

# **2018 Natural Resources Legislative Summary**



## **2018 Regular Session of the Ninetieth Minnesota Legislature**

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Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2018 regular session of the Minnesota Legislature convened on February 20, 2018, and adjourned May 20, 2018. The 2018 session was the second year of the 90th Minnesota Legislature. The Legislature will begin the 2019 legislative session on January 8, 2019. This document summarizes the 2018 Regular Sessions' impacts on the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

During this year's session, the legislature passed, and the governor signed, several bills that change DNR policy and provide funding to the DNR, including a bonding bill. These bills are described below under the heading "Bills Signed Into Law".

During the 12-week regular session, the legislature heard a number of bills; many of which were later combined into the omnibus supplemental budget bill. The omnibus supplemental budget bill contained the vast majority of DNR's proposed policy changes and supplemental budget requests. Along with environment and natural resource policy and finance provisions, the omnibus supplemental budget bill also contained articles related to agriculture, education, public safety, transportation, jobs, housing, corrections, courts, energy, economic development, health and human services. The omnibus supplemental budget bill was vetoed by the Governor on May 23, 2018.

## LEGISLATIVE NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

This section summarizes some of DNR's work during the 2018 Session.

### DNR Fiscal Notes

State agencies prepare fiscal notes when requested by legislative staff. The purpose of a fiscal note is to estimate costs, savings, and revenue gains or losses resulting from proposed changes.

- DNR received 29 total fiscal note requests during the 2018 Session.
  - No requests were marked urgent.
  - 3 requests were companion bills.
  - 5 of the 29 fiscal notes were inactivated (this most likely occurs after there was division effort in completing the note).
  - The first request was received on 3/2/18 and the last request was received on 4/17/18.

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**Table 1:** Number of fiscal notes by lead division. Fiscal notes were assigned to a “lead” division who worked with other divisions as necessary.

<b>DNR division</b>	<b>Fiscal notes</b>
Ecological and Water Resources	4
Lands and Minerals	5
Fish and Wildlife	11
Forestry	0
Parks and Trails	3
Enforcement	5
Operations Services	1

**Table 2:** Number of fiscal notes by legislative session (2015 includes Regular and Special Session. No fiscal notes were done in the 2017 1<sup>st</sup> Special Session).

<b>Year</b>	<b>Fiscal notes</b>
2018	29
2017	37
2016	51
2015	69
2014	40
2013	56
2012	80
2011	53
2010	69

### **DNR Bill Reviews and Tracking**

During the 2018 Session:

- 1,819 bills were introduced in the House and 1,670 bills were introduced in the Senate.
- 114 bills were presented to the Governor during Regular Session (Chapters 100-214).
- 99 bills were signed by the Governor.
- The Governor vetoed 15 bills, plus one that was line itemed, including:
  - A line item veto to the omnibus bonding bill related to water quality regulations (lines 99.19-100.5 in Chapter 214).
  - A bill seeking to remove certain provisions from the omnibus supplemental budget bill related to an opioid advisory council and account (Chapter 212).
  - A bill related to wild rice water quality standards (Chapter 210).
  - A motor vehicle titling and registration bill (Chapter 206).

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- An omnibus school aid and tax bill (Chapter 205).
- An omnibus supplemental budget bill (Chapter 201).
- A bill related to trespassing on or damaging critical infrastructure (Chapter 197).
- A Metropolitan Council bill (Chapter 196).
- An omnibus agriculture policy bill (Chapter 190).
- A bill authorizing pipeline construction and routing (Chapter 187).
- A bill related to public safety and deputy registrar funding (Chapter 178).
- An omnibus tax bill (Chapter 172).
- A bill increasing penalties for obstructing trunk highway, airport or transit traffic (Chapter 150).
- A bill requiring legislative approval for water pollution fees (Chapter 147).
- A bill requiring physicians to allow the viewing of ultrasound imaging prior to an abortion (Chapter 142).
- A bill nullifying and restricting water quality standards related to wild rice (Chapter 126).

