ANNUAL REPORT

GAME AND FISH FUND

For the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2023

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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LETTER FROM LEADERSHIP

Dear Reader,

We are pleased to submit the annual Game and Fish Fund (GFF) Report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023 (FY23) as required by Minnesota Statutes 97A.055 Subd. 4. There are three purposes of this report:

1. give the DNR the opportunity to communicate the fund's status and activities,
2. provide transparency and accountability on the DNR's financial management, and
3. foster discussion regarding future operations, priorities, and outcomes.

To fulfill those purposes, this report takes the following structure. First, it presents the broad outcomes of the GFF. Then it illustrates key program outputs that can impact those outcomes. Lastly, it describes the financial and other input components to provide a broad understanding of the work we and our partners do with GFF dollars.

The GFF is foundational to the fish and wildlife work of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR). In addition to these traditional or historic funds, the DNR recently began an initiative to establish a new funding framework for conservation and outdoor recreation in Minnesota. In 2023 the DNR published "4 the Outdoors", a 4 step plan over 4 years that identifies strategies and actions to achieve those strategies. This vision and plan are the result of a collaboration with a diverse cross-section of people to identify Minnesotans' priorities and steps we can collectively take to reach that future.

We invite readers to explore this FY23 GFF report and provide input to us about our work. Thank you for taking the time to learn more about this fund and its importance to Minnesota's natural resources.

Sincerely,

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Director, Fish and Wildlife Division

Joseph Henderson
Director, Lands and Minerals Division

Ann Pierce
Director, Parks and Trails Division

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INTRODUCTION AND REPORT ORGANIZATION

Minnesota's Legislature established the Game and Fish Fund (GFF) in 1927 as a fund in the state treasury (M.S. 97A.055) for the purpose of sustaining Minnesota's fish and wildlife, supporting healthy habitats, and fostering outdoor recreation opportunities. Monies received under game and fish laws and all income from state lands acquired by purchase or gift for game and fish purposes contribute to the GFF. This fund supports critical work of Minnesota's Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The Fund supports healthy and productive habitats, sustainable fish and wildlife populations, and high quality and abundant outdoor recreation opportunities connecting people with nature.

Minnesota Statutes 97A.055 Subd. 4 requires the DNR to submit reports on revenues and expenditures made from the accounts within the GFF by December 15 each year to the legislative committees having jurisdiction over appropriations for the environment and natural resources. The report must include the Commissioner's recommendations, if any, for changes in the laws relating to the stamps and surcharges for programs under the GFF. This report is the annual accounting and use report and serves many purposes. First, the report gives the DNR the opportunity to communicate the fund's status and activities to individuals, stakeholder groups, Tribal nations, the game and fish oversight committees, legislators, and others. Second, it provides transparency and accountability to these audiences on the DNR's financial management and the outcomes of GFF supported programs. Third, it fosters discussion regarding future operations, priorities, and outcomes.

The report presents the financial forecast for the GFF. The fund is projected to remain healthy over the next few years due in large part to the availability of federal Wildlife Sport Fish Restoration funding. Hunting and fishing license sales continue to trend downward, so continued attention to the health of the GFF is warranted. There are no Commissioner's recommendations for changes in the laws related to the stamps and surcharges included in this report. However, the DNR continues to explore comprehensive funding strategies under the "4 the Outdoors" initiative launched in 2023. Any future recommended changes to licenses, stamps or fees deposited into the GFF will result from a collaborative process under that initiative.

The Fund in Brief

The GFF is a substantial funding source for restoring, protecting, and enhancing natural resources, and managing fish and wildlife populations in Minnesota. To put the GFF in context, in fiscal year 2023 (FY23), the GFF comprised 19.3 percent ($131.5 million) of the total DNR expenditures ($681.1 million). Money in the GFF comes from a variety of revenues. In FY23, sales of fishing and hunting licenses contributed over half of the GFF, while federal dollars for fish and wildlife conservation contributed a bit less than a third (see Figure 1). Other revenue sources in FY23 included sale and lease of natural resources, investments, and sales-tax-in-lieu from the Minnesota Lottery. The relative percentages of license, federal funds, and non-license revenue can vary from year to year.

Figure 1. GFF Dollar Sources: Where Do the Dollars Come From? (Cents Per Dollar, FY23)

By statute, the DNR spends GFF dollars on specific purposes related to game and fish conservation and recreation. Figure 2 shows the summary "cents per dollar" breakdown of GFF expenditures. The majority of expenditures are for agency and partner activities that support the Division of Fish and Wildlife, as well as enforcement and licensing activities. Small amounts ("Related" in Figure 2) go to the DNR's Divisions of Ecological and Water Resources, Forestry, and Lands and Minerals for game and fish activities. For detailed information by account, refer to the "Investments We Make" section.

Figure 2. GFF Dollars at Work: Where Do the Dollars Go (Cents Per Dollar, FY23)

Fifteen different accounts contribute to the GFF (see Figure 3). Statute dictates each account's uses. Some of the accounts have broad allowable uses while other accounts have specific uses to support work on a certain species, resource, or management issue.

Figure 3. GFF Dollars at Work: Where Do the Dollars Go by Account? (Cents Per Dollar, FY23)

What are operational expenses at the DNR? Operational expenses are what keep the DNR running day-to-day including staff salaries, field supplies, safety and protective equipment, facility maintenance, information technology, and vehicles. These operational expenses are not necessarily linked to individual projects but rather provide foundational support to the DNR. An example is paying for equipment used for several years on multiple projects. GFF monies go to a variety of expenses, the largest share to staffing costs (see Figure 4). The GFF is the backbone of DNR's ability to hire staff to carry out fish and wildlife programs and activities.

Report Organization

This report has three sections beginning with a narrative covering the broadest and most interdisciplinary view and progressing through the more detailed and account-specific information. In the report, there are stories highlighting the staff roles that lead to the outcomes of GFF-funded work of the DNR. These stories represent a small but illustrative portion of the critical work the GFF supports.

The Outcomes section reviews the overall strategic purpose of the GFF, focusing on three broad outcomes that support the goals of the fund and reflect the benefits Minnesotans receive.

The Outputs section highlights the DNR's accomplishments by categories such as population management, habitat restoration and enhancement, and recreation management. Each output may be the result of several programs, accounts, and/or DNR teams and external partners working together.

The Investments We Make section explains the purposes, uses, trends, and representative activities of each account. This is where readers can learn more about specific accounts. However, it is not possible to detail every activity with every dollar in an annual report. Readers are welcome to contact the DNR with specific requests.

The appendices include a variety of supplemental information, most of which details information found in one of the sections noted above.

OUTCOMES: THE ULTIMATE RESULTS OF FUND INVESTMENTS

The GFF contributes significantly to the DNR's conservation goals. An overarching outcome of the GFF is a foundational level of operational support and staffing capacity. This allows the DNR to deliver projects and programs and leverage additional funding and partnerships. This staffing capacity is the driver of all the natural resource outcomes described in this report.

The GFF exists to ensure the DNR can manage our state's fish and wildlife populations. One of the most important ways the DNR accomplishes this by administering and managing our premier state public land and water systems for the benefit of Minnesotans. These public lands and waters serve as habitat for fish and wildlife as well as provide a multitude of outdoor recreational opportunities for people, including trapping, angling, hunting, gathering, wildlife viewing, nature photography, hiking, and related activities. These lands are also critical habitat for nongame wildlife, Species of Greatest Conservation Need, threatened and endangered species, and pollinators.

The outcomes the DNR achieves with GFF support are organized into three broad categories: healthy and sustainable fish and wildlife populations, healthy and productive habitats for those populations, and high quality and abundant outdoor recreation opportunities connecting people with nature.

Unsurprisingly, these outcomes involve other dedicated funding streams and organizations. Neither the DNR as a government agency nor the GFF as a funding source can take full credit or responsibility. The DNR works with the 11 federally recognized Tribes within Minnesota's borders, federal, state, and local agencies, as well as numerous local, state, and national non-profit organizations. All these agencies and organizations expand the impact and perspective of the DNR on these issues. As vast and complex as our natural resources are, it requires all of us working together to ensure the continued health and sustainability of, and access to, these lands.

Healthy and Productive Habitats Crucial for Fish and Wildlife Populations

Productive and diverse habitats are the foundation of healthy fish and wildlife populations and outdoor recreation. Protecting or acquiring, restoring, enhancing, and monitoring these habitats is critical to supporting the fish, wildlife, and many other benefits these habitats provide to Minnesotans. Minnesota's grasslands, forests, wetlands, lakes, and streams all provide habitat for hundreds of fish and wildlife species. These habitats provide additional benefits, including capturing, filtering, and storing rainfall, recharging groundwater, reducing downstream flooding, and helping watersheds adapt to future climate scenarios such as more intense rainfall events. They also capture and store large amounts of carbon, helping to slow the rates of climate change.

Habitat Acquisition and Protection

Establishing new Wildlife Management Areas (WMA), Aquatic Management Areas (AMA), and adding to existing units helps ensure habitat for a diverse range of species along with recreational opportunities for Minnesotans. In some cases, DNR acquisitions protect existing habitats. In other cases, the DNR restores habitat on new acquisitions.

DNR Wildlife staff at the Detroit Lakes office worked with Pheasants Forever and the Minnesota Prairie Chicken Society to acquire additions to the Agassiz-Olson WMA in Norman County. The diverse seed mix used for restoration at the site came from harvesting native prairie on DNR, The Nature Conservancy, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service lands through the local seed consortium. While the focus of this effort was the greater prairie-chicken, the WMA will provide habitat for dozens of songbird and pollinator species. The numerous wetlands will provide a stopping point for migrating waterfowl to refuel on their journeys and habitat for nesting and brood-rearing ducks. The wetlands will also capture rainfall and snowmelt on the edge of the flood-prone Red River Valley.

Habitat Enhancement and Restoration

Habitat enhancement practices include prescribed fire in grasslands, wild rice seeding in lakes and wetlands, restoring bends and curves of streams, and thinning trees to encourage acorn production on oaks and other food bearing species in forests. Restoration efforts include seeding former cropland with a diverse mix of native grasses and wildflowers, scraping sediment out of small prairie wetlands to enlarge them and expose the original soil and seedbank, or direct seeding to establish new forests. Significant planning by DNR staff goes into these efforts to promote outcomes that result in healthy habitats and support fish and wildlife populations.

In Minnesota, the Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF) supplements many of these acquisition/protection, enhancement, and restoration activities. The GFF pays the salaries of DNR area staff who identify enhancement projects and work with local contractors on the projects. The projects themselves are then funded by GFF, OHF, another funding source, or a mix of sources. As an example, area wildlife staff will work with OHF-funded roving crews on prescribed fires.

The Lake Habitat Consultant's role is to assist DNR staff and partners conduct habitat enhancement projects. They help find eligible projects, identify appropriate internal and external funding opportunities, and provide budget oversight for all statewide lake habitat projects. The Lake Habitat Consultant also helps navigate the many steps it takes to complete a habitat project, such as environmental and cultural reviews, engineering requests, and use of the statewide fisheries construction crew. Lake habitat enhancement projects completed in the past year include the Roseau River rock arch rapids installation for fish passage, St. Peter AMA access road repair and the South Branch of the Vermillion River AMA oak savannah restoration.

Healthy and Sustainable Fish and Wildlife Populations

The GFF supports the long-term sustainability of dozens of game and non-game fish and wildlife populations, as well as the conservation of threatened and endangered species, Species of Greatest Conservation Need, and pollinators. It also supports the enforcement of game and fish law that protect these species.

While fish and wildlife managers track populations and determine which regulations are needed to ensure each species' sustainability into the future, conservation officers work to ensure anglers and hunters understand and follow those regulations. Voluntary compliance is key—no amount of law enforcement effort can substitute for anglers and hunters understanding why laws and regulations help protect and preserve of our state's natural resources, choosing to abide by them, and encouraging others to do so as well.

Fish

The DNR monitors fish communities in approximately 4,500 lakes and 16,000 miles of fishable streams and rivers across Minnesota. Fish surveys inform decisions on regulation changes, management strategies, and stocking proposals. Surveys also play an important role in the collection of specimens for fish pathogen surveillance, assessment of fish contaminants such as mercury and per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), and a range of fisheries research and conservation efforts. Generally, surveys are highly valued by the public who eagerly await the survey results every year to guide their angling endeavors. In fact, the most visited webpage on the DNR's website is LakeFinder, where the DNR shares survey results and other lake-specific information.

With a combined surface area of more than 825,000 acres, Minnesota's ten large walleye lakes are a major source of the annual statewide walleye harvest. The GFF supports the Large Lakes Assessment Program and the dedicated field staff (Large Lake Specialists) needed to carry out the program. Large Lake Specialists follow a set of intense survey protocols carried out every year that assess the key life stages of walleye. Data collected on the Large Lakes informs walleye management strategies.

In the early 1950s, things were looking bad for lake trout in Lake Superior. The invasive sea lamprey was beginning to wreak havoc on lake trout numbers. Managers feared lake trout might disappear from Lake Superior. This previously happened in Lakes Michigan, Huron, Erie, and Ontario shortly after sea lamprey invasions. It would take a large, coordinated effort to save Lake Superior's trout. A 1954 treaty with Canada created the Great Lakes Fishery Commission to facilitate this effort. The Commission coordinated State, Federal, and Tribal agency collaboration on stocking, regulation setting, and sea lamprey control efforts over the next 65 years. Because of these efforts, lake trout stocking in Minnesota waters of Lake Superior is no longer needed.

Wildlife

The DNR closely monitors many populations of wildlife including bears, wolves, elk, moose, pheasant, prairie-chicken, and ruffed grouse. In partnership with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), DNR staff participate in surveys for migratory wildlife including waterfowl, woodcock, and mourning dove.

During the month of August, DNR Wildlife staff and volunteers check the weather forecast closely each evening, looking for a morning that will be sunny and calm, with lots of dew on the grass. These are the ideal conditions for the Pheasant August Roadside Survey. When the grass is dewy, hens and their broods often spend the morning on the edges of gravel roads where they can dry off and warm up. On these days, DNR staff drive 25-mile survey routes, record the pheasants they see each mile, and estimate the age of each brood. DNR biologists analyze these numbers and develop the August Roadside Survey report, which shows whether the population is up or down from last year, above or below the long-term average, and highlights areas of the state pheasants are more and less abundant.

DNR staff track the health of wildlife species through disease surveillance and by responding to reports of individual sick animals and larger mortality events. The Wildlife Health Program is responsible for disease management of Minnesota's wildlife populations. These staff coordinate surveillance efforts for a number of diseases including chronic wasting disease (CWD), bovine tuberculosis, avian influenza, and epizootic hemorrhagic disease. DNR staff are also leading research efforts to understand Minnesota's moose decline and Newcastle Disease virus in waterfowl.

The Wildlife Health Program staff monitor and manage for diseases that affect wildlife populations. The disease getting the most attention in recent years is CWD in deer. In 2022, the DNR conducted CWD surveillance across ten areas of the state. Between mandatory and voluntary surveillance, 144 DNR staff and 142 students collected 12,751 samples. In addition to this fieldwork, Health Program staff do frequent media interviews as well as meet with legislators and the public to explain DNR's CWD related work plans and why it is are important to protecting Minnesota's deer herd.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities Connecting People with Nature

Having well managed natural spaces provides Minnesotans with opportunities to enjoy fish, wildlife, and their habitats. This could include directly interacting with fish and wildlife through hunting, fishing, and birdwatching. It also includes the benefits of these natural habitats for people through other outdoor activities such as hiking, cross-country skiing, and landscape photography. Engaging with the natural world has innumerable physical and mental health benefits. Research studies have found that young people who play, study, and spend time in nature learn more, feel better, and have improved social skills (Kuo & Jordan 2019; Fyfe-Johnson et al. 2021). Young people who engage in outdoor recreation are also much more likely to be good stewards of the environment as adults (DeVille et al. 2021). Improving accessibility to the outdoors and engaging the public in outdoor activities is an investment in our future and would not be possible without money from the GFF.

Access and Accessibility

Minnesota has over 1,500 WMAs and over 700 AMAs that provide both quality habitats for fish and wildlife and diverse opportunities for people to enjoy the outdoors. WMAs and AMAs can be used for hunting, fishing, trapping, wildlife observation, environmental education, nature photography, hiking, foraging, or simply as a place to relax and connect with the natural world. Nearly every Minnesotan lives within 20 miles of a WMA or AMA. The map (Figure 4) highlights WMAs across Minnesota in dark green while the light green areas show all lands within 20 miles of a WMA. In northeast Minnesota, where there are fewer WMAs, there are numerous state and federal forests open to the public.

Figure 4. Land in Minnesota within 20 miles of a WMA

Public boat ramps, fishing piers and shore fishing areas provide people with safe and convenient access to places to fish. DNR Division of Parks and Trails' Boating Access Program staff use GFF to construct and maintain these structures. This includes improving existing facilities for accessibility, safety, aquatic invasive species prevention, and storm water management. The DNR maintains approximately 370 fishing piers and shore fishing areas statewide both directly and with the help of local partners.

The DNR has significantly increased the availability of online materials to support growth of community awareness and access of outdoor recreational opportunities. These include new web and social media content, weekly skills webinars, and translation of fishing /hunting regulations in the four most commonly spoken languages in Minnesota in addition to English; Hmong, Karen, Somali, and Spanish. Social media campaigns have focused on reaching new and future outdoor recreationists to share information on the wide range of opportunities available in our state.

Programs Connecting People with the Outdoors

Focused programming is one strategy the DNR employs to connect all Minnesotans with the outdoors, especially those who have previously had limited opportunities to experience fishing, hunting and other types of outdoor recreation. The DNR's Becoming an Outdoors Woman (BOW) program is one of the largest in the country and provides a variety of workshops that help women gain and improve outdoors skills in a relaxed, fun, and supportive atmosphere. The Minnesota Outdoor Skills and Stewardship series of weekly webinars shares how-to knowledge relevant to current Minnesota seasons and activities. Many of the webinars focus on fishing and hunting skills but other topics include kayaking and birdwatching.

Fishing in the Neighborhood (FiN) is a DNR program aimed at increasing access to fishing opportunities, public awareness, and environmental stewardship within the seven-county metro region. As the state's population has become increasingly urbanized, it has become evident that there is a growing need for easily accessible fishing opportunities close to where people live. FiN builds on existing urban fisheries management activities such as stocking, aeration and enhancement of shore-fishing and pier-fishing opportunities. FiN staff work with local parks departments, lake associations and schools to promote a greater awareness of aquatic habitat needs, the importance of good stewardship, and local angling opportunities. This work is helping to foster opportunities for new anglers, continuing the tradition and stewardship of one of Minnesota's most popular pastimes.

Today, hunting is a very safe activity in large part due to the DNR's hunter education/firearms safety education program. This program began in 1955 and has led to a decline the number of firearms-related hunting injuries and fatalities. Thousands of volunteer safety instructors throughout the state form the backbone of the program, which teaches firearms and hunting safety, as well as hunting ethics and other skills necessary to be safe in the outdoors.

OUTPUTS: AGENCY AND PARTNER ACTIVITIES IMPACTING OUTCOMES

DNR programs protect, restore, and enhance habitats, monitor population trends and health, regulate hunting, trapping and fishing, and promote outdoor recreation. The biological and social sciences, cultural and economic values, and the DNR's responsibility to the public to manage fisheries, wildlife, and habitat in perpetuity inform all the agency's work.

Habitat Protection, Enhancement, and Restoration Activities

Minnesota has long been a leader when it comes to protecting, restoring, and enhancing habitat for a wide range of fish and wildlife species. The DNR, works with state and federal agencies, colleges and universities, and organization partners to monitor habitat enhancement efforts and the fish and wildlife response to these projects. All partners use this information to improve future actions.

Habitat Protection and Acquisition

Minnesota is a leader in the country with its WMA and AMA system. This growing system of public lands supports outdoor recreation and fish and wildlife populations. These lands also store carbon, reduce downstream flooding, and filter water. In recent years, most acquisitions have been funded by Outdoor Heritage Fund appropriations.

