

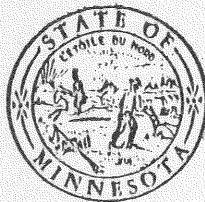
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ACTIVATING THE NATURAL RESOURCES ACT OF 1963



A Special Report
to
M O R R C
(Minnesota Outdoor Recreation Resources Commission)
from

STATE OF MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
JULY 19, 1963

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REPORT
to the
MINNESOTA OUTDOOR RECREATION RESOURCES COMMISSION

"A combined explanatory and fiscal statement outlining the
specific proposals and program for activating the Omnibus
Natural Resources and Recreation Act of 1963."

To the Minnesota Outdoor Recreation Resources Commission:

It generally is agreed that the passage of the Natural Resources Act is the biggest step forward in conservation history since establishment of the Department of Conservation in 1931. It is a tribute to the vision of the members of the 1963 Legislature.

It was on July 31, 1962 at Hibbing, Minnesota, that Governor Karl F. Rolvaag, then Lieutenant Governor, announced his ten-year conservation program to be financed by a one-cent-per-pack hike in the cigarette tax. The Governor is agreed that overwhelming support for the Natural Resources Act indicates it is truly a bi-partisan measure.

Recognition should be given the Minnesota Natural Resources Council, a volunteer organization, in the preparation of the report, "Natural Resources of Minnesota: 1962". It is the product of many dedicated men. It paved the way for legislative action.

The Natural Resources Act is a challenge to the Department of Conservation. As the newly appointed Commissioner of Conservation, I have every confidence that the men and women of the Department will prove equal to the task. The following report on the proposed program to implement the Act, completed during my first week in office, is tangible evidence of the capacity and industry of department personnel.

This report has been prepared to comply with Article IX, Section 2 of the Natural Resources Act which provides that, "The commissioner shall consult with the Commission in carrying out the terms and provisions of the Act". I think you will agree there is no time for delay. I propose to move immediately to activate the proposed program.

Respectfully submitted,



Wayne H. Olson
Commissioner of Conservation

		Budgeted 1st Qtr.	Budgeted 1st Yr.	Total 2 Yr. Appropriation
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FORESTRY	<u>1. Reforestation</u>	\$70,000	\$150,000	\$300,000
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(Art. VIII, Sec. 6, Subd. 10 - For
tree planting on state-owned lands)

Major emphasis will be placed on site preparation including the planting of 2,034,000 trees on 2,260 acres in 14 counties. Specifically 100 acres of slash will be burned to provide a seed bed for natural reseeding from existing stands; 415 acres will be prepared for artificial seeding; 200 acres of brush, grass and decadent hardwoods will be burned and seeded; 240 acres will be sprayed with herbicides to kill brush and then be planted to 215,000 trees; 360 acres will be furrowed and planted to 325,000 trees. The Division of Forestry will examine and select appropriate areas for reforesting, classify land as to productivity on a cost basis, designate species to be planted; and map areas.

	<u>2. Nursery Program</u>	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$200,000
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(Art. VIII, Sec. 6, Subd. 7 - For
increased tree nursery production)

Funds provided by the Natural Resources and Recreation Act will be needed to finance both production and expansion of the tree nursery program. Federal matching funds (Soil Bank), used to build nursery production to approximately 40 million trees

annually, are no longer available. Our principal objective will be to maintain the 40 million quota and build for increased production in the future. Nursery expansion will include the leveling of approximately 25 acres at the Carlos Avery Nursery, including smaller additions to be developed at the Badoura and General Andrews nurseries. Expansion also is involved in building a new packing structure at the Badoura Nursery which will improve packing and cold storage facilities for the more than 15 million trees annually shipped from this nursery. For the future it is hoped that this planned program of nursery development will lead to the annual production of 50 million high-quality trees.

<u>3. Forest Roads</u>	\$123,000	\$150,000	\$300,000
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(Art. VIII, Sec. 6, Subd. 6 - For the development of forest roads within state forests)

At the present time, the Division of Forestry administers 1,242 miles of forest roads. Although the need has been apparent for many years for new roads to provide access for forest management, fire protection, recreation and other multiple uses, such construction was necessarily limited because of lack of funds for construction and proper maintenance.

