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MINNESOTA STATE AGENCY

**DEPARTMENT
OF
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ACTION PLAN 1984-86 (Update — 1985)

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**MINNESOTA STATE AGENCY ACTION PLAN 1984-86
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OF
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Prepared for the

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September 1985

MINNESOTA STATE AGENCY ACTION PLAN 1984-86
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
(UPDATE - 1985)

Executive Summary
September - 1985

In preparing this update, Natural Resources staff reviewed the progress made on each of the actions included in the DNR's 84-86 Plan. That progress has been presented action-by-action in the main body of this report. Highlights of the major accomplishments and listings of remaining concerns have been pulled forward and have been identified in this summary. Highlight and Concerns have been organized into the eight major issues areas which appeared in DNR's 84-86 Plan.

I. ISSUE AREA: WATER MANAGEMENT

Highlights:

LCMR funding was secured for a Water Allocation and Management program. This project will assist the department in making future water use and allocation decisions. LCMR funding was also obtained to develop a standard groundwater data base, for a lakeshore development capacity study, and to continue accelerated development of geophysical tools to aid in groundwater investigations.

Concerns:

A program to provide state cost-sharing funds for local flood damage reduction initiatives was defeated in the '85 session after passing the policy committees of both houses. The DNR will seek passage of this program in the '86 and '87 sessions.

II. ISSUE AREA: FOREST RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Highlights:

Forest management intensification has had considerable success. The backlog of areas needing reforestation was eliminated. Improvements have been made in the nursery and tree improvement programs. Intensification goals are now being established in forest area management plans. Excellent working relationships were maintained with the U.S. Forest Service. Private forest management plans were completed for over 13,000 private landowners.

Promotion of growth opportunities in the forest products industry resulted in the construction of a \$25 million Louisiana Pacific plant, and the potential expansion of 4 other plants which could result in \$700 million of capital investment. Utilization of aspen, birch, balsam fir, and hardwood surpluses have increased. Use of wood residues for energy has doubled.

The forest planning effort is in the process of preparing unit forest area plans. One area management plan is complete and 4 others are underway. Forest inventory field work is 98% complete. The urban forestry program provided assistance to approximately 300 communities. Automation has improved integration of forest inventory, management, protection and administration functions. Three forestry district offices were closed and 3 others were realigned under the 1984 Administrative Realignment Program.

Concerns:

1986-87 budget cuts will severely reduce established programs. Maintenance will be reduced or cancelled at several forestry campgrounds. There will be significant reductions in county assistance, forest inventory, urban forestry programs, and some reduction in all other forestry programs. The hotshot fire crew will be discontinued. Both central office and field station positions will be eliminated. Budget cuts will also result in workforce reductions by private contractors. These contractors perform services for private woodland owners as part of a forestry management assistance program paid for in part with state funds.

Clarification of appropriate roles and responsibilities between DNR and the Department of Agriculture is needed before the DNR can successfully request additional funding for the Urban Forestry Program.

III. ISSUE AREA: MINERALS

Highlights:

Several projects were implemented to encourage and coordinate mineral exploration and development. Aeromagnetic surveys were run in all or parts of 16 counties. Eight studies were undertaken to highlight areas of high mineral potential. Recent incentive efforts for industrial development of Minnesota's mineral potential include: the planning and promotion of KR direct reduction process, Syl Laskin peat combustion tests, and new mineral lease sales. The Department has developed an industrial minerals promotion plan. The statewide inventory for aggregates was accelerated and new uses of industrial minerals have been investigated (i.e., clay as a taconite pellet binder).

Regarding peat development and peatland protection the Department completed a hydrology monitoring study of a peat mining site. Areas for likely energy peat development were documented. The peatland protection report was completed for the '85 legislature. A bill was introduced but not heard.

Concerns:

A draft Executive Order "Directing State Departments and Agencies to Recognize Importance of Mining to Minnesota" was submitted to the Governors office June 1984 and has not yet been acted upon.

IV. ISSUE AREA: GENERAL LAND MANAGEMENT

Highlights:

To encourage rural landowners to reduce soil erosion the Department is participating in an Ag-stravaganza education project emphasizing good land practices, including conservation tillage. On the national front the Department continued close liaison with parties steering the 1985 federal farm bill. The section chief from wildlife testified on the bill at a congressional committee hearing. The present bill contains far reaching conservation measures, including sodbuster and swampbuster provisions, and a \$25 million conservation reserve. Almost 3,000 acres of wetlands were acquired. 23 private wetlands were restored. A total of 127,483 acres of wetlands are managed statewide.

V. ISSUE AREA: FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Highlights:

The Department has begun developing a comprehensive, long-range plan for fish and wildlife management with LCMR and general fund appropriations. A plan for non-game wildlife was completed and will be integrated into the Department plan. To intensify fish management, development or rehabilitation projects are underway at 7 fish hatcheries. 19 aeration systems, 30 fishing piers, 8 lake rehabilitations and 10 miles of trout stream improvements have been completed or are under construction. Special fishing regulations were implemented on 7 lakes and streams. A Fish Technical Committee was organized with Ontario and the DNR is developing a fish management agreement with Leech Lake Reservation.

Efforts to improve fish and wildlife habitat on private land has had considerable success. 130,000 acres of wetlands are enrolled in the Wetland Tax Credit program and 10,000 acres of prairie are enrolled in the Native Prairie Tax Credit program. The Pheasant Stamp Account, which cost-shares habitat improvement on private land, has tripled since 1984.

The Roadside Wildlife program is well underway. Demonstration seeding projects have been conducted with MNDOT, county highway departments, and several townships. Legislation restricting roadside mowing was passed by the '85 legislature. Forestry/Wildlife coordination has become an integrated component of forest management.

Concerns:

The LCMR appropriation for Fish and Wildlife comprehensive planning was considerably less than requested. Additional funding will be needed to continue the planning process.

The Reinvest In Minnesota bill received considerable attention in the '85 session but did not pass. This bill would restore a high quality to Minnesota's fish and wildlife resource, promote tourism, and benefit our farm economy. It will probably be reintroduced in the 1986 session.