More information on all the above vetos can be found on the [Legislature's Veto Details webpage](#).

## **BILLS SIGNED INTO LAW**

Several bills with impacts to DNR were passed during the 2018 Session and subsequently signed into law, including bills appropriating funds to the DNR and making changes to natural resources policies. More detail about each of these bills is below, with the bill's chapter in session law and the bill numbers. An asterisk (\*) after a bill number indicates which bill number – the House or Senate file – was the vehicle for the final bill.

### **Watercraft carbon monoxide detection device requirements bill**

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2018, Regular Session, Chapter [115](#)  
Bill numbers [HF3755\\*](#)/SF3380  
Signed into law on May 8, 2018

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This bill amends “Sophia’s Law” passed in 2016 that requires a boat with an “enclosed accommodation compartment” to be equipped with a functioning marine carbon monoxide detector. The bill modifies the standards that the carbon monoxide detector must meet and establishes requirements for where the detector must be located, including requiring the detector to be within 10 feet of any sleeping accommodations and prohibiting it from being located within 5 feet of any cooking appliance.

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**Enforcement of water appropriation permit conditions temporarily prohibited**

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2018, Regular Session, Chapter [181](#)  
Bill numbers [HF4003\\*](#)/SF3573  
Signed into law on May 21, 2018

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This bill temporarily prohibits the DNR from using funds to enforce certain permit conditions placed in 44 groundwater appropriation permits as a result of the White Bear Lake ruling. It also temporarily allows the permit holders to take certain actions despite the court ordered permit conditions. These provisions are in effect until July 1, 2019.

**Revisor's Bill**

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2018, Regular Session, Chapter [182](#)  
Bill numbers HF3790\*/[SF3326\\*](#)  
Signed into law on May 20, 2018

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This bill makes miscellaneous technical corrections to laws and statutes; corrects erroneous, obsolete, and omitted text and references; and removes redundant, conflicting, and superseded provisions. In particular for DNR, it includes amendments to:

- Statute 84D.03, Subd. 3 Bait harvest from infested waters
  - Removes 3d related to an outdated expiration date for bait harvest in infested waters.
- Statute 97A.475 Small-game surcharge and donation
  - Corrects clause references.
- Statute 97C.355, Subd. 2 License Required
  - Modifies definition of dark house, fish house, or shelter placed on ice.

**Motorboat, snowmobile and ATV incorporated into DWI law**

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2018, Regular Session, Chapter [183](#)  
Bill numbers HF3923/[SF3638\\*](#)  
Signed into law on May 20, 2018

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This bill, “Little Alan’s Law” incorporates recreational vehicles fully into the DWI laws and provides that a person convicted of a DWI in any type of vehicle will lose operating privileges for all types of vehicles. The bill also requires the DNR to work with fish house and ice shelter manufacturers to identify best practices for reducing carbon monoxide, increase outreach on the subject, and report back to the legislature in January 2019. See report requirement later in this document.

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## Omnibus Lands Bill

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2018, Regular Session, Chapter [186](#)  
Bill numbers [HF3168](#)\*/SF3424  
Signed into law on May 20, 2018

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This is the omnibus lands bill. It is a combination of the DNR lands bill and other bills and amendments requested by certain counties. The bill amends laws pertaining to the leasing of land, authorizes sales of certain surplus state lands and county tax-forfeited lands, and authorizes changes to state park and state forest boundaries.