Budgeted 1st Qtr.	Budgeted 1st Yr.	Total 2 Yr. Appropriation
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It is proposed to spend \$140,600 for 30 miles of new road construction in nine counties and that an additional ten miles be reconstructed in three counties. It is also planned to maintain 864 miles of road since Forestry appropriations are insufficient to do the job.

New construction and reconstruction is located in counties eligible for federal assistance under the A.P.W. (Accelerated Public Works) program. We will submit these projects to the U. S. Forest Service and, if approved for cost sharing, the forest road program will be augmented considerably.

<u>4. Forest Campgrounds</u>	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$100,000
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(Art. VIII, Sec. 6, Subd. 13 - For public forest campgrounds)

Expansion and improvement of existing campgrounds is of primary importance. However, if it is decided that new campgrounds should receive a greater proportion of the money available, \$36,700 could be expended to complete three new campgrounds and partially complete another. The new facilities to be completed include Man Trap Campground in Hubbard county; Willow River Campground, Pine county; and Lougee Lake Campground in Crow Wing county. The Blueberry Hill Campground in Lake of the Woods county could be about one-half completed.

Budgeted 1st Qtr.	Budgeted 1st Yr.	Total 2 Yr. Appropriation
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Since water is essential to the use of existing campgrounds, it is proposed that \$9,800 be expended to provide six wells and necessary pumps for campgrounds in St. Louis, Lake, Itasca and Cass counties.

Engineering expenditures will amount to \$3,500 bringing the total proposed expenditure from Natural Resources appropriations to \$50,000.

Present federal regulations do not permit matching funds for campgrounds.

5. <u>Memorial Hardwood Forest</u>	\$14,498	\$150,000	\$300,000
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(Art. VIII, Sec. 6, Subd. 2 - For the acquisition of land in the Memorial Hardwood State Forest)

The 1961 session of the Legislature established the Memorial Hardwood Forest but did not appropriate funds for land acquisition. Since establishment of the Forest, the following land has been acquired through public donations and state money made available through the Legislative Advisory Committee:

L.A.C.	\$18,300.00
Public Donations	9,651.61
Total	<u>\$27,951.61</u>

The following acreage has been acquired to date with the above funds and other donations of land by counties and individuals:

Purchased	367.2 acres
Donated	1,223.0 acres
Total	<u>1,590.2 acres</u>

Budgeted 1st Qtr.	Budgeted 1st Yr.	Total 2 Yr. Appropriation
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An additional 452 acres have been optioned for purchase.

It is proposed that Natural Resources funds be used to acquire lands in Dakota, Fillmore, Goodhue, Houston, Olmsted, Wabasha and Winona counties..

Acreage to be purchased will be primarily lowland hardwood areas subject to periodic flooding and the steeper eroding slopes along the Mississippi river and tributaries.

GAME	<u>6. Wildlife Land Acquisition</u>	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$400,000
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AND	(Art. VIII, Sec. 4 - There is appropriated to the commissioner of conservation for the acquisition of wildlife land from the general fund, \$400,000 to be immediately available. Such monies shall be repaid from the natural resources fund)
FISH	

Minnesota has taught the Nation the importance of saving wetlands. More than 100,000 acres already have been acquired at a cost of more than three million dollars. But the job is less than half done. At our present rate of acquiring 15,000 acres of wetlands per year, it will be another ten years before we reach our goal of 250,000 acres.

The Division of Game and Fish will use the \$400,000 appropriated for wildlife land acquisition under the Natural Resources Act of 1963 to accelerate the wetlands program. It is proposed to exercise 134

	Budgeted 1st Qtr.	Budgeted 1st Yr.	Total 2 Yr. Appropriation
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options presently held to acquire a total of 8,625 acres of wildlife lands in 36 counties. This land is located in 86 different wildlife management areas.

7. Acquisition of Spawning Areas	\$7,631	\$75,000	\$150,000
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(Art. VIII, Sec. 6, Subd. 12 - For the acquisition of land and water rights for spawning)

The most important investment to make for the future of fishing in Minnesota is in the acquisition, preservation, and improvement of natural fish spawning and rearing areas in, or adjacent to, our lakes and streams. Such areas are disappearing rapidly through development by private interests while our acquisition program has progressed at a snail's pace.