Highlights of FY23 DNR work include:

- Conducted 246 Fisheries and Wildlife easement inspections throughout the state.
- Secured two trout steam easements (1.6 miles of shoreline and 27 riparian acres) and secured three fee-title tracts (1.2 shoreline miles and 124 acres) for AMAs.
- Conducted six AMA boundary surveys.
- Acquired 2,987 acres of WMAs by gift or purchase, including: 2,899 acres in the prairie section and 88 acres in the northern forest section. Sections are defined by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council's Ecological Sections.

Habitat Enhancement and Restoration

Wildlife and fish populations are dependent on diverse, productive habitats. Minnesota is one of the leaders in the country in terms of public land habitat enhancement and restoration.

Highlights of FY23 DNR work include:

- Treated 1,283 acres in 38 invasive plant management projects on state forest lands to restore forest habitat. The DNR leveraged GFF funds to obtain other fundings sources and treat an additional 61 acres.
- Completed 44 prairie management projects on Native Prairie Bank easements lands, including woody encroachment removal on eight sites totaling 259 acres, invasive species treatment on 12 sites totaling 65 acres, and conducted prescribed burns, haying, or grazing on 24 sites totaling 1,265 acres.
- Completed 83 prairie management projects on Scientific and Natural Areas including: woody encroachment removal on 16 sites totaling 304 acres, invasive species treatment on 33 acres totaling 752 acres, grassland restoration/reconstruction on four sites over 52 acres, and conducted prescribed burns, haying, or grazing on 30 sites covering 1,335 acres.
- Conducted shallow lake assessments on 37 acres, treated 1,865 acres of invasive cattail via helicopter herbicide application and enhanced wetland habitat over 18,716 acres on 297 lakes and wetlands.
- Restored 161 acres of wetlands.
- Removed woody vegetation from 6,275 acres at 243 sites within WMAs.
- Removed 3,058 acres of invasive plants across 392 grassland WMAs.
- Conducted grassland prescribed fire and conservation grazing on 16,169 and 11,154 WMA acres, respectively.
- Restored 3,339 acres of grassland on WMAs using diverse seed mixes that will be beneficial for game and nongame wildlife as well as pollinators.
- Conducted nine prescribed fires on 166 acres of forest habitat and 20 prescribed fires on 11,398 acres of brushland habitat, enhanced 69 forest openings totaling 119 acres, conducted stand improvement on 4,095 acres, and enhanced 1,060 acres of brushland.

Research and Monitoring

In addition to research on a range of wildlife and fish populations, the DNR conducts research on the restoration and enhancement of habitats to improve outcomes.

Highlights of FY23 DNR work include:

- Conducted evaluations of stream habitat improvement projects to measure the longevity and multiple benefits provided by stream habitat project designs.
- Revised existing and developed new custom Geographic Information System tools that aid in modeling stream behavior and the changes under different management scenarios.
- Monitored macroinvertebrates and zooplankton through the Sentinel Lakes Program and the Large Lakes Program.
- Documented 138 observations of terrestrial invasive plant species using the online national reporting Early Detection and Distribution Mapping System (EDDMapS).
- Contracted surveys of 614 stands totaling 16,272 acres of DNR Forestry-administered land for terrestrial invasive species, locating 213 infested stands totaling 6,290 acres. A model that prioritized stands likely to contain invasive plants selected the surveyed stands.

Technical Assistance, Planning, and Coordination

Much of the DNR's habitat-related planning occurs with partner agencies and organizations to better coordinate larger regional efforts. The best statewide wildlife and fish outcomes can only be accomplished through partnership and coordination of efforts.

Highlights of FY23 DNR work include:

- Assisted 218 foresters, biologists, and ecologists with Ecological Classification System determinations and other questions or concerns related to forest resource and habitat management.
- Provided technical assistance about prairie management to more than 150 landowners.
- Submitted 19 case studies to the University of Minnesota Sustainable Forests Education Cooperative Great Lakes Silviculture Library.

Land Record System Management and Improvements

The DNR's Lands Records System (LRS) is the basis of all real estate work at the DNR. LRS has moved the DNR to more sustainable business operations with electronic drafting and tracking for deeds, leases, easements, and licenses. About 470 DNR employees use the LRS Workstation, which allows access to important transaction information including completed or pending land acquisitions, land sales, and active surface leases by region. The LRS includes a workflow to help DNR staff accomplish each step in the transaction process from start to finish. The LRS is the tool that makes it possible to create the GIS layers that document the DNR's real estate interests.

Highlights of FY23 DNR work include:

- Updated the Federal Funding Review workflow to facilitate delivery of data to federal partners.
- Created a new workflow to track cultural attributes of State-owned lands that could impact our transactions or management decisions.
- Made system updates to collect new and updated local sales taxes.
- Updated the Release of Easement workflows to better model business process.
- Updated workflows to accommodate legislative changes.
- Updated billing rules for surface leases.
- Made data validation fixes to help LRS users enter more complete and accurate data.

Outreach for Habitat Work

Public input, often obtained through workshops, project meetings, and other public meetings, is important to large-scale habitat projects, such as drawdowns on shallow lakes or dam modifications. The DNR works to help minimize the spread of invasive species in fish and wildlife habitats by informing and engaging the public

when conducting AIS inspections at public water accesses statewide.

Highlights of FY23 DNR work include:

- Posted regularly to social media on invasive species prevention, reaching more than 10,000 people.
- Distributed invasive species materials, including terrestrial invasive species tattoos and boot brushes, at the 2022 Minnesota State Fair.
- Provided trainings for the public, decision makers, and natural resource professionals by hosting workshops on the Fundamentals of River Science and Restoring River Ecosystems: Design & Application.
- Met with many communities and local road authorities to inform and advance Geomorphic Approach of infrastructure design (infrastructure designed to work with natural water systems and allow for stable waterways long-term).
- Presented at professional conferences, provided multiple interviews for news articles, and hosted stream table presentations at youth/school events.

Population Management Accomplishments

Recreational activities like fishing, hunting, birdwatching, and nature photography are dependent on abundant and diverse fish and wildlife populations. The work of the GFF helps maintain our natural heritage; foster connections between people and nature; and stimulate recreational interests by enhancing and restoring the habitats fish and wildlife depend on. The DNR manages for sustainable fish and wildlife populations by providing the best habitats possible, developing strategic plans, establishing population objectives and hunting, trapping, and fishing seasons, and research. Public engagement, along with the use of social science, is also key to informing management decisions.

Research and Monitoring

As a science-based agency, the DNR relies on data for making many of its decisions. Agency staff and partners collect data through long-term standardized monitoring programs and short-term focused research. The DNR relies on partnerships with academic institutions for many research needs. However, unlike most state natural resource agencies, the DNR has its own research program in the Division of Fish and Wildlife that completed the work listed below.

DNR accomplishments for FY23 include:

- Completed 676 lake and stream surveys and initiated or completed 21 creel (angler) surveys.
- Genotyped ("DNA fingerprinted") more than 5,800 fish from eight species to determine genetic population structure, ancestry, stocking success, and strain comparisons.
- Used information from long-term monitoring, annual surveys, and mandatory harvest registration to track population trends of over 60 wildlife species to inform population management goals.
- Continued Fisheries research projects on an evaluation of wild walleye fry on Big Cormorant Lake as well as a Northern Pike tagging study on Upper Red Lake.
- Initiated a study on strengthening guidance and sampling protocols for assessing age-0 walleye.

Fish Production and Stocking

Fish production and stocking involves collecting spawning fish, taking of eggs and milt, raising the fish to the appropriate size, and stocking fish to create, enhance, or rehabilitate fisheries populations. Lake and stream fish management plans guide stocking priorities. Staff design plans to support fish communities, sustain diverse and desirable angling opportunities, and support the significant economic benefits of recreational fishing.

Highlights of FY23 DNR work include:

- Produced 980,198 trout (brook, brown, lake, rainbow, and splake) at four cold water hatcheries that were stocked into 194 lakes and streams.
- Produced 36,957 muskies (fry, fingerlings, yearlings and adults) that were stocked into 41 lakes.
- Produced 240 million walleye fry and 65,779 pounds of walleye fingerlings, yearlings, and adults.
- Purchased 1,677 tiger muskellunge fingerlings from private aquaculture license holders that were stocked into lakes in the metro area.
- Completed improvements and repairs, ranging from pond bank stabilizations and vegetation removal to plumbing repairs and water heater replacements, at eight hatcheries.

Fish and Wildlife Health

The DNR's fish and wildlife health units investigate fish and wildlife kills, provide diagnostic services to state and private hatcheries, review fish and wildlife transportation permits, and coordinate surveillance efforts for diseases and the pathogens that cause diseases such as CWD.

Highlights of FY23 DNR work include:

- Performed diagnostic surveillance of 4,630 fish tissue samples to ensure disease-free status of all DNR cold, cool, and warmwater hatcheries as well as private hatchery inspections, conducted 35 fish mortality diagnostics cases, and performed 75 water source surveillance diagnostics.
- Worked with the Minnesota Board of Animal Health to comanage regulation of white-tail deer farms.
- Responded to reports of sick, injured, and dead wildlife and received morbidity or mortality reports for 87 birds, and 32 mammals (including 19 cervids).
- Collected 7,256 samples from free-ranging deer for CWD surveillance.
- Sampled almost 1,500 birds for highly pathogenic avian influenza. Birds that tested positive included 262 waterfowl, 254 raptors, 29 waterbirds, 17 corvids (crows and ravens), and one songbird.
- Implemented deer feeding and attractant bans in areas surrounding positive detections of CWD.

Fishing, Hunting, and Trapping Season Management and Regulations

The DNR designs season regulations to support population management objectives as well as provide recreational opportunities. The DNR reviews and revises hunting, fishing, and trapping regulations in response to population changes and objectives, weather, disease-related concerns, and past harvest results for resident wildlife species. The DNR partners with US Fish and Wildlife Service and Mississippi Flyway Council to set regulations for migratory species. In recent years, the DNR increased its use of virtual engagement tools like surveys and web-based town halls to help gather input and inform regulatory and management decisions.

Highlights of FY23 DNR work include:

- Implemented special and experimental fishing regulations to achieve lake-specific management objectives.
- Completed and published ten administrative rules to provide annual hunting and trapping opportunities and to manage CWD.
- Established more than 125 special hunts to assist with local wildlife population concerns or provide mentoring opportunities for new hunters.
- Revised deer population goals in 23 deer permit areas to better align deer population management with public sentiment and disease management concerns.
- Implemented and evaluated the third year of an experimental early teal hunting season in coordination with Tribal Nations, the USFWS, and Mississippi Flyway.

- Worked with organized stakeholder groups, Tribal nations, and individuals to streamline trapping regulations and provide opportunities that are consistent with sustainable furbearer populations.

Technical Assistance, Planning, and Coordination

DNR staff provide technical assistance for members of the general public, and both give and receive technical assistance from professional colleagues in many agencies and organizations. The DNR consults and coordinates with the 11 Ojibwe and Dakota Tribal nations within Minnesota's borders as well as other agencies, universities, and organizations. Partnerships and public engagement efforts contribute to the development of strategic plans and decisions regarding management priorities and activities.

Highlights of FY23 DNR work include:

- Coordinated with biologists and Tribal nations in the development of state hunting seasons, approach to CWD management and surveillance, and resource management within Ceded Territories.
- Convened species technical committees to review data, discuss management challenges, and develop recommendations for species management.
- Completed 10-year major unit management plans for Whitewater WMA and Red Lake WMA. Each plan is the result of interdisciplinary planning, Tribal coordination, and public involvement.
- Facilitated the Deer Advisory Committee to foster two-way dialogue between the DNR and stakeholders on deer management topics. The committee's members represent varied interests in deer hunting and conservation, farming, urban deer issues and forest management across the state.

Populations Outreach

The DNR looks for opportunities to listen to the thoughts and concerns of stakeholder groups and individuals as well as explain its work, ask for input prior to making decisions, and be transparent about how and why the DNR makes decisions.

The DNR also strives to provide effective outreach programs that reach traditional stakeholders along with new and diverse audiences through a variety of online and in-person programs to offer individuals the information and basic skills they need to connect with the outdoors.

Highlights of FY23 DNR work include:

- Hosted biannual wildlife office hours in area offices statewide to engage the public on deer and other local resource management issues.
- Hosted one online and two in-person public meetings to discuss deer population goals proposed for deer permit areas in two regions of the state.

Commercial, Scientific, and Educational Permits and Licensing

The DNR issues permits and licenses for harvest of commercial fisheries, including Lake Superior fisheries, private aquaculture, and bait fish. Monitoring permits and license holders promotes conservation by ensuring compliance with regulations and protects worker safety through standards for equipment and training. The DNR also issues scientific and educational permits that provide coordination among projects and ensures that these activities comply with rules and regulations.

Highlights of FY23 DNR work include:

- Processed, reviewed and/or issued more than 3,400 Aquatic Commercial Program licenses or permits associated with private aquaculture, commercial fisheries harvest, and Lake Superior charters.
- Reviewed and processed more than 2,000 licenses associated with bait harvest.
- Held over fifteen meetings with minnow producers, dealers, retailers, and fishing groups to discuss minnow availability for fishing bait. In response, the DNR opened more waters to minnow harvest by implementing Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS) free zones, allowing bait harvest permits for designated trout waters and WMAs, providing white sucker eggs for aquaculture, and working with Sea Grant and minnow industry on golden shiner production.

- Began work with minnow producers, dealers, retailers, and fishing groups to develop recommendations to the state legislature to ensure Minnesota grown bait supply. Recommendations are due in January 2024.
- Processed 276 scientific and educational permits for fisheries-related projects.
- Processed 60 game animal permits to support wildlife research or salvage of wildlife for education purposes and 201 shooting permits to reduce wild animals in response to damage concerns.

Recreation Management Accomplishments

In addition to funding fish and wildlife management, GFF license dollars help pay for public land infrastructure maintenance, and a wide range of outreach efforts including licenses sales, grant management, outreach, and safety education. License dollars also help fund the work of conservation officers, who have a critical role in protecting the state's people and natural resources, and ensuing future generations have the same or better opportunities than today. This work creates some of the nation's most sought-after outdoor experiences.

Social Science Research and Surveys

The DNR conducts social science research on the recreational activities of hunters, trappers, and anglers. These research findings inform efforts to recruit, retain, and reactivate people participating in those activities and the DNR's management of those activities.

Highlights of FY23 DNR work include:

- Conducted a survey of wild rice harvesters, a survey of trappers, and a study of expert opinion on causes of and solutions to Minnesota moose population decline.
- Published three peer-reviewed scientific papers focused on hunter responses to CWD.

License and Permits

The License Center is responsible for developing, implementing, and maintaining the statewide Electronic Licensing System (ELS). People can purchase hunting and fishing licenses at any of the 1,500 ELS agent locations, by phone, or online. License Center responsibilities include issuing commercial licenses (e.g., minnow dealers, game farms, and shooting preserves) and the lottery system for issuing controlled hunt permits (e.g., turkey, prairie-chicken, antlerless deer, bear, moose, and elk). In support of Minnesotans' outdoor recreation, the License Center issues all watercraft registration and titles and the registration of all-terrain vehicles, snowmobiles, off-road vehicles, and off-highway motorcycles through the web-based ELS and through deputy registrar locations. Additionally, a walk-in service counter at DNR headquarters in St. Paul provides service to customers for all types of license, registration, and titling transactions.

Highlights of FY23 DNR work include:

- Advanced efforts to modernize the ELS, including engaging with stakeholders to gather requirements for the new system, developing and publishing the request for proposals, evaluating the proposals, selecting a vendor, executing the contract, and beginning to build the new system. Modernizing the system will improve the online experience of purchasing hunting and fishing licenses and enrolling in education and safety classes. The system is expected to be available in early 2025.
- Provided over 1.8 million hunting and angling licenses serving over 1.2 million customers (see Appendix D for details).
- Processed than 74,371 license lottery applications and worksheets.
- Coordinated seven lotteries to equitably distribute licenses for hunters pursuing species with controlled hunts.
- Distributed more than 1.3 million copies of hunting and angling regulations in English.
- Distributed 500,000 hunting regulations books and 125,000 waterfowl regulations books in English.
- Distributed 850,000 copies of the fishing regulations in English.

- Responded to over 88,000 license-related inquiries from license agents or license holders.
- Issued 478 fishing tournament permits.
- Managed 81 falconry permits and supported falconry-based hunting recreation.

Marketing

Marketing efforts focus on a wide cross section of Minnesotans with a diverse range of interests in the natural world and outdoor recreation. Collaborating with external partners to "tell our story" and to promote hunting and fishing in Minnesota helps to reach new and current stakeholders.

Highlights of FY23 DNR work include:

- Co-hosted Moms Fishing Challenge with the Student Anglers Organization. Over 2,400 people joined the challenge Facebook group and over 1,200 fish were submitted from over 70 Minnesota counties.
- Executed interest- and location-based digital advertising campaigns focused on outdoors enthusiasts, encouraging them to buy their fishing/hunting license. Ads from our hunting and fishing campaigns on Facebook, Instagram, Google, and YouTube appeared on screens over 5.6 million times and led to more than 166,000 clicks into the DNR license portal.
- Conducted 800 interviews with media on various topics related to game and fish.
- Highlighted fisheries programs and opportunities via 242 radio shows, displays at more than 30 county fairs, provision of the fishpond and information booth attendants at the Minnesota State Fair, and participation in more than 459 lake association, watershed organizations, and fishing club events.

Recruitment, Retention, and Reactivation (R3) and Education

With purchases of hunting and angling licenses trending downward both nationally and in Minnesota, the DNR works to recruit Minnesotans into all forms of outdoor recreation, including a dedicated effort related to hunting and fishing through online and in-person programming. The DNR also works closely with other organizations to build their capacity to provide these types of programming.

Highlights of FY23 DNR work include:

- Hosted 52 weekly Minnesota Outdoor Skills and Stewardship Series webinars with over 6,448 registered emails. Participants registered for 15,259 webinars and 4,827 people attended the shows live. The webinar recordings are posted on YouTube and available at mndnr.gov/discover. Encouraged existing hunters to take someone new hunting by partnering with Pheasants Forever on their Hunter Mentor Challenge, which is open to all types of hunting. 108 Minnesota hunters took the online hunter mentor pledge using the DNR link on the Pheasants Forever website.
- Produced monthly newsletters for the BOW program, hosted monthly conference calls to maintain the BOW volunteer mentor network, and hosted an in-person learn-to archery turkey hunt in the spring of 2023 that reached 10 women and offered a mentored hunt for five women with 15 mentors.
- Continued the ongoing partnership with YMCA Camps in the Twin Cities Metro Area, serving over 1,800 participants. YMCA documented the purchase of 36 fishing licenses at their camp welcome center due to family fishing promotions at their YMCA Camp, Northern Lights, in Ely.
- Administered the Citizen Advisory R3 Council, a voluntary council of outdoor community leaders working to tailor strategies for recruiting, retaining, and reactivating hunters and anglers in Minnesota.

Outreach to New and Diverse Communities

Current participation rates in outdoor recreation generally do not reflect the changing demographics of Minnesota. The DNR strives to serve all Minnesotans and offer programs for diverse populations. To help people make these connections, it is important to meet them where they are and make information accessible other languages.

Highlights of FY23 DNR work include:

- Translated the 2022 and 2023 Minnesota hunting regulations and the 2023 Minnesota fishing regulations into Hmong, Karen, Somali and Spanish. Electronic versions of the documents are available on the DNR website. The DNR printed 20,000 copies of the translated fishing regulations and 20,000 copies of the translated hunting regulations.

Fishing in the Neighborhood (FiN) is a DNR program aimed at increasing angling opportunities, public awareness of those opportunities, and environmental stewardship within the seven-county metro region. As the state's population has become increasingly urbanized, there is a growing need for accessible fishing opportunities close to where people live.

