-2011 biennium. A \$73,000 reduction resulted in the council's base budget ending up at \$707,000 at the start of the 2012-2013 biennium. Now at \$580,000 designated for each year of the 2012-2013 biennium, the council has experienced a 26 percent reduction in its budget from the beginning of the 2010 fiscal year to the beginning of the 2012 fiscal year.
 - FORIST System: There is an appropriation of \$250,000 from the General Fund each year of the biennium to maintain the FORIST system. This reflects a 29 percent reduction from the \$350,000 appropriated for the FORIST system each year of the 2008-2009 biennium.
 - Heritage Enhancement Activities: There is an appropriation of \$1,000,000 from the Heritage Enhancement Account in the Game and Fish Fund each year of the biennium to maintain and expand the ecological classification system (ECS) program on state forest lands. This is a one-time appropriation. (The Division of Forestry is receiving an additional \$264,000 each year of the biennium to develop ECS tools; this is what the division has regularly been appropriated from the Heritage Enhancement Account.)
- Article 3, Section 2, Subdivision 18 (b), (1). Expanding the Availability of Appropriations From the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR)—The availability of the LCCMR appropriation for the Division of Forestry's School Forest Program project, "Expanding Outdoor Classrooms at Minnesota Schools," has been extended to June 30, 2013 (replaces June 30, 2012, as the project completion date).
- Article 4, Section 5. Forest Management Investment Account and Cost Certification—A new section, M.S. 89.0385, is added to Minnesota Statutes that enables the Division of Forestry to recover from other divisions the costs it incurs for forest management, forest improvement, and road improvement on lands administered by those other divisions and have those funds deposited in the Forest Management Investment Account.
- Article 4, Section 6. Account Established; Sources—M.S. 89.039, subdivision 1, is amended to include that costs recovered from other divisions for forest management activities incurred by the Division of Forestry

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on lands administered by those other divisions can be transferred to the Forest Management Investment Account.

- Article 4, Section 30. State Tree Nursery Program Restructuring; Report Required—Beginning July 1, 2011, new plantings at Baudora State Nursery will be limited to the planting of stock for research or use on public lands or private conservation lands with permanent protection. Excess plant material may be sold or traded to private wholesale nurseries. By January 15, 2012, a budget and financial plan for the state nurseries is due to the Legislature.

Chapter 7, First Special Session HF 20 Taxes

- Article 6, Section 12. Calculation of Incentive Payment—M.S. 290C.07, was amended to provide a flat \$7 per acre payment for each acre enrolled in the Sustainable Forest Incentive Program (SFIP). The annual payment per landowner cannot exceed \$100,000. Landowners who currently participate in SFIA may switch to the 2c Managed Forest Land Program. They must terminate their SFIA contract and apply for 2c through their county assessor by September 1, 2011.

Chapter 3, Regular Session HF 55 2010 Omnibus State Lands (Reintroduced)

(Note: This bill was originally vetoed in the 2010 legislative session due to other provisions added at the end of the session; the reintroduced bill contained only the land provisions.)

- Section 3, Subdivision 1a. Boundaries Designated—Language added that gives the DNR the authority to purchase lands within or adjacent to existing designated state forests if their ownership would enhance natural resource values.
- Section 4, Subdivision 2. Acquisition for State Forests—Language added to clarify that state forest lands may be acquired subject to or not subject to mineral reservation.
- Section 8. Additions to State Forests—Language adds an area to the Lyons State Forest.
- Section 13. Private Sale of Surplus State Land; Carlton County—Language added that allows the land “housing” the Cloquet Forestry Office to be sold.
- Section 16. Private Sale of Surplus State Land Bordering Public Water; Cass County—Language added that allows land bordering Nellie Lake to be sold to a school district to continue the operation of an educational unit managed forest (Longville School Forest). The school land portion of the parcel was exchanged for private land prior to the sale. The land may be sold to a school district for less than the value of the land, subject to reversion if the school district abandons public use.
- Section 24. Conveyance of Surplus State Land; Acquisition; Nicollet County—Language added that authorizes the Department of Administration to convey certain small parcels of state-owned land to the city of St. Peter and acquire certain city-owned parcels from the city of St. Peter, both for no consideration. This includes one of the last parcels of Forestry-administered land in the area known as “Hell’s Half Acre.”
- Section 27. Public Sale of Surplus State Land Bordering Public Water; Roseau County—Language added that authorizes the DNR to sell an isolated parcel of forest land that borders the Warroad River.

Chapter 98, Regular Session SF 712 2011 Omnibus State Lands

- Section 2, Statute Amendment—Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 89.021, subdivision 48, is amended to correct the spelling of **Smokey** Hills State Forest to **Smoky** Hills State Forest.
- Section 7, Addition to State Forest—Adds areas to the Smoky Hills State Forest.
- Section 8, Deletion from State Forest—Deletes an area from the Lost River State Forest.

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- Section 13, Public Sale of Surplus State Land Bordering Public Water; Cass County—Authorizes the sale of 11 acres of state forest land bordering Ten Mile Lake to help resolve a trespass issue.

Chapter 107, Regular Session SF 1115 Omnibus Natural Resources Policy

- Section 104, Camp Five Township Easement Lease—Language added that requires the DNR to provide the Camp Five Township an easement across state forest land in St. Louis County.

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DIVISION OF LANDS AND MINERALS

Chapter 2, First Special Session SF 3 Omnibus Environment and Natural Resources Finance

- Article 1: Division of Lands and Minerals appropriations. Appropriates \$7.772 million in FY12 and \$7.772 million in FY13 to the division.
 - \$2,696,000 the first year and \$2,696,000 the second year are from the minerals management account in the natural resources fund for use as provided in Minnesota Statutes, section 93.2236, paragraph (c), for mineral resource management, projects to enhance future mineral income, and projects to promote new mineral resource opportunities.
 - \$68,000 the first year and \$68,000 the second year are for minerals cooperative environmental research, of which \$34,000 the first year and \$34,000 the second year are available only as matched by \$1 of nonstate money for each \$1 of state money. The match may be cash or in-kind.
 - \$251,000 the first year and \$251,000 the second year are for iron ore cooperative research. Of this amount, \$200,000 each year is from the minerals management account in the natural resources fund. \$175,000 the first year and \$175,000 the second year are available only as matched by \$1 of nonstate money for each \$1 of state money. The match may be cash or in-kind. Any unencumbered balance from the first year does not cancel and is available in the second year.
 - \$630,000 the first year and \$630,000 the second year are from the dedicated receipts account in the natural resources fund to cover the costs associated with issuing licenses for land and water crossings and road easements.
 - \$200,000 the first year and \$200,000 the second year are from the state forest suspense account in the permanent school fund to accelerate land exchanges, land sales, and commercial leasing of school trust lands and to identify, evaluate, and lease construction aggregate located on school trust lands. This appropriation is to be used for securing maximum long-term economic return from the school trust lands consistent with fiduciary responsibilities and sound natural resources conservation and management principles.
 - The appropriations in Laws 2007, chapter 57, article 1, section 4, subdivision 2, as amended by Laws 2009, chapter 37, article 1, section 60, for support of the land records management system are available until June 30, 2013.
- Article 4: Statutory changes
 - Mining administration:

Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 93.481, subdivision 7, is amended to read:
Subd. 7. Mining administration account. The mining administration account is established as an account in the natural resources fund. Fees charged to owners, operators, or managers of mines under this section and section 93.482 shall be credited to the account and ~~may be~~ are appropriated to the commissioner to cover the costs of providing and monitoring permits to mine. Earnings accruing from investment of the account remain with the account until appropriated.
 - State lands:

Sec. 29. Laws 2005, chapter 156, article 2, section 45, as amended by Laws 2007, chapter 148, article 2, section 73, and Laws 2009, chapter 37, article 1, section 59, is amended to read:
Sec. 45. SALE OF STATE LAND.
Subdivision 1. State land sales. The commissioner of administration shall coordinate with the head of each department or agency having control of state-owned land to identify and sell at least

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\$6,440,000 of state-owned land. Sales should be completed according to law and as provided in this section as soon as practicable but no later than June 30, ~~2011~~ 2013. Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, sections 16B.281 and 16B.282, 94.09 and 94.10, or any other law to the contrary, the commissioner may offer land for public sale by only providing notice of lands or an offer of sale of lands to state departments or agencies, the University of Minnesota, cities, counties, towns, school districts, or other public entities.

Subd. 2. Anticipated savings. Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, section 94.16, subdivision 3, or other law to the contrary, the amount of the proceeds from the sale of land under this section that exceeds the actual expenses of selling the land must be deposited in the general fund, except as otherwise provided by the commissioner of finance. Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, section 94.11 or 16B.283, the commissioner of finance may establish the timing of payments for land purchased under this section. If the total of all money deposited into the general fund from the proceeds of the sale of land under this section is anticipated to be less than \$6,440,000, the governor must allocate the amount of the difference as reductions to general fund operating expenditures for other executive agencies for the biennium ending June 30, ~~2011~~ 2013.

Subd. 3. Sale of state lands revolving loan fund. \$290,000 is appropriated from the general fund in fiscal year 2006 to the commissioner of administration for purposes of paying the actual expenses of selling state-owned lands to achieve the anticipated savings required in this section. From the gross proceeds of land sales under this section, the commissioner of administration must cancel the amount of the appropriation in this subdivision to the general fund by June 30, ~~2011~~ 2013.

- Payment in Lieu of Taxes:

Sec. 35. REPORT ON PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES FOR STATE NATURAL RESOURCE LANDS.

By December 1, 2012, the commissioner of natural resources, in cooperation with the commissioners of revenue and management and budget, and stakeholders, including representatives from affected local units of government and other interested parties, shall report to the chairs and ranking minority caucus members of the senate and house of representatives natural resources and tax policy and finance committees with recommended changes to payment in lieu of taxes for natural resource lands under Minnesota Statutes, sections 97A.061 and 477A.11 to 477A.145. The report shall include an analysis of the current payment and distribution system and any recommended changes to:

(1) the purpose of the payment system and the criteria for payments;

(2) the rate of payments for specific classes of natural resource lands;

(3) the adequacy of current funding for payments and the impact of additional land acquisition on the funding;

(4) alternative methods of reimbursing local units of governments for state natural resource lands; and

(5) the formula for distribution of the payments to local units of government.

- Wild rice rulemaking and research

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Chapter 7, First Special Session HF 20 Taxes

- Non-ferrous metallic minerals taxes:
 - Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 272.02, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:
Subd. 97. Property used in business of mining subject to net proceeds tax. The following property used in the business of mining that is subject to the net proceeds tax under section 298.015 is exempt:
(1) deposits of ores, metals, and minerals and the lands in which they are contained;
(2) all real and personal property used in mining, quarrying, producing, or refining ores, minerals, or metals, including lands occupied by or used in connection with the mining, quarrying, production, or ore refining facilities; and
(3) concentrate or direct reduced ore.
This exemption applies for each year that a person subject to tax under section 298.015 uses the property for mining, quarrying, producing, or refining ores, metals, or minerals.
EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective for taxes payable in 2012 and thereafter.
 - Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 290.05, subdivision 1, is amended to read:
Subdivision 1. Exempt entities. The following corporations, individuals, estates, trusts, and organizations shall be exempted from taxation under this chapter, provided that every such person or corporation claiming exemption under this chapter, in whole or in part, must establish to the satisfaction of the commissioner the taxable status of any income or activity:
(a) corporations, individuals, estates, and trusts engaged in the business of mining or producing iron ore and mining, producing, or refining other ores, metals, and minerals, the mining or production, or refining of which is subject to the occupation tax imposed by section 298.01; but if any such corporation, individual, estate, or trust engages in any other business or activity or has income from any property not used in such business it shall be subject to this tax computed on the net income from such property or such other business or activity. Royalty shall not be considered as income from the business of mining or producing iron ore within the meaning of this section;
(b) the United States of America, the state of Minnesota or any political subdivision of either agencies or instrumentalities, whether engaged in the discharge of governmental or proprietary functions; and
(c) any insurance company.
EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2010.
 - Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 298.001, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:
Subd. 10. Refining. "Refining" means and is limited to refining:
(1) of ores, metals, or mineral products, the mining, extraction, or quarrying of which were subject to tax under section 298.015; and
(2) carried out by the entity, or an affiliated entity, that mined, extracted, or quarried the metal or mineral products.
EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2010.
 - Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 298.01, subdivision 3, is amended to read:
Subd. 3. Occupation tax; other ores. Every person engaged in the business of mining, refining,

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or producing ores, metals, or minerals in this state, except iron ore or taconite concentrates, shall pay an occupation tax to the state of Minnesota as provided in this subdivision. For purposes of this subdivision, mining includes the application of hydrometallurgical processes.

The tax is determined in the same manner as the tax imposed by section 290.02, except that sections 290.05, subdivision 1, clause (a), 290.17, subdivision 4, and 290.191, subdivision 2, do not apply, and the occupation tax must be computed by applying to taxable income the rate of 2.45 percent. A person subject to occupation tax under this section shall apportion its net income on the basis of the percentage obtained by taking the sum of:

- (1) 75 percent of the percentage which the sales made within this state in connection with the trade or business during the tax period are of the total sales wherever made in connection with the trade or business during the tax period;
- (2) 12.5 percent of the percentage which the total tangible property used by the taxpayer in this state in connection with the trade or business during the tax period is of the total tangible property, wherever located, used by the taxpayer in connection with the trade or business during the tax period; and
- (3) 12.5 percent of the percentage which the taxpayer's total payrolls paid or incurred in this state or paid in respect to labor performed in this state in connection with the trade or business during the tax period are of the taxpayer's total payrolls paid or incurred in connection with the trade or business during the tax period.

The tax is in addition to all other taxes.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2010.

- Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 298.01, subdivision 3a, is amended to read:
Subd. 3a. Gross income. (a) For purposes of determining a person's taxable income under subdivision 3, gross income is determined by the amount of gross proceeds from mining in this state under section 298.016 and includes any gain or loss recognized from the sale or disposition of assets used in the business in this state. If more than one ore, mineral, or metal, ~~or energy resource~~ referred to in section 298.016 is mined and processed at the same mine and plant, a gross income for each ore, mineral, or metal, ~~or energy resource~~ must be determined separately. The gross incomes may be combined on one occupation tax return to arrive at the gross income of all production.
(b) In applying section 290.191, subdivision 5, transfers of ores, metals, or minerals that are subject to tax under this chapter are deemed to be sales in this state.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2010.

- Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 298.015, subdivision 1, is amended to read:
Subdivision 1. Tax imposed. A person engaged in the business of mining shall pay to the state of Minnesota for distribution as provided in section 298.018 a net proceeds tax equal to two percent of the net proceeds from mining in Minnesota. The tax applies to all ~~mineral and energy resources~~ ores, metals, and minerals mined ~~or~~ extracted, produced, or refined within the state of Minnesota except for sand, silica sand, gravel, building stone, crushed rock, limestone, granite, dimension granite, dimension stone, horticultural peat, clay, soil, iron ore, and taconite concentrates. The tax is in addition to all other taxes provided for by law.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2010.

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- Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 298.015, subdivision 2, is amended to read:
Subd. 2. Net proceeds. For purposes of this section, the term "net proceeds" means the gross proceeds from mining, as defined in section 298.016, less the deductions ~~allowed in section 298.017 for purposes of determining taxable income under section 298.01, subdivision 3b, applied to the mining, production, processing, beneficiation, smelting, or refining of metal or mineral products.~~ No other credits or deductions shall apply to this tax ~~except for those provided in section 298.017.~~
EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective for taxes payable in 2012 and thereafter.
- Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 298.016, subdivision 4, is amended to read:
Subd. 4. Definitions Metal or mineral products; definition. For the purposes of ~~sections 298.015 and 298.017 this section,~~ the terms defined in this subdivision have the meaning ~~given them unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.~~ (a) "metal or mineral products" means all those ~~mineral and energy resources~~ ores, metals, and minerals subject to the tax provided in section 298.015.
(b) ~~"Exploration" means activities designed and engaged in to ascertain the existence, location, extent, or quality of any deposit of metal or mineral products prior to the development of a mining site.~~
(c) ~~"Development" means activities designed and engaged in to prepare or develop a potential mining site for mining after the existence of metal or mineral products in commercially marketable quantities has been disclosed including, but not limited to, the clearing of forestation, the building of roads, removal of overburden, or the sinking of shafts.~~
(d) ~~"Research" means activities designed and engaged in to create new or improved methods of mining, producing, processing, beneficiating, smelting, or refining metal or mineral products.~~
EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2010.
- Sec. 9. REPEALER.
Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 298.017, is repealed.
EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2010.
- PILT rates and distribution:
 - Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 97A.061, subdivision 1, is amended to read:
Subdivision 1. Applicability; amount. (a) The commissioner shall annually make a payment to each county having public hunting areas and game refuges. Money to make the payments is annually appropriated for that purpose from the general fund. Except as provided in paragraph (b), this section does not apply to state trust fund land and other state land not purchased for game refuge or public hunting purposes. Except as provided in paragraph (b), the payment shall be the greatest of:
(1) 35 percent of the gross receipts from all special use permits and leases of land acquired for public hunting and game refuges;
(2) 50 cents per acre on land purchased actually used for public hunting or game refuges; or
(3) three-fourths of one percent of the appraised value of purchased land actually used for public hunting and game refuges.
(b) The payment shall be 50 percent of the dollar amount ~~adjusted for inflation~~ as determined under section 477A.12, subdivision 1, paragraph (a), clause (1), multiplied by the number of acres

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of land in the county that are owned by another state agency for military purposes and designated as a game refuge under section 97A.085.

(c) The payment must be reduced by the amount paid under subdivision 3 for croplands managed for wild geese.

(d) The appraised value is the purchase price for five years after acquisition.

The appraised value shall be determined by the county assessor every five years after acquisition.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective for aids payable in calendar year 2011 and thereafter.

- Sec. 19. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 477A.11, subdivision 1, is amended to read:
Subdivision 1. Terms. For the purpose of sections 477A.11 to ~~477A.145~~ 477A.14, the terms defined in this section have the meanings given them.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective for aids payable in calendar year 2011 and thereafter.

- Sec. 20. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 477A.12, subdivision 1, is amended to read:
Subdivision 1. Types of land; payments. (a) As an offset for expenses incurred by counties and towns in support of natural resources lands, the following amounts are annually appropriated to the commissioner of natural resources from the general fund for transfer to the commissioner of revenue. The commissioner of revenue shall pay the transferred funds to counties as required by sections 477A.11 to ~~477A.145~~ 477A.14.

The amounts are:

(1) for acquired natural resources land, ~~\$3, as adjusted for inflation under section 477A.145,~~ \$5.133 multiplied by the total number of acres of acquired natural resources land or, at the county's option three-fourths of one percent of the appraised value of all acquired natural resources land in the county, whichever is greater;

(2) ~~75 cents, as adjusted for inflation under section 477A.145,~~ \$1.283 multiplied by the number of acres of county-administered other natural resources land;

(3) ~~75 cents, as adjusted for inflation under section 477A.145,~~ \$1.283 multiplied by the total number of acres of land utilization project land; and

(4) ~~37.5~~ 64.2 cents, ~~as adjusted for inflation under section 477A.145,~~ multiplied by the number of acres of commissioner-administered other natural resources land located in each county as of July 1 of each year prior to the payment year.

(b) The amount determined under paragraph (a), clause (1), is payable for land that is acquired from a private owner and owned by the Department of Transportation for the purpose of replacing wetland losses caused by transportation projects, but only if the county contains more than 500 acres of such land at the time the certification is made under subdivision 2.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective for aids payable in calendar year 2011 and thereafter.

- Sec. 21. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 477A.14, subdivision 1, is amended to read:
Subdivision 1. General distribution. Except as provided in subdivision 2 or in section 97A.061, subdivision 5, 40 percent of the total payment to the county shall be deposited in the county general revenue fund to be used to provide property tax levy reduction. The remainder shall be distributed by the county in the following priority:

(a) ~~37.5~~ 64.2 cents, ~~as adjusted for inflation under section 477A.145,~~ for each acre of county-administered other natural resources land shall be deposited in a resource development fund to be created within the county treasury for use in resource development, forest management, game and fish habitat improvement, and recreational development and

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maintenance of county-administered other natural resources land. Any county receiving less than \$5,000 annually for the resource development fund may elect to deposit that amount in the county general revenue fund;

(b) From the funds remaining, within 30 days of receipt of the payment to the county, the county treasurer shall pay each organized township ~~30~~ 51.3 cents, ~~as adjusted for inflation under section 477A.145,~~ for each acre of acquired natural resources land and each acre of land described in section 477A.12, subdivision 1, paragraph (b), and ~~7.5~~ 12.8 cents, ~~as adjusted for inflation under section 477A.145,~~ for each acre of other natural resources land and each acre of land utilization project land located within its boundaries. Payments for natural resources lands not located in an organized township

shall be deposited in the county general revenue fund. Payments to counties and townships pursuant to this paragraph shall be used to provide property tax levy reduction, except that of the payments for natural resources lands not located in an organized township, the county may allocate the amount determined to be necessary for maintenance of roads in unorganized townships. Provided that, if the total payment to the county pursuant to section 477A.12 is not sufficient to fully fund the distribution provided for in this clause, the amount available shall be distributed to each township and the county general revenue fund on a pro rata basis; and

(c) Any remaining funds shall be deposited in the county general revenue fund.