We must secure permanent rights to a large number of "nature's northern pike hatcheries". These waterfowl and wild rice water areas can be managed to produce great numbers of northerns for stocking throughout the state. This program will be advanced as rapidly as current surveys are completed, sites selected and evaluated, and legal and engineering transactions completed. It is proposed to have the full \$75,000 invested during fiscal 1964.

Budgeted
1st Qtr.

Budgeted
1st Yr.

Total 2 Yr.
Appropriation

WILDLIFE DEVELOPMENT

(Art. VIII, Sec. 6, Subd. 5 - For the development of wildlife areas, spawning areas, and sites for public access to and improvement of lakes and streams)

8. Wildlife Lands

\$28,914

\$75,000

To develop and improve wildlife management areas we will budget \$75,000 for the following activities:

Seasonal personnel will be added to operate three draglines to complete a backlog of habitat development projects; seasonal laborers and equipment will be hired for fencing, posting and working on access roads; and planting and marsh development. A large waterfowl impoundment will be constructed on the Sunrise River. Addition (Chisago county) to the Carlos Avery Wildlife Management Area Project.

9. Spawning Areas

\$26,300

\$65,000

Successful spawning and hatching of northern pike depends on maintaining satisfactory water levels during spring and early summer in grassy marsh areas. We will budget \$65,000 for development of these areas by constructing small water level control structures, channels and dikes. In some instances pumping units will be necessary to provide water where natural run-off is inadequate.

	Budgeted 1st Qtr.	Budgeted 1st Yr.	Total 2 Yr. Appropriation
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10. <u>Public Access Sites</u>	\$4,000	\$10,000	
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We will budget \$10,000 for development of public access sites. Many of these have had only a primitive roadway brushed out and inadequate parking area. We will level off, mark the parking areas with treated guide posts, and provide launching ramp facilities. We have a standard set of plans which easily can be adapted to accommodate the various sizes of the sites acquired.

<u>Totals for Wildlife Development</u>	\$59,214	\$150,000	\$300,000
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STATE PARKS

Introduction

The Natural Resources Act provided for establishment of 14 new state parks, totalling more than 29,000 acres in 17 counties. These new areas range in size from Grand Mound State Park, Koochiching county, 64 acres; to Maplewood State Park, Otter Tail county,

5,629 acres. The Act also provided funds for additions (totalling more than 13,000 acres) to 21 existing state parks in more than 20 counties.

Funds for land acquisition for 12 of the new parks were provided. In addition, Federal highway funds will finance land acquisition for O. L. Kipp State Park in Winona county on the Great River Road. Appropriations are not adequate to purchase all of the acreage within the authorized boundaries. The amount allotted in the Natural Resources Act was only half of the \$3,404,000 estimated by the Division of State Parks as necessary to do the job.

For development purposes priority will be given to construction of wells and water distribution systems in state parks; sewage disposal systems, toilet facilities and campground improvements.

11. Acquisition New Parks	\$26,890	\$678,577	\$1,037,702
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(Art. VIII, Sec. 3 - There is appropriated for land acquisition within the boundaries of the state parks outlined in this section)

The amount of money appropriated for each park listed will determine the acreage that can be acquired. In most cases, the sums allotted are insufficient to acquire the acreage stipulated for these parks under Article V of the Natural Resources Act.

	Budgeted 1st Qtr.	Budgeted 1st Yr.	Total 2 Yr. Appropriation
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<u>12. Additions to Parks</u>	\$119,027	\$376,160	\$619,907
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(Art. VIII, Sec. 3. - There is appropriated . . .
for land acquisition within the boundaries of
the state parks outlined in this section)

Strategic additions to 19 existing state parks
are authorized. Every effort will be made to acquire
these lands within the limits of the provided
appropriation. Each addition is important for the
park concerned in order to fulfill the maximum
recreational potential of the area involved.