Highlights of FY23 DNR work include:

- The FiN program held 33 angling outreach events, with 2,365 participants, in six counties, at 16 different metro area lakes.
- The FiN program stocked fish in over 30 lakes in the metro region.
- The FiN program installed one new fishing pier, purchased 155 fishing poles to give away, and printed 5,000 copies of the FiN Youth and Family Fishing Guide.

Grants and Equipment Agreements

The DNR realizes the essential role partners play in recruiting Minnesotans into outdoor recreation, including hunting and fishing. Grants give partners the funds to initiate and sustain recruitment efforts. With these critical resources, the DNR has helped many organizations effectively connect their members and program participants to outdoor activities. While many of these programs are grant funded, the staff who oversee the programs financial tracking, and related activities are provided by the GFF.

Highlights of FY23 DNR work include:

- Continued to monitor and manage dozens of grants awarded through the "No Child Left Inside" grant program over the last few years, which was created in 2019 and is supported, in part, by Heritage Enhancement account funds within the GFF.
- Awarded phase 2023 "No Child Left Inside" grants, 42 mini grants in December of 2022 and 21 larger grants in May of 2023. Phase 2023 grantees anticipate they will reach over 22,975 youth.
- Issued 17 National Archery in the Schools Program equipment cooperative agreements and three 3-D cooperative agreements in FY23, reaching over 2,800 students.

Safety Education and Outreach

Since the 1950s, the DNR has partnered with volunteer instructors to provide safety training classes and hands-on field days that give students the knowledge they need to hunt safely. The Legislature passed a law in 1991 requiring firearms safety training for anyone born after 1979 in order to buy a hunting license in Minnesota. Since then, the average annual number of hunting-related injuries and fatalities has dropped dramatically. The DNR also works closely with the media on safety-related stories. The foundation in safety provides the knowledge and skills people need to enjoy and participate in the outdoors throughout their lives. In addition to hunter safety, these funds also contribute to ATV, snowmobile, and related safety training efforts.

Highlights of FY23 DNR work include:

- Certified 22,442 people in firearms safety and hunter education; 2,304 individuals in bow hunter education; and 63 individuals in the advanced hunter education program.
- Conducted more than 235 interviews with local, statewide and national media to provide safety information; remind viewers, listeners and readers about regulations and why they are in place; and offer insight into the job of a conservation officer.

Enforcement and Educational Outreach

DNR conservation officers interact with hunters and anglers during routine compliance checks and in other settings. They work to educate all Minnesotans about the state's natural resources and help people understand the reasons for regulations. During these contacts and outreach

events, conservation officers take time to help hunters and anglers understand each other's roles in maintaining healthy populations and ensuring future generations have the same or better opportunities than today.

Highlights of FY23 DNR work include:

- Devoted 169,238 hours to game and fish-related law and regulation enforcement.
- Engaged with over 31,000 individuals or groups of individuals (on lakes, waterways, trail systems, public and private lands (includes game and fish checks).
- Taught students and adults about fish, wildlife, and conservation during 542 conservation officer visits to schools and community events.

Recreation Infrastructure

The DNR maintains public water access facilities for activities like, canoeing, kayaking, motor boating, and angling. The focus is on improving existing facilities for physical accessibility, safety, aquatic invasive species prevention, and storm water management, often in partnership with local government units. The DNR uses GFF dollars for planning and developing recreational boating access facilities. Fishing piers and shore fishing areas provide people with safe and convenient places to fish. The DNR maintains approximately 370 fishing piers and shore fishing areas, both directly and with local government partners. The GFF is the main source of funding for fishing piers and developed shore fishing areas, especially for facility rehabilitation and maintenance.

Highlights of FY23 DNR work include:

- Contracted with the Minnesota Historical Society for cultural resource reviews of compliance with state and federal laws for planned water access development projects.
- Started or completed engineering, design and permitting work for 18 water access rehabilitation projects.
- Constructed/redeveloped four existing boating access sites and made major repairs to six others using universal design principles and best management practices.
- Purchased replacement parts and performed general maintenance and repairs to fishing piers and developed shore-fishing areas statewide.
- Completed major repairs and rehabilitation work on six fishing piers and replaced five fishing piers.
- Developed a wheelchair accessible parking lot at Carlos Avery WMA that also serves as a pilot project for future work.

GAME AND FISH FUND: THE INVESTMENTS WE MAKE

Game and Fish Fund

Minnesota's Legislature established the GFF in 1927 as a fund in the state treasury (M.S. 97A.055) for the purpose of sustaining Minnesota's fish and wildlife, supporting healthy habitats, and fostering hunting and fishing opportunities. Game and fish-related license revenue, federal monies, and lottery proceeds serve as the major revenue sources to the GFF.

The GFF plays an important role in the DNR's budget. One of many funds, it comprised 19.3 percent ($131.5 million) of the DNR's FY23 expenditures ($681.1 million). This fund supports sustainable and healthy fish and wildlife populations; healthy and productive habitats for fish and wildlife; high quality and abundant wildlife viewing, fishing, hunting, and trapping that is accessible to all Minnesotans; and enhanced connection between people and the natural environment.

Figure 5. How the Game and Fish Fund Fits in the DNR's Funding Structure ($ in millions, FY23)

"Other" includes Federal, Gift, Other, Reinvest in Minnesota, and Special Revenue Funds.

Figure 6. Game and Fish Fund Actual and Projected Revenues, Expenses, and Balance ($ in millions)

Chart Notes:

- Transfers-in and transfers-out are included in revenues and expenses, respectively.
- Projected expenses assume full spending of all current appropriations from the fund, including full spending of direct appropriations and estimated spending for statutory appropriations.
- Projected revenues are based on current statutory fee rates.

Game and Fish Fund Revenues

The DNR deposits an array of receipts into the GFF. Most of the funds relate directly to the sale of hunting and fishing licenses. Other revenue sources include:

- **Sport Fish Restoration Act (Dingell-Johnson, or DJ)** — Minnesota receives a portion of federal excise taxes based on a nation-wide formula known as the state's "apportionment." Minnesota receives reimbursement from the federal government for 75 percent of allowable fishing-related expenses up to the federal apportionment amount.

- **Wildlife Restoration Act (Pittman-Robertson, or PR)** — Minnesota receives reimbursement from the federal government for 75 percent of allowable wildlife-related expenses up to the federal apportionment amount. The apportionment amount is determined through a similar process as used for the Sport Fish Restoration Act.
- **Lottery in Lieu of Sales Tax** — Allocation of lottery in lieu of sales tax receipts.
- **License Issuing and Application Fees** — Electronic Licensing System (ELS) license issuing fees and fees for hunting applications.
- **Sale and Lease of Natural Resources** — Revenue from the lease of lands and easements, timber sales, mineral revenues, wild rice licenses revenue, sale of fish eggs, etc.
- **All Other Receipts** — Refunds from prior periods, reimbursement of excess agency direct charges, credit rebates, cash over/short, fines and restitution, hunter education firearm safety training fees, aeration permits, credit card fees, and miscellaneous revenue.
- **Transfers of Police State Aid** — Distribution from Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB) of insurance premium taxes to cover part of conservation officer pension costs.

Table 1. Game and Fish Fund Receipts and Transfers-In by Fiscal Year (in thousands)

Source	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Hunting Licenses	$21,383	$21,674	$21,591	$23,813	$23,584	$25,329	$24,888	$24,495
Fishing Licenses	$26,651	$26,912	$29,667	$29,873	$33,940	$32,671	$29,444	$30,120
Sports Licenses (Hunting and Fishing)	$5,605	$5,471	$5,775	$5,541	$5,887	$5,383	$5,010	$5,035
Hunting and Angling Stamps	$2,211	$2,205	$2,158	$2,179	$2,415	$2,579	$2,346	$2,330
Small Game Surcharge	$1,580	$1,545	$1,483	$1,411	$1,465	$1,491	$1,395	$1,409
Lifetime Licenses	$762	$1,038	$1,123	$983	$1,047	$1,631	$1,616	$1,834
Commercial Licenses	$347	$344	$342	$336	$328	$342	$322	$322
Federal Grant Fisheries (Dingell-Johnson)	$14,532	$11,897	$12,384	$12,326	$13,270	$14,950	$14,934	$15,003
Federal Grant Wildlife (Pittman-Robertson)	$19,506	$21,623	$25,269	$21,478	$22,643	$20,101	$18,942	$24,761
Lottery In-lieu-of-sales Tax	$13,909	$13,211	$14,054	$14,964	$15,316	$19,039	$17,553	$18,484
License Issuing and Application Fees	$3,429	$3,453	$3,468	$3,404	$3,551	$3,642	$3,441	$3,445
Sale and Lease of Natural Resources	$1,162	$841	$1,228	$946	$682	$680	$1,006	$677
Investment Income	$191	$298	$506	$1,021	$765	$236	$273	$2,302
All Other Receipts	$744	$943	$632	$788	$1,118	$1,015	$2,337	$816
Transfer-in: Police State Aid	$1,046	$951	$1,026	$1,026	$1,035	$1,120	$999	$1,056
Total Receipts and Transfers-In	**$113,058**	**$112,406**	**$120,706**	**$120,088**	**$127,046**	**$130,210**	**$124,505**	**$132,089**

Game and Fish Fund Expenditures

The DNR spent $131.5 million from the GFF in FY23. The chart and table below show spending by expenditure type.

Figure 7. Game and Fish Fund Expenditures by Type for Fiscal Year 2023 (in thousands)

Chart Notes:

- "Department Services" includes costs for Shared Services (Human Resources, Management Resources, Facilities, Office of Management and Budget Services, and Office of Communications and Outreach), mailroom, MNIT services (computer and technology support), and leadership (Commissioner's Office and Regional Operations).
- "Division Services" are the divisions' administrative support costs such as division management and fiscal services.

Table 2. Game and Fish Fund Expenditures by Type and Year, Fiscal Years (in thousands)

Expenditure Type	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Capital	$1,955	$1,647	$144	$2,233	$896	$3,621	$890	$2,714
Contracts	$5,683	$7,319	$5,756	$7,422	$7,185	$17,179	$9,048	$10,015
Department Services	$8,727	$8,908	$9,274	$9,531	$9,455	$9,903	$9,737	$10,781
Division Services	$5,865	$6,535	$5,653	$5,889	$5,998	$6,062	$6,067	$6,630
Equipment	$2,936	$1,445	$900	$3,744	$1,172	$846	$1,690	$5,655
Grants	$1,177	$1,828	$1,633	$1,672	$1,350	$1,054	$1,518	$2,100
Operating Expenses	$21,266	$21,387	$19,647	$23,381	$19,034	$12,455	$14,814	$18,494
Personnel	$60,025	$62,436	$61,867	$63,909	$64,624	$62,514	$72,157	$74,061
Real Estate	$1,272	$1,463	$1,235	$1,230	$1,262	$1,242	$861	$1,090
Agency Total Expenditures	**$108,906**	**$112,967**	**$106,110**	**$119,012**	**$110,976**	**$114,875**	**$116,783**	**$131,540**

GFF Overall Analysis

The GFF balance at the end of FY23 was $91.5 million. Three accounts make up the largest part of the GFF: the Game and Fish Operations Account (2200, $37.4 million balance), the Heritage Enhancement Account (2209, $17.0 million), and the Lifetime Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund (2210, $20.9 million). A more detailed treatment of all fifteen accounts comes later in the report, as well as in the appendices.

The following are key trends that impact the fund's major revenues:

- Hunting license revenues in FY23 were comparable to FY22. Hunting participation has increased since the COVID-19 pandemic, but we are projecting a slight annual decline in hunting license revenues each year through FY27.
- Fishing license revenues in FY23 increased by approximately $700,000 compared to FY22 and are slightly above pre-COVID pandemic levels. Fishing participation is trending downward on a slow and steady path through FY27.
- FY23 federal reimbursement for Wildlife Restoration Act increased by nearly $6 million due to a higher federal apportionment. Projections for FY24 and FY25 show a further increase before leveling off and staying steady through FY27. The increased apportionment created an opportunity to improve the health of the GFF and make additional investments in game and fish conservation by capturing available federal matching dollars deposited into the GFF.
- Sport Fish Restoration Act federal reimbursement revenues were comparable to FY22 and are anticipated to remain flat at slightly lower amount for FY24 forward.
- Lottery-in-lieu revenues deposited into the Heritage Enhancement Account within the GFF continue to exceed projections, trending upward for FY24 and then are anticipated to remain flat for FY25 forward.
- Lifetime licenses allow Minnesotans to buy a fishing license that is valid for an entire lifetime and "activate" that license each fishing or hunting season based on the holder's anticipated use. Lifetime license revenue deposited into the Lifetime License Account (which is an interest-earning fund) will continue to grow and become a larger part of the total GFF balance, because lifetime license sales continue to exceed annual activations. When people want to hunt or fish in any given year, they "activate" their license and the DNR moves the related revenue from the Lifetime License Account into the GFF Operations Account. Lifetime license sales are projected to exceed annual activations throughout the forecast horizon.

The Accounts within the Game and Fish Fund

- The GFF consists of 15 separate accounts—each designated in state law for a specific purpose. See Table 3 for more detailed information about each account. The following sections provide an overview of the GFF as a whole and then detail about each account, including:
- Creation and Purpose of the Account,
- Sources and Uses of the Funds,
- Description of Revenues,
- Financial Review,
- Account Analysis, and
- Example Fund Uses, which are illustrative descriptions (and not necessarily a complete list) of the ways the DNR uses the account to generate the program outputs described in earlier sections of this report.

Table 3. Accounts in the Game and Fish Fund

Account Name	Sources and Uses of the Account Funding
Game and Fish Operations Account (2200)	• Revenues include licenses and permits issued, all income from state lands acquired by purchase or gift for game or fish purposes, fines and forfeited bail, sales of contraband, wild animals and other property under the control of the division, fees from advanced education courses for hunters and trappers, reimbursements of expenditures by the account, contributions to the account, and federal aid reimbursements. (M.S. 97A.055) • Funds pay for game and fish activities and related activities. Fund uses are restricted by the federal aid in the Wildlife Restoration Act and the federal aid in the Fish Restoration Act. (M.S. 97A.057)
Deer and Bear Management Account (2201)	• Revenues include $1 from deer, bear, and super-sports license fees. • Funds pay deer and bear management programs, including the computerized licensing system. (M.S. 97A.075, Subd. 1c)
Emergency Deer Feeding and Wild Cervidae Health Management Account (2201)	• Revenues include $.50 from deer and super-sports license fees. • Funds pay for emergency deer feeding and wild cervidae health management. (M.S. 97A.075, Subd. 1d)
Deer Management Account (2202)	• Revenues include $16 from deer ($2 youth) and super-sports license fees. • Funds pay for deer habitat improvement or deer management programs. (M.S. 97A.075, Subd. 1b)
Waterfowl Habitat Improvement Account (2203)	• Revenues include 90 percent of the revenue from the Minnesota migratory waterfowl stamps. • Funds pay for development of wetlands and lakes in the state and designated waterfowl management lakes for maximum migratory waterfowl production including habitat evaluation, the construction of dikes, water control structures and impoundments, nest cover, rough fish barriers, acquisition of sites and facilities necessary for development and management of existing migratory waterfowl habitat and the designation of waters. (M.S. 97A.075, Subd. 2)
Trout and Salmon Account (2204)	• Revenues include 90 percent of the revenue from trout and salmon stamps. • Funds pay for the development, restoration, maintenance, improvement, protection, and preservation of habitat for trout and salmon in trout streams and lakes, including, but not limited to, evaluating habitat; stabilizing eroding stream banks; adding fish cover; modifying stream channels; managing vegetation to protect, shade, or reduce runoff on stream banks; purchasing equipment to accomplish these tasks; rearing trout and salmon, including utility and service costs associated with cold-water hatchery buildings and systems; stocking trout and salmon in streams and lakes, including Lake Superior; monitoring and evaluating stocked trout and salmon; acquiring easements and fee titles along trout waters; identifying easement and fee title areas along trout waters; researching; and implementing special management projects on trout streams, trout lakes, and Lake Superior and portions of its tributaries. (M.S. 97A.075, Subd. 3)
Pheasant Habitat Improvement Account (2205)	• Revenues include 90 percent of the revenue from pheasant stamps. • Funds pay for the development, restoration, and maintenance of suitable habitat for ring-necked pheasants on public and private land including the establishment of nesting cover, winter cover, and reliable food sources; reimbursement of landowners for setting aside lands for pheasant habitat; reimbursement of expenditures to provide pheasant habitat on public and private land; promotion of pheasant habitat development and maintenance, including promotion and evaluation of government farm program benefits for pheasant habitat; and the acquisition of lands suitable for pheasant habitat management and public hunting. (M.S. 97A.075, Subd. 4)

Table 3. Continued...

Account Name	Sources and Uses of the Account Funding
Wild Rice Management Account (2206)	• Revenues from the sale of wild rice licenses. • Funds shall be used for management of designated public waters to improve natural wild rice production. (M.S. 84.0911)
Wildlife Acquisition Account (2207)	• Revenues from the small game surcharge. • Funds are used for acquisition and development of wildlife lands, and maintenance of the lands, in accordance with appropriations made by the Legislature. (M.S. 97A.071)
Wild Turkey Management Account (2208)	• Revenues include $4.50 from each turkey license sold, except youth licenses. Funds pay for the development, restoration, and maintenance of suitable habitat for wild turkeys on public and private land including forest stand improvement and establishment of nesting cover, winter roost area, and reliable food sources; acquisitions of, or easements on, critical wild turkey habitat; reimbursement of expenditures to provide wild turkey habitat on public and private land; trapping and transplantation of wild turkeys; and the promotion of turkey habitat development and maintenance, population surveys and monitoring, and research. (M.S. 97A.075, Subd. 5)
Heritage Enhancement Account (2209)	• Revenues include lottery payments in lieu of sales tax on lottery tickets. • Funds are only for activities that improve, enhance, or protect fish and wildlife resources, including conservation, restoration, and enhancement of land, water, and other natural resources of the state. (M.S. 297A.94)
Lifetime Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund Account (2210)	• Revenues are from lifetime license sales. • Funds are used to transfer from the Lifetime Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund (2210) to the GFF an amount equal to the amount that would otherwise have been collected from annual license fees for each lifetime license. (M.S. 97A.4742)
Walleye Stamp Account (2211)	• Revenues are from walleye stamps sales. • Funds may pay only for stocking walleyes purchased from the private sector in waters of the state. (M.S. 97A.075, Subd. 6)
Peace Officer Training Account 2212)	• Revenue from a portion of the surcharges assessed to criminal and traffic offenders. • Funds may only be spent for peace officer training for staff of the DNR who are licensed to enforce game and fish laws. (M.S. 97A.052)
Wolf Management and Monitoring Account (2213)	• Revenues include 50 cents from each deer and super-sports license. • Funds are only for wolf management, research, damage control, enforcement, and education. (M.S. 97A.075, Subd. 7b)

Game and Fish Operations Account — Fund 2200

Creation and Purpose of the Account

The Game and Fish Operations Account is the largest account within the GFF, representing over 75 percent of FY23 GFF expenditures. All money received under the game and fish laws and all income from state lands acquired by purchase or gift for game or fish purposes are deposited into the Game and Fish Operations Account, except for certain revenues legally dedicated to the other accounts within the GFF. The Game and Fish Operations Account supports core game and fish activities such as lake and creel surveys, habitat research and other habitat protection activities, outreach and education programs, and natural resources law enforcement activities. The Heritage Enhancement Account and other dedicated accounts are often used together with this account.

Sources and Uses of the Funds

The major sources of revenue for the Game and Fish Operations Account (2200) are hunting and fishing licenses; license issuing fees; federal reimbursements for hunting (Wildlife Restoration Act) and fishing (Sport Fish Restoration Act) activities; sale of natural resources (timber sales, leases, mining, etc. from lands acquired with Game & Fish Fund dollars); fines, forfeits, and restitution; occupational permits; non-occupational permits; police state aid; and interest income.

Money accruing to the state from fees charged for hunting and angling licenses are not used for any purpose other than game and fish activities and related activities under the administration of the commissioner.