VI. ISSUE AREA: OUTDOOR RECREATION MANAGEMENT

Highlights:

Resource 2000 bond sales have continued to be a primary funding mechanism for outdoor recreation area acquisition and development. Some recent projects funded through this program include: the Hinckley to Moose Lake State Trail, Root River State Trail, acquisition of trout stream easements, several Wildlife Management Area and Scientific and Natural Area acquisitions, and development projects at Tettagouche and Itasca State Parks. The Water Recreation Account, established by the '85 legislature will provide funds for acquisition, development and maintenance of water access sites and canoe and boating routes. Approximately 100 water access sites were developed or improved since 1984. Six fishing piers were constructed and 24 more will be built in FY '86.

Information and education activities to inform the public about Minnesota's recreational opportunities have increased substantially. A public recreation information system was expanded to include all DNR divisions. The Parks and Recreation division is involved in a major marketing program for state parks. Working relationships with DEED's Office of Tourism were improved. Materials were coordinated, joint projects undertaken, and regular meetings were held with Tourism. Trails and Waterways is packaging and coordinating the marketing of the "Explore Minnesota's Collection of Trails" theme combining information on DNR trails with U.S. Forest Service trails, MNDOT bikeways, county sponsored grant-in-aid trails and others. The DNR summer special event program has had a 250% increase. Special tour days were offered for local resorters and officials to show them how state parks can benefit them.

Concerns:

1985 Resource 2000 bonding authority and development appropriations was only 35% (\$5.7 million) of the \$16.5 million requested. The request was based on an analysis of statewide needs identified in the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. Forest recreation bonding and development was particularly affected. No money was appropriated for forest roads.

Legislation initiated by A.T.V. proponents was not passed. This would have provided a good viable program for A.T.V.'s encompassing trail development, rehabilitation, maintenance and a grants-in-aid program.

VII. ISSUE AREA: ENFORCEMENT

Highlights:

Completed a highly successful undercover fur buying operation in cooperation with Michigan, Wisconsin, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Minnesota Enforcement. Total arrests for illegal fur is expected to reach over 300. The Turn-In-Poachers program continues to be highly successful. Road checks have proven effective in reducing illegal taking of fish and wildlife.

VIII. ISSUE AREA: DEPARTMENT MANAGEMENT

Highlights:

A quarterly Key Managers meeting schedule was developed and meetings are being held regularly. Regional Administrators take part in all Key Managers meetings and have been added to the Department's top policy review committee as recommended in a 1983 Department of Administration report. A 7% increase in budget for FY '86-87 will enable the Minnesota Environmental Education Board to restore its number of regional coordinators to '81 levels.

Concerns:

The '85 Legislature denied requests for the administrative support positions recommended by the Department of Administration.

PROGRESS REVIEW

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The eight major issue areas from the 1984-86 Action Plan appear on the pages listed below. Action statements from the 1984-86 Action Plan are presented on the left hand side of each sheet, and the 1985 issue area update is on the right. Listed at the end of each update are any additional legislative actions passed during the 1985 session that significantly affected the Department of Natural Resources.

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I. ISSUE AREA: WATER MANAGEMENT

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Actions:

1. The Department will begin to develop a water allocation and management program to define the values of water; to define decision criteria for allocation on the basis of river reach and aquifer rather than by installation; to investigate instream flow methodologies and their applicability to protected flows; to draft rules or procedures to implement this approach in areas where major withdrawals or conflicts have occurred; and to improve the daily administration of the water appropriations permit process to enforce compliance and enable follow-up investigations and appropriate legal remedies.
2. The Department's goal is to implement the following elements of the ground water plan: apply geophysics methods to accelerated data compilation and analysis in regional aquifer studies; begin investigations of aquifer recharge; continue and accelerate compilation of county-level summary reports so that data is accessible and usable; continue and expand quality and water level monitoring; interpret data from monitoring and report significant changes; prepare specifications for well abandonment on state-owned lands, retaining some wells for monitoring purposes; and develop inter-agency agreements on coordination and cooperation where several agencies have jurisdiction.
3. In cooperation with the Land Management Information System and the Systems for Water Information Management Committee the Department intends to complete the following elements of the water information system: computerize the protected waters inventory and digitize these water bodies; improve compatibility of the River Mile Index System with other land and water data bases; computerize lake hydrologic and hydraulic information; and develop a standard ground water data base.
4. While improvements have been made in floodplain management since the initiation of the program in 1969, 17,000 urban and rural structures existing before then are still potentially threatened. The Department will seek state cost-sharing funds to be provided to individual communities for flood damage reduction initiatives. Techniques to be incorporated into local plans include: flood warning systems, signing floodplain areas, floodproofing public buildings and advising private owners, floodwater impoundments, detailed inundation mapping, assessments of damage potential, and methods to clear debris and acquire and relocate flood-prone structures.
5. To ensure a quality lake resource for all interested parties, the Department's goal is to intensify lakeshore management by evaluating the impacts of new development trends, carefully analyzing and determining lake carrying capacity, strengthening the capability of local governments to address problem lakes and enhancing training and educational opportunities for local officials.

I. ISSUE AREA: WATER MANAGEMENT

Page 1 of 2

Actions:

1. (In process) LCMR funding was secured for this action, staff has been hired and work has begun. The values of water for the state economy, the industrial sector and for recreation and preservation will be defined. Decision criteria for allocation will be developed in the second year of the project. Water availability and uses will be assessed and areas with water shortages or excesses will be identified. The amount of water needed for recreation and preservation (instream flow needs) will be determined. This will allow the Division to identify problem areas and prioritize these areas for future specific instream flow studies. A report on issues related to safe yield provides similar guidance for groundwater protection levels and was developed with LCMR funding from the previous biennium.
2. (In process) Through LCMR funding the Department purchased and is using geophysical equipment in groundwater supply investigations. DNR cooperated with USGS in a regional groundwater study of Bonanza Valley using geophysical methods. 1986-87 LCMR funding was secured to continue accelerated development of geophysical tools for groundwater investigations, and to expand their use to primary investigations of potential hazardous waste sites and nitrate contamination of groundwater. This is a cooperative project with USGS, MGS, and PCA. Several groundwater management objectives were scaled back because of budget limitations. The Anoka County water quality study will be discontinued. No progress was made on county-level summary groundwater reports. There was only limited expansion of the observation well network and no more is planned for next year. The capital budget request for funding to seal up abandoned wells on state owned lands did not pass. These wells must still be sealed to meet state regulations.
3. (In process) An LCMR appropriation was sought to develop and expand these four data bases. Only the standardized groundwater data base was funded and this project is proceeding on schedule. DNR and the Planning Information Center are proceeding to make improvements in the River Mile Index system with existing funds.
4. (In process) The policy committees of both houses of the Legislature passed program legislation but the House Appropriations Committee did not hear the bill and the proposal was defeated in conference committee, primarily due to the new funding request. The Department will seek passage of the program next session without significant funding and address the overall funding during the biennial budget session.
5. (In process) The Department is progressing with a lake development capacity study to be completed in June 1986. The statewide rules for shoreland management are being amended to ensure comprehensive lake and river management.