<u>13. Tower-Soudan</u>	\$50,774	\$81,057	\$122,000
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(Art. VIII, Sec. 6 - For the maintenance,
operation and improvement of Tower-Soudan
Park, including salaries for the employment
of two persons to maintain said park)

The basic philosophy of the Minnesota State Parks
program is the preservation of the historic, scientific
and scenic values of our great state. The fact that
the Soudan Mine was the first iron ore mine in
Minnesota and figures so importantly in the history
of iron ore development, qualifies it as a state park.
Modification of facilities from mining use to public
visitation use is planned during the first year of
the biennium. Readyng the mine shaft, cages, and
tunnels for limited public use by July 1, 1964 is the
target.

	Budgeted 1st Qtr.	Budgeted 1st Yr.	Total 2 Yr. Appropriation
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<u>14. Savanna-Portage</u>	\$6,710	\$108,000	\$265,000
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(Art. VIII, Sec. 6, Subd. 3 - For the Development of Savanna-Portage State Park including necessary land acquisition, the lands to be acquired by the commissioner of administration for the commissioner of conservation and in accordance with the latter's recommendation)

The increasing use of the state park facilities coupled with the growth of our state dictates expansion of the state park system to provide for future population requirements. One such area is the Savanna-Portage. The development program will be dependent upon purchase during the first year of the biennium of strategic tracts of land. Development is intended to follow as land acquisition is accomplished.

<u>15. Fort Snelling</u>	\$32,957	\$200,000	\$400,000
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(Art. VIII, Sec. 6, Subd. 17 - For the acquisition and development of Fort Snelling State Park)

Fort Snelling officially was dedicated in 1962 as a state park. The appropriation of \$400,000 provided by the legislature in the Natural Resources Act, and the monies pledged by private endowment promise healthy progress in the years ahead. The development program during the first year of the biennium will zero on properties now acquired. A total of \$142,050 is allocated to acquisition

Budgeted 1st Qtr.	Budgeted 1st Yr.	Total 2 Yr. Appropriation
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and \$46,993 for development. Planned for acquisition in this period are 105 acres of lands authorized for \$73,050 in Federal Aid.

16. <u>Historic Sites</u>	\$8,819	\$40,000	\$80,000
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(Art. VIII, Sec. 6, Subd. 16 - For the establishment and maintenance of historic sites. The expenditure of moneys from this appropriation shall be subject to the approval of the Minnesota State Historical Society)

The new program "For the Establishment and Maintenance of Historic Sites" as authorized by the 1963 Legislature in the Omnibus Natural Resources Act will provide an effective state-wide effort under the direction of the Minnesota Historical Society to preserve, improve, mark and interpret historic sites in Minnesota. Natural history, cultural and geographic interpretive programs are slated during the first year of the biennium for Fort Ridgely and Itasca State Parks. Acquisition of Redwood Ferry and the Lower Sioux Agency near Morton is scheduled during the first year. During the second year of the biennium interpretive programs have been budgeted for the Oliver H. Kelly Homestead near Elk River, the Joseph R. Brown Wayside, near

Budgeted 1st Qtr.	Budgeted 1st Yr.	Total 2 Yr. Appropriation
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Sacred Heart; Supman Mill, near Mankato; the Upper
Sioux Agency, near Granite Falls; Crow Wing State
Park, near Brainerd; and Old Mill State Park in
Marshall county.

<u>17. State Park Development</u>	\$98,063	\$472,000	\$944,000
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(Art. VIII, Sec. 6, Subd. 15 - For the
Development and improvement of state parks)

Authorized funds of \$944,000 must be integrated
into a total program of nearly \$3,000,000. This
includes \$479,000 and \$852,200 in the State Building
Program allocations, plus separate items of improvement
authorized for Fort Snelling, Tower-Soudan and
Savanna-Portage state parks. Funds herein recommended
would permit limited development of 11 of the 14 newly
authorized parks, plus items of emergency nature which
have developed since our last recommendations two years
ago to the Interim Building Commission. Also selected
items which were deleted by the Building Commission for
reasons of economy. It is estimated that about one-half
of the recommended projects could constitute contract
items; the balance are necessarily force account items.
The latter constitute economy in construction. The
individual projects average only about \$6,000 each and
are of such minimal nature that engineering costs would be
unreasonably high if plans had to be prepared necessary
to let them out as contract items.