### ***Amendments to Leasing Statutes***

Sections 1-3 of the law amend leasing provisions in Minnesota Statutes, sections 89.17, 92.50 and 92.502. Section 89.17, governing leases of forest lands, was amended to authorize the commissioner of natural resources to require a security deposit or other form of security for removing improvements or personal property left on the leased premises upon termination or cancellation of the lease. Section 92.50, which governs miscellaneous leases, was amended to authorize the commissioner to request “a performance bond, security deposit or other form of security” for removing improvements or personal property left on the leased premises upon termination or cancellation of the lease. These provisions are intended to protect the state from incurring demolition or clean-up costs if a lessee abandons personal property on the premises after termination of a lease. The provisions are discretionary, and may be implemented upon lease renewals or in new leases in appropriate circumstances (e.g., leases of land where the lessee owns a building on the premises or intends to store personal property on the premises that may be costly to remove).

Section 92.502 was amended to authorize the commissioner of natural resources to lease DNR-administered land for 30 years for recreational trails and facilities.

### ***On-Line Auctions***

Section 4 amends Minnesota Statutes section 94.10 to authorize public sales of surplus state-owned land to be through online auction.

### ***Mixed Use Allowance***

Section 5 allows mixed uses by conditional use permit within the unincorporated area of Welch, as long as all other requirements of Goodhue County’s Scenic River ordinance are met.

### ***Land Sales and Land Acquisition***

Section 11 authorizes the DNR to sell a one-acre parcel in Chisago County outside of the statutory boundary of Wild River State Park to an adjacent landowner at market value. The Division of Parks and Trails administers this parcel.

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Section 12 authorizes the DNR to sell a 40-acre parcel of land in Mahnomen County to the White Earth Band of Ojibwe at market value. The Division of Forestry administers this parcel.

Section 14 authorizes the DNR to sell by public sale a 2.4 acre parcel of land bordering Cedar Lake in Rice County. The Division of Ecological and Water Resources administers this parcel.

Sections 15 and 16 authorize the DNR to sell 3.3 acres of land to Breitung Township, St. Louis County and Breitung Township to sell one-acre of land to the DNR. Both parcels will be conveyed at no cost. The land that the DNR will sell was removed from the boundary of Lake Vermilion-Soudan Underground Mine State Park in 2013. The land that Breitung Township will sell is within the park boundary.

***No-Fee Easements***

Section 7 authorizes the DNR to convey certain road easements on acquired state lands to Orrock Township, Sherburne County at no cost. The easements to be conveyed are over existing roads maintained by the township within the Sand Dunes State Forest.

Section 13 authorizes the DNR to convey a road easement across state land to Pelican Township, Otter Tail County at no cost. The easement will reroute and replace a segment of township road that has been vacated because of a new DNR water access site on Lake Lizzie.

***State Park Boundary Changes***

Section 8 adds 261 acres to the boundary of Frontenac State Park, Goodhue County; 30 acres to the boundary of Minneopa State Park, Blue Earth County; and 64 acres to the boundary of St. Croix State Park, Pine County.

Section 9 deletes 20 acres from the boundary of St. Croix State Park, Pine County.

***State Forest Boundary Additions***

Section 10 adds approximately 1,120 acres to the Badoura State Forest boundary, Hubbard County and 4,400 acres to the Snake River State Forest boundary, Kanabec County.

***2008 State Park Boundary Change Law Repealed***

Section 19 repeals a 2008 law providing for deletion of land from Jay Cooke State Park upon an agreement with the commissioner of veterans affairs to transfer the land for use as a veterans cemetery. This law is no longer needed, as the Department of Veterans Affairs is pursuing a different location for the cemetery.



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### 3M Settlement Bill

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2018, Regular Session, Chapter [204](#)  
Bill numbers [HF3423](#)\*/SF3202  
Signed into law on May 29, 2018

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The bill establishes a 3M Settlement Account in the Remediation Fund. The bill also requires the MPCA and DNR to submit to the legislature biannual reports on the fund expenditures and annual report with the expenditures and spending plan. Details about the reporting can be found in the Reports section later in this document. This bill requires DNR and MPCA to work with 3M Settlement area stakeholders to identify and recommend projects. It also outlines that work in Priority Area 1 (i.e., enhance quality, quantity and sustainability of drinking water in the “East Metropolitan Area” should proceed before working on Priority Area 2 (i.e., water resources, habitat restoration, open space preservation, recreation improvements, and other sustainability projects).