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I. ISSUE AREA: WATER MANAGEMENT

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Legislation:

- 1.-5. Because all of the actions listed are important new initiatives, many may require new funding which may come from a variety of sources. A recommendation for policy legislation will be the likely outcome of the water allocation planning effort, if that action is funded.

Structural Change:

None anticipated at this time.

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I. ISSUE AREA: WATER MANAGEMENT

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Legislation:

- 1.-5. See 1-5 above.

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II. ISSUE AREA: FOREST RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

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Actions:

1. To intensify forest management the Department will:
 - a. Give special emphasis to nursery and tree improvement programs;
 - b. Develop unit management plans with specific intensification goals;
 - c. Work continuously on improving harvesting and site preparation methods;
 - d. Integrate pest management into silvicultural programs and develop along range gypsy moth management program;
 - e. Work with private landowners to ensure increased resource production;
 - f. Coordinate management intensification efforts with the U.S. Forest Service, counties and forest products companies; and
 - g. Seek increased funding for eliminating the backlog of areas needing reforestation.
2. To continue the use of forests for economic development the Department will:
 - a. Promote the use of timber resources for economic development through primary and secondary forest products industries growth;
 - b. Increase the utilization of aspen, birch, balsam fir and hardwood surpluses;
 - c. Develop management plans which highlight economic growth areas;
 - d. Promote the use of wood residues for energy; and
 - e. Seek funding for new forest products marketing and economic development initiatives.
3. To stabilize the commercial forest land base the Department will:
 - a. Develop a commercial forest land preservation policy;
 - b. Establish specific plans with goals and objectives for all state forest lands; and
 - c. Redraw state forest boundary lines during the planning process to help ensure their long term stability.

II. ISSUE AREA: FOREST RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

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Actions:

1. a. (Accomplished) Hired a tree improvement specialist in 1985, assigned to Willow River Nursery. Initiated Nursery Program computerization plan--tree seedling inventories, tree sales receipts, and production cost modules are being developed. Contracted with private vendors to grow containerized seedlings from selected seeds.
 - b. (Accomplished) Established intensification goals in the completed Moose Lake Area Management Plan.
 - c. (Accomplished) Participated in a task force that addressed timber harvesting and forest management practices. Established guidelines to allow loggers to do site preparation during timber harvest. Acquired new equipment to improve costs and quality of site preparation work.
 - d. (In process) Completed rating of pest susceptibility risks in forest stands. Incorporated pest management strategies into area management plans and the new timber management planning information system. Developed a memorandum of understanding between the Departments of Natural Resources and Agriculture to clarify working relationships regarding Gypsy Moth. Co-authorized a University of Minnesota Extension publication "Gypsy Moth in Minnesota: The Early Years."
 - e. (Accomplished) Worked with 13,207 landowners over the biennium to develop management plan for 125,678 acres. Expanded the state forestry improvement program for southeastern MN to a statewide program. Secured general funding for 10 private forest management specialists positions. Need to pass property tax law changes to provide more incentive for landowners to plant trees.
 - f. (Accomplished) Maintained an excellent working relationship with the U.S.F.S. on cooperative protection, planning efforts, information sharing and sharing reforestation equipment. Working with the U.S.F.S. to determine how to mitigate the impacts of the Forest Service's decision to eliminate softwood plantings and to close its Eveleth nursery. Provided nearly \$2 million in grants to counties in F.Y. 86 and focused county assistance on providing training, data processing services and inventory information. Quarterly meetings were held with representatives from various timber companies.
 - g. (Accomplished) Eliminated the reforestation backlog with funds from the Forest Management Fund which was established pursuant to the Forest Management Act of 1982.
2. a. (Accomplished) Louisiana Pacific built and is operating a \$25 million plant. Four large plants are considering expansion which would result

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II. ISSUE AREA: FOREST RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

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4. To update the forest inventory program the Department will:
 - a. Complete the initial Phase II inventory of state and county lands;
 - b. Maintain inventory data as changes due to harvest, fire, planting and pests occur;
 - c. Begin a reevaluation of Phase II inventory areas as part of a continuous forest inventory project; and
 - d. Seek funding from the LCMR for the 10 year Phase I reinventory.
5. To provide an urban forestry program the Department will:
 - a. Assist communities with the development of tree management programs;
 - b. Promote special programs such as Arbor Day, Tree City USA and the Minnesota Register of Big Trees;
 - c. Encourage the media to promote urban forest management;
 - d. Provide insect and disease technical information; and
 - e. Seek funding for urban forestry programs.

Legislation:

1. The Department will seek legislation to realign positions and funding sources within the Division of Forestry to place emphasis on positions dedicated to forest resource management intensification, to increase funding for eliminating the reforestation backlog, and for forest roads.
2. The Department will realign positions and funding sources within the Division of Forestry to place emphasis on economic development projects, and will seek funding for new initiatives in forest products marketing and economic development.
3. The Department will seek a commercial forest land preservation policy. The Department will also request realignment of forest boundaries as a result of the unit planning process.
4. The Department will seek to realign positions and funding sources within the Division of Forestry to accomplish the reinventory of Phase II inventory plots; funding from the LCMR for the Phase I reinventory; and funding for a Phase II inventory of private lands.
5. The Department will request increased funding and positions for urban forestry programs.