		Budgeted 1st.Qtr.	Budgeted 1st Yr.	Total 2 Yr. Appropriation
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DIVISION	<u>18. Hydrologic Survey</u>	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$150,000
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OF	(Art. VIII, Sec. 3, Subd. 8 - For hydrologic studies and research)			
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WATERS

In the "Hydrologic Atlas of Minnesota" published by the Division of Waters in 1959, the state was subdivided for study purposes into 39 watershed units. Since then the Division has published a study of the Twin City Metropolitan Area, and now has under preparation a similar study of the St. Louis river and Lake Superior units. Under this appropriation it is planned to initiate work during the biennium on eight of the units. Tentatively scheduled are the Mississippi Headwaters unit, four units in the Upper Minnesota river basin; and three units tributary to the Mississippi river in southeastern Minnesota.

With the rapidly increasing demand for water supplies in the Twin City Metropolitan Area, hydrologic research will explore artificial recharge of aquifers underlying this area as a possible means of assuring a dependable water supply. This would be accomplished by introducing under pressure treated river water into the aquifers during the winter months, and withdrawing this water during the periods of greatest demand in the summer. Under this appropriation it is further proposed to study all existing hydrologic and geologic data bearing on water problems in Minnesota.

Budgeted 1st Qtr.	Budgeted 1st Yr.	Total 2 Yr. Appropriation
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19. Mapping	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$400,000
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(Art. VIII, Sec. 3, Subd. 9 - For topographic, geological and mineral mapping, together with aerial photographs for forestry purposes)

Cooperative agreement will be concluded with the U. S. Geological Survey, Topographic Division, for the continued production of maps of the standard topographic series. All state monies provided are matched by federal funds, and additional mapping financed exclusively through federal funds. About 40 per cent of the state presently is adequately mapped. It is estimated that mapping the remainder of the state can be completed in ten years at a total cost of \$12,000,000. The state's share is estimated at \$5 million or more, depending on the amount authorized for all-federal mapping.

An airborne magnetometer survey has been completed of the northern and east-central portions of the state. About 25,000 square miles remain to be mapped in the south and southwest portions. Completion in an estimated four years would cost \$30,000 per year of state funds to be matched by federal funds. An area of 5,200 square miles in the southeast corner of the state is planned for mapping during the first year. A cooperative agreement will be concluded with the U. S. Geological Survey, Geologic Division, for this purpose.

Budgeted 1st Qtr.	Budgeted 1st Yr.	Total 2 Yr. Appropriation
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Many aerial photographs now in use in the field offices of the Division of Forestry are obsolete due to timber growth, cutting and burning. More recent aerial photography encompassing the forested areas now is available. The sum of \$7,000 will be budgeted the first year for purchase of these photographs to up-date our files.

<u>20. Red River Study</u>	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$70,000
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(Art. VIII, Sec. 3, Subd. 4 - For the study of the Red River Basin)

A cooperative agreement will be concluded with the U. S. Geological Survey, Water Resources Division, for a comprehensive survey and report on the water resources of the Red River Basin. State funds contributed will be matched by federal funds. The project will include the continuation of existing stream gauging stations and observation wells now located in the basin, and expansion and acceleration of collecting additional basic data on surface and ground water and its chemical quality. Completion of this project within five years is anticipated.

<u>21. C. W. P. Program</u>	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
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(Art. VII, Sec. 1-2-3-4-5 the Commissioner of Conservation is authorized to engage in work projects for the conservation of natural resources. Art. VIII, Sec. 5 - There is appropriated to the Commissioner of Conservation \$500,000 for the purposes of Article VII)

Budgeted 1st Qtr.	Budgeted 1st Yr.	Total 2 Yr. Appropriation
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The Conservation Work Projects program as provided for in the Natural Resources Act was launched immediately upon approval of the Legislative Advisory Committee. In addition to the \$500,000 appropriated, another \$283,000 in federal aid places the total available for these projects at \$783,000. Twenty-five counties in northern Minnesota qualify for this program. Through careful planning and selection of projects about 80 per cent of total available funds will be expended on salaries. This coincides with the intent of the legislature in the enactment of this law.