### Legacy Outdoor Heritage Fund Bill

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2018, Regular Session, Chapter [208](#)  
Bill numbers [HF3423](#)\*/SF3167  
Signed into law on May 29, 2018

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This bill appropriates money from the Outdoor Heritage Fund, established by the “Legacy Amendment” passed by the voters in 2008. The bill funds projects that protect, enhance, or restore fish, game, and wildlife habitat across MN, and in the same amounts as recommended to the Legislature by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council. While not a Council recommendation, the bill also provides for additional local governmental unit notification regarding acquisition of land. Council staff, counties, and NGOs, worked to craft this notification language.

In total, the bill appropriates \$113.923 million from the Outdoor Heritage Fund, including \$35.288 million for prairies, \$9.131 million for forests, \$28.116 million for wetlands, \$40.978 million for habitats, and \$410,000 for administration. DNR appropriations are listed in Table 3.

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**Table 3.** Direct appropriations to DNR from the Outdoor Heritage Fund.

<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount (\$ in 000s)</b>
DNR Wildlife Management Area and Scientific and Natural Area Acquisition – Phase X	\$2,786
Accelerated Native Prairie Bank Protection - Phase VII	\$1,490
DNR Grassland Enhancement - Phase X	\$4,007
Minnesota Forests for the Future – Phase VI	\$1,473
State Forest Acquisitions, Richard J. Dorer Memorial Forest - Phase V	\$1,255
Accelerated Shallow Lakes and Wetlands Enhancement - Phase X	\$2,759
DNR Trout Stream Conservation Easements	\$642
Lower Mississippi River Habitat Partnership – Phase IV	\$1,555
St. Louis River Restoration Initiative - Phase V	\$2,013
DNR Aquatic Habitat Restoration and Enhancement	\$2,834
Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program: Statewide and Metro Habitat - Phase X	\$11,589
Contract Management	\$210
Technical Evaluation Panel	\$150
High-Priority Pretransaction Service Acceleration for Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council	\$50
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$32,813</b>

**Bonding and Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) Bill**

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2018, Regular Session, Chapter [214](#)  
Bill numbers [HF4425](#)\*/SF4021  
Signed into law on May 30, 2018

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The 2018 bonding bill contains provisions for Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF).

***Bonding***

Bonding provisions are included in article 1, which includes DNR capital improvements, in article 3, which includes supplemental funding, and in article 6, which includes the authorization of Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Appropriation Bonds and corresponding bonding appropriations.

Article 1 provides \$30 million for natural resources asset preservation, which is 23% of DNR's requested amount. DNR's deferred maintenance need is \$370 million and growing. The supplemental funding article includes language for the Fort Snelling Upper Post, appropriations for DNR reforestation, and an Ely Trailhead.

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The language in Article 3, section 2—Fort Snelling National Landmark Redevelopment—provides the mechanism needed to assure that the National Historic Landmark can be maintained into the future. This adaptive reuse of the buildings at the Upper Post is supported by many partners.

**Table 4:** Bonding appropriations to the DNR (Articles 1, 3, and 6). Summary includes DNR’s requested amount, the Governor’s recommendation, and what was ultimately enacted. A number of projects were added by the legislature and were not proposed by the DNR. Some of these are for state facilities—parks, trails, water accesses. The other pass through projects are local initiatives.