II. ISSUE AREA: FOREST RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

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- in a possible \$700 million capital investment and utilization of 430,000 cords of wood. Have met with over 30 groups of potential secondary forest products manufacturers.
- b. (Accomplished) Aspen: use increased by 40% (700,000) cords from 1979-1986 and will increase by an additional 200,000 cords by 1988. Birch: use will increase by 30% (80,000) cords by 1988. Fir: use will increase by 20% (100,000) cords. Hardwood: use has increased by 50% (100,000) cords for energy purposes in industrial applications.
 - c. (Accomplished) Compiled and published data for counties and specific sites which identify opportunities for industrial expansion. More effort is needed to develop resource analyses which highlight economic growth opportunities to be included in area management plans.
 - d. (Accomplished) Use of wood residues for energy has doubled since 1984 (192 industrial/commercial applications have been developed). Updated the status report on development of the fiber fuel industry in Minnesota. There is a need for some agency to analyze existing heating systems and estimate conversion possibilities and costs.
 - e. (In process) Have developed several initiatives. Need funding for more staff (one wood resources development marketing specialist and one wood resources development and economic development/trade specialist).
3. a. (In process) Lands suitable for intensive forest management are being identified in area plans. One area plan has been completed and planning efforts are progressing in four other areas.
 - b. (In process) One area management plan is complete, four others are in process.
 - c. (In process) One area management plan is complete, four others are in process. Legislation was passed that changes the boundaries of the Fond du Lac State Forest, Koochiching State Forest and the Richard J. Dorer Memorial Hardwood State Forest.
4. a. (In process) 98% of the field work is completed on state and county lands.
 - b. (Accomplished) Inventory records were kept current during the biennium.
 - c. (In process) Plan is being prepared which will address how to update the Phase II inventory as part of the ongoing operations of the Division.

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Structural Change:

Any proposed changes would be accomplished and incorporated according to provisions of the Forestry Division's Administrative Realignment Plan (1984).

- d. (Accomplished) LCMR did not approve the funding request. General funds were obtained for about 2/3 of the inventory needs.
5. a. (Accomplished) 298 communities were assisted over the biennium.
- b. (Accomplished) The Tree City USA program had 26 participants in 1984 and 29 in 1985. The MN Register of Big Trees is maintained. Assisted with Arbor Day celebrations in 50 communities in 1984 and 8 in 1985. There is no budget for Arbor Day activities.
- c. (Accomplished) Contacts were made with the media regularly during the biennium.
- d. (Accomplished) Assistance was provided through 19 private forest management specialists, insect and disease specialists and the urban forestry specialist.
- e. (Accomplished) Funds were sought at both the state and federal level. Clarification of appropriate roles of the Departments of Natural Resources and Agriculture is needed before the Division can successfully lobby for funding for the program.
6. Located microcomputers in Forestry's St. Paul, regional and area offices. Began automating and integrating forest inventory, management, protection and administrative functions.

Legislation

1. (No progress) Budget reductions resulted in 50 positions being frozen or eliminated which made it impossible to complete this objective. The reforestation backlog has been eliminated.
2. (No progress) Budget reductions resulted in 50 positions being frozen or eliminated which made it impossible to complete this objective.
3. (In process) Commercial forest land was added to the 1982 Agricultural Land Preservation and Conservation Policy, MN Stat. 17.80-17.84. One unit management plan has been completed, four more are in process. Legislation was passed changing boundaries of the Fond du Lac State Forest, Koochiching State Forest, and Richard J. Dorer Memorial Hardwood State Forest.
4. (Pursued) LCMR did not approve the funding request. General funds were obtained for about 2/3 of the inventory needs. Realignment of staff under the general fund is complete.
5. (Pursued) The request was made and not approved. Clarification of the appropriate roles and responsibilities of the Departments of Natural Resources and Agriculture is needed before the Division can be successful in obtaining funds. Competition between these departments is a major barrier.

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II. ISSUE AREA: FOREST RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

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Structural Change:

(In process) Loman, Perham and Jacobsen district offices were closed. Carlos Avery, Nickerson and Crosby districts were realigned.

Additional Legislation Passed Affecting The Department:

Aspen recycling program was established to regenerate over mature and diseased aspen stands to assure that marketable stands of aspen are available on state lands. Recycling guidelines have been developed and a pilot project of 5,000 acres has been started.

1986-87 budget cuts will severely reduce established programs. Maintenance will be reduced or cancelled at several forestry campgrounds. There will be significant reductions in county assistance, forest inventory, and urban forestry programs, and some reduction in all other forestry programs. The "hotshot" fire crew will be discontinued. Both central office and field station positions will be eliminated. Budget cuts will also result in workforce reductions by private contractors. They perform services for private woodland owners as part of a forestry management assistance program partially paid with state funds.

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III. ISSUE AREA: MINERAL MANAGEMENT

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Actions:

1. To implement the metallic mineral development plan the Department will:
 - a. Promote mineral exploration by accelerating the development of basic geologic data such as aeromagnetic surveys, and bedrock maps;
 - b. Promote mineral exploration and increase discovery chances by accelerating mineral potential studies to highlight areas of high mineral potential and to identify exploration techniques particularly applicable to Minnesota;
 - c. Prepare and publicize a Governor's Executive Order encouraging mineral development and coordinating the regulatory review processes;
 - d. Assure access for mineral exploration; and
 - e. Develop incentives and initiatives for industry to explore and develop Minnesota's mineral potential.
2. To identify and develop industrial minerals the Department will:
 - a. Expand efforts to locate and inventory Minnesota's potential for industrial minerals;
 - b. Promote marketing and utilization of industrial minerals, particularly those with national and international uses;
 - c. Accelerate the inventory of aggregate resources and protect their future use; and
 - d. Promote research of new uses for such minerals.
3. Regarding peat development and environmental protection the Department will seek to:
 - a. Encourage and promote further work in peatland hydrology that specifically speaks to the issue of peatland development and protection management functions;
 - b. Implement and refine a system for peatland protection; and
 - c. Accelerate the detailed inventory of peatland development areas.

Legislation:

1. The Department needs continued LCMR support for the generation of basic geological data.
3. The Department may propose peatland protection policy legislation.

III. ISSUE AREA: MINERAL MANAGEMENT

Page 1 of 2

Actions:

1. a. (Accomplished) Aeromagnetic surveys were run for all or parts of 16 counties. Accelerated geologic mapping in the Two Harbors and Hibbing Sheets was initiated. The gravity network was upgraded.
- b. (In process) Projects implemented include: take sediment and geochemistry work in East Central Minnesota; a-horizon and biogeochemistry work; bedrock drilling for mineral potential; water well geochemistry; mineral occurrence complications; structural study of the Duluth Complex; litho-geochemistry work; saline brine analysis; and public sample analysis program implementation.
- c. (In process)
- d. (Accomplished) Identification of severed minerals parcels was initiated. New efforts were made to include the consideration of mineral potential in land exchanges and sales.
- e. (Accomplished) Recent incentives efforts include: the planning and promotion of the KR direct reduction process; peat combustion tests at Syl Laskin; upgrading of mineral potential data to attract industry; opening of new areas for possible lease; better presentation of information to industry.
2. a. (In process) Developed an industrial minerals promotion plan.
- b. (In process) Attracted private interest in possible cat litter production project using Minnesota clays.
- c. (Accomplished) Accelerated the inventory for aggregates and developed criteria for inventory. A pilot county has been selected and a work group of participating agencies formed.
- d. (Accomplished) Investigated new uses of industrial minerals; for example, clay as a taconite pellet bind in a cooperative project with the Bureau of Mines.
3. a. (Partially accomplished) Completed hydrology monitoring at a peat mining site. LCMR funding was not obtained for expanded Red Lake hydrology project.
- b. (In process) Recommended a system for peatland protection detailed in report presented to 1985 Legislature.
- c. (Accomplished) Documentation of sites for energy peat development in areas with facilities likely to consume the product.