<u>22. Conservation Districts</u>	\$75,000	\$150,000
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(Art. VIII, Sec. 6, Subd. 11 - For contributions to watershed district and soil and water conservation projects under the provisions of Article III of this act)

In order to carry out the purpose of this Act it will be necessary for the Commissioner to consult with and to cooperate with the Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the Water Resources Board and other agencies such as the U. S. Soil Conservation Service. It is proposed to provide for application by districts prior to consultation. When progress has been made that requires action, the Commissioner will report same to the Commission.

Budgeted 1st Qtr.	Budgeted 1st Yr.	Total 2 Yr. Appropriation
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23. Engineering and Legal Services

For land acquisition an estimated three per cent of the project cost will be needed for engineering and 1-1/2 per cent for legal services. For building and construction, an estimated seven per cent will be required for engineering. Actual costs, however, will be determined and final assessment made upon completion of each project. Budgeted figures in this report include engineering or legal costs. Each division is required to make allowances for these charges on all projects.

<u>24. Contingency Appropriation</u>	\$10,000	\$25,000	\$50,000
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(Art. VIII, Sec. 6, Subd. 19 - This item is for the purpose of defraying extraordinary expenses which may be required within the scope of this act and which the commissioner of conservation may desire)

From this fund the Commissioner of Conservation may authorize expenditures for emergencies or for other extraordinary expenses required for the implementation of this Act.

25. Interim Commissions

(Chapter 888, Sec. 13,
Subd. 4 - Northeastern
Minnesota Economic Problems
Interim Commission)

\$25,000	\$25,000
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Budgeted 1st Qtr.	Budgeted 1st Yr.	Total 2 Yr. Appropriation
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(Chapter 888, Sec. 13,
Subd. 6 - Interim
Commission on Minnesota
River Valley Development)

\$15,000	\$15,000
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These appropriations are derived from monies in
the natural resources fund not otherwise appropriated.

Conclusion

Additional information will, at various times, be
supplied the Commission. Packets of current departmental
reports are available for each member of the Commission. If
Accelerated Public Works projects presently submitted
for cost-sharing are approved by the Federal government it
could result in a material expansion of the program.

SUMMARY OF BUDGET ALLOCATIONS

		Budgeted 1st Qtr.	Budgeted 1st Yr.	Total 2 Yr. Appropriation
FORESTRY	<u>1. Reforestation</u>	\$ 70,000	\$150,000	\$300,000
	<u>2. Nursery Program</u>	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$200,000
	<u>3. Forest Roads</u>	\$123,000	\$150,000	\$300,000
	<u>4. Forest Campgrounds</u>	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$100,000
	<u>5. Memorial Hardwood Forest</u>	\$ 14,498	\$150,000	\$300,000
GAME AND FISH	<u>6. Wildlife Land Acquisition</u>	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$400,000
	<u>7. Acquisition of Spawning Areas</u>	\$ 7,631	\$ 75,000	\$150,000
	<u>8. Wildlife Lands Dev.</u>	\$ 28,914	\$ 75,000	\$300,000
	<u>9. Spawning Areas Dev.</u>	\$ 26,300	\$ 65,000	
	<u>10. Public Access Sites Dev.</u>	\$ 4,000	\$ 10,000	
STATE PARKS	<u>11. Acquisition New Parks</u>	\$ 26,890	\$678,577	\$1,037,702
	<u>12. Additions to Parks</u>	\$119,027	\$376,160	\$619,907
	<u>13. Tower-Soudan</u>	\$ 50,774	\$ 81,057	\$122,000
	<u>14. Savanna-Portage</u>	\$ 6,710	\$108,000	\$265,000
	<u>15. Fort Snelling</u>	\$ 32,957	\$200,000	\$400,000
	<u>16. Historic Sites</u>	\$ 8,819	\$ 40,000	\$ 80,000
	<u>17. State Park Development</u>	\$ 98,063	\$472,000	\$944,000
DIVISION	<u>18. Hydrologic Survey</u>	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$150,000
OF WATERS	<u>19. Mapping</u>	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$400,000
	<u>20. Red River Study</u>	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 70,000
	<u>21. C. W. P. Program</u>	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
	<u>22. Conservation Districts</u>		\$ 75,000	\$150,000
	<u>23. Engineering and Legal Services</u>			\$275,000
	<u>24. Contingency Appropriation</u>	\$ 10,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 50,000
	<u>25. Interim Commissions</u>		\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000