Description of Revenues

- **Fishing Licenses** — Includes fishing and spearing licenses, and fishing contests.
- **Hunting Licenses** — Including deer, bear, elk, small game, furbearing, and trapping licenses.
- **Sports Licenses** — Includes sports and super-sports licenses. Allows certain types of hunting and fishing with one license.
- **Sport Fish Restoration Act (DJ)** — Federal reimbursement for 75 percent of allowable fishing-related expenses up to federal apportionment amount.
- **Wildlife Restoration Act (PR)** — Federal reimbursement for 75 percent of allowable wildlife expenses up to federal apportionment amount.
- **License Issuing and Application Fees** — Electronic license system license issuing fees and fees for hunting applications.
- **Hunting Surcharge** — Surcharge on non-resident hunting licenses and surcharge on bonus deer licenses.
- **Fishing Surcharge** — Surcharge on non-resident fishing licenses.
- **Sale and Lease of Natural Resources** — Lease of lands, easements, timber sales, mineral revenues, sale of fish eggs, etc.
- **Fines, Forfeits, and Restitution** — Receipts due to law enforcement actions.
- **Occupational Permits** — Commercial hunting and fishing licenses.
- **Non-occupational** — Hunter education, safety training and aeration permits.
- **Investment Income** — Monthly interest paid on balance in fund.
- **Other** — Refunds from prior periods, reimbursement of excess agency direct charges, cash over/short, credit card fees, credit rebates, and miscellaneous revenue.
- **Transfers of Police State Aid** — Distribution from MMB of insurance premium taxes to cover part of the enforcement officer's pension costs.

Financial Review

Table 4. Game and Fish Operations Account Financial Activity

Beginning Balance and Adjustments	Amount
FY2023 Beginning fund balance	$40,474,558
Prior year adjustment	$822,801

Receipts	Amount
Fishing Licenses	$28,946,681
Hunting Licenses	$14,480,450
Sports and Super-Sports Licenses	$5,034,868
Sport Fish Restoration Act (Dingell-Johnson)	$15,003,313
Wildlife Restoration Act (Pittman-Robertson)	$24,760,824
License Issuing Fees	$3,277,081
Fishing Surcharge	$1,173,520
Hunting Surcharge	$243,142
Sales of Natural Resources	$642,638
Fines, Forfeits, and Restitution	$487,902
Application Fees	$117,542
Occupational Permits	$321,684
Non-occupational Fees	$186,529
Investment Income (Interest)	$2,197,303
Other	$65,563
Transfers-in (Police State Aid & Transfers from Federal Funds)	$1,056,090
Total Revenues and Transfers-in	**$97,995,129**

Expenditures by Appropriation	Amount
Fish and Wildlife Management	$61,341,915
Enforcement	$28,056,038
License Center	$2,901,270
Ecological & Water Resources	$2,799,210
Parks and Trails, Water Access	$2,694,199
Emergency Disease Response	$958,259
Lands & Minerals	$344,000
Safety Training and Hunter Educuation Fees	$191,897
Ice Safety Program	$153,251
Subtotal: Programmatic Expenditures	$99,440,038
Statewide Indirect Costs	$821,819
Transfers-out (FMIA, Invasive Species, Venison Donation, and Walk-in-Access)	$1,640,058
Total Expenditures and Transfers-out	**$101,901,916**

Fund balance and net change	Amount
FY2023 Ending fund balance	$37,390,573
Net change for FY2023	($3,083,985)

Account Analysis

The GFF Operations Account ended FY23 with a slightly lower fund balance in FY23 ($37.4 million) than in FY22 ($40.5 million) due to increased expenditures. FY23 expenditures were higher than FY22 by approximately $8.0 million due to FY23 being the second year of the biennium.

A lower starting balance in FY23 (down $2.2 million compared to FY22) and increased expenditures were partially offset by higher revenues of $7.0 million during the year. Together, these revenue and spending changes reduced the fund balance by approximately $3.1 million at the end of FY23.

As discussed earlier in the GFF Overall Analysis, hunting revenue decreased slightly relative to FY22. Sports license revenue also decreased slightly, while fishing revenue increased by approximately $700,000. Hunting, fishing, and sports license are all forecasted to decrease slightly each year through FY27 based on current hunting and fishing license trends.

In FY23, the DNR saw the higher apportionments for PR highlighted in the FY22 GFF Report. PR apportionments are projected to increase further in FY24 and FY25 before staying steady through FY27. With the additional federal match available for match on current state expenditures combined with the new appropriations enacted in the 2023 legislative session that are PR-eligible, the DNR projects an improved long-term outlook relative to last forecast. These additional federal monies contribute to leaving the GFF with a projected balance of $35 million in FY27.

Figure 8. Game and Fish Operations Account Financial Summary FY2010 to FY2027

Chart Note: Expenditure projections show the level of spending authorized in law for the current biennium and carried out through FY2027. Data for FY2010-2023 represent actual expenditures and FY2024-2027 represent projected expenditures.

Example Account Uses

This is a primary account in support of core activities (day-to-day) such as lake and creel surveys, research, habitat restoration and enhancement, outreach and education programs, and enforcement activities. The Heritage Enhancement Account or other dedicated accounts are often used together with this account.

Deer and Bear Management Account — Fund 2201

Purpose of the Account

This account is for deer and bear management.

Sources and Uses of the Funds

One dollar from each annual deer, bear, super-sports license, and one dollar annually from the Lifetime Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund (2210), established in section M.S. 97A.4742, for each license issued under section M.S. 97A.473, Subd. 4, shall be credited to the Deer and Bear Management Account (2201) (M.S. 97A.075, Subd. 1c).

By statute, money in the account can only be used for deer and bear management programs, including a computerized licensing system.

Financial Review

Table 5. Deer and Bear Management Account Financial Activity

Beginning Balance and Adjustments	Amount
FY2023 Beginning fund balance	$807,303
Prior year adjustment	$0

Receipts	Amount
Hunting License	$629,670
License Issuing Fees	$50,676
Total Revenues and Transfers-in	**$680,346**

Expenditures by Appropriation	Amount
Wildlife Management	$396,388
License Center	$50,000
Total Expenditures and Transfers-out	**$446,388**

Fund balance and net change	Amount
FY2023 Ending fund balance	$1,041,261
Net change for FY2023	$233,958

Account Analysis

The Deer and Bear Management Account ended FY23 with a higher fund balance ($1.04 million) than in FY22 ($807,303) due to decreases in expenditures coupled with consistent revenue. The goal is to maintain this level of balance for the short-term future, by matching forecasted revenue with annual expenditures. Maintaining a balance will allow for any unpredicted needs in deer or bear management.

Figure 9. Deer and Bear Management Account Financial Summary FY2010 to FY2027

Chart Note: Expenditure projections show the level of spending authorized in law for the current biennium and carried out through FY2027. Data for FY2010-2023 represent actual expenditures and FY2024-2027 represent projected expenditures.

Example Account Uses

Disclaimer: Many of the DNR's activities involve multiple funds. The below example activities may involve more than one fund. The list of activities is not comprehensive.

- Joined over 40 state agencies in developing the BearWise national initiative designed to provide clear, concise, and consistent messaging on how to safely coexist with wild bears. Through this initiative, participating agencies developed outreach materials to aid in the prevention of human-bear conflicts and shared these materials through area wildlife offices statewide, the DNR Information Center, county fairs, classrooms, and the State Fair.
- Continued long-term bear research via hunter-submitted tooth samples.
- Doubled the number of collared bears in Minnesota from 15 to 30, with the eventual goal of having 50 bears collared to observe cubs from birth to age of first reproduction.
- Provided technical assistance to producers and growers for bear and deer damage to agriculture.
- Performed annual deer population modelling and monitoring.

Emergency Deer Feeding and Wild Cervidae Health Management Account — Fund 2201

Purpose of the Account

This account is for emergency deer feeding and wild cervidae health management.

Sources and Uses of the Funds

Fifty cents from each deer and super-sports license is credited to the Emergency Deer Feeding and Wild Cervidae Health Management Account (2201) (M.S. 97A.075, Subd. 1d). These funds are used to support surveillance, monitoring and research of health issues that pertain to Minnesota deer, elk, and moose. From broad surveillance programs such as CWD sampling to individual cases investigations of sick moose or elk, staff collected biological samples and tested for several diseases and parasites that can impact these populations.

By statute, money in the account can only be used for:

- Emergency deer feeding and wild cervidae health management. Funds are available until expended. When the unencumbered balance in the appropriation for emergency deer feeding and wild cervidae health management exceeds $2.5 million at the end of a fiscal year, the unencumbered balance exceeding $2.5 million is canceled and available for deer and bear management programs and computerized licensing.

Financial Review

Table 6. Emergency Deer Feeding and Wild Cervidae Health Management Account Financial Activity

Beginning Balance and Adjustments	Amount
FY2023 Beginning fund balance	$1,310,327
Prior year adjustment	$24,226

Receipts	Amount
Hunting License	$336,094
Total Revenues and Transfers-in	**$336,094**

Expenditures by Appropriation	Amount
Wildlife Management	$129,793
Total Expenditures and Transfers-out	**$129,793**

Fund balance and net change	Amount
FY2023 Ending fund balance	$1,540,854
Net change for FY2023	$230,527

Account Analysis

The DNR seeks to maintain a reserve balance of $1 million in the Emergency Deer Feeding and Wild Cervidae Health Management Account to ensure the ability to meet the needs of an emergency cervid disease outbreak should one occur. This account also provides some of the funding for CWD management and response efforts, although the resources in this account are not sufficient to cover the costs of these response efforts without contributions from other funds. CWD was discovered in wild and captive deer populations in Minnesota in FY17, and the work and costs to manage the disease have increased

since then. Expenditures from this account in FY23 have maintained the fund balance at desired levels, which was possible because other funds contributed to CWD management and response throughout the FY22-23 biennium.

The DNR received various appropriations in the 2021 legislative session to broaden the base of support for management of this disease in wild deer populations in FY22-23. Appropriations from the General Fund totaled $1.6 million in FY22, $2.5 million in FY23, and $282,000 thereafter. The GFF also contributed dedicated funding to CWD response. The Operations Account provides ongoing funding of $1.7 million annually while he DNR also received one-time funding for CWD response of $750,000 annually from the Heritage Enhancement Account in FY22 and FY23. Together these appropriations provided the amount of funding needed for CWD response and allowed the Emergency Deer Feeding and Wild Cervidae Health Management Account to sustain a healthy balance.

Figure 10. Emergency Deer Feeding and Wild Cervidae Health Management Account Financial Summary FY2010 to FY2027

Chart Note: Expenditure projections show the level of spending authorized in law for the current biennium and carried out through FY2027. Data for FY2010-2023 represent actual expenditures and FY2024-2027 represent projected expenditures.

Example Account Uses

Disclaimer: Many of the DNR's activities involve multiple funds. The below examples may involve more than one fund. The list of activities is not comprehensive.

- Responded to reports of sick or dead wild deer, elk, and moose.
- Provided veterinary diagnostic lab expenses to test for disease in wild deer, elk, and moose.
- Conduct CWD surveillance efforts via lymph node collection from hunter harvested deer.
- Performed diagnostic analysis for CWD from opportunistic deer samples (such as roadkill and found dead).

Deer Management Account — Fund 2202

Purpose of the Account

This account is for habitat improvement and deer management programs.

Sources and Uses of the Funds

The amounts of $16 from each adult annual deer and super-sports license, $2 from each youth annual license, $16 from each adult annual license and $2 from each youth annual license from the Lifetime Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund (2210), established in section M.S. 97A.4742, for each license issued under section M.S. 97A.473, Subd. 4, shall be credited to the Deer Management Account (2202). (M.S. 97A.075, Subd. 1b).

By statute, money in the account can only be used for deer habitat improvement or deer management programs.

Financial Review

Table 7. Deer Management Account Financial Activity

Beginning Balance and Adjustments	Amount
FY2023 Beginning fund balance	$3,810,834
Prior year adjustment	$0

Receipts	Amount
Hunting License	$8,216,472
Refunds of Prior Year Expenditure	$0
Total Revenues and Transfers-in	**$8,216,472**

Expenditures by Appropriation	Amount
Wildlife Management	$8,998,147
Total Expenditures and Transfers-out	**$8,998,147**

Fund balance and net change	Amount
FY2023 Ending fund balance	$3,029,159
Net change for FY2023	($781,675)

Account Analysis

Revenues into this account benefited from increased outdoor recreation during the COVID-19 pandemic. Based on current trends, the DNR anticipates that revenues will resume a downward trend caused by slowing hunting license sales. The increased FY19 revenues and expenditures in Figure 11 relate to an increased allocation of deer license revenue to this account per a statutory change. This change did not increase funding for deer management, as there is a corresponding reduction to the Game and Fish Operations Fund Account (2200) in FY19.

Figure 11. Deer Management Account Financial Summary FY2010 to FY2027

Chart Note: Expenditure projections show the level of spending authorized in law for the current biennium and carried out through FY2027. Data for FY2010-2023 represent actual expenditures and FY2024-2027 represent projected expenditures.

Example Account Uses

Disclaimer: Many of the DNR's activities involve multiple funds. The below example activities may involve more than one fund. The list of activities is not comprehensive.

- Conducted fieldwork including resource assessments; prescribed fire treatments in grasslands, brushlands, and forests; prairie grassland development; forest stand improvement; winter food development; and cooperative farming.
- Developed and implemented annual deer season recommendations and regulations.
- Provided technical guidance to and developed cooperative wildlife damage management agreements with landowners in response to deer depredation.
- Hosted over 30 public engagement events to discuss deer management and activities in support of the white-tailed deer management plan.

Waterfowl Habitat Improvement Account — Fund 2203

Purpose of the Account

This account is for the improvement of waterfowl habitat and management of waterfowl populations.

Sources and Uses of the Funds

Ninety percent of the revenue from the Minnesota migratory waterfowl stamps must be credited to the Waterfowl Habitat Improvement Account (2203) and is appropriated to the DNR (M.S. 97A.075, Subd. 2). Currently, the waterfowl stamp is $7.50 (M.S. 97A.475, Subd. 5).

Per statute, money in the account can only be used for:

1. Development of wetlands and lakes in the state and designated waterfowl management lakes for maximum migratory waterfowl production including habitat evaluation, the construction of dikes, water control structures and impoundments, nest cover, rough fish barriers, acquisition of sites and facilities necessary for development and management of existing migratory waterfowl habitat and the designation of waters under section M.S. 97A.101. In addition to the expenditure items listed above, this category includes costs for related coordination and operational support.
2. Management of migratory waterfowl; examples of migratory waterfowl management expenditures include public information, census and surveys, special hunt management, and related coordination and operational support.
3. Development, restoration, maintenance, or preservation of migratory waterfowl habitat; examples of expenditures in this category include wetland maintenance, wetland restoration, food plot development, planting nesting cover, prescribed burns, and related coordination and operational support.
4. Acquisition of and access to structure sites.
5. Promotion of waterfowl habitat development and maintenance, including promotion and evaluation of government farm program benefits for waterfowl habitat.
6. Money in the account cannot be used for costs unless they are directly related to a specific parcel of land or body of water under, (1), (3), (4), or (5), or to specific management activities under (2).

Financial Review

Table 8. Waterfowl Habitat Improvement Account Financial Activity

Beginning Balance and Adjustments	Amount
FY2023 Beginning fund balance	$1,289,052
Prior year adjustment	$36,979

Receipts	Amount
Waterfowl Stamp	$548,899
Sale of Useable Equipment	$0
Total Revenues and Transfers-in	**$548,899**

Expenditures by Appropriation	Amount
Wildlife Management	$608,068
Total Expenditures and Transfers-out	**$608,068**

Fund balance and net change	Amount
FY2023 Ending fund balance	$1,266,862
Net change for FY2023	($22,190)

Account Analysis

The sale of waterfowl stamps in the 1970s averaged 133,000 per year. The average annual sale has declined every decade since then, down to an average of 75,000 in the 2010s with annual revenue during this period averaging $607,080. Annual revenue in the 2020s has fallen to $567,385. Even in the face of declining revenue, project spending did not keep pace with revenues and resulted in a growing balance from FY11 onward. The DNR is committed to increasing the investment in waterfowl as shown on the graph below. This will bring down the account balance to a healthier long-run level of $600,000.

Figure 12. Waterfowl Habitat Improvement Account Financial Summary FY2010 to FY2027

Chart Note: Expenditure projections show the level of spending authorized in law for the current biennium and carried out through FY2027. Data for FY2010-2023 represent actual expenditures and FY2024-2027 represent projected expenditures.

Example Account Uses

Disclaimer: Many of the DNR's activities involve multiple funds. The below example activities may involve more than one fund. The list of activities is not comprehensive.

- Supported the work of staff in the field to protect and improve habitat for waterfowl.
- Funded projects including wild rice management through a contract with U.S. Department of Agriculture-Wildlife Services, major renovations at the Heron Lake Dam, and management of Lake Christina.
- Continued a research project to evaluate the efficacy of different cattail management methods.

Trout and Salmon Account — Fund 2204

Purpose of the Account

This account is for the improvement of trout and salmon streams and lakes.

Sources and Uses of the Funds

Ninety percent of the revenue from trout and salmon stamps must be credited to the Trout and Salmon Account (2204) (M.S. 97A.075, Subd. 3). Currently, the trout and salmon stamp costs $10. (M.S. 97A.475, Subd. 10).

By statute, money in the account can only be used for:

1. The development, restoration, maintenance, improvement, protection, and preservation of habitat for trout and salmon in trout streams and lakes, including, but not limited to, evaluating habitat; stabilizing eroding stream banks; adding fish cover; modifying stream channels; managing vegetation to protect, shade, or reduce runoff on stream banks; and purchasing equipment to accomplish these tasks;
2. Rearing trout and salmon, including utility and service costs associated with cold-water hatchery buildings and systems; stocking trout and salmon in streams and lakes, including Lake Superior; and monitoring and evaluating stocked trout and salmon;
3. Acquiring easements and fee titles along trout waters;
4. Identifying easement and fee title areas along trout waters; and
5. Researching and conducting special management projects on trout streams, trout lakes, and Lake Superior and portions of its tributaries.

Money in the account cannot be used for:

1. Costs unless they are directly related to a specific parcel of land or body of water, to specific fish rearing activities;
2. Costs associated with supplies and equipment to implement trout and salmon management activities.

Financial Review

Table 9. Trout and Salmon Account Financial Activity

Beginning Balance and Adjustments	Amount
FY2023 Beginning fund balance	$1,729,307
Prior year adjustment	$0

Receipts	Amount
Trout Stamp	$1,107,475
Total Revenues and Transfers-in	**$1,107,475**

Expenditures by Appropriation	Amount
Fish Management	$1,169,668
Total Expenditures and Transfers-out	**$1,169,668**

Fund balance and net change	Amount
FY2023 Ending fund balance	$1,667,113
Net change for FY2023	($62,193)

Account Analysis

Trout and salmon stamp sales have stabilized following record sales in FY20 due to increased outdoor recreation during the COVID-19 pandemic. Sales in following years have receded from these record levels but remain higher than sales prior to the pandemic. Expanded trout angling opportunities in southeast Minnesota streams may also be supporting stamp sales.

The DNR has increased annual trout and salmon stamp expenditures with the goal of reducing the fund balance. However, due to the length of time it takes to initiate habitat improvements and complete trout stream easement acquisitions, the fund balance is expected to increase in the next few years.

Figure 13. Trout and Salmon Account Financial Summary FY2010 to FY2027

Chart Note: Expenditure projections show the level of spending authorized in law for the current biennium and carried out through FY2027. Data for FY2010-2023 represent actual expenditures and FY2024-2027 represent projected expenditures.

Example Account Uses

Disclaimer: Many of the DNR's activities involve multiple funds. The below example activities may involve more than one fund. The list of activities is not comprehensive.

- Secured two trout stream easements (1.6 miles of shoreline and 25.4 riparian acres) and secured three fee-title tracts (1.3 shoreline miles and 123.7 acres) for Aquatic Management Areas.
- Produced more than one million trout to improve and create fishing opportunities in a multitude of lakes and streams across the state. Trout production is funded by a combination of Trout and Salmon Stamp and Game and Fish Operations Account resources.
- Completed habitat enhancement projects on more than nine cold-water streams benefitting more than 160 stream miles.