Project	DNR Request Amount	Governor Recommended Amount	Article 1 and 3: General Obligation Bonds	Article 6: Trust Bonds	TOTAL ENACTED
Natural Resources Asset Preservation (84.946)	130,000	130,000	26,581	3,419	30,000
Natural Resources Building & Facility Development (86A.12)	20,000	10,000	6,000		6,000
Acquisition and Betterment of Public Lands (86A.12)	145,000	-	3,000		3,000
<i>Reforestation</i>			3,000		
Accessibility for State Parks & Rec Areas	20,000	10,000	500		500
Vermilion Park (86A.12)	13,000	-	4,000		4,000
Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant Assistance Program (103F.161)	20,000	20,000	20,000		20,000
Dam Safety Repair, Reconstruction, and Removal (103G.511)	2,000	1,000			-
Parks and Trails Local & Regional Grants (85.019)	2,000				-
<b>Parks</b>			<b>750</b>		<b>750</b>
<i>Glendalough State Park</i>			750		750
<b>Trails</b>			<b>4,750</b>		<b>4,750</b>
<i>Blufflands State Trails - Harmony Trail</i>			1,500		1,500
<i>Chester Woods State Trail</i>			2,500		2,500
<i>Mill Towns State Trail</i>			500		500
<i>Shooting Star State Trail</i>			250		250
<b>Pass-Through</b>			<b>13,028</b>	<b>2,281</b>	<b>15,309</b>
<i>City of Cohasset - Trail</i>			1,000		1,000
<i>Mille Lacs-Malmo East ATV loop</i>			1,500		1,500

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<b>Project</b>	<b>DNR Request Amount</b>	<b>Governor Recommended Amount</b>	<b>Article 1 and 3: General Obligation Bonds</b>	<b>Article 6: Trust Bonds</b>	<b>TOTAL ENACTED</b>
<i>City of Babbitt - Recreation Area</i>			1,300		1,300
<i>City of Grand Marais - Water Access Project</i>			2,000		2,000
<i>City of LaCrescent - Wagon Wheel Trail</i>			2,500		2,500
<i>Olmsted County - Lake Zumbro</i>			640		640
<i>Saint Louis &amp; Lake Counties Reg. Railroad Auth. - Mesabi Trail</i>			1,138		1,138
<i>City of Stillwater - Saint Croix Riverbank Restoration</i>			1,650		1,650
<i>Elk River - Dredge Lake Orono</i>				1,500	1,500
<i>Seidles Lake</i>				781	781
<i>Ely Trailhead</i>			1,300		1,300
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>352,000</b>	<b>171,000</b>	<b>78,609</b>	<b>5,700</b>	<b>84,309</b>

***Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund***

The bonding bill also included appropriations from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) overseen by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR). The enacted provisions included several changes from the LCCMR's original recommendations.

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**Table 5:** Direct appropriations to the DNR from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (Article 4).

<b>Project/Program Title</b>	<b>LCCMR Recommendation</b>	<b>Final Passage Amount</b>
County Geologic Atlases for Water Resource Sustainability-Part B	\$1,500,000	\$0
Increasing Diversity in Environmental Careers to Serve Minnesota's Changing Demographics	\$750,000	\$550,000
Nongame Wildlife Program Acceleration	\$1,000,000	\$220,000
Restoring Forests in Minnesota State Parks	\$250,000	\$250,000
Restoring Wetland Invertebrates to Revive Wildlife Habitat	\$400,000	\$400,000
Grants for Local Parks, Trails and Natural Area	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000
Easement Program for Native Prairie Bank	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000
Minnesota State Trail Development	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000
Minnesota State Parks and State Trails	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000
Scientific and Natural Areas Program	\$3,250,000	\$3,250,000
Contract Agreement Reimbursement	\$135,000	\$135,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$16,285,000</b>	<b>\$13,805,000</b>

The LCCMR recommended \$1.5 million for County Geologic Atlases for Water Resource Sustainability- Part B. The final bill eliminated the entire project.

Recommended funding for Increasing Diversity in Environmental Careers was cut by \$250,000 in the enacted bill. In 2017, this project was recommended by LCCMR at \$1.487 million, and the DNR received \$487,000.