Provided that, if the distribution to the county general revenue fund exceeds \$35,000, the excess shall be used to provide property tax levy reduction.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective for aids payable in calendar year 2011 and thereafter.

- Sec. 27. REPEALER.

(a) Minnesota Statutes 2010, sections 275.295; and 477A.145, are repealed.

(b) Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 273.1384, subdivisions 1 and 6, are repealed.

EFFECTIVE DATE. Paragraph (a) is effective for aids payable in 2012 and thereafter. Paragraph (b) is effective for taxes payable in 2012 and thereafter.

Chapter 11, First Special Session HF 26 Omnibus Education Finance

• Apportionment of permanent school fund proceeds:

Sec. 26. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 127A.33, is amended to read:

127A.33 SCHOOL ENDOWMENT FUND; APPORTIONMENT.

The commissioner shall apportion the school endowment fund semiannually on the first Monday in March and September in each year, to districts whose schools have been in session at least nine months. The apportionment shall be in proportion to ~~the number of pupils in~~ each district's adjusted average daily membership during the preceding year. The apportionment shall not be paid to a district for pupils for whom tuition is received by the district.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective March 1, 2012, and later.

• Investment income, permanent school fund:

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 11A.16, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

Subd. 5. Calculation of income. As of the end of each fiscal year, the state

board shall calculate the investment income earned by the permanent school fund. The investment income earned by the fund shall equal the amount of interest on debt securities ~~and~~ and dividends on

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equity securities, and interest earned on certified monthly earnings prior to the transfer to the Department of Education. Gains and losses arising from the sale of securities shall be apportioned as follows:

(a) If the sale of securities results in a net gain during a fiscal year, the gain shall be apportioned in equal installments over the next ten fiscal years to offset net losses in those years. If any portion of an installment is not needed to recover subsequent losses identified in paragraph (b) it shall be added to the principal of the fund.

(b) If the sale of securities results in a net loss during a fiscal year, the net loss shall be recovered first from the gains in paragraph (a) apportioned to that fiscal year. If these gains are insufficient, any remaining net loss shall be recovered from interest and dividend income in equal installments over the following ten fiscal years.

Chapter 3, Regular Session HF 55 2010 Omnibus State Lands (Reintroduced)

- Sec. 1, Trout stream easement formula
- Sec. 7, Exception for exchange of riparian land in BWCAW
- Sec. 10, Sale of surplus land at less than appraised value
- Secs. 11, 12, 13, 16, 17, 18, 19, 22, 25, 27, 28, 39, 40, sale of DNR land
- Sec. 23, Exchange of state land within Lake Maria WMA
- Sec. 43, Conveyance of drainage district land, Winona County.

Chapter 4, Regular Session HF1 Environmental permitting efficiency

- Permitting efficiency:

Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 84.027, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 14a. Permitting efficiency. (a) It is the goal of the state that environmental and resource management permits be issued or denied within 150 days of the submission of a substantially completed permit application. The commissioner of natural resources shall establish management systems designed to achieve the goal.

(b) The commissioner shall prepare semiannual permitting efficiency reports that include statistics on meeting the goal in paragraph (a). The reports are due February 1 and August 1 each year. For permit applications that have not met the goal, the report must state the reasons for not meeting the goal, steps that will be taken to complete action on the application, and the expected timeline. In stating the reasons for not meeting the goal, the commissioner shall separately identify delays caused by the responsiveness of the proposer, lack of staff, scientific or technical disagreements, or the level of public engagement. The report must specify the number of days from initial submission of the application to the day of determination that the application is complete. The report for August 1 each year must aggregate the data for the year and assess whether program or system changes are necessary to achieve the goal. The report must be posted on the department's Web site and submitted to the governor and the chairs and ranking minority members of the house of representatives and senate committees having jurisdiction over natural resources policy and finance.

(c) The commissioner shall allow electronic submission of environmental review and permit documents to the department.

(d) Beginning July 1, 2011, within 30 business days of application for a permit subject to paragraph (a), the commissioner of natural resources shall notify the project proposer, in writing, of whether or

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not the permit application is complete enough for processing. If the permit is incomplete, the commissioner must identify where deficiencies exist and advise the applicant on how they can be remedied. A resubmittal of the application begins a new 30-day review period. If the commissioner fails to notify the project proposer of completeness within 30 business days, the application is deemed to be substantially complete and subject to the 150-day permitting review period in paragraph (a) from the date it was submitted. This paragraph does not apply to an application for a permit that is subject to a grant or loan agreement under chapter 446A.

- Final decisions:

Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 116D.04, subdivision 3a, is amended to read:

Subd. 3a. Final decisions. Within ~~90~~ 30 days after final approval of an environmental impact statement, final decisions shall be made by the appropriate governmental units on those permits which were identified as required and for which information was developed concurrently with the preparation of the environmental impact statement. Provided, however, that the ~~90-day~~ 30-day period may be extended where a longer period is permitted by section 15.99 or required by federal law or state statute or is consented to by the permit applicant. The permit decision shall include the reasons for the decision, including any conditions under which the permit is issued, together with a final order granting or denying the permit.

APPLICATION. This section applies to matters in which final approval of an environmental impact statement is made on or after the effective date.

Chapter 98, Regular Session SF 712 2011 Omnibus State Lands

- Sec. 1, Deposit of mineral lease fees for OHVRA
- Secs. 8 and 9, Transfer of state land in Roseau County from forest to WMA
- Secs. 10, 13, 14, 15, 19, 23, 28, sale of DNR land

Chapter 107, Regular Session SF 1115 Omnibus Natural Resources Policy

- School Trust Lands – Proceeds from real estate leases:

Sec. 46. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 89.17, is amended to read:

89.17 LEASES AND PERMITS.

(a) Notwithstanding the permit procedures of chapter 90, the commissioner shall have power to grant and execute, in the name of the state, leases and permits for the use of any forest lands under the authority of the commissioner for any purpose which in the commissioner's opinion is not inconsistent with the maintenance and management of the forest lands, on forestry principles for timber production. Every such lease or permit shall be revocable at the discretion of the commissioner at any time subject to such conditions as may be agreed on in the lease. The approval of the commissioner of administration shall not be required upon any such lease or permit. No such lease or permit for a period exceeding 21 years shall be granted except with the approval of the Executive Council.