Pheasant Habitat Improvement Account — Fund 2205

Purpose of the Account

This account is for pheasant habitat improvement.

Sources and Uses of the Funds

Ninety percent of the revenue from pheasant stamps is deposited in the Pheasant Habitat Improvement Account (2205) (M.S. 97A.075, Subd. 4). The current stamp price is $7.50. (M.S. 97A.475, Subd. 5).

By statute, money in the account can only be used for:

1. Development, restoration, and maintenance of suitable habitat for ring-necked pheasants on public and private land including the establishment of nesting cover, winter cover, and reliable food sources;
2. Reimbursement of landowners for setting aside lands for pheasant habitat;
3. Reimbursement of expenditures to provide pheasant habitat on public and private land;
4. Promotion of pheasant habitat development and maintenance, including promotion and evaluation of government farm program benefits for pheasant habitat; and
5. Acquisition of lands suitable for pheasant habitat management and public hunting.

Money in the account cannot be used for:

1. Costs that are not directly related to a specific parcel of land; or
2. Any personnel costs, except that prior to July 1, 2019, personnel can be hired to provide technical and promotional assistance for private landowners to implement conservation provisions of state and federal programs.

Financial Review

Table 10. Pheasant Habitat Improvement Account Financial Activity

Beginning Balance and Adjustments	Amount
FY2023 Beginning fund balance	$771,089
Prior year adjustment	$0

Receipts	Amount
Pheasant Stamp	$517,526
Refunds from Prior Period	$0.00
Total Revenues and Transfers-in	**$517,526**

Expenditures by Appropriation	Amount
Wildlife Management	$414,339
Total Expenditures and Transfers-out	**$414,339**

Fund balance and net change	Amount
FY2023 Ending fund balance	$874,276
Net change for FY2023	$103,187

Account Analysis

Pheasant stamps sales have been trending downward, but the decline has slowed in the last few years. The DNR plans to reduce spending in this account as a proactive strategy to offset expected lower revenue. Even with relatively high pheasant population numbers in 2023, hunter numbers are still lower than last year.

Figure 14. Pheasant Habitat Improvement Account Financial Summary FY2010 to FY2027

Chart Note: Expenditure projections show the level of spending authorized in law for the current biennium and carried out through FY2027. Data for FY2010-2023 represent actual expenditures and FY2024-2027 represent projected expenditures.

Example Account Uses

Disclaimer: Many of the DNR's activities involve multiple funds. The below example activities may involve more than one fund. The list of activities is not comprehensive.

- Conducted fieldwork including prescribed fire treatments in grasslands, grassland restoration, invasive species control, and woody plant removal.
- Conducted the August Roadside Survey for pheasants and other farmland wildlife which help the DNR estimate populations of pheasants across southern Minnesota.
- Worked with private landowners through Soil and Water Conservation Districts to enroll agricultural lands in conservation programs and easements by supporting the state's Farm Bill Assistance Program in three counties.

Wild Rice Management Account — Fund 2206

Purpose of the Account

This account is for wild rice management.

Sources and Uses of the Funds

Wild Rice license sales (M.S. 84.0911).

By statute, money in the account can only be used for management of designated public waters to improve natural wild rice production.

Financial Review

Table 11. Wild Rice Management Account Financial Activity

Beginning Balance and Adjustments	Amount
FY2023 Beginning fund balance	$63,262
Prior year adjustment	$0

Receipts	Amount
Wild Rice License	$36,141
Total Revenues and Transfers-in	**$36,141**

Expenditures by Appropriation	Amount
Wildlife Management	$38,000
Total Expenditures and Transfers-out	**$38,000**

Fund balance and net change	Amount
FY2023 Ending fund balance	$61,403
Net change for FY2023	($1,859)

Account Analysis

Wild rice license revenues fluctuate year to year depending on both the abundance of the year's wild rice crop and the accessibility of that crop to harvesters. The DNR targets annual expenditures at $38,000 per year to fund wild rice lake water level management through a cooperative agreement with United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Wildlife Services and/or private contractors.

Figure 15. Wild Rice Management Account Financial Summary FY2010 to FY2027

Chart Note: Expenditure projections show the level of spending authorized in law for the current biennium and carried out through FY2027. Data for FY2010-2023 represent actual expenditures and FY2024-2027 represent projected expenditures.

Example Account Uses

Disclaimer: Many of the DNR's activities involve multiple funds. The below example may involve more than one fund.

- Contributed to the USDA contract to maintain free-flowing outlets of wild rice lakes. Much of this work involves the removal of beaver dams. This is one of the few accounts where the "example fund uses" is comprehensive, with total funding for the USDA contract coming from Waterfowl Habitat Improvement Funds, mitigation funds, and gift funding from Ducks Unlimited.

Wildlife Acquisition Account — Fund 2207

Purpose of the Account

This account is for land acquisition for the benefit of wildlife.

Sources and Uses of the Funds

Revenue from the small game surcharge and $6.50 annually from the Lifetime Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund (2210), established in section M.S. 97A.4742, for each license issued under sections M.S. 97A.473, Subds. 3 and 5, and M.S. 97A.474, Subd. 3. (M.S. 97A.071) is credited to this account.

By statute, money in the account can only be used for:

Subd. 2a Use of Wildlife Acquisition Account (2207) money.

1. At least 50 percent must be used for land costs; and
2. The remainder can only be used for other land acquisition costs, development, and maintenance of wildlife lands, and activities under Subd. 3.

Subd. 3 Waterfowl breeding grounds in Canada.

The Wildlife Acquisition Account (2207) can be used for developing, preserving, restoring, and maintaining waterfowl breeding grounds in Canada under agreement or contract with any nonprofit organization dedicated to the construction, maintenance, and repair of projects that are acceptable to the governmental agency having jurisdiction over the land and water affected by the projects. The commissioner can execute agreements and contracts if the commissioner determines that the use of the funds will benefit the migration of waterfowl into the state.

Financial Review

Table 12. Wildlife Acquisition Account Financial Activity

Beginning Balance and Adjustments	Amount
FY2023 Beginning fund balance	$4,079,894
Prior year adjustment	$7,886

Receipts	Amount
Wildlife Acquisition Surcharge	$1,409,226
Sale of Buildings	$0
Total Revenues and Transfers-in	**$1,409,226**

Expenditures by Appropriation	Amount
Wildlife Management	$1,198,998
Total Expenditures and Transfers-out	**$1,198,998**

Fund balance and net change	Amount
FY2023 Ending fund balance	$4,298,008
Net change for FY2023	$218,114

Account Analysis

Revenues from the small game surcharge have declined slightly in recent years. However, revenue in FY23 did climb about 3.5% over FY22. Expenditures vary from year to year due to the timing of land acquisitions.

Figure 16. Wildlife Acquisition Account Financial Summary FY2010 to FY2027

Chart Note: Expenditure projections show the level of spending authorized in law for the current biennium and carried out through FY2027. Data for FY2010-2023 represent actual expenditures and FY2024-2027 represent projected expenditures.

Example Account Uses

Disclaimer: Many of the DNR's activities involve multiple funds. The below examples may involve more than one fund. The list of activities is not comprehensive.

- Provided partial funding for eight WMA acquisitions that permanently protected over 1,250 acres and made them available for public recreation.

Wild Turkey Management Account — Fund 2208

Purpose of the Account

This account is for turkey habitat management.

Sources and Uses of the Funds

$4.50 from each turkey license sold, except youth licenses under section M.S. 97A.475, Subd. 2, clause (4), and Subd. 3, clause (7), has to be credited to the Wild Turkey Management Account (2208) (M.S. 97A.075, Subd. 5).

By statute, money in the account can only be used for:

1. Development, restoration, and maintenance of suitable habitat for wild turkeys on public and private land including forest stand improvement and establishment of nesting cover, winter roost areas, and reliable food sources;
2. Acquisitions of, or easements on, critical wild turkey habitat;
3. Reimbursement of expenditures to provide wild turkey habitat on public and private land;
4. Trapping and transplanting wild turkeys; and
5. Promotion of turkey habitat development and maintenance, population surveys and monitoring, and research.

Money in the account cannot be used for:

1. Costs that are not directly related to a specific parcel of land, a specific trap and transplant project, or to specific promotional or evaluative activities, or
2. Any permanent personnel costs.

Financial Review

Table 13. Wild Turkey Management Account Financial Activity

Beginning Balance and Adjustments	Amount
FY2023 Beginning fund balance	$718,300
Prior year adjustment	$721

Receipts	Amount
Hunting Licenses	$216,473
Total Revenues and Transfers-in	**$216,473**

Expenditures by Appropriation	Amount
Wildlife Management	$146,671
Total Expenditures and Transfers-out	**$146,671**

Fund balance and net change	Amount
FY2023 Ending fund balance	$788,822
Net change for FY2023	$70,522

Account Analysis

Revenues credited to the Wild Turkey Management Account (2208) from turkey license sales have been level for over a decade. In FY20, there was a significant increase in wild turkey license sales and associated revenues. The DNR attributes this increase to changes made in eliminating the spring turkey lottery and allowing turkey hunting statewide, along with increases in outdoor participation during the COVID-19 pandemic. License sales in FY23 decreased somewhat from the FY20 peak but remained 16 percent over sales from FY19. We expect stable to slightly decreasing revenue in turkey license sales over the coming years.

Figure 17. Wild Turkey Management Account Financial Summary FY2010 to FY2027

Chart Note: Expenditure projections show the level of spending authorized in law for the current biennium and carried out through FY2027. Data for FY2010-2023 represent actual expenditures and FY2024-2027 represent projected expenditures.

Example Account Uses

Disclaimer: Many of the DNR's activities involve multiple funds. The below example activities may involve more than one fund. The list of activities is not comprehensive.

- Conducted prescribed fire treatments in brushlands and forest stands, grassland development, creation of forest openings, invasive species control, and woody plant removal.
- Worked with private landowners to enroll agricultural and forest lands in conservation programs and easements and to develop cooperative farming agreements through support of the Farm Bill Assistance Program.

Heritage Enhancement Account — Fund 2209

Creation and Purpose of the Account

Minnesota's Legislature established the Heritage Enhancement Account (2209) in the GFF in 2000. This account is for enhancement and protection of fish and wildlife resources.

Sources and Uses of the Funds

Revenue in the Heritage Enhancement Account (2209) comes from the in-lieu-of-sales tax on the sale of lottery tickets. By law, 72.43 percent of the total in lieu of sales tax receipts were deposited to accounts spent for environmental and natural resource purposes in FY23, 50 percent of which is directed to the Heritage Enhancement Account (2209) for spending on activities that improve, enhance, or protect fish and wildlife resources, including conservation, restoration, and the enhancement of land, water, and other natural resources (M.S. 297A.94).

Financial Review

Table 14. Heritage Enhancement Account Financial Activity

Beginning Balance and Adjustments	Amount
FY2023 Beginning fund balance	$15,924,038
Prior year adjustment	$197,343

Receipts	Amount
Heritage Enhancement - Lottery-In-Lieu	$18,483,630
Credit Agreement Rebate	$1,861
Refund of Prior Period Expenditures	$0
Sale of Useable Equipment	$21,594
Agency Indirect Cost Reimbursement	$0
Total Revenues and Transfers-in	**$18,507,086**

Expenditures by Appropriation	Amount
Fish and Wildlife Management	$9,088,589
Enforcement	$2,826,415
Ecological Services	$2,472,006
Forest Management	$1,421,386
Ash Tree Management	$500,000
Chronic Wasting Disease Response	$448,748
Invasive Species Grants	$410,000
No Child Left Inside	$252,740
Shooting Sports Facility Grants	$172,992
Total Expenditures	$17,592,875
Transfers-out	$0
Total Expenditures & Transfers-out	**$17,592,875**

Fund balance and net change	Amount
FY2023 Ending fund balance	$17,035,592
Net change for FY2023	$1,111,554

Description of Revenues

- **Heritage Enhancement — Lottery-In-Lieu** — Receipts collected in lieu of sales tax on lottery sales. In FY23, 50 percent of 72.43 percent of in lieu of lottery sales tax revenue were deposited into the Heritage Enhancement Account (2209) in the GFF.
- **Credit Agreement Rebates** — Rebate received from purchasing card transactions.
- **Refund of Prior Period Expenditures** — Return of prior year payments to vendors.
- **Agency Indirect Cost Reimbursement (Regional Indirect Cost Plan)** — Reimbursement for dollars that contributed to the Regional Cost Plans at the beginning of the year and then returned to the account when they were not used.

Account Analysis

Lottery revenues vary from year to year. Minnesotans increased consumption of lottery tickets slightly in FY23.

A law change in the 2023 legislative session increases the amount of sales tax receipts from 72.43 percent to 81.56 percent effective the beginning of FY24, 50 percent of which is directed to the Heritage Enhancement Account. Forecasted sales are expected to remain relatively flat for FY24 and beyond. Increased expenditures in FY23 and FY24 forward, along with flat forecasted sales, results in a slow, steady declining fund balance.

Figure 18. Heritage Enhancement Account Financial Summary FY2010 to FY2027

Chart Note: Expenditure projections show the level of spending authorized in law for the current biennium and carried out through FY2027. Data for FY2010-2023 represent actual expenditures and FY2024-2027 represent projected expenditures.

Example Account Uses

Disclaimer: Many of the DNR's activities involve multiple funds. The below example activities may involve more than one fund. The list of activities is not comprehensive.

Like the Game and Fish Operations account, use of this account includes an emphasis on activities that restore, enhance, or protect fish and wildlife resources, as well as providing technical guidance to the public, research, evaluation, and monitoring activities.

- Coordinated a statewide effort with Tribal Nations and other partners to enhance understanding of wild rice abundance and distribution. This statewide monitoring effort is now using standardized surveying procedures with a new data collection application.
- Completed lake and stream surveys to secure data necessary for the development of fish stocking and lake management plans.
- Purchased 32,800 pounds of walleye fingerlings from private producers for stocking in public lakes.
- Assisted 218 foresters, biologists, and ecologists with Ecological Classification System determinations and other questions or concerns related to forest resource habitat management.
- Mapped 97,960 acres of state forest land and WMAs by native plant community type to inform habitat management decisions using the Heritage Enhancement Account to pay for staff time.
- Submitted nineteen case studies to the University of Minnesota Sustainable Forests Education Cooperative Great Lakes Silviculture Library to share knowledge gained on forest habitat management with resource managers using Heritage Enhancement Account funds for staff time to collect and analyze field data and publish reports. Case studies document how forested native plant communities respond to silvicultural treatments, or forest management activities.
- Treated 1,283 acres in 38 invasive plant management projects on state forest lands to restore forest habitat using Heritage Enhancement Account funds for staff field work to identify and set up control projects and to pay contractors to treat the sites. The DNR also used non-GFF funding to treat an additional 61 acres.
- Surveyed over 16,272 acres of state forest land for terrestrial invasive species, locating 213 infested stands totaling 6,290 acres using the Heritage Enhancement Account to pay for contractors to complete the surveys. An additional 35 invasive species observations were made by field staff while performing other duties under non-GFF funding. These observations and survey data will be used to prioritize sites for control projects next season. Heritage Enhancement Account funds will be used to fund staff to set up control projects and pay contractors to treat the sites.
- Completed the third and final field season studying the impacts of conservation grazing on prairie chicken nesting and brood rearing survival, by looking at sites pre-grazing, grazing and post-grazing and trapping/tagging prairie chickens at nests followed by monitoring of nest and hen/brood survival.

- Contacted over 4,000 individuals and government agencies, promoting management actions on shallow lakes for optimal use by water dependent wildlife species, such as management recommendations and technical / professional guidance of management plans.
- Completed aerial moose survey in partnership with Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa and the 1854 Treaty Authority to estimate abundance, monitor, and assess changes in moose status to influence management strategies.
- Funded sixteen No Child Left Inside grant projects throughout the state that will engage 10,350 Minnesota youth in the outdoor recreation and learning. The awarded grant projects provide new opportunities for youth with limited access to the outdoors and include a variety of activities including fishing, archery, firearms safety, snowshoeing, wilderness and camping skills, winter safety, wildlife observation, and traditional ecological knowledge.
- The Minnesota Biological Survey (MBS) systematically collects, interprets, monitors, and delivers data on plant and animal distribution as well as the ecology of native plant communities and functional landscapes. The following MBS accomplishments were made with support from the Heritage Enhancement Account.
- Conducted field surveys of previously undocumented rare species and native prairies, wetlands, and forests throughout the state.
- Entered and managed native and rare species, native plant community, and habitat data in the DNR Natural Heritage Information System and delivered this information statewide through various platforms and media.
- Provided public outreach about native and rare species and plant communities, including websites, social media, presentations at local events, state, and national conferences, and answered biodiversity questions that come to the DNR Public Information Desk.

Lifetime Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund — Fund 2210

Creation and Purpose of the Account

The Lifetime Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund (2210) account was established as a fund in the state treasury by Minnesota's Legislature in 2000 (M.S. 97A.4742).

Sources and Uses of the Funds

All money received from the issuance of lifetime angling, spearing, angling and spearing, small game hunting, deer hunting, sporting, and sporting with spearing option licenses and earnings on the fund is credited to the Lifetime Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund (2210).

Money in the Lifetime Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund (2210) is invested by the State Board of Investments (SBI) to secure the maximum return consistent with the maintenance of the perpetuity of the fund. Returns on investments of the fund are also deposited in the Lifetime Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund (2210). Each year, the DNR works with Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB) to transfers from the Lifetime Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund (2210) to the Game and Fish Operations Account (2200) the amount of funding that would otherwise have been collected from annual license fees for each lifetime license.

Financial Review

Table 15. Lifetime Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund Financial Activity

Beginning Balance and Adjustments	Amount
FY2023 Beginning fund balance	$18,930,694
Prior year adjustment	$0

Receipts	Amount
Fishing Licenses	$879,966
Hunting Licenses	$947,845
Sportsman Licenses	$976,322
G-F Lifetime License Activations	($969,914)
ITC Interest Earnings	$104,892
Total Revenues and Transfers-in	**$1,939,111**

Expenditures by Appropriation	Amount
Total Expenditures and Transfers-out	**$0**

Fund balance and net change	Amount
FY2023 Ending fund balance	$20,869,805
Net change for FY2023	$1,939,111

Description of Revenues

- **Sales of Lifetime Licenses** — Hunting, fishing, small game, and sports.
- **GFF Lifetime License Activations** — Deposit correction for total amount of activations for the license year (number of activations multiplied by current license prices). Funds are transferred from the Lifetime Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund (2210) to the Game and Fish Operations Account (2200) and revenue accounts related to those licenses.
- **ITC Interest Earnings** — Interest earning on balance not invested with SBI. Per accounting rules, SBI investment income is not reflected in the fund statement.

Account Analysis

The amount of lifetime license activation transfers-out increase each year due to the growing number of lifetime license holders. The lifetime license activation costs reflect as negative revenue. The fund balance will continue to increase because of the nature of this trust account. We invest the money to receive the maximum return possible. The balance will keep increasing until the amount of the activation transfers-out exceeds the amount of new licenses sold, which should not happen until after the time period shown on this chart.

Figure 19. Lifetime Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund Financial Summary FY2010 to FY2027

Chart Note: Expenditure projections show the level of spending authorized in law for the current biennium and carried out through FY2027. Data for FY2010-2023 represent actual expenditures and FY2024-2027 represent projected expenditures.

Example Account Uses

This account does not directly fund activities. See “Sources and Uses of the Funds” for explanation.

Walleye Stamp Account — Fund 2211

Purpose of the Account

This account is for stocking walleyes purchased from the private sector in waters of the state.

Sources and Uses of the Funds

Revenue from walleye stamps must be credited to the Walleye Stamp Account (2211) and is appropriated to the commissioner only for stocking walleyes purchased from the private sector in waters of the state (M.S. 97A.075, Subd. 6).