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III. ISSUE AREA: MINERAL MANAGEMENT

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Structural Change:

None anticipated at this time.

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III. ISSUE AREA: MINERAL MANAGEMENT

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Legislation:

1. (Accomplished) LCMR funding obtained for drill core examination and geochemical surveying projects.
3. The Department proposed legislation for peatland protection and a bill was introduced but not heard.

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IV. ISSUE AREA: GENERAL LAND MANAGEMENT

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Actions:

1. A major initiative is necessary to reduce soil erosion on Minnesota lands to below the tolerance level of 5 tons per acre per year (the "T" value at which topsoil can replace itself). The Department will:
 - a. Work with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and legislators a demonstration effort, including the use of state lands for demonstration areas similar to current projects at the Whitewater and Lac Qui Parle Wildlife Management Areas;
 - b. Continue to cost-share in the purchase of no-till farming equipment with local soil and water conservation districts when possible;
 - c. Promote conservation tillage through information and education in cooperation with the Soil and Water Conservation Board of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture; and
 - d. Continue efforts to shape the 1985 national farm bill with respect to this issue.
2. To protect wetlands the Department will:
 - a. Perform technical determinations of the depth of existing ditch constructions before further drainage occurs to ascertain public rights and protect the state's investment in wetlands that are either part of a wildlife management area or protected by the state water bank program;
 - b. Provide information to legislators and the public, as requested, on the impacts of the current drainage code over the last few years;
 - c. Support retention of the recently developed tax incentives to preserve wetlands; and
 - d. Support wetland restoration on private and public lands and the accelerated acquisition of important privately held wetlands.

Legislation:

1. Appropriate legislation would set soil loss limits statewide and would create programs to provide conservation incentives to landowners of highly erodable soils.
2. The Department recommends a serious review and possible revision of the drainage code so that the wetlands protection gains of recent years are not over-ridden for the benefit of a few at the expense of many. In order to obtain the technical data on existing ditch depths, a general fund change or an LCMR appropriation will be sought by the Department.

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IV. ISSUE AREA: GENERAL LAND MANAGEMENT

Page 1 of 2

Actions:

1. a. (No progress) Legislation was introduced but did not pass. University study and demonstration are still in the works. Department policy was adopted in 1984 promoting conservation tillage on DNR lands.
 - b. (Accomplished) No-till farming is becoming a generally accepted practice. A continuing need for DNR cost sharing on additional equipment with SWCDs for demonstration purpose is not anticipated. Pheasants Forever and Pheasants Habitat, Inc. cost shared with ASCS on two no-till seeders in western Minnesota.
 - c. (In process) DNR is taking active role in Ag-stravaganza education program that emphasizes good land management including conservation tillage.
 - d. (Accomplished) The Section of Wildlife continued close liaison with the Wildlife Management Institute, the Minnesota Congressional Delegation and others who are steering this legislation at the federal level. The Section Chief presented testimony to the U.S. House Subcommittee on Conservation Credit and Rural Development.

The 1985 farm bill now contains sodbuster and swambuster provisions as well as a conservation reserve program for 25-30 million acres nationwide. Prospects for passage are very good.
2. a. (In process) The processing of water bank applications includes an evaluation of public ditches affecting the wetlands under consideration for protection. Where a public ditch repair or improvement would adversely affect the wetland, the Department will generally only consider water bank options involving an annual payment, with language cancelling the payment of public monies should a ditch project actually proceed. M.S. Chapter 106 does not require the Commissioner's review and comment on ditch repairs, and public ditch repair notification requirements of M.S. Chapter 106 are not well defined. Thus public ditch repair sometimes is initiated without prior notice furnished to the Department.
 - b. (In process) The Department will prepare substantive public drainage code changes, including: updating of the code, establishing equity in the process, enhancing and clarifying environmental considerations such as soil loss, wetland protection and flood damage reduction.
 - c. (Accomplished) 1985 Legislature retained the wetland tax credit.
 - d. (In process) The Department cooperated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Ducks Unlimited on several wetland restoration projects. A cost-share program with the Minnesota Waterfowl Association was also

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IV. ISSUE AREA: GENERAL LAND MANAGEMENT

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Structural Change:

None anticipated at this time.

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IV. ISSUE AREA: GENERAL LAND MANAGEMENT

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continued with limited funds. More funding is needed. During fiscal 1985, 5,628 acres of wildlife land was acquired in fee or protected by easement. About half of this acreage was wetland. In addition, 112.77 acres were acquired by gift. Funding for acquisition will decline in fiscal 1986 because of a reduction in the Resource 2000 program. At least \$1.5 million of the \$2.4 million appropriated for general natural resource acquisition is earmarked for wildlife land acquisition. The Section of Wildlife has over 50 parcels in appraisal or negotiation with a total value of over \$2 million.

Legislation:

1. (Accomplished) Legislation has been passed and draft rules are now out for review. Soil loss rules should be finalized by January 1, 1986. Also Ag Land Preservation Law is progressing--7 pilot counties are developing Ag Land Preservation Ordinances funded in last legislative session.
2. (Partially accomplished) Drainage laws recodified without substantive in 1985 Legislature. No progress made on obtaining technical data on ditches.