The LCCMR recommended \$1 million for the Nongame Wildlife Program, which was reduced to \$220,000 in the enacted bill.

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**Pension Bill**

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2018 Regular Session, Chapter [211](#)

HF3053/[SF2620](#)\*

Signed into law on May 31, 2018

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The Pension bill stabilizes pensions for more than 511,000 workers and ensures full funding of nearly all plans at the end of the amortization period (set for year 2048). It is the largest pension reform bill in the state's history. Reforms in the bill include:

- Elimination of subsidies in the calculation of early retirement benefits.
- Changes in actuarial assumptions for investment rate of return from 8 to 7.5 percent.
- Elimination of deferred augmentation or interest paid to a retiree who postpones retirement benefits until a later age.
- Elimination of cost of living adjustment (COLA) until a retiree reaches normal retirement age.
- Elimination of automatic COLA increases that would have previously been triggered if the funded ratio reached a certain percentage, such as 90%.
- Reduce COLAs for retirees from 2 percent to 1 percent for five years and 1.5 percent thereafter.
- Contribution increase of 0.25 percent in 2019 and in 2020 for employees and 0.375 percent each of the two years for employers in the General Plan. State Patrol Plan employees, which includes conservation officers, will see a 0.5 percent increase in 2019 and a 0.5 percent increase in 2021 while employer contributions will increase by 0.75 percent in 2019 and 2020 on top of supplemental contributions of 1.75 percent in 2019, 1.25 percent in 2020, and 2 percent each in 2021 and 2022.
- Continuation of supplemental state aid to the State Patrol Plan.
- Resetting the amortization period to 2048.

The bill includes appropriations from the general fund and other funds for most state agencies to offset the cost of employer contribution increases.

## NEW REPORT REQUIREMENTS

Two bills passed in the 2018 regular session include language that requires the DNR to report to the legislature. Legislative summaries for the required reports are below, noted by the legislation which contains the new requirements. To view other reports required by the legislature, use the online search function at the Minnesota [Legislative Reference Library](#).

### Carbon Monoxide BMPs and Outreach

[Chapter 183](#) requires the DNR to work with fish house and ice shelter manufacturers to identify best practices for reducing carbon monoxide, increase outreach on the subject, and report back to the legislature by January 15, 2019.

### 3M Settlement Reporting

[Chapter 204](#) requires the DNR and MPCA to jointly submit an implementation plan by April 1, 2019, detailing how the agencies will determine priorities and evaluate which projects to fund. By February 1, and August 1 each year, the agencies must submit a biannual report that outlines expenditures from the 3M Settlement Account for the previous six months. By August 1, 2019, and each year thereafter, the agencies must also submit an annual expenditure report on and a spending plan for anticipated expenditures.

## BILLS OF INTEREST TO DNR THAT DID NOT BECOME LAW

The following bills or initiatives either did not pass the legislature or were vetoed during the 2018 Regular Session.

### Omnibus Supplemental Budget Bill (HF4099/[SF3656](#)\*, Chapter [201](#))

The omnibus supplemental budget bill was passed by the legislature, but the bill was vetoed by the Governor ([Link](#) to veto letter). This bill contained many DNR budget and policy provisions (all from Articles 19 and 20), including:

#### DNR BUDGET

**Table 6:** Summary of vetoed DNR funding for fiscal years 2018-2019 in the budget bill above the base, in order of presentation in the bill. Funds are abbreviated as follows: General Fund (GF); Natural Resources Fund (NR); Game and Fish Fund (GFF); and Forest Management Investment Account (FMIA).(Article 19, Section 3).