(b) Public access to the leased land for outdoor recreation shall be the same as access would be under state management.

(c) Notwithstanding section 16A.125, subdivision 5, after deducting the reasonable costs incurred for preparing and issuing the lease, all remaining proceeds from the leasing of school trust land and

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university land for roads on forest lands must be deposited into the respective permanent fund for the lands.

- Minerals Coordinating Committee:
 - Sec. 47. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 93.0015, subdivision 1, is amended to read:
Subdivision 1. Establishment; membership. The Mineral Coordinating Committee is established to plan for diversified mineral development. The Mineral Coordinating Committee consists of:
 - (1) the commissioner of natural resources;
 - (2) the ~~deputy~~ commissioner of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency;
 - ~~(3) the director of United Steelworkers of America, District 11, or the director's designee;~~
 - ~~(4)~~ (3) the commissioner of Iron Range resources and rehabilitation;
 - ~~(5)~~ (4) the director of the Minnesota Geological Survey;
 - ~~(6)~~ (5) the dean of the University of Minnesota Institute of Technology;
 - ~~(7)~~ (6) the director of the Natural Resources Research Institute; and
 - ~~(8) three~~ (7) four individuals appointed by the governor for a four-year term, one each representing the iron ore and taconite, nonferrous metallic minerals, and industrial minerals industries within the state and one representing labor.
 - Sec. 48. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 93.0015, subdivision 3, is amended to read:
Subd. 3. Expiration. Notwithstanding section 15.059, subdivision 5, or other law to the contrary, the committee expires June 30, ~~2011~~ 2016.
- EAW petition requirements, sec. 87.
- Wetland law, secs. 65 through 74. See Sec. 66 for project specific wetland impacts conducted under a permit to mine within the Great Lakes and Rainy River watershed basins.
- Environmental permit plan timeline requirement, sec. 86.

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DIVISION OF PARKS AND TRAILS

Chapter 2, First Special Session SF 3 Omnibus Environment and Natural Resources Finance

- Article 1: Division of Parks and Trails appropriations. Provides \$129.26 million to the division for FY2012-13.
 - \$1,075,000 the first year and \$1,075,000 the second year are from the water recreation account in the natural resources fund for enhancing public water access facilities. The appropriation in Laws 2003, chapter 128, article 1, section 5, subdivision 6, from the water recreation account in the natural resources fund for a cooperative project with the United States Army Corps of Engineers to develop the Mississippi Whitewater Park is available until June 30, 2013. The project must be designed to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.
 - \$5,731,000 the first year and \$5,731,000 the second year are from the natural resources fund for state trail, park, and recreation area operations. This appropriation is from the revenue deposited in the natural resources fund under Minnesota Statutes, section 297A.94, paragraph (e), clause (2).
 - \$8,424,000 the first year and \$8,424,000 the second year are from the snowmobile trails and enforcement account in the natural resources fund for the snowmobile grants-in-aid program. Any unencumbered balance does not cancel at the end of the first year and is available for the second year.
 - \$1,360,000 the first year and \$1,360,000 the second year are from the natural resources fund for the off-highway vehicle grants-in-aid program. Of this amount, \$1,110,000 each year is from the all-terrain vehicle account; \$150,000 each year is from the off-highway motorcycle account; and \$100,000 each year is from the off-road vehicle account. Any unencumbered balance does not cancel at the end of the first year and is available for the second year.
 - \$805,000 the first year and \$805,000 the second year are from the natural resources fund for trail grants to local units of government on land to be maintained for at least 20 years for the purposes of the grants. This appropriation is from the revenue deposited in the natural resources fund under M.S. 297A.94, paragraph (e), clause (4).
 - \$200,000 the first year from the off-highway vehicle damage account in the natural resources fund is for the all-terrain vehicle grants-in-aid program.
 - \$100,000 the first year is from the all-terrain vehicle account in the natural resources fund for a pass-through grant to Lake County for completion of the Lake County Regional All-Terrain Vehicle Trail. This is a onetime appropriation and is available until spent.
 - \$400,000 each year is from the all-terrain vehicle account in the natural resources fund. Of this amount, \$100,000 the first year and \$100,000 the second year are for the all-terrain vehicle grant-in-aid trails program. \$200,000 the first year and \$200,000 the second year are for the creation and development of all-terrain vehicle trails. \$100,000 each year is to provide downloadable trail maps on the Internet and is a onetime appropriation. By January 1, 2013, the commissioner shall submit a report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees and divisions with jurisdiction over natural resources policy and finance. The report must indicate where and how many miles of new all-terrain vehicle trails were created and designated with appropriations under this paragraph.
- Article 4: Statutory changes
 - Federal Land and Water Conservation Funds (LAWCON) – recodification:
Sec. 2. [84.0264] FEDERAL LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUNDS.

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Subdivision 1. Designated agency. The Department of Natural Resources is designated as the state agency to apply for, accept, receive, and disburse federal reimbursement funds and private funds that are granted to the state of Minnesota from section 6 of the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Act.

Subd. 2. State land and water conservation account. A state land and water conservation account is created in the natural resources fund. All of the money made available to the state from funds granted under subdivision 1 shall be deposited in the state land and water conservation account.

Subd. 3. Local share. Fifty percent of all money made available to the state from funds granted under subdivision 1 shall be distributed for projects to be acquired, developed, and maintained by local units of government, provided that any project approved is consistent with a statewide or a county or regional recreational plan and compatible with the statewide recreational plan. All money received by the commissioner for local units of government is appropriated annually to carry out the purposes for which the funds are received.

Subd. 4. State share. Fifty percent of the money made available to the state from funds granted under subdivision 1 shall be used for state land acquisition and development for the state outdoor recreation system under chapter 86A and the administrative expenses necessary to maintain eligibility for the federal land and water conservation fund.

- State Parks Account:

Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 85.052, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

Subd. 4. Deposit of fees. (a) Fees paid for providing contracted products and services within a state park, state recreation area, or wayside, and for special state park uses under this section shall be deposited in the natural resources fund and credited to a state parks account.

(b) Gross receipts derived from sales, rentals, or leases of natural resources within state parks, recreation areas, and waysides, other than those on trust fund lands, must be deposited in the state treasury and credited to the state parks working capital account. ~~The appropriation under section 85.22 for revenue deposited in this section is limited to \$25,000 per fiscal year.~~

(c) Notwithstanding paragraph (b), the gross receipts from the sale of stockpile materials, aggregate, or other earth materials from the Iron Range Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Area shall be deposited in the dedicated accounts in the natural resources fund from which the purchase of the stockpile material was made. Notwithstanding paragraph (b), the payments made under section 93.22, subdivision 1, paragraph (c), pursuant to a state mineral lease on lands and mineral rights purchased for and within the Iron Range Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Area shall be deposited in the dedicated accounts in the natural resources fund from which the purchase of the lands was made.