Financial Review

Table 16. Walleye Stamp Account Financial Activity

Beginning Balance and Adjustments	Amount
FY2023 Beginning fund balance	$227,246
Prior year adjustment	$0

Receipts	Amount
Walleye Stamp	$156,000
Total Revenues and Transfers-in	**$156,000**

Expenditures by Appropriation	Amount
Fish and Wildlife Management	$145,000
Total Expenditures and Transfers-out	**$145,000**

Fund balance and net change	Amount
FY2023 Ending fund balance	$238,246
Net change for FY2023	$11,000

Account Analysis

Walleye stamp revenue increased between FY17 and FY21, then decreased by 8 percent between FY21 and FY22, and decreased by less than 2 percent from FY22 to FY23. As required by statute, walleye stamp revenue is fully dedicated to the purchase of walleye fingerlings from private producers. The state purchases a total of 40,000 pounds of walleye fingerlings annually at an approximate rate of $20.50 per pound, across two accounts. In FY23, walleye stamp funds paid for approximately 18 percent of the private walleye purchase, with the remaining balance coming from the Heritage Enhancement Account (2209). The walleye stamp account is typically spent down to near zero each year for the purchase of privately produced walleye fingerlings.

Figure 20. Walleye Stamp Account Financial Summary FY2010 to FY2027

Chart Note: Expenditure projections show the level of spending authorized in law for the current biennium and carried out through FY2027. Data for FY2010-2023 represent actual expenditures and FY2024-2027 represent projected expenditures.

Example Account Uses

Disclaimer: Many of the DNR's activities involve multiple funds. The below example may involve more than one fund.

- Purchased approximately 7,200 pounds of walleye fingerlings from private producers for stocking in public lakes.

Peace Officer Training Account — Fund 2212

Purpose of the Account

The Peace Officer Training Account (2212) was established by the Legislature in the GFF in the state treasury. Money in the Peace Officer Training Account (2212) can only be spent for peace officer training for DNR staff who are licensed under sections M.S. 626.84 to 626.863 to enforce game and fish laws, (M.S. 97A.052).

Sources and Uses of the Funds

The state assesses fines for criminal citations including but not limited to game and fish citations. Once collected, MMB distributes one percent of this revenue to this account and the remaining 99 percent to the General Fund. Most of this revenue relates to nongame and fish citations.

Money in the Peace Officer Training Account (2212) can only be spent for peace officer training for enforcement officers of the DNR.

Financial Review

Table 17. Peace Officer Training Account Financial Activity

Beginning Balance and Adjustments	Amount
FY2023 Beginning fund balance	$42,166
Prior year adjustment	$985

Receipts	Amount
General K/T Surcharge	$87,024
Credit Agreement Rebate	$124
Total Revenues and Transfers-in	**$87,148**

Expenditures by Appropriation	Amount
Enforcement	$125,715
Total Expenditures and Transfers-out	**$125,715**

Fund balance and net change	Amount
FY2023 Ending fund balance	$4,584
Net change for FY2023	($37,582)

Account Analysis

Revenues from citations increased slightly in FY23, but were below forecasted amounts, totaling $87,148 and are projected to increase nominally for FY24 forward. While anticipated expenses (based on historic appropriation levels) may drive the account into deficit, the DNR is confident it can manage actual expenses so that the technical deficits shown on the chart below do not occur.

Figure 21. Peace Officer Training Account Financial Summary FY2012 to FY2017

Chart Note: Expenditure projections show the level of spending authorized in law for the current biennium and carried out through FY2027. Data for FY2012-2023 represent actual expenditures and FY2024-2027 represent projected expenditures.

Example Account Uses

Disclaimer: Many of the DNR's activities involve multiple funds. The below example activities may involve more than one fund. The list of activities is not comprehensive.

- Covered costs for annual Peace Officer Standards and Training Board continuing education requirements. This includes firearms qualifications, defensive tactics, medical/first aid training, and emergency vehicle operations.

Wolf Management and Monitoring Account — Fund 2213

Purpose of the Account

The Wolf Management and Monitoring Account (2213) was established by Minnesota's Legislature in the GFF in the state treasury. Revenue from wolf licenses is credited to the Wolf Management and Monitoring Account (2213) and is appropriated to the commissioner only for wolf management, research, damage control, enforcement, and education.

Sources and Uses of the Funds

Wolf license application fees and licenses sales, and 50 cents from each deer and super-sports license sold are credited to this account (M.S. 97A.075, Subd. 1e and 7b).

Wolf hunting and trapping seasons and associated license sales ceased when the gray wolf hunting and trapping were prohibited on December 19, 2014, due to a federal court ruling related to the wolf's recovery status in the Great Lakes region under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA).

An amendment to Subd. 1 by Minnesota Laws 2017, chapter 93, article 2, section 70 (removal of 50 cents from deer licenses), is effective July 1 of the year following the year the wolf is delisted under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Funds are only used for:

Wolf management, research, damage control, enforcement, and education (M.S. 97A.075, Subd. 7b).

Financial Review

Table 18. Wolf Management and Monitoring Account Financial Activity

Beginning Balance and Adjustments	Amount
FY2023 Beginning fund balance	$1,360,345
Prior year adjustment	$1,915

Receipts	Amount
Wolf Hunting and Trapping Licenses	$0
Wolf Allocation	$336,094
Total Revenues and Transfers-in	**$336,094**

Expenditures by Appropriation	Amount
Fish and Wildlife Management	$268,104
Total Expenditures and Transfers-out	**$268,104**

Fund balance and net change	Amount
FY2023 Ending fund balance	$1,430,250
Net change for FY2023	$69,905

Account Analysis

Wolf account revenues declined with the halt of wolf license application fees and license sales when the federal Endangered Species Act protections were restored per court order in December 2014. Subsequent federal actions and court rulings have occurred since 2014, however wolves in Minnesota currently are listed as threatened under the Federal Endangered Species Act. The account's current source of revenue is $0.50 from each deer license. Expenditures have been below annual revenue for the last decade which has resulted in a growing account balance.

With the completion of the update to the Minnesota Wolf Management Plan and declining federal funds, the state has increased its expenditures for wolf management. In addition, Minnesota is prepared to continue to support wolf management efforts under the guidelines of the Minnesota Wolf Management Plan should wolves be delisted under the Endangered Species Act. With increased expenditures and the potential for the elimination of a revenue source, current projections show the fund declining through in FY27.

Figure 22. Wolf Management and Monitoring Account Financial Summary FY2013 to FY2027

Chart Note: Expenditure projections show the level of spending authorized in law for the current biennium and carried out through FY2027. Data for FY2013-2023 represent actual expenditures and FY2024-2027 represent projected expenditures.

Example Account Uses

Disclaimer: Many of the DNR's activities involve multiple funds. The below example activities may involve more than one fund. The list of activities is not comprehensive.

- Contracted with USDA Wildlife Services to address impacts of wolf predation on livestock and pets.
- Captured, radio-collared, and monitored wolves to develop the annual wolf population estimate and monitor the wolf population trends.

APPENDICES

Appendix A

Game and Fish Fund Statement

Appendix B

Game and Fish Fund Allocations to Hunting and Fishing Activity

Appendix C

Related Accounts

Appendix D

Permits and Licensing Data

Appendix E

Acronym Glossary

Appendix F

References

Appendix A — Game and Fish Fund Statement

Table 19. Consolidated Game and Fish Fund

Financial Activity	FY2020 Actual	FY2021 Actual	FY2022 Actual	FY2023 Actual	FY2024 Planning Est.	FY2025 Planning Est.	FY2026 Planning Est.	FY2027 Planning Est.
Balance Forward In	55,200,454	70,428,468	84,601,562	91,538,416	91,536,809	90,062,512	89,811,461	87,575,987
Prior Year Adjustment	863,226	1,237,866	867,019	1092855.51	0	0	0	0
Adjusted Balance Forward	56,063,680	71,666,334	85,468,581	92,631,271	91,536,809	90,062,512	89,811,461	87,575,987
Receipts Departmental Earnings (DE)								
Taxes	15,316,038	19,039,429	17,552,991	18,483,630	19,368,000	18,740,000	19,205,000	19,205,000
Federal Grant Fisheries (D-J)	13,269,808	14,949,929	14,933,808	15,003,313	13,100,000	13,100,000	13,100,000	13,100,000
Federal Grant Wildlife (P-R)	22,643,161	20,101,365	18,942,397	24,760,824	34,587,000	36,336,000	34,100,000	33,610,000
Federal Grants	35,912,970	35,051,293	33,876,205	39,764,137	47,687,000	49,436,000	47,200,000	46,710,000
Departmental Services	36,319,994	35,477,421	34,412,012	40,142,343	48,084,000	49,833,000	47,597,000	47,107,000
Departmental Sales	479,670	433,712	637,165	406,530	354,000	373,000	373,000	373,000
Licenses and Fees	72,239,983	73,080,717	68,480,721	69,038,266	67,715,203	67,103,364	66,514,526	65,961,684
Departmental Penalties	309,042	635,569	251,654	487,964	307,000	437,000	307,000	437,000
Investment Income	765,477	236,392	273,043	2,302,195	2,170,000	1,110,000	1,110,000	1,110,000
Fines and Surcharges	93,645	81,095	80,545	87,807	104,000	104,000	104,000	104,000
Internal Reimbursement	366,646	10.44	1,742,105	124	27,000	14,000	27,000	14,000
Sale of Property and Equipment	35,201	50,473	43,061	62,049	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
Other Revenue	63,503	44,771	17,741	2,376	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Cost Recovery/Reimbursement	22,368	10,302	16,014	19,845	20,500	20,500	21,000	21,000
All Other	581,364	186,651	1,899,466	172,201	177,500	164,500	178,000	165,000
Total Receipts	**126,011,567**	**129,089,891**	**123,507,052**	**131,033,129**	**138,175,703**	**137,760,864**	**135,284,526**	**134,358,684**
Transfers-in								
General Fund (State Aid)	1,034,711	1,119,838	998,645	1,056,090	1,279,000	1,336,000	1,400,000	1,457,000
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Transfer In	**1,034,711**	**1,119,838**	**998,645**	**1,056,090**	**1,279,000**	**1,336,000**	**1,400,000**	**1,457,000**
Total Receipts and Transfers In	**127,046,278**	**130,209,729**	**124,505,697**	**132,089,219**	**139,454,703**	**139,096,864**	**136,684,526**	**135,815,684**
Resources								
Total Resources Available	183,109,958	201,876,063	209,974,278	224,720,491	230,991,512	229,159,376	226,495,987	223,391,671

Expenditures

Financial Activity	FY2020 Actual	FY2021 Actual	FY2022 Actual	FY2023 Actual	FY2024 Planning Est.	FY2025 Planning Est.	FY2026 Planning Est.	FY2027 Planning Est.
Land and Minerals	339,474	348,526	344,000	344,000	344,000	344,000	344,000	344,000
Forest Management	1,266,178	1,246,196	1,660,175	1,921,386	1,617,000	1,617,000	1,617,000	1,617,000
Parks & Trails	1,128,947	3,149,191	1,603,937	2,694,199	2,300,000	2,300,000	2,300,000	2,300,000
Fish & Wildlife Mgmt	73,096,045	76,186,816	73,849,209	85,776,419	90,940,000	90,429,915	90,063,000	90,085,000
Fish & Wildlife Mgmt, Licensing	3,242,204	3,294,491	2,964,108	2,951,270	3,072,000	3,007,000	2,950,000	2,890,000
Ecological and Water Resources Mgmt	5,208,578	5,621,496	5,138,125	5,681,216	7,824,000	5,824,000	5,824,000	5,824,000
Enforcement	25,973,528	24,008,992	30,348,321	31,353,315	32,573,000	33,573,000	33,573,000	33,573,000
Operations Support	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Statewide Indirect Costs	721,047	1,019,556	875,138	821,819	875,000	875,000	875,000	875,000
Subtotal Expenditures	**110,976,001**	**114,875,264**	**116,783,013**	**131,543,624**	**139,545,000**	**137,969,915**	**137,546,000**	**137,508,000**

Transfers-out

Fund 2113 FMIA, Forestry certification (18J)	331,969	316,911	225,643	223,396	223,000	223,000	223,000	223,000
Fund 2001 MNIT Odyssey Fund	0	537,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fund 2112 Invasive Species Account (18M)	1,170,343	1,308,990	1,184,736	1,173,520	940,000	940,000	940,000	940,000
Fund 2000 Venison Donations (200)	96,134	115,256	115,240	112,727	104,000	101,000	99,000	96,000
Fund 2000 Walk In Access Program	107,043	121,080	127,230	130,415	117,000	114,000	112,000	109,000
Total Transfer Out	**1,705,489**	**2,399,237**	**1,652,849**	**1,640,058**	**1,384,000**	**1,378,000**	**1,374,000**	**1,368,000**

Funds

Total Expenditures and Transfers-out	**112,681,490**	**117,274,501**	**118,435,862**	**133,183,682**	**140,929,000**	**139,347,915**	**138,920,000**	**138,876,000**
Fund Balance	70,428,468	84,601,562	91,538,416	91,536,809	90,062,512	89,811,461	87,575,987	84,515,671
Less Ded. Appr. and Funds (Appropid R296237, 7201, 7204, Funds 2201-2213)	34,025,758	43,072,361	52,811,126	55,984,290	53,288,496	52,701,750	52,819,882	52,776,677
Available Fund Balance	36,402,710	41,529,201	38,727,290	35,552,519	36,774,015	37,109,711	34,756,105	31,738,993

Table 20. 2200 Game and Fish (Operations), Legal Citation: M.S. 97A.055, Subd. 1

Financial Activity	FY2020 Actual	FY2021 Actual	FY2022 Actual	FY2023 Actual	FY2024 Planning Est.	FY2025 Planning Est.	FY2026 Planning Est.	FY2027 Planning Est.
Balance Forward In	26,815,277	37,327,605	42,780,147	40,474,558	37,390,573	38,901,546	39,573,691	37,597,508
Prior Year Adjustment	726,956	602,219	725,437	822,801	0	0	0	0
Adjusted Balance Forward	27,542,233	37,929,824	43,505,584	41,297,359	37,390,573	38,901,546	39,573,691	37,597,508
Receipts Departmental Earnings (DE)								
Non-Ferrous Metallic Minerals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Peat Royalties	0	0	0	0	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
M Leases Nonmag Taconite	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Timber Sales	438,737	344,707	545,174	308,087	281,000	300,000	300,000	300,000
Timber Sales Interest- Penalty	80.15	10.82	33.44	289.72	0	0	0	0
Resource Mgmt Access Permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
License Credit Card Serv Charge	-22,315	-22,531	-29,915	-38,430	-38,000	-38,000	-38,000	-38,000
Easements on DNR Lands	21,007	49,538	8,268	13,102	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Water Cross Lic on DNR Land	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Leasing of DNR Lands	208,747	235,113	389,236	258,856	271,000	271,000	271,000	271,000
Sale of Gravel, Sand, Salt	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Land Earnings Sale of Crops	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Damage Costs	0	1,151	2.11	239	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Application Fees	107,441	112,678	117,057	117,542	119,000	121,000	123,000	125,000
License Issuing Fee /ELS	3,330,098	3,408,396	3,201,865	3,204,989	3,109,000	3,085,000	3,062,000	3,040,000
License Issuing Fee /ELS from Lifetime License Sales	63,603	67,531	70,214	72,091	77,301	80,274	83,247	86,146
Game & Fish Commercial License	327,702	342,095	321,619	321,684	303,000	300,000	294,000	289,000
Fishing Licenses	32,506,109	31,092,089	27,965,258	28,648,032	28,640,000	28,295,000	27,950,000	27,620,000
Fishing Licenses from Lifetime License Sales	220,931	234,650	241,157	245,429	263,164	273,286	283,408	293,276
Hunting Licenses	13,590,661	14,710,414	14,517,959	14,331,219	14,270,000	14,250,000	14,235,000	14,230,000
Hunting Licenses from Lifetime License Sales	125,271	131,737	140,032	149,231	160,014	166,169	172,323	178,324
Sports Licenses	5,252,967	4,693,498	4,280,763	4,276,047	4,225,000	4,178,000	4,129,000	4,081,000
Sports Licenses from Lifetime License Sales	265,042	281,416	284,677	289,103	309,994	321,917	333,840	345,464
Waterfowl Stamp	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DNR Sale of Fish/Eggs	495	34,442	52,050	62,065	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000
Wild Rice Harvest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Game & Fish Federal D-J (Fisheries)	13,269,808	14,949,929	14,933,808	15,003,313	13,100,000	13,100,000	13,100,000	13,100,000
Game & Fish Federal P-R (Wildlife)	22,643,161	20,101,365	18,942,397	24,760,824	34,587,000	36,336,000	34,100,000	33,610,000
Game and Fish Misc	80,964	23,693	19,198	8,149	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
Turkey Stamp	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Adult Hunter Education	2,753	478.75	781.43	955	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Firearm Safety Training	115,868	139,837	148,238	135,574	133,000	133,000	133,000	133,000
Fines Game & Fish	212,356	226,151	175,553	189,516	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000
Fine Game & Fish Surcharge	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forfeits Game & Fish	4,239	312,771	8,111	174,018	5,000	135,000	5000	135000
DNR Restitution	91,867	94,791	67,707	123,790	101,000	101,000	101,000	101,000

Receipts Departmental Earnings (DE) continued...