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<b>Subject</b>	<b>Fund</b>	<b>FY18-19 (\$ in '000s)</b>	<b>FY20-21 (\$ in '000s)</b>
Full Funding of Environmental Research Relating to Mine Permitting	NR	319	638
Aggregate Mapping	GF	335	0
AIS Grants to Lake Association	GF	425	0
Fish stocking survey	GFF	100	0
Next Generation Core Forestry Data System	GF	(1,131)	0
	FMIA (NR)	1,131	0
Grant to Virginia: Quad City ATV Trail	NR	100	0
Off-Road Vehicle Project Administration	NR	200	0
Off-Road Vehicle Master Plan	NR	200	0
Off-Road Vehicle Roads Cost Share	NR	200	0
Voyageur Country Trail System Grant	NR	315	0
Prospectors Loop Trail System Grant	NR	300	0
Taconite State Trail Wetland Delineation and EAW	NR	100	0
Emergency Disease Response and Response to Escaped Farmed Cervids	GF and GFF	1,300	0
Dedicated Deer License Revenues to Deer Management	GFF	0	0
ATV Safety Course for Younger Riders	NR	40	0
Extension of Moose Trail Appropriation	NR	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$3,934</b>	<b>\$638</b>

**DNR POLICY**

*Article 20, Environment and Natural Resources Policy*

- Legal Representation related to road vacations (Section 7)
  - This would add DNR may appoint attorneys proceedings relating to road vacations.
  - This was originally included in the DNR Lands bills HF3424/SF3168.
- Bait Harvest from infested waters/Cast net use in infested waters (Sections 15, 16 and 32).
  - This policy would make permanent an expired provision to allow anglers to use cast nets to harvest gizzard shad for bait from infested waters, expands portions of the Minnesota River open to harvest, and increases the size of cast nets allowed from 5 foot diameter to 5 foot radius, also limiting the permitted number of nets to two.
  - This policy would also allow commercial fishermen to reuse nets after they have been decontaminated and expands tagging to include starry stonewort.
  - This was originally included in HF3422/SF3170.
- Forestry technical changes regarding firefighters training (Section 21).



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- This policy would exempt DNR wildfire suppression staff from structural firefighter license requirements.
  - This was originally included in HF3423/SF3167.
- Forestry policy changes regarding legal representation (Section 22).
  - This policy would allow DNR to appoint staff attorneys, instead of the Office of the Attorney General, to represent DNR in conciliation court appeals in wildfire cost-collection cases.
  - This was originally included in HF3423/SF3167.
- Revisions to Approved Firewood Statute (Section 23).
  - This policy removed portions of approved firewood laws no longer in effect.
  - This was originally included in HF3423/SF3167.
- Modernization of Fish and Wildlife Provisions (Sections 24, 27, 28).
  - This policy would remove the requirement to print regulation books for each angler/hunter and allow for the sale of a landowner elk license to eligible Minnesota residents.
  - This was originally included in HF3421/SF3169.
- Deer management fees (section 25).
  - This provision would direct \$16 of each annual deer license to the Deer Management Account in the Game and Fish Fund. The funding was previously deposited in the Operations Account of the Game and Fish Fund.

**OTHER TOPICS OF INTEREST**

The omnibus supplemental budget bill also contained a number of other natural resources-related provisions that DNR did not author or propose. DNR consulted with many of the co-authors and interested parties of these provisions and was able to come to agreement on a number of policy items (all from article 20), including:

- Saltwater farms; Aquaculture permits (Sections 2-6).
  - DNR worked with TruShrimp and other agencies on this policy language related to saltwater aquaculture farming.
- Threatened and endangered species (Section 8).
  - DNR worked with partners on this policy to better define ditches, roadways and right-of-ways as they related to takings of threatened and endangered species.
- Gull Lake and Cross Lake pilot studies (Section 17 and 18, respectively).
  - These session law updates would have allowed AIS service providers to utilize any water access site to perform their work on identified lakes.
- Firearm safety for certain disabled hunters (Sections 29 and 31).
  - This provision expands the disability firearm license to include those with a permanent physical disability.
- Voter registration (Section 26).