- State forest campground fees:

Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 89.21, is amended to read:

89.21 CAMPGROUNDS, ESTABLISHMENT AND FEES.

(a) The commissioner is authorized to establish and develop state forest campgrounds and may establish minimum standards not inconsistent with the laws of the state for the care and use of such campgrounds and charge fees for such uses as specified by the commissioner of natural resources.

(b) Notwithstanding section 16A.1283, the commissioner shall, by written order, establish fees providing for the use of state forest campgrounds. The fees are not subject to the rulemaking provisions of chapter 14 and section 14.386 does not apply.

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(c) All fees shall be deposited in ~~the general fund~~ an account in the natural resources fund and are appropriated annually to the commissioner.

- Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources:

Sec. 23. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 116P.05, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. Duties. (a) The commission shall recommend an annual or biennial legislative bill for appropriations from the environment and natural resources trust fund and shall adopt a strategic plan as provided in section 116P.08. Approval of the recommended legislative bill requires an affirmative vote of at least 12 members of the commission.

~~(b) The commission shall recommend expenditures to the legislature from the state land and water conservation account in the natural resources fund.~~

~~(c)~~ It is a condition of acceptance of the appropriations made from the Minnesota environment and natural resources trust fund, and oil overcharge money under section 4.071, subdivision 2, that the agency or entity receiving the appropriation must submit a work program and semiannual progress reports in the form determined by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources, and comply with applicable reporting requirements under section 116P.16. None of the money provided may be spent unless the commission has approved the pertinent work program.

~~(d)~~ (c) The peer review panel created under section 116P.08 must also review, comment, and report to the commission on research proposals applying for an appropriation from the oil overcharge money under section 4.071, subdivision 2.

~~(e)~~ (d) The commission may adopt operating procedures to fulfill its duties under this chapter.

~~(f)~~ (e) As part of the operating procedures, the commission shall:

(1) ensure that members' expectations are to participate in all meetings related to funding decision recommendations;

(2) recommend adequate funding for increased citizen outreach and communications for trust fund expenditure planning;

(3) allow administrative expenses as part of individual project expenditures based on need;

(4) provide for project outcome evaluation;

(5) keep the grant application, administration, and review process as simple as possible; and

(6) define and emphasize the leveraging of additional sources of money that project proposers should consider when making trust fund proposals.

Chapter 3, Regular Session HF 55 2010 Omnibus State Lands (Reintroduced)

• Sec. 2. MINNESOTA STATUTES 2010, section 85.012, subdivision 40; added Itasca County as one of the counties McCarthy Beach Memorial State Park is located within.

• Sec. 6. ADDITIONS TO STATE PARKS.

- Subdivision 1. [85.012] [Subd. 19] Forestville Mystery Cave State Park, Fillmore County.

Added 460 acres of land to this park boundary.

- Subdivision 2. [85.012] [Subd.31.] Judge C.R. Magney State Park, Cook County.

Added 120 acres of land to this park boundary.

- Subdivision 3. [85.012] [Subd. 54.] Split Rock Lighthouse State Park, Lake County.

Added 80 acres of land to this park boundary.

- Subdivision 4. [85.012] [Subd. 55a] Tettagouche State Park, Lake County.

Added 48 acres of land to this existing park boundary.

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- **Sec. 7. DELETIONS FROM STATE PARKS.**
Subdivision 1 through Subdivision 7. Deleted lands from the following parks: Afton, Crow Wing, Frontenac, Hayes Lake, McCarthy Beach, Maplewood, and Split Rock Lighthouse.
- **Sec. 9. LAKE COUNTY LAND EXCHANGE.**
Shall compensate Lake County or exchange state land of substantially equal value for land identified in boundary change under section 6, subdivision 3.
- **Section 11 through Section 42 sale of surplus state lands, (tax-forfeited), in 16 different counties.**

Chapter 98, Regular Session SF 712 2011 Omnibus State Lands

- **Sec. 4. ADDITIONS TO STATE PARKS.**
 - **Subdivision 1. [85.012] [Subd. 52.] Scenic State Park, Itasca County.**
Adds 51.6 acres to this park.
 - **Subd. 2. [85.012] [Subd. 60.] William O'Brien State Park, Washington County.**
Adding 13 acres to this park.
- **Sec. 5. DELETIONS TO STATE PARKS.**
[85.012] [Subd. 26.] Hayes Lake State Park, Roseau County.
Deletes a strip of land along the park boundary that encompasses the current access to the Hayes Lake parcel that was deleted in the first land bill. This deletion contains approximately 4 acres.
- **Sec. 6. ADDITIONS TO STATE RECREATION AREAS.**
 - **Subd. 1. [85.013] [Subd. 11b.] Greenleaf Lake State Recreation Area, Meeker County.**
This adds a parcel containing about 4.4 acres with frontage on Sioux Lake.
 - **Subd. 2. [85.013] [Subd. 12a] Iron Range Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Area, St. Louis County.**
This adds forty acres to the state recreation area.
- **Sec. 7. ADDITIONS TO STATE FOREST.**
Adds lands to Smoky Hills state forest.
- **Sec. 8. DELETIONS FROM STATE FORESTS.**
Deletes 160 acres from Lost River state forest.
- **Sec. 9. ADDITION TO STATE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA.**
Adds land to the Roseau Lake WMA.
- **Sec. 10 to 29. SALE OF STATE LANDS(TAX-FORFEITED) IN 13 DIFFERENT COUNTIES.**

Chapter 107, Regular Session SF 1115 Omnibus Natural Resources Policy

- **Motorized recreation:**
 - **Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 84.777, subd. 2, is amended:**
Subd. 2. Off-Highway vehicle seasonal restrictions. Struck the clause allowing the commissioner to further restrict OHV operations in the forest, closure in statute is during the firearms deer season, where deer may be taken by rifle.
 - **Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 84.788 is amended:**
Subd. 12 Dual Registration. This allows for off-highway motorcycles to also be registered under Ch. 168 if properly equipped with mirrors, headlight, taillight, and horn.
 - **Sec. 8. [84.8035] NONRESIDENT OFF-ROAD VEHICLE STATE TRAIL PASS.**
Pass required; fee. This section establishes a non-resident off-road vehicle trail pass that is required to be displayed when operating on a state or grant-in-aid off-road vehicle trail. Fee set for this non-

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resident registration at \$20.00 for an annual or \$30.00 for a three-year pass. Pass are to be available at ELS locations.