Financial Activity	FY2020 Actual	FY2021 Actual	FY2022 Actual	FY2023 Actual	FY2024 Planning Est.	FY2025 Planning Est.	FY2026 Planning Est.	FY2027 Planning Est.
Pelting Fees	0	0	150	228	0	0	0	0
Trespass Civil citations	500	1,846	250	350	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Deposit Clearance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Late Charges on Leasing DNR Land	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aeration System Permit	50,500	51,250	47,500	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
Hunting Surcharge	203,177	236,336	242,470	243,142	243,000	243,000	244,000	244,000
Fishing Surcharge	1,170,343	1,308,990	1,184,736	1,173,520	1,186,000	1,186,000	1,186,000	1,186,000
Fishing Contests Permit	42,420	34,999	52,660	53,220	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
Land Crossing Lic on DNR Land	12,582	15,287	10,858	34,246	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
Super Sports R N	369,423	408,180	444,950	469,718	469,000	465,000	460,000	455,000
Subtotal Departmental Earnings	**94,706,538**	**93,622,836**	**88,384,817**	**94,680,138**	**102,208,473**	**103,696,645**	**100,921,817**	**100,179,210**
Investments Earnings								
ITC Interest Earnings	759,096	233,417	266,439	2,196,024	2,070,000	1,050,000	1,050,000	1,050,000
Dividends on Stock	0	0	0	1,279	0	0	0	0
Other Revenue (OP)								
Restitutions	0	0	0	782.94	0	0	0	0
Settlements	0	41,068	0	0	0	0	0	0
General K/T Surcharge (G9T)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
All Other Reimbursements - External	0	104.26	2,135	0	0	0	0	0
Credit Agreement Rebate	20,047	8,739	11,819	17,984	18,500	18,500	19,000	19,000
Sale of Useable Equipment	25,705	22,570	35,802	38,098	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
Sale of Salvage, Scrap, Etc.	0	0	474.4	2357.1	0	0	0	0
All Other Reimbursements - Internal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Agency Indirect Cost Non General Fund (Fed Indirect)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Revenue	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Refunds of Prior Year Expenditures	63,120	3,703	17,065	2,366	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Agency Indirect Cost Reimb (Regional Indirect Cost Plan)	251,549	0	1,195,793	0	14,000	14,000	14,000	14,000
Cash Overages	8.95	0	0	10	0	0	0	0
Subtotal Other Revenue	360,430	76,184	1,263,089	61,598	58,500	58,500	59,000	59,000
Total Receipts	**95,826,065**	**93,932,437**	**89,914,344**	**96,939,039**	**104,336,973**	**104,805,145**	**102,030,817**	**101,288,210**
Transfers-in								
From General Fund (Police State Aid)	1,034,711	1,119,838	998,645	1,056,090	1,279,000	1,336,000	1,400,000	1,457,000
From Federal Fund 3000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Transfers-in	**1,034,711**	**1,119,838**	**998,645**	**1,056,090**	**1,279,000**	**1,336,000**	**1,400,000**	**1,457,000**
Total Receipts and Transfers-in	**96,860,776**	**95,052,275**	**90,912,989**	**97,995,129**	**105,615,973**	**106,141,145**	**103,430,817**	**102,745,210**
Resources								
Total Resources Available	124,403,008	132,982,100	134,418,574	139,292,488	143,006,546	145,042,691	143,004,508	140,342,718

Expenditures

Financial Activity	FY2020 Actual	FY2021 Actual	FY2022 Actual	FY2023 Actual	FY2024 Planning Est.	FY2025 Planning Est.	FY2026 Planning Est.	FY2027 Planning Est.
Land and Minerals (R291002)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lands Records Management System (R291017 & R291009)	339,474	348,526	344,000	344,000	344,000	344,000	344,000	344,000
Parks & Trails, Water Access (R294008)	1,128,947	3,149,191	1,603,937	2,694,199	2,300,000	2,300,000	2,300,000	2,300,000
Fish & Wildlife Management (R296002)	51,895,147	53,119,684	52,662,698	61,341,915	62,245,000	62,680,000	62,680,000	62,680,000
Grey Wolf Mgmt (R296040)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shooting Sports Facilities Grants (R296406 & 6411)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Public Grazing Program (R296222) FY15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fish Virus Surveillance (R296048)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Emergency Disease Response R296193	655,312	2,190,339	1,405,494	958,259	1,675,000	1,675,000	1,675,000	1,675,000
School & Tribal Grants R296424	292,634	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PRDJ Project Match	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fish & Wildlife Mgmt, Licensing (R296056)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
License Center / ELS (R296237)	3,242,204	3,246,491	2,889,108	2,901,270	3,008,000	2,943,000	2,885,000	2,824,000
Ecological and Water Resources Mgmt (R292005)	2,671,151	2,790,860	2,603,458	2,799,210	2,816,000	2,816,000	2,816,000	2,816,000
Enforcement (R297006 & R297051) (R297077, R297087 supp)	24,218,544	22,250,175	28,662,039	28,056,038	29,144,000	30,144,000	30,144,000	30,144,000
Enf Salary Supp (R297077, R297087)	0	0	1,081,072	0	0	0	0	0
Ice Safety Program R297056	5,544	5,643	24,438	153,251	176,000	176,000	176,000	176,000
Outreach & Educ on 84.0896-Prohibited Animal Parts	0	60,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
Safety Training & Hunter Educ Fees (R297201, R297204)	199,912	159,251	139,784	191,897	138,000	138,000	138,000	138,000
Advanced Hunter Ed (R297030)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enforcement Aviation Services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ops Support (R298002)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Statewide Indirect Costs (R290228)	721,047	1,019,556	875,138	821,819	875,000	875,000	875,000	875,000
Subtotal Expenditures	**85,369,914**	**88,339,715**	**92,291,166**	**100,261,858**	**102,721,000**	**104,091,000**	**104,033,000**	**103,972,000**

Transfers-out

Financial Activity	FY2020 Actual	FY2021 Actual	FY2022 Actual	FY2023 Actual	FY2024 Planning Est.	FY2025 Planning Est.	FY2026 Planning Est.	FY2027 Planning Est.
Fund 2113 Forestry certification (18J) (290284)	331,969	316,911	225,643	223,396	223,000	223,000	223,000	223,000
Fund 2112 Invasive Species (R296230) from NR Fishing Surchg (R292206)	1,170,343	1,308,990	1,184,736	1,173,520	940,000	940,000	940,000	940,000
Fund 236 Wild Rice Management Account	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fund 2112 Invasive Species Account (18M)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fund 2000 Venison Donation Surcharge	96,134	115,256	115,240	112,727	104,000	101,000	99,000	96,000
Fund 2000 Walk In Access Program	107,043	121,080	127,230	130,415	117,000	114,000	112,000	109,000
Total Transfers-out:	**1,705,489**	**1,862,237**	**1,652,849**	**1,640,058**	**1,384,000**	**1,378,000**	**1,374,000**	**1,368,000**

Funds

Total Expenditures and Transfers-out	**87,075,403**	**90,201,952**	**93,944,015**	**101,901,916**	**104,105,000**	**105,469,000**	**105,407,000**	**105,340,000**
Fund Balance	37,327,605	42,780,147	40,474,558	37,390,573	38,901,546	39,573,691	37,597,508	35,002,718
Less Dedicated Approps: R296222, R296237, R297201, R297204	924,895	1,250,946	1,747,268	1,838,054	2,127,530	2,463,980	2,841,403	3,263,725
Fund Balance Less Dedicated Approps.	36,402,710	41,529,201	38,727,290	35,552,519	36,774,015	37,109,711	34,756,105	31,738,993

Table 21. 2201 Deer and Bear Management Account/Computerized Licensing (231) (Statutory), Legal Citation: M.S. 97A.075, Subd. 1 (c)

Financial Activity	FY2020 Actual	FY2021 Actual	FY2022 Actual	FY2023 Actual	FY2024 Planning Est.	FY2025 Planning Est.	FY2026 Planning Est.	FY2027 Planning Est.
Balance Forward In	485,632	493,403	612,419	807,303	1,041,261	1,056,029	1,069,365	1,079,269
Prior Year Adjustment	46.13	345.95	0	0	0	0	0	0
Adjusted Balance Forward	485,679	493,749	612,419	807,303	1,041,261	1,056,029	1,069,365	1,079,269
Receipts								
Hunting License	590,320	646,213	641,802	629,079	616,000	612,000	609,000	606,000
Hunting License from Lifetime License Sales	7,257	7,839	530	591	634	658	683	707
License Issuing Fee	49,460	52,917	38,689	37,494	50,000	51,000	51,000	52,000
License Issuing Fee From Lifetime Licenses	617	679	12,714	13,182	14,134	14,678	15,221	15,751
Credit Agreement Rebate	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Refunds of Prior Year Expd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Receipts	**647,653**	**707,648**	**693,735**	**680,346**	**680,768**	**678,336**	**675,904**	**674,458**
Resources								
Total Resources Available	1,133,332	1,201,397	1,306,154	1,487,649	1,722,029	1,734,365	1,745,269	1,753,727
Expenditures								
Wildlife Management (R296023)	639,928	540,979	423,850	396,388	602,000	601,000	601,000	601,000
License Center (R296057)	0	48,000	75,000	50,000	64,000	64,000	65,000	66,000
Total Expenditures	**639,928**	**588,979**	**498,850**	**446,388**	**666,000**	**665,000**	**666,000**	**667,000**
Funds								
Fund Balance without Appropriation R296213 (D01)	493,403	612,419	807,303	1,041,261	1,056,029	1,069,365	1,079,269	1,086,727

Table 22. APPROPRIATION R296213 (D01) (Statutory), Emergency Deer Feeding and Wild Cervidae Health Management Account

Financial Activity	Financial Activity	Financial Activity	Financial Activity	Financial Activity	Financial Activity	Financial Activity	Financial Activity	Financial Activity
Balance Forward In	810,178	756,710	1,060,957	1,310,327	1,540,853	1,470,170	1,398,500	1,324,841
Prior Year Adjustment	26,068	60,670	0	24225.66	0	0	0	0
Adjusted Balance Forward	836,246	817,380	1,060,957	1,334,552	1,540,853	1,470,170	1,398,500	1,324,841
Receipts								
Hunting License	316,339	345,554	342,245	335,798	329,000	327,000	326,000	325,000
Hunting License from Lifetime License Sales	3,937	3,920	265	295.6666667	317.0315444	329.2250653	341.4185863	353.3072692
Refunds of Prior Year Expd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Receipts	**320,276**	**349,474**	**342,510**	**336,094**	**329,317**	**327,329**	**326,341**	**325,353**
Resources								
Total Resources Available	1,156,522	1,166,854	1,403,467	1,670,646	1,870,170	1,797,500	1,724,841	1,650,194
Expenditures								
Wildlife Management (R296213)	349,812	105,897	93,140	129,793	400,000	399,000	601,000	601,000
Adopt A Dumpster for CWD Areas	50,000	0	0	0	0	0	65,000	66,000
Total Expenditures	**399,812**	**105,897**	**93,140**	**129,793**	**400,000**	**399,000**	**666,000**	**667,000**
Approp. R296213 (D01) Balance								
Adjusted Balance Forward	1,321,924	1,311,129	1,673,375	2,141,856	2,582,115	2,526,200	2,467,865	2,404,111
Total Receipts	**967,929**	**1,057,122**	**1,036,245**	**1,016,440**	**1,010,085**	**1,005,665**	**1,002,245**	**999,811**
Total Expenditures	**1,039,740**	**694,876**	**591,990**	**576,181**	**1,066,000**	**1,064,000**	**1,066,000**	**1,067,000**
Funds								
Fund Balance: Including Appropriation R296213 (D01)	1,250,113	1,673,375	2,117,630	2,582,115	2,526,200	2,467,865	2,404,111	2,336,922

Table 23. 2202 Deer Habitat Improvement Account (232) Legal Citation: M.S. 97A.075, Subd. 1 (b)

Financial Activity	FY2020 Actual	FY2021 Actual	FY2022 Actual	FY2023 Actual	FY2024 Planning Est.	FY2025 Planning Est.	FY2026 Planning Est.	FY2027 Planning Est.
Balance Forward In	1,368,698	1,648,898	2,625,905	3,810,834	3,029,160	2,650,752	2,232,021	1,779,966
Prior Year Adjustment	127.68	38,473	8,079	0	0	0	0	0
Adjusted Balance Forward	1,368,826	1,687,371	2,633,984	3,810,834	3,029,160	2,650,752	2,232,021	1,779,966
Receipts								
Hunting License	8,026,582	8,486,858	8,267,062	8,078,826	8,020,000	7,974,000	7,935,000	7,902,000
Hunting License from Lifetime License Sales	117,346	123,166	132,966	137,646	147,592	153,269	158,946	164,480
Credit Agreement Rebate	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Refunds of Prior Year Expd	0	0	43.3	0	0	0	0	0
Total Receipts	**8,143,928**	**8,610,024**	**8,400,071**	**8,216,472**	**8,167,592**	**8,127,269**	**8,093,946**	**8,066,480**
Resources								
Total Resources Available	9,512,754	10,297,395	11,034,056	12,027,306	11,196,752	10,778,021	10,325,966	9,846,447
Expenditures								
Wildlife Management (R296024) - Statutory	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wildlife Management - Direct Approp (R296197)	7,863,857	7,671,490	7,223,222	8,998,147	8,546,000	8,546,000	8,546,000	8,546,000
Total Expenditures	**7,863,857**	**7,671,490**	**7,223,222**	**8,998,147**	**8,546,000**	**8,546,000**	**8,546,000**	**8,546,000**
Funds								
Fund Balance	1,648,898	2,625,905	3,810,834	3,029,160	2,650,752	2,232,021	1,779,966	1,300,447

Table 24. 2203 Waterfowl Habitat Improvement Account (Statutory), Legal Citation: M.S. 97A.075, Subd. 2

Financial Activity	FY2020 Actual	FY2021 Actual	FY2022 Actual	FY2023 Actual	FY2024 Planning Est.	FY2025 Planning Est.	FY2026 Planning Est.	FY2027 Planning Est.
Balance Forward In	967,549	958,102	1,106,680	1,289,052	1,266,862	1,157,862	1,044,862	926,862
Prior Year Adjustment	13,335	301,177	10,935	36979.08	0	0	0	0
Adjusted Balance Forward	980,884	1,259,279	1,117,616	1,326,031	1,266,862	1,157,862	1,044,862	926,862
Receipts								
Waterfowl Stamp	557,666	600,751	562,576	548,899	541,000	537,000	532,000	528,000
Sale of Useable Equipment	0	260	0	0	0	0	0	0
Credit Agreement Rebate	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Refunds of Prior Year Expd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Receipts	**557,666**	**601,011**	**562,576**	**548,899**	**541,000**	**537,000**	**532,000**	**528,000**
Resources								
Total Resources Available	1,538,550	1,860,290	1,680,192	1,874,930	1,807,862	1,694,862	1,576,862	1,454,862
Expenditures								
Wildlife Management (R296025)	580,448	753,610	391,140	608,068	650,000	650,000	650,000	651,000
Funds								
Fund Balance	958,102	1,106,680	1,289,052	1,266,862	1,157,862	1,044,862	926,862	803,862

Table 25. 2204 Trout and Salmon Management Account (Statutory), Legal Citation: M.S. 97A.075, Subd. 3

Financial Activity	FY2020 Actual	FY2021 Actual	FY2022 Actual	FY2023 Actual	FY2024 Planning Est.	FY2025 Planning Est.	FY2026 Planning Est.	FY2027 Planning Est.
Balance Forward In	963,903	1,269,334	1,608,315	1,729,307	1,667,113	1,573,113	1,579,113	1,583,113
Prior Year Adjustment	19,962	5,982	0	0	0	0	0	0
Adjusted Balance Forward	983,865	1,275,316	1,608,315	1,729,307	1,667,113	1,573,113	1,579,113	1,583,113
Receipts								
Trout Stamp	1,228,056	1,248,167	1,105,046	1,107,475	1,106,000	1,106,000	1,105,000	1,105,000
Credit Agreement Rebate	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Refunds of Prior Year Expd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Receipts	**1,228,056**	**1,248,167**	**1,105,046**	**1,107,475**	**1,106,000**	**1,106,000**	**1,105,000**	**1,105,000**
Resources								
Total Resources Available	2,211,921	2,523,483	2,713,361	2,836,782	2,773,113	2,679,113	2,684,113	2,688,113
Expenditures								
Fish Management (R296003)	942,587	915,168	984,055	1,169,668	1,200,000	1,100,000	1,101,000	1,100,000
Funds								
Fund Balance	1,269,334	1,608,315	1,729,307	1,667,113	1,573,113	1,579,113	1,583,113	1,588,113

Table 26. 2205 Pheasant Habitat Improvement Account (235) (Statutory), Legal Citation: M.S. 97A.075, Subd. 4

Financial Activity	FY2020 Actual	FY2021 Actual	FY2022 Actual	FY2023 Actual	FY2024 Planning Est.	FY2025 Planning Est.	FY2026 Planning Est.	FY2027 Planning Est.
Balance Forward In	259,540	399,279	601,482	771,089	874,277	885,277	892,277	895,277
Prior Year Adjustment	5,725	4,532	2,178	0	0	0	0	0
Adjusted Balance Forward	265,265	403,811	603,660	771,089	874,277	885,277	892,277	895,277
Receipts								
Pheasant Stamp	478,097	558,083	520,320	517,526	511,000	507,000	503,000	499,000
Credit Agreement Rebate	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Refunds of Prior Year Expd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Receipts	**478,097**	**558,083**	**520,320**	**517,526**	**511,000**	**507,000**	**503,000**	**499,000**
Resources								
Total Resources Available	743,363	961,893	1,123,980	1,288,615	1,385,277	1,392,277	1,395,277	1,394,277
Expenditures								
Wildlife Management (R296026)	344,084	360,411	352,891	414,339	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
Funds								
Fund Balance	399,279	601,482	771,089	874,277	885,277	892,277	895,277	894,277

Table 27. 2206 Wild Rice Management Account (236), Legal Citation: M.S. 84.0911, Subd. 1

Financial Activity	FY2020 Actual	FY2021 Actual	FY2022 Actual	FY2023 Actual	FY2024 Planning Est.	FY2025 Planning Est.	FY2026 Planning Est.	FY2027 Planning Est.
Balance Forward In	63,028	25,059	61,323	63,262	61,403	51,403	42,403	36,403
Prior Year Adjustment	1,594	40,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
Adjusted Balance Forward	64,621	65,059	61,323	63,262	61,403	51,403	42,403	36,403
Receipts								
Wild Rice License	40,438	53,412	39,939	36,141	36,000	36,000	36,000	36,000
Resources								
Total Resources Available	105,059	118,471	101,262	99,403	97,403	87,403	78,403	72,403
Expenditures								
Wildlife Management (R296211)	80,000	57,148	38,000	38,000	46,000	45,000	42,000	42,000
Funds								
Fund Balance	25,059	61,323	63,262	61,403	51,403	42,403	36,403	30,403

Table 28. 2207 Wildlife Acquisition Account (237) (Statutory), Legal Citation: M.S. 97A.071, Subd. 1

Financial Activity	FY2020 Actual	FY2021 Actual	FY2022 Actual	FY2023 Actual	FY2024 Planning Est.	FY2025 Planning Est.	FY2026 Planning Est.	FY2027 Planning Est.
Balance Forward In	2,408,411	2,732,696	3,515,812	4,079,894	4,298,008	4,316,031	4,350,595	4,395,697
Prior Year Adjustment	4,635	457.97	4,191	7886	0	0	0	0
Adjusted Balance Forward	2,413,046	2,733,154	3,520,003	4,087,780	4,298,008	4,316,031	4,350,595	4,395,697
Receipts								
Wildlife Acquisition Surcharge	1,408,503	1,431,641	1,334,830	1,347,651	1,338,000	1,329,000	1,319,000	1,310,000
Wildlife Acq Surcharge from Lifetime License Sales	56,212	59,605	60,541	61,575	66,024	68,563	71,103	73,579
Sale of Buildings	0	5,194	0	0	0	0	0	0
Credit Agreement Rebate	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Refunds of Prior Year Expd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Receipts	**1,464,715**	**1,496,440**	**1,395,371**	**1,409,226**	**1,404,024**	**1,397,563**	**1,390,103**	**1,383,579**
Resources								
Total Resources Available	3,877,761	4,229,593	4,915,375	5,497,006	5,702,031	5,713,595	5,740,697	5,779,276
Expenditures								
Wildlife Management (R296030, R296022)	1,145,065	713,781	835,481	1,198,998	1,386,000	1,363,000	1,345,000	1,368,000
Funds								
Fund Balance	2,732,696	3,515,812	4,079,894	4,298,008	4,316,031	4,350,595	4,395,697	4,411,276

Table 29. 2208 Wild Turkey Management Account (238) (Statutory), Legal Citation: M.S. 97A.075, Subd. 5

Financial Activity	FY2020 Actual	FY2021 Actual	FY2022 Actual	FY2023 Actual	FY2024 Planning Est.	FY2025 Planning Est.	FY2026 Planning Est.	FY2027 Planning Est.
Balance Forward In	363,030	489,613	634,432	718,300	788,822	755,822	722,822	689,822
Prior Year Adjustment	29.9	143.67	2	720.84	0	0	0	0
Adjusted Balance Forward	363,060	489,756	634,434	719,021	788,822	755,822	722,822	689,822
Receipts								
Hunting Licenses	242,695	233,874	220,262	216,473	217,000	217,000	217,000	217,000
Turkey Stamp	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Credit Agreement Rebate	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Refunds of Prior Year Expd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Receipts	**242,695**	**233,874**	**220,262**	**216,473**	**217,000**	**217,000**	**217,000**	**217,000**
Transfers-in								
From Fund 230	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Resources								
Total Resources Available	605,755	723,630	854,695	935,494	1,005,822	972,822	939,822	906,822
Expenditures								
Wildlife Management (R296028)	116,143	89,198	136,395	146,671	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000
Funds								
Fund Balance	489,613	634,432	718,300	788,822	755,822	722,822	689,822	656,822

Table 30. 2209 Heritage Enhancement Account (239), Legal Citation: M.S. 297A.94 (e) (1)

Financial Activity	FY2020 Actual	FY2021 Actual	FY2022 Actual	FY2023 Actual	FY2024 Planning Est.	FY2025 Planning Est.	FY2026 Planning Est.	FY2027 Planning Est.
Balance Forward In	4,718,574	7,154,371	11,084,760	15,924,038	17,035,592	13,879,592	12,899,677	12,722,677
Prior Year Adjustment	63,674	165,700	104,573	197343.31	0	0	0	0
Adjusted Balance Forward	4,782,248	7,320,071	11,189,333	16,121,381	17,035,592	13,879,592	12,899,677	12,722,677
Receipts								
Heritage Enhancement	15,316,038	19,039,429	17,552,991	18,483,630	19,368,000	18,740,000	19,205,000	19,205,000
Credit Agreement Rebate	2,321	1,458	2,060	1,861	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Refunds of Prior Year Expd	374.02	0	632.28	0	0	0	0	0
Sale of Useable Equipment	9,496	22,449	6,785	21,594	0	0	0	0
Agency Indirect Cost Reimb (Regional Indirect Cost Plan)	115,081	0	546,193	0	13,000	0	13,000	0
Total Receipts	**15,443,310**	**19,063,336**	**18,108,661**	**18,507,086**	**19,383,000**	**18,742,000**	**19,220,000**	**19,207,000**
Resources								
Total Resources Available	20,225,558	26,383,407	29,297,994	34,628,467	36,418,592	32,621,592	32,119,677	31,929,677
Expenditures								
Forest Management ECS (R293002)	1,266,178	1,246,196	1,160,367	1,421,386	1,617,000	1,617,000	1,617,000	1,617,000
For - Ash Tree Management (R293414)	0	0	499,808	500,000	0	0	0	0
Fish & Wildlife Mgmt, (R296004)	7,480,516	9,136,924	7,953,580	9,088,589	11,158,000	11,158,000	11,158,000	11,158,000
Shooting Sports Facilities (R296042 & R296410)	0	0	0	0	0	24,915	0	0
Shooting Sports Facilities Laws of 2019 - R296426	0	99,752	0	0	0	0	0	0
World Class Shooting Range R296171	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lead Shot Study R296172	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Expenditures continued...