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- This provision would require DNR to include voter registration information on the website for purchasing hunting or fishing license and in the printed and digital versions of the fishing and hunting regulation books.
- Hayes Lake State Park Recommendations (Section 108).
  - This provision would have required the DNR develop recommendations for expanding access to and recreational opportunities within Hayes Lake State Park, including a report.

Other provisions found in the bill that would have had DNR impacts:

*From Article 2: State Government*

- State and Local Government User Acceptance Testing (Section 7)
  - This provision stated that any state agency implementing a new information technology business software application that impacts operations of local units of government must provide opportunities for local government to participate in user acceptance testing unless testing is deemed not feasible or necessary by agency commissioner in agreement with local units of government and chief info officer.

*From Article 20: Environment and Natural Resources*

- ATV Snorkel (Sections 9 and 14).
  - This provision would remove ATVs equipped with a snorkel device as eligible for a civil citation.
- Snowmobile Rules (Section 10).
  - This provision would authorize snowmobile online training course fee charges.
- Youth ATV safety education (Sections 12-13).
  - This provision would require the DNR to establish a voluntary ATV safety and training program for youth aged 6-10 years and their parents/guardians and increase the minimum age one must be for the existing training and certification program.
- Artificial hunting light use (Section 30).
  - This provision would change the type of light that may be used to hunt fox or coyote in the winter.
- Clean Water Legacy Act (Sections 33-34, 36-37, 47-60).
  - These provisions would make a number of updates and changes to the state's Clean Water Legacy Act.
- Natural Resources Damages Account (Sections 74, 75 and 80).
  - These provisions would separate DNR and MPCA funding in the Remediation Fund and create a water quality and sustainability account for the 3M Settlement.

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- Clearwater Access (Section 91).
  - This provision would have prevented DNR from initiating a civil action to access Island Lake FMHA Wildlife Management Area in Clearwater County.
- Environmental Review, Recreational Trails (Section 92).
  - This provision would have changed the description of a recreational trail requiring a mandatory Environmental Assessment Worksheet.
- Forest Inventory Recommendations (Section 99).
  - This provision would have created an interdisciplinary group responsible for making recommendations for improving stand-level forest inventories.
- Muskie Stocking Moratorium (Section 101).
  - This provision would have prevented muskie stocking in two lakes of Otter Tail County for 5 years and required DNR to convene a stakeholder group to examine muskie impacts.
- Natural Resource Youth Safety Education (Section 102).
  - This provision would have required DNR to review and research options for delivering online safety training programs for youth and adult students, including OHV and hunter education that are maintained and delivered by the state that functions independently from an outside contract vendor.
- Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) task force (Section 104).
  - This provision would have provided DNR one seat on a 22-member task force for CWD response, including a legislative report.
- Ceded Territories (Section 106).
  - This provision would allow the DNR to invite two fish managers to the technical committee meetings.
- Snowmobile Account (Section 109).
  - This provision would have required the DNR to work with the Minnesota United Snowmobilers Association to develop a consensus agreement on the use of the money in the snowmobile trails and enforcement account.
- Hill-Annex Mine State Park (Section 110).
  - This provision would have required the DNR operate the Hill-Annex Mine State Park through June 2021 and develop recommendations for the park's future.

*From Article 21: Agriculture*

- Buffer strips (Section 4).
  - This provision would modify the Agricultural Best Management Practices Loan Program and public drainage law.

**Wild Rice Bill ([HF3422\\*](#)/[SF3170](#), Chapter [210](#))**

This Wild Rice Bill was passed by the legislature and was vetoed by the Governor. In his veto letter, the Governor issued an Executive Order to establish a Wild Rice Task Force that brings

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together a diverse group of stakeholders to work on practical measures to protect and restore wild rice ([veto](#) letter).

**Wild Rice Water Quality Standards ([HF3280](#)\*/SF2983, Chapter [126](#))**

This bill proposed nullifying and restricting water quality standards related to wild rice ([veto](#) letter).