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V. ISSUE AREA: FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

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Actions:

1. The Department will develop a comprehensive long-range plan for managing fish and wildlife, including nongame wildlife and scientific and natural areas.
2. To intensify fish management the Department will:
 - a. Develop lake management plans for these important waters including schedules for inventory of fish stocks, numbers of users and evaluation of management efforts;
 - b. Develop a fish hatchery production system to efficiently produce species required by lake management plans;
 - c. Develop a fish management program on marginal waters near population centers with aeration systems, fishing piers, stocking, and rehabilitation efforts;
 - d. Develop a management information system to provide timely information to managers for decisions on lake management and to the public regarding inventory and management plans; and
 - e. Develop special fishing opportunities with diverse species and special regulations including agreements with Indian communities, with other states and with Canadian provinces.
3. To improve fish and wildlife habitat the Department will:
 - a. Continue to acquire important wetlands when possible;
 - b. Intensify efforts to improve fish and wildlife habitat on private lands through various mechanisms (e.g., tax incentives, conservation easements, gifts of land, land banking, etc);
 - c. Undertake a strong effort to educate the public on the values of state and other publicly owned land for fish and wildlife;
 - d. Launch a good roadside management program using pheasant stamp funds; and
 - e. Coordinate management activities with the Forestry Division as far as possible with severely limited resources.
4. The Department will identify and evaluate alternative funding sources for fish and wildlife management.

V. ISSUE AREA: FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

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Actions:

1. (In process) The Department has begun developing a comprehensive long-range plan for fish and wildlife management; funded through LCMR and general fund appropriations. A planning concept document is complete and issue identification has begun.
2.
 - a. (In process) Continue to develop lake management plans. 273 written during F.Y. 85 and 293 scheduled for F.Y. 86.
 - b. (In process) Hatchery development and rehabilitation underway for St. Paul, Grand Marais, Cutfoot Sioux, Pike River, French River, Waterville, Lanesboro. Financed from surcharge appropriation (\$400,000).
 - c. (In process) Surcharge funds allocated to develop 19 aeration systems, 24 fishing piers, eight lake rehabilitations, and 10 miles of trout stream improvements.
 - d. (In process) Provided 5 additional IBM PC's to field stations. Developing computer programs for commercial fishing statistics, lake file information and stocking records.
 - d. (In process) Special regulations developed on seven lakes and streams. Fish Technical Committee organized with Ontario. Developing management agreement with Leech Lake Reservation.
3.
 - a. (In process) Wetlands acquisition as itemized in IV. ISSUE AREA: GENERAL LAND MANAGEMENT. Actively involved in expanding incentives on private lands.
 - b. (Accomplished) Wetland tax credit program now covers 130,000 acres of wetlands and the native prairie tax credit includes 10,000 acres. The Pheasant Stamp Account, which cost shares habitat improvement on private land, has tripled since 1984 to (\$770,000). The Federal farm bill will include a conservation easement/debt reduction provision.
 - c. (Accomplished) Worked with Minnesota Public Land and Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Coalition on publicizing fish and wildlife values of public land.
 - d. (Accomplished) Roadside program well underway. Demonstration seeding projects underway with MNDOT, 5 county highway departments and several townships. Legislation on mowing roadsides was passed in 1985 Legislature.
 - e. (Accomplished) Continued to coordinate with the Division of Forestry on habitat improvement. Work is underway to coordinate computerized data collection.

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V. ISSUE AREA: FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

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Legislation:

1. The Department will seek an LCMR appropriation to fund the development of a comprehensive plan for fish and wildlife management.
2. Federal reimbursement is available for up to 75 percent of the intensified fish management program, but a legislative appropriation will be required to adequately fund the program.
3. Legislative action is needed to continue and expand the funding for acquisition of wetlands. Continued legislative support is also important for proper roadside management. An LCMR appropriation will be sought to appropriately fund the forestry-wildlife coordination effort.
4. Legislation may be required to enable use of alternative revenue sources.

Structural Change:

None anticipated at this time.

V. ISSUE AREA: FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

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4. The Department is providing input and working closely with the Governor's Citizen Commission to support non-license generated revenue. Sales tax dollars or a lottery bill are among the alternatives the Commission is considering. Various user fees for non-consumptive activities are also being evaluated.

Legislation:

1. (Accomplished) An appropriation of \$200,000 was received through LCMR for comprehensive fish and wildlife planning. Additional funding will be needed to continue the planning process.
2. (Accomplished) An appropriation of \$3 million in fishing license surcharge revenue was obtained to qualify for \$2.25 million of Federal reimbursement from Dingle-Johnson expansion funding.
3. Acquisition under surcharge is continuing at the same level. Resource 2000 funding will be at a reduced level. At least \$1.5 million is needed. Bill to prohibit road authorities from mowing roadsides was passed by 1985 legislature. Request to LCMR for forest/wildlife coordination effort was denied. An attempt to establish a position internally has not yet been successful.
4. A Reinvest in Minnesota bill will be submitted in the 1986 session. If this fails, the 1987 session will include such legislation. This would provide general revenues for major fish and wildlife work.

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VI. ISSUE AREA: OUTDOOR RECREATION MANAGEMENT

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Actions:

1. To acquire and develop recreational areas the Department will:
 - a. Seek funding to accelerate the acquisition and development of lands to ensure availability of an outdoor recreation system that will support the state's tourist industry; and
 - b. Emphasize the provision of fishing opportunities (i.e., public water accesses and fishing piers) in metropolitan and other high demand areas.
2. To rehabilitate and maintain recreational areas the Department will:
 - a. Develop a long range rehabilitation and maintenance program for trails, canoe and boating routes, and water access sites;
 - b. Work to accelerate its parks rehabilitation program; and
 - c. Develop forest unit plans with a re-emphasis on forest recreation, including upgrading and promoting existing forest recreational facilities.
3. The Department will increase its information and education activities and continue to improve the close working relationship with DEED's Office of Tourism to improve the public's awareness of the outdoor recreation system.
4. To improve the public/private relationship in recreation the Department will:
 - a. Take a lead in strengthening the working relationships of the various public and private organizations involved in outdoor recreation and in providing user information, all for the purpose of efficiently providing a variety of recreational packages which will enhance the attractiveness of local and regional areas; and
 - b. Take a lead in developing and seeking enabling legislation which would allow simpler working arrangements, such as cooperative agreements, to permit more flexibility between the Department and other public agencies and private organizations.

Legislation:

1. Accelerated acquisition and development funding will be requested through bond sales and LCMR appropriations.
- 2: The Department will seek permanent funding for personnel, equipment, and services for on-going rehabilitation and maintenance.