- Sec. 9. [84.92, subd. 8.] ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLE definition modified.
The ATV definition is amended to change the engine cubic centimeters limit. Moves it from 960 cubic centimeters to 1000 cc and this applies to both the class 1 and class 2 type machines.
- Sec. 10. [84.925, subd. 1.] ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLE TRAINING PROGRAM.
Removes the set price for the ATV safety education training, which was \$15.00 and instructors can now charge whatever the actual cost is for the class, which could be more or less.
- Sec. 11 [84.9257] PASSENGERS.
Can only carry one passenger on a Class 1 ATV, and only one passenger on Class 2 ATV, or up to the number of passengers the machine is designed for, if you are 18 years of age or older. Item (c) allows a person between the age of 12 and 17 to operate a class 1 ATV carrying one passenger and that passenger must be the operator's parent or legal guardian.
- Sec. 36. [85.018, subd. 5] MOTORIZED VEHICLE TRAILS RESTRICTED.
Struck the season of December 1 to April 1 from the language regarding shared motorized use, meaning shared use can now occur anytime during the year provide existing trail permit, lease or easement authorizes it.
- Sec. 37. [85.019, subd. 4b.] REGIONAL TRAILS.
Changes the match requirement for regional trail grants from 50% to 25%, making it consistent with Legacy grants.
- Sec. 38. [85.019, subd.4c.] TRAIL CONNECTIONS.
Changes the match requirement on this grant program from 50% to 25%, making it consistent with most of the other similar grant programs offered by the department.
- Sec. 39. [85.32, subd. 1.] AREAS MARKED – Water trails.
Authorized the Cedar River as a state water trail, did not appropriate funding.
- Sec. 88. [168.002, subd. 18] MOTOR VEHICLE.
(f) is added to include off-highway motorcycle modified to meet the requirements of chapter 169 according to sec. 84.788, subd. 12.
- Sec. 89. [169.045, subd. 1.] DESIGNATION OF ROADWAY, PERMIT.
Subd. 1. This section allows any county, home rule charter or statutory city, or town by ordinance authorize the operation of motorized golf carts, ATVs, UTVs or mini-trucks, on designated roadways under its jurisdiction and by permit only. Amended the all-terrain vehicle definition, using the current definition to provide consistency. Also adds utility task vehicle (UTV) and defines it, looks like a class 2 ATV but can have a larger engine (up to 1200 cc) and weights between 1800 and 2600 pounds.
- Sec. 90. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 169.045, Subd. 2. is amended:
Subd. 2. Ordinance. The permit referenced in Section 89 can now be issued for up to three years, it was previously an annual permit only.
- Sec . 91. Minnesota Statues 2010, section 169.045, Subd. 3. is amended:
Subd. 3. Vehicles identified in this section can now operate after dark if properly equipped with original headlights, taillights, and rear-facing brake lights, except in times of inclement weather with visibility of less than 500 feet.
- Sec. 92 – 95. Minnesota Statues 2010, section 169.045, Subd. 5-8 are amended:
Subd. 5 – 8, in this section it is just clarifying the ATV definition and adding the UTV to each.

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- Sec. 96. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 239.791 is amended:
Subd. 16. Exemption for recreational vehicle manufacturer. Industry may sell, or dispense, non-oxygenated gasoline intended to be used exclusively for research and development of snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, motorcycles and recreational vehicles.
- Sec. 97. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 398.33, subd. 2. is amended:
Subd. 2. Fees. Statute stipulates county board may set fees for county parks and other units of the county but those fees could not exceed the fees prescribed for state parks, language tying the fee to state parks was stricken.
- Sec. 103. TERRY MCGAUGHEY MEMORIAL BRIDGE:
Commissioner of natural resources shall designate the Paul Bunyan Trail bridge that crosses Excelsior Road in Baxter as the Terry McGaughey Memorial Bridge, shall place a sign on both ends of the bridge.
- Sec. 108. REPEALER.
Repealed Blakeley State wayside, [85.013, subd.2b;]

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CLEAN WATER, LAND, AND LEGACY

Chapter 6, First Special Session SF 6 Legacy Appropriations

- Article 1: Outdoor Heritage Fund
 - The Legislature approved \$86,955,000 (FY 2012-13) for programs to restore, enhance, and protect forests, prairies, wetlands, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife. Of this, DNR's budget will be supplemented by \$22.2 million, including \$319,000 for DNR to administer \$5,310,000 in Conservation Partners Legacy grants, \$42,000 for DNR/BWSR to perform technical evaluations of Outdoor Heritage Fund habitat restoration projects, and \$175,000 for DNR to administer an additional \$41,848,000 in other program funding from the Outdoor Heritage Fund.
 - WMA, SNA, and Prairie bank Easement Acquisition – Phase 3: \$3,931,000
 - Accelerated Prairie Restoration and Enhancement on DNR Lands – Phase 3: \$1,652,000
 - MN Forests for the Future – Phase 3: \$5,409,000
 - Accelerated Forest Habitat Enhancement – Phase 2: \$826,000
 - Lower Mississippi Habitat Partnership – Phase 2: \$707,000
 - State Forest Acquisition: \$1,205,000
 - Accelerated Shallow Lakes and Wetlands Restoration and Enhancement – Phase 3: \$936,000
 - Shallow Lake Shoreland Protection – Wild Rice Lakes: \$500,000
 - Accelerated AMA Habitat Program – Phase 3: \$6,500,000
 - Outdoor Heritage Conservation Partners Grant Program – Phase 3: \$319,000
 - Contract Management (pass-through): \$175,000
 - Technical Evaluation Panel: \$42,000
 - Policy changes:
 - Forests for the Future Conservation Easement Account was established, and funding allowed, for stewardship and management of those easements.
 - Restrictions on the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council's use of definitions for "restore", "protect", and "enhance" for their process were removed.
 - Though it will continue to be the legislative auditor's duty to audit all state funds, the requirement for an audit of the Outdoor Heritage Fund every two years was removed.
 - Language making it difficult for the federal government to accept donated lands purchased with the fund was amended to remove the barrier.
- Article 2: Clean Water Fund
 - Funding amounts indicated are for activity from July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2013.
 - Monitoring and Assessment (\$6.2 million)
 - Stream monitoring
 - Lake index of biological integrity
 - Fish contaminant assessment
 - Clean Water Planning (TMDL Development; \$3.5 million)
 - Regional technical assistance for clean water planning and statewide coordination
 - Watershed Health Assessment Tool