VI. ISSUE AREA: OUTDOOR RECREATION MANAGEMENT

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Actions:

1. a. (Partially accomplished) 1985 Resource 2000 bonding authority for land acquisition and betterment was \$5.772 million. This was substantially less than requested. A few examples of projects funded through Resource 2000 bond sales include: Hinckley to Moose Lake Trail, Root River Trail (Fountain to Isimour Jct), trout stream easements, Wildlife Management Area and Scientific and Natural Area acquisitions, and Tettegouche and Itasca State Park development. No funds were available for forest roads. Because of budget reductions many forest recreation facilities have not been maintained at desired levels and some may have to be closed. The Water Recreation Account, a dedicated fund consisting of revenues from the boat license and highway gas tax attributable to boats, was passed by the 1985 Legislature. This account provides funds for acquisition and development of water access sites.
- b. (Accomplished) Approximately 100 new and improved public water access sites in the Twin City metropolitan and other high demand areas have been established. 6 fishing piers have been built and an additional 24 fishing piers will be constructed in F.Y. 86 using funds from the fishing license surcharge.
2. a. (In process) Dedicated accounts have been established for some of the major uses, including snowmobile, cross country skiing, A.T.V.'s, water access, and canoe and boating routes. This provides a good funding base for long range rehabilitation and maintenance. Three major uses that still do not have long range programs are bicycling, horseback and hiking trails.
- b. (Accomplished) The 1985 Legislature appropriated in total \$2.9 million for state park development and rehabilitation program, the request was \$7.16 million. These funds will be used for high priority projects directed at rehabilitating existing state park facilities and develop new facilities where there is substantial need.
- c. (In process) One unit plan has been completed, four more are in progress. Recreation is a significant component of the plans.
3. (Accomplished) Information and education activities increased substantially. Some examples include: public recreation information system expanded to include all DNR divisions; Parks marketing task force established and a 3 day marketing training program was conducted for park managers, administrators and interpretive personnel; STEP Marketing program for state parks approved; many new informational publications produced or updated; participated in BWCA promotion committee; coordinated 1985 Governor's Fishing Opener; DNR hosted interpretive skills training workshop, significantly improving cooperation between public and private outdoor

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3. Legislative appropriations and action will be needed to fund and staff the Department's information and education activities.
4. Legislation will also be sought to permit and facilitate more cooperative working arrangements.

Structural Change:

The Department will examine the recommendations made in the Department of Administration report (January 1984) on combining the Unit of Trails and Waterways with the Division of Parks and Recreation.

VI. ISSUE AREA: OUTDOOR RECREATION MANAGEMENT Page 2 of 3

recreation service providers; county GIA trail maps readied for use by local clubs; several grand openings held for state trails and public accesses.

Working relationships with DEED's Office of Tourism were improved. Coordination of materials and information sharing was increased. Worked with Tourism on 1985 Fishing Report and other promotional messages on the fishing resource. Joint DNR/Tourism conference was held. Regular meetings are now held with Tourism.

4. (In process) Trails and Waterways is presently packaging and coordinating the marketing of the "Explore Minnesota's Collection of Trails". It will combine DNR state and unit trails with USFS trails, MN DOT bikeways, county sponsored grant-in-aid trails, and others to provide a high quality collection of long distance trails that highlighted Minnesota's diversity. DNR is also cooperating with National Park Service and the State of Wisconsin on a St. Croix Riverway map.

The DNR Public Information System and the Summer Special Event program has had a 250% increase. Many special events are now being co-sponsored between parks and private sector. Special tour days have been offered for local resorters and officials to show how parks can benefit them and how new cooperative efforts benefit all. Consistent effective distribution system was established for park information materials. A comprehensive data base on public recreation in Minnesota was developed and is available.

Legislation:

1. (Partially accomplished) 1985-87 Resource 2000 bonding authority was \$2.4 million, and \$2.9 million was appropriated for development and rehabilitation. This was substantially less than requested. Forest recreation bonding and development funding in particular was cut (\$200,000 appropriated of \$1.5 million requested). The establishment of the Water Recreation Account was an important accomplishment.
2. (Accomplished) Six permanent personnel were approved for water access with the passage of the Water Recreation Account. Also approved in this account was funding for ongoing rehabilitation and maintenance of water access and canoe and boating sites. Three permanent positions were added in the field from the dedicated snowmobile account. The Parks systems analyst, public information officer and park planner positions became classified positions and funded.
3. (In process) The Department is working within present structure to facilitate needed changes especially within the computer data information system. Legislation was passed allowing direct sale of excess lands on the Heartland Trail to adjoining landowners per appraised value. DNR is investigating lifetime license for cross country skiers to minimize registration problems encountered by local units of government.

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VI. ISSUE AREA: OUTDOOR RECREATION MANAGEMENT

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Structural Change:

(In process) Task force has been set up and the recommendations on combining the units of Trails and Waterways and Parks and Recreation will be available January 1, 1986.

Additional Legislation Passed Affecting the Department:

(In process) Legislation was initiated by A.T.V. proponents which would have provided a good viable program for A.T.V.'s. This would include development, rehabilitation and maintenance of A.T.V. trails and also would allow joint projects with local units of government and DNR through a Grants-In-Aid program. Legislation was not passed but will be worked on next session.

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VII. ISSUE AREA: NATURAL RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT Page 1 of 1

Actions:

1. To respond to increased enforcement responsibilities the Department will:
 - a. Improve law enforcement training throughout the Department;
 - b. Intensify the enforcement effort in the metropolitan area and the Lake Superior region;
 - c. Convert to a high-band radio system; and
 - d. Seek legislation to add a civil damages dimension to fishing and hunting violations presently treated under the criminal code.
2. The Department will seek to reduce the illegal commercialization of game and fish by:
 - a. Increasing the number of undercover operations and entering cooperative efforts such as information sharing and investigations with other states and the federal government whenever possible;
 - b. Using the latest scientific surveillance and enforcement techniques such as night vision scopes, telemetry and forensics when possible;
 - c. Continuing to promote the Turn-in-Poachers (TIP) Program; and
 - d. Increasing the use of roadblocks and work teams.

Legislation:

1. New civil damages legislation will be sought.

Structural Change:

None anticipated at this time.

VII. ISSUE AREA: NATURAL RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT Page 1 of 1

Actions:

1. a. (Accomplished) Held annual Conservation Officer Schools in 1984 and 1985, and numerous training sessions. Approved by POST.
- b. (Accomplished) Hired 7 Boat and Water Safety Specialist officers in '84 and '85 - 2 assigned to the Twin City metro area each year.
- c. (Accomplished) Highband radios purchased and installation in progress.
- d. (Not accomplished) Legislation not passed but some courts are automatically assessing civil damages for fishing and hunting violations.
2. a. (Accomplished) Established undercover operation for buying operation in cooperation with Michigan, Wisconsin, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Minnesota Enforcement. Total arrest for illegal fur expected to reach over 300.
- b. (Accomplished) Purchased and used video cameras and recorded illegal fish and fur transactions. Extremely successful. 306 arrests in 1984 and \$20,080 in rewards. Thru July 1985, 124 arrests and \$14,100 in rewards. The cameras are extremely useful Enforcement tools.
- c. (Accomplished) Roadchecks have proven effective. Percentage of arrests per sportsmen stopped has decreased dramatically in the last two years.

Additional Legislation Passed Affecting the Department:

Legislation passed that raised the minimum fine on the illegal sale of wildlife where total amount of sale exceeds \$300.00. Former maximum of \$700.00 was raised to a minimum of \$3,000.

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VIII. ISSUE AREA: DEPARTMENT MANAGEMENT

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Actions:

1. To improve interdisciplinary coordination the Department will:
 - a. Hold meetings of key managers (similar to the 1984 strategic planning retreat) on a more frequent basis, perhaps quarterly, for informal exchanges of information and development of administrative and resource management strategies;
 - b. Seek to convert to general funding positions within the Office of Planning currently funded by the LCMR (River Management, Parks Planning, Suitability) in order to continue a formal coordination of interdisciplinary activities (e.g., rivers management and the interdisciplinary development of the BWCA periphery recreation plan);
 - c. Improve the Department's capability to provide natural resource economic analysis and develop a mechanism to coordinate economic work through the Office of Planning.
2. To appropriately utilize advancements in technology, an LCMR appropriation will be sought to continue acceleration of the Department's computerized information systems in order to build centralized data bases for all resource and management information.
3. Department actions to improve administrative management come from two sources: specific actions recommended in the 1984 study by the Department of Administration and administrative initiatives identified during the May 1984 strategic planning retreat of DNR key managers. The Department will improve administrative management by:
 - a. Strengthening the role of regional administrators in policy and program decision-making;
 - b. Adding personnel aides in regional offices and fiscal assistance in the central office;
 - c. Clarifying roles, responsibilities and working relationships of business managers, finance and personnel staff;
 - d. Increasing automation of fiscal and personnel record keeping and developing an automated cost accounting system;
 - e. Adding three land specialists in the northern regional offices;
 - f. Developing a long range plan for the improvement of managerial, supervisory, and employee training; and

VIII. ISSUE AREA: DEPARTMENT MANAGEMENT

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Actions:

1.
 - a. (Accomplished) A quarterly meeting schedule was developed and meetings are being held regularly. Most recent meeting was September 24 and 25, 1985.
 - b. (Partially accomplished) 2 river management positions, 1 of 2 suitability/land classification positions and 1 of 3 park planning positions were converted. Continued efforts are needed to obtain legislative approval for the other needed positions.
 - c. (Accomplished) Position established in Natural Resource Planning Section for economic analysis.
2. (Partially accomplished) An LCMR request for \$1.7 million was prepared. The committee recommended that the request be funded by the general fund. The Department's change level request was funded at \$600,000.00. This amount is only sufficient to maintain current systems and the accelerated project will be held up until further funding is available.
3.
 - a. (In process) Regional Administrators have been added to the Department's top policy review committee and take part in all key managers meetings (see 1.a.).
 - b. (Not accomplished) 1985 Legislature denied a request for three regional personnel aids. One position, however, was added in the Bureau of Financial Management.
 - c. (In process) The Department is clarifying and documenting their roles and responsibilities.
 - d. (In process) The Department's Management Systems Bureau is making strides in automating the DNR's administrative functions. The Division of Parks is carrying out a pilot automated cost accounting system.
 - e. (Not accomplished) The 1985 Legislature denied the Department's request for three land specialists.
 - f. (In process) The Department is developing a comprehensive training plan.
 - g. (In process) Assistant Commissioner for Planning changed to Assistant Commissioner for Planning and Special Services.
4. (Accomplished) 7% increase in budget for F.Y. '86-87 enabled MEEB to have the same number of coordinators as 1981. 4 of the 5 have only seasonal appointments and legislative groundwork will be done to restore these positions to full-time status.

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VIII. ISSUE AREA: DEPARTMENT MANAGEMENT

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- g. Establishing common reportability for regional administrators and directors; restructuring the responsibilities of the assistant commissioner for administration; and changing the position of assistant commissioner for planning to assistant commissioner for planning and special services.
4. To restore environmental education efforts, the Minnesota Environmental Education Board and the Department will seek to return staff levels to those existing prior to the budget cuts of 1981, 1982, and 1983.
5. To expand the capability of Minnesota Conservation Corps the Department will:
 - a. Seek to bring the Corps up to a similar level as neighboring states to make possible more of this cost effective approach; and
 - b. Initiate a joint effort with the Departments of Economic Security and Corrections to employ juvenile offenders in this program.

Legislation:

1. The Department will need LCMR support and a general fund appropriation for the conversion of positions.
2. An LCMR appropriation will also be needed to continue the accelerated development of computerized information systems.
3. The Department will seek a general fund appropriation to enhance its administrative support as recommended by the Department of Administration.
4. The Minnesota Environmental Education Board will also require a general fund appropriation to restore efforts as proposed.
5. The Department will seek to enact enabling legislation for the Minnesota Conservation Corps and expand state or federal funding to intensify this cost effective program.

Structural Change:

The only structural change that will result from these actions is that in the Commissioner's Office: creation of common management reportability and restructuring of the responsibilities of the Assistant Commissioners.

VIII. ISSUE AREA: DEPARTMENT MANAGEMENT

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5. a. (In process) Although funding was reduced this last legislative session by about \$40,000.00, there seemed to be bipartisan support for Minnesota Conservation Corps (MCC).
- b. (In process) The Minnesota Conservation Corps has integrated two juvenile offenders into its young adult crew in Rochester on a pilot basis with limited success. A draft agreement has been drawn up indicating the responsibilities of the offender and who participates.

Legislation:

1. (Partially accomplished) See 1.b. above.
2. (Partially accomplished) See 2. above.
3. (Partially accomplished) The Department requests for one position in the Bureau of Financial Management and general fund support for management information systems was granted. Requests for additional field staff for the Personnel Bureau and the Land Bureau were denied.
4. (Partially accomplished) See 4. above.
5. (In process) See 5.a. above.