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- Protection and Restoration (\$3.5 million)
 - Healthy Watersheds Implementation
 - Watershed Delineation
 - Biomonitoring Database
 - Delivery of Decision Support Tools
- Drinking Water Protection (\$4.9 million)
 - Water supply planning and aquifer protection
 - 11-County Groundwater Management
 - Electronic Water Appropriation Permit System
- LiDAR (\$2.7 million)
- Article 3: Parks and Trails Fund
 - The Legislature approved \$23,906,000 in FY 2012 and \$22,327,000 in FY 2013 from the Parks and Trails Fund to the department.
 - \$14,262,000 FY 2012 and \$14,603,000 FY2013 are for state parks, recreation areas, and trails to: connect people to the outdoors; acquire land and create opportunities; maintain existing holdings; and improve cooperation by coordinating with partners to implement the 25-year long-range parks and trails legacy plan.
 - \$2,100,000 FY2012 is for acquisition of land adjacent to LaSalle Lake in Hubbard County for a state recreation area.
 - \$7,506,000 FY2012 and \$7,686,000 FY2013 are for parks and trails of regional or statewide significance as follows:
 - \$7,331,000 the first year and \$7,686,000 the second year are for grants under M.S. 85.535, to acquire, develop, improve, and restore parks and trails of regional or statewide significance outside of the metropolitan area, as defined in M.S. 473.121, subdivision 2; and
 - \$175,000 the first year is for a grant to the Greater Minnesota Regional Park and Trail Coalition to: establish protocols to determine the origin of visitors, and projection of potential use of greater Minnesota regional parks and trails; collect and compile details on the facilities within the greater Minnesota regional park system; and develop evaluation protocol and criteria to determine priorities for park and trail acquisition and development.
 - Up to 2.5 percent of the total appropriation may be used for administering the grants.
 - \$38,000 FY2012 and \$38,000 FY2013 are for a technical evaluation panel to conduct up to ten restoration evaluations under M.S. 85.53, subdivision 5.
 - The commissioner shall contract for services with Conservation Corps Minnesota for restoration, maintenance, and other activities under this section for at least \$500,000 FY2012 and \$500,000 FY2013.
 - The commissioner of natural resources shall convene and facilitate a working group of nine members to develop consensus recommendations for the allocation of the parks and trails fund. The working group shall have representatives from metropolitan parks and trails, greater Minnesota parks and trails, and the Department of Natural Resources Parks and Trails Division. The consensus recommendations shall be submitted no later than November 15, 2012, and presented to the governor for consideration in the budget for FY 2014 and 2015.
 - LaSalle Lake State Recreation Area:
 - Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 85.013, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

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Subd. 15a. LaSalle Lake State Recreation Area, Hubbard County. Establishes LaSalle Lake as a state recreation area.

▪ **Sec. 8. LASALLE LAKE STATE RECREATION AREA.**

Subdivision 1. LaSalle Lake State Recreation Area, Hubbard County. The LaSalle Lake State Recreation Area is established in Hubbard County.

Subd. 2. Boundaries. The following described lands are located within the boundaries of the LaSalle Lake State Recreation Area, all in Hubbard County:

(1) the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter and the Northwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter, except the East 10 acres thereof, of Section 29; the Northeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter, the Northwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter, the Southwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter, the Northeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter, the Southeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter, the Southeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter, and Government Lots 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9, of Section 30; Government Lots 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10, of Section 31; and Government Lots 1 and 4 of Section 32; all in Township 145 North, Range 35 West; and

(2) Government Lot 12, Section 19, Township 145 North, Range 35.

Subd. 3. Administration. The commissioner of natural resources shall administer the area according to M.S. 86A.05, subdivision 3, subject to existing rules and regulations for state recreation areas.

LaSalle Lake State Recreation Area shall be administered as a satellite unit of Itasca State Park.

▪ **Sec. 9. LASALLE LAKE STATE RECREATION AREA MANAGEMENT OPTIONS.**

By March 1, 2012, the commissioner of natural resources shall submit a report to the senate and house of representatives committees and divisions with jurisdiction over natural resources policy and finance evaluating options for the management of the resort within the LaSalle Lake State Recreation Area, including an evaluation of the option to lease the resort to a nonstate entity. The evaluation shall include potential financial arrangements or mechanisms that would make the equivalent of local taxes or payments in lieu of taxes the responsibility of the nonstate entity.

• **Article 5: General Provisions**

- Constitutionally dedicated funding accountability
- Expenditures; accountability
- Recipient requirements
- Applicability
- General provisions
 - Grants
 - Constitution
 - Trusts and similar instruments
- In the event of a lawsuit
- Legacy accounting; technical assistance

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LEGISLATIVE-CITIZEN COMMISSION ON MINNESOTA RESOURCES

Chapter 2, First Special Session SF 3 Omnibus Environment and Natural Resources Finance

- Article 3: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Appropriations
 - DNR was directly appropriated \$27.5 million for FY 2012-13 that will be dedicated toward protecting and enhancing Minnesota’s natural resources and environment. These projects range from ongoing vital projects, such the Minnesota County Biological Survey and competitive grants to local units for government, to new funds for the development of an information system for wildlife management areas and aquatic management areas. Within the total appropriation, DNR received \$3.345 million in funding for unsolicited projects such as “Species of Concern,” “Aquatic Invasive Species,” and “Chronic Wasting Disease and Animal Health.” Specifically, direct appropriations to DNR include the following projects:
 - Minnesota County Biological Survey
 - County Geologic Atlases for Sustainable Water Management (UMN and DNR)
 - Updating National Wetlands Inventory for Minnesota – Phase III
 - Determining Causes of Mortality in Moose Populations
 - Information System for Wildlife and Aquatic Management Areas
 - Species of Concern; Investigations
 - State Park and Recreation Area Operations and Improvements
 - State Parks and Trails Land Acquisition
 - Regional Park, Trail, and Connection Acquisition and Development Grants
 - Scientific and Natural Area Acquisition and Restoration
 - Native Prairie Stewardship and Native Prairie Bank Acquisition
 - Metropolitan Conservation Corridors – Phase VI (DNR and partners)
 - Habitat Conservation Partnership – Phase VII (DNR and partners)
 - Natural and Scenic Area Acquisition Grants
 - Conservation Easement Stewardship and Enforcement Program – Phase II
 - Restoration Strategies for Ditched Peatland Scientific and Natural Areas
 - LAWCON Federal Reimbursement
 - Trout Stream Springshed Mapping in Southeast Minnesota – Phase III (UMN and DNR)
 - Chronic Wasting Disease and Animal Health
 - Aquatic Invasive Species
 - Contract Management
 - Removes the language from previous appropriations requiring recipients to plant seed and vegetation of ecotypes native to Minnesota.
 - Requires conservation easement stewardship funds to be held in easement and monitoring accounts, and requires increased financial reporting to the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR).
 - Land and Water Conservation Fund (LAWCON), Nongame Wildlife Checkoff, and the Corporate Nongame Wildlife Checkoff programs no longer are required to submit work programs or semiannual reports to the LCCMR. Changes were made to give the DNR commissioner responsibility for deciding how these funds are allocated once appropriated. LCCMR’s recommendations for LAWCON funds to the Legislature were removed from the legislation.

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CAPITAL INVESTMENT

Chapter 12, First Special Session HF 23 Omnibus Bonding

- Provides \$103,450,000 in funding to the department for the following capital programs:
 - Natural Resources Asset Preservation (\$17.0 million)
 - Flood Hazard Mitigation Grants (\$50.0 million)
 - Roads and Bridges (\$4.8 million)
 - Lake Vermilion State Park Development (\$8.0 million)
 - Groundwater Monitoring and Observation Wells (\$600,000)
 - Coon Rapids Dam Renovation (\$16.0 million)
 - State Trail Acquisition and Development (\$5.8 million)
 - Lake Superior Campground Expansion (\$1.25 million) – grant to the city of Two Harbors for expansion of the Burlington Bay Campground