Financial Activity	FY2020 Actual	FY2021 Actual	FY2022 Actual	FY2023 Actual	FY2024 Planning Est.	FY2025 Planning Est.	FY2026 Planning Est.	FY2027 Planning Est.
Emergency Disease Outbreak Response Planning	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Prairie Wetlands (R296039)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HS Fishing Leagues & HS Fishing curriculum grants R296425	75,604	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FAW No Child Left Inside HE R296K02	250,232	0	250,000	252,740	500000	500000	500000	500000
FAW Sustaining MN DNR for CWD R296K23	0	0	425,000	448,748	0	0	0	0
FAW Shooting Sports Facility Grants R296K24, R296K39	0	0	222,579	172,992	300000	300000	0	0
FAW Neonicotinoid Study R296K62	0	0	0	0	767000	0	0	0
FAW Investments in Fishing R296K63, R296K66	0	0	0	0	209000	134000	134000	134000
Ecological Services (R292006,R292022)	2,027,427	2,320,636	2,124,667	2,472,006	2,598,000	2,598,000	2,598,000	2,598,000
Invasive Species Grants - R292411, R292K11	510,000	510,000	410,000	410,000	2,410,000	410,000	410,000	410,000
Enforcement (R297007, R297010, R297046, R297052)	1,461,229	1,448,139	327,955	2,826,415	2,980,000	2,980,000	2,980,000	2,980,000
Operations Support - Southeast Asian Outreach	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Expenditures	**13,071,187**	**14,761,646**	**13,373,956**	**17,592,875**	**22,539,000**	**19,721,915**	**19,397,000**	**19,397,000**

Transfers-out

Fund 2001 MNIT Odyssey Fund	0	537,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Transfers-out:	**0**	**537,000**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**

Funds

Fund Balance	7,154,371	11,084,760	15,924,038	17,035,592	13,879,592	12,899,677	12,722,677	12,532,677

Table 31. 2210 Lifetime Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund (23A), Legal Citation: M.S. 97A.4742, Subd. 1

Financial Activity	FY2020 Actual	FY2021 Actual	FY2022 Actual	FY2023 Actual	FY2024 Planning Est.	FY2025 Planning Est.	FY2026 Planning Est.	FY2027 Planning Est.
Balance Forward In	14,620,337	15,673,932	17,307,807	18,930,694	20,869,805	21,739,805	22,429,805	22,996,805
Prior Year Adjustment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Adjusted Balance Forward	14,620,337	15,673,932	17,307,807	18,930,694	20,869,805	21,739,805	22,429,805	22,996,805
Receipts								
Fishing License (Lifetime)	611,801	770,839	777,970	879,966	573,000	560,000	544,000	529,000
Hunting License (Lifetime)	597,299	833,910	860,969	947,845	604,000	567,000	553,000	534,000
Sportsman License (Lifetime)	702,868	941,464	925,607	976,322	633,000	583,000	530,000	479,000
G-F Lifetime License Activation	-864,754	-915,313	-948,263	-969,914	-1,040,000	-1,080,000	-1,120,000	-1,159,000
ITC Interest Earnings	6,381	2,975	6,604	104,892	100,000	60,000	60,000	60,000
Total Receipts	**1,053,595**	**1,633,875**	**1,622,887**	**1,939,111**	**870,000**	**690,000**	**567,000**	**443,000**
Resources								
Total Resources Available	15,673,932	17,307,807	18,930,694	20,869,805	21,739,805	22,429,805	22,996,805	23,439,805
Deposit Correction to:								
Fund 2200, 636075, License Issuing Fee (RSRC 5421)	63,603	67,531	70,214	72,091	77,301	80,274	83,247	86,146
Fund 2200, 636078, Fishing Licenses fee (RSRC 5424)	220,931	234,650	241,157	245,429	263,164	273,286	283,408	293,276
Fund 2200, 636079, Hunting Licenses (RSRC 5425)	125,271	131,737	140,032	144,541	154,986	160,947	166,908	172,720
Fund 2200, 636081, Sports Licenses (RSRC 5427)	265,042	281,416	284,677	289,103	309,994	321,917	333,840	345,464
Fund 2200, 636128, Fishing Lic Surcharge (RSRC 5475)	520	540	95	120	128.6712018	133.6200942	138.5689865	143.3941566
Fund 2200, 636127, Hunting Lic Surcharge	80	85	570	650	696.9690096	723.77551	750.5820104	776.7183482
Fund 2201, 636079, Hunting License (RSRC 5425)	11,194	11,759	795	887	951.0946331	987.6751959	1024.255759	1059.921808
Fund 2201, 636075, License Issuing Fee (RSRC 5421)	617	679	12,714	13,182	14,134	14,678	15,221	15,751
Fund 2202, 636079, Hunting License (RSRC 5425)	117,346	123,166	132,966	137,646	147,592	153,269	158,946	164,480
Fund 2207, 636080, Wildlife Acq Surcharge (RSRC 5426)	56,212	59,605	60,541	61,575	66,024	68,563	71,103	73,579
Fund 2213, 636142, Wolf Account	3,937	4,146	4,503	4,690	5,028	5,222	5,415	5,604
Deposit Correction detail: Game and Fish Fund (Operations)	864,754	915,313	948,263	969,914	1,040,000	1,080,000	1,120,000	1,159,000
Funds								
Fund Balance	15,673,932	17,307,807	18,930,694	20,869,805	21,739,805	22,429,805	22,996,805	23,439,805

Table 32. 2211 Walleye Stamp Account (23B) (Statutory), Legal Citation: M.S. 97A.075, Subd. 6

Financial Activity	FY2020 Actual	FY2021 Actual	FY2022 Actual	FY2023 Actual	FY2024 Planning Est.	FY2025 Planning Est.	FY2026 Planning Est.	FY2027 Planning Est.
Balance Forward In	95,814	156,949	244,091	227,246	238,246	193,246	148,246	124,246
Prior Year Adjustment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Adjusted Balance Forward	95,814	156,949	244,091	227,246	238,246	193,246	148,246	124,246
Receipts								
Walleye Stamp	151,135	171,530	158,155	156,000	155,000	154,000	152,000	151,000
ITC Interest Earnings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Receipts	**151,135**	**171,530**	**158,155**	**156,000**	**155,000**	**154,000**	**152,000**	**151,000**
Resources								
Total Resources Available	246,949	328,479	402,246	383,246	393,246	347,246	300,246	275,246
Expenditures								
Fish & Wildlife Mgmt, Fish Management (R296005)	90,000	84,389	175,000	145,000	200,000	199,000	176,000	174,000
Funds								
Fund Balance	156,949	244,091	227,246	238,246	193,246	148,246	124,246	101,246

Table 33. 2212 Peace Officer Training Account, Legal Citation: M.S. 97A.052

Financial Activity	FY2020 Actual	FY2021 Actual	FY2022 Actual	FY2023 Actual	FY2024 Planning Est.	FY2025 Planning Est.	FY2026 Planning Est.	FY2027 Planning Est.
Balance Forward In	63,115	69,550	66,249	42,166	4,584	-26,416	-57,416	-88,416
Prior Year Adjustment	1,073	1,378	8,286	984.75	0	0	0	0
Adjusted Balance Forward	64,188	70,928	74,535	43,151	4,584	-26,416	-57,416	-88,416
Receipts								
General K/T Surcharge	93,645	81,095	80,545	87,024	104,000	104,000	104,000	104,000
Credit Agreement Rebate	16.85	10.44	119.59	123.83	0	0	0	0
Total Receipts	**93,662**	**81,106**	**80,664**	**87,148**	**104,000**	**104,000**	**104,000**	**104,000**
Resources								
Total Resources Available	157,850	152,034	155,199	130,299	108,584	77,584	46,584	15584.05
Expenditures								
Enforcement (R297047)	88,300	85,785	113,033	125,715	135,000	135,000	135,000	135,000
Transfers-in								
From Fund 2200	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Funds								
Fund Balance	69,550	66,249	42,166	4,584	-26,416	-57,416	-88,416	-119,416

Table 34. 2213 Wolf Management and Monitoring Account (Statutory), Legal Citation: M.S. 97A.075, Subd. 7b

Financial Activity	FY2020 Actual	FY2021 Actual	FY2022 Actual	FY2023 Actual	FY2024 Planning Est.	FY2025 Planning Est.	FY2026 Planning Est.	FY2027 Planning Est.
Balance Forward In	1,197,367	1,272,968	1,291,181	1,360,345	1,430,250	1,458,279	1,485,501	1,511,916
Prior Year Adjustment	1.9	16,787	3,338	1915.04	0	0	0	0
Adjusted Balance Forward	1,197,369	1,289,755	1,294,519	1,362,261	1,430,250	1,458,279	1,485,501	1,511,916
Receipts								
Wolf Hunting & Trapping	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wolf Allocation	316,709	345,328	338,007	331,404	329,000	327,000	326,000	325,000
Wolf Allocation from Lifetime License Sales	3,567	4,146	4,503	4,690	5,028	5,222	5,415	5,604
Total Receipts	**320,276**	**349,474**	**342,510**	**336,094**	**334,028**	**332,222**	**331,415**	**330,604**
Resources								
Total Resources Available	1,517,645	1,639,229	1,637,029	1,698,354	1,764,279	1,790,501	1,816,916	1,842,519
Expenditures								
Fish and Wildlife Management (R296223)	244,677	348,047	276,683	268,104	306,000	305,000	305,000	306,000
Transfers-in								
None	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Funds								
Fund Balance	1,272,968	1,291,181	1,360,345	1,430,250	1,458,279	1,485,501	1,511,916	1,536,519

Appendix B — Game and Fish Fund Allocations to Hunting and Fishing Activity

The Game and Fish Fund Hunting and Fishing Allocation report is based on the methodology developed for the 2008 legislative report; "Game and Fish Fund Hunting and Fishing Revenue/Expenditure Allocations", which was developed to meet Minnesota Session Law 2007, Chapter 57, Article 1, Section 4, Subd. 7, which required a report by November 15, 2008.

The report shows the actual and projected ratios of fishing revenue to expenditures and hunting revenue to expenditures, and thus shows any imbalance in spending to revenues for hunting verses fishing.

Per the report, DNR staff use only the Game and Fish Operations Account (2200) in the analysis. The report allocates revenues by type and expenditures by accounting codes. Staff use actual expenditures for completed years and budgeted for current and future years.

Other than dedicated stamp or other dedicated accounts, there are no statutory requirements to appropriate or spend fishing related revenue for fish activities or hunting related revenue for wildlife activities.

The desired goal is to have a balance between both fisheries revenue and expenditures and wildlife revenue and expenditures.

There are factors that influence the ending result each year. These factors include:

1. Increase in wildlife expenditures,
2. Decrease in hunting related revenues,
3. Decrease in fisheries expenditures, and
4. Increase in fishing related revenues.

Other factors are outside the control of the DNR and might include session law changes, and federal Sport Fish Restoration Act (DJ) or Wildlife Restoration Act (PR) apportionment increases or decreases.

The GFF report is a tool used to help track imbalance concerns. The DNR is committed to monitoring the imbalance.

Game and Fish Fund Allocations to Hunting and Fishing Activity, As of 2022 November Forecast

Expenditures

Table 35. Hunting

Division	FY20 Actual	FY21 Actual	FY22 Actual	FY23 Actual	FY24 Estimated	FY25 Estimated	FY26 Estimated	FY27 Estimated
Fisheries	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Wildlife	$20,751,851	$20,127,117	$19,833,910	$23,507,886	$24,004,700	$24,155,300	$24,151,300	$24,145,300
License Center	$2,274,375	$2,249,474	$2,046,296	$1,595,699	$2,176,900	$2,141,150	$2,109,250	$2,075,700
Ecological Services	$1,202,018	$1,255,887	$1,171,556	$1,259,645	$1,267,200	$1,267,200	$1,267,200	$1,267,200
Enforcement	$12,551,369	$11,566,840	$15,308,770	$14,500,476	$15,001,440	$15,511,440	$15,511,440	$15,511,440
Parks and Trails	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Forestry	$0	$0	$42,665	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Lands and Minerals	$298,737	$306,703	$302,720	$302,720	$302,720	$302,720	$302,720	$302,720

Table 35. Hunting continued...

Division	FY20 Actual	FY21 Actual	FY22 Actual	FY23 Actual	FY24 Estimated	FY25 Estimated	FY26 Estimated	FY27 Estimated
Operations Support	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Statewide Indirect	$309,599	$405,914	$363,957	$334,699	$362,383	$362,885	$362,800	$362,701
Total	**$37,387,950**	**$35,911,935**	**$39,069,875**	**$41,501,124**	**$43,115,343**	**$43,740,695**	**$43,704,710**	**$43,665,061**

Table 36. Fishing

Division	FY20 Actual	FY21 Actual	FY22 Actual	FY23 Actual	FY24 Estimated	FY25 Estimated	FY26 Estimated	FY27 Estimated
Fisheries	$32,903,706	$36,201,681	$35,013,035	$40,432,346	$40,349,300	$40,627,700	$40,627,700	$40,627,700
Wildlife	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
License Center	$1,860,853	$1,840,479	$1,674,242	$1,305,572	$1,781,100	$1,751,850	$1,725,750	$1,698,300
Ecological Services	$1,469,133	$1,534,973	$1,431,902	$1,539,566	$1,548,800	$1,548,800	$1,548,800	$1,548,800
Enforcement	$11,872,631	$10,908,229	$14,598,562	$13,900,710	$14,456,560	$14,946,560	$14,946,560	$14,946,560
Parks and Trails	$1,128,947	$3,149,191	$1,603,937	$2,694,199	$2,300,000	$2,300,00	$2,300,000	$2,300,000
Forestry	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Lands and Minerals	$40,737	$41,823	$41,280	$41,280	$41,280	$41,280	$41,280	$41,280
Operations Support	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
Statewide Indirect	$411,448	$613,642	$511,182	$487,121	$512,617	$512,115	$512,200	$512,299
Total	**$49,687,454**	**$54,290,018**	**$54,874,141**	**$60,400,792**	**$60,989,657**	**$61,728,305**	**$61,702,290**	**$61,674,939**

Table 37. Biennial Totals

Category	FY20-21 Total	FY20-21 Percent	FY22-23 Total	FY22-23 Percent	FY24-25 Total	FY24-25 Percent	FY26-27 Total	FY26-27 Percent
Hunting	$73,299,885	41.3%	$80,570,999	41.1%	$86,856,038	41.4%	$87,369,771	41.5%
Fishing	$103,977,472	58.7%	$115,274,932	58.9%	$122,717,962	58.6%	$123,377,229	58.5%

Table 38. Revenues

Category	FY20-21 Total	FY20-21 Percent	FY22-23 Total	FY22-23 Percent	FY24-25 Total	FY24-25 Percent	FY26-27 Total	FY26-27 Percent
Hunting	$82,626,161	43.1%	$84,879,325	44.9%	$111,523,029	52.7%	$107,792,520	52.3%
Fishing	$109,286,777	56.9%	$104,028,792	55.1%	$100,234,090	47.3%	$98,383,507	47.7%

Table 39. Percentages

Over 100% means expenditures exceed revenues, and less than 100% means revenues exceed expenditures.

Category	FY20-21	FY22-23	FY24-25	FY26-27
Hunting	88.7%	94.9%	77.9%	81.1%
Fishing	**95.1%**	**110.8%**	**122.4%**	**125.4%**

Appendix C — Related Accounts

The following programs have tangible impacts on GFF activities, due to the coordination and collaboration that DNR staff undertake to achieve complex natural resource objectives.

Venison Donation Program

A $1 fee on all deer bonus permits is collected and transferred out of the GFF into a special revenue fund to support this program.

This cooperative effort between the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and the DNR allows Minnesota deer hunters to donate deer carcasses to food banks, food shelves and other programs to help people in need. This in turn provides an excellent source of protein to those in need while helping reduce local deer populations where appropriate. Donated venison is screened for lead and contaminated meat is discarded, ensuring the safety of the product donated to people in need.

Total expenditures for the program were $79,640.30 in FY23, a four percent increase compared to FY22 and five percent higher than the five-year-average.

FY23 accomplishments Include:

- Certified 23 meat processors to participate in the venison donation program. Certified processors accept donated deer, process them, and donate the venison. The processors are reimbursed for processing the donations.
- Received a total of 212 deer through donations to participating processors, resulting in 7,370 pounds of venison donated to people in need.

Financial Review

Table 40. Venison Donation Financial Activity

Beginning Balance and Adjustments	Amount
FY2023 Beginning fund balance	$438,522
Prior year adjustment	$0

Receipts	Amount
Donations	$0
Transfer-in from 2200	$112,727
Total Revenues and Transfers-in	**$112,727**

Expenditures by Appropriation	Amount
Transfer-out to Dept. of Agriculture	$100,000
Total Expenditures and Transfers-out	**$100,000**

Fund balance and net change	Amount
FY2023 Ending fund balance	$451,249
Net change for FY2023	$12,727

Walk-In Access Program

This program, now in its eleventh year, operates out of a special revenue account. The Walk-In Access (WIA) program received a new grant in the spring of 2020 from the Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA for more than $2.5 million to fund the program over the next three years. This year is the final year for those grant funds. The program initially received a one-time appropriation of about $616,000 legislatively appropriated from the surcharge portion of the venison donation fund. It also receives support from a $5 surcharge on all non-resident hunting licenses, and an option for small game hunters and deer hunters to donate one, three, or five dollars to support the WIA program. This report is limited to the state dollars and does not include the Natural Resources Conservation Service grant dollars.

The WIA Program provides hunting opportunities by purchasing access to private land with high quality wildlife cover, through a landowner agreement. Much of that land is in a set-aside program or conservation easement such as the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Re-Invest in Minnesota, or Wetland Reserve Program/ Easement. WIA is voluntary for landowners. Most landowners choose to enroll their property for three years. Enrolled lands are covered under the Minnesota recreational use laws that limit landowners' liability.

Based on the nearly 25 percent increase from 2019 to 2023 in the sales of validation licenses ($3 cost) to access WIA land, the DNR recognizes the recent increase in use of WIA by hunters.

FY23 accomplishments include:

- Increased WIA program enrollments each year since its inception, despite significant acreage losses in the CRP during the same period. The WIA program acreage was similar to last year's 29,100 acres. The DNR also maintained and updated the WIA website and electronic map to provide additional opportunities for users to locate WIA lands.
- Continued to provide enhancements to the WIA Electronic Information System, which the DNR uses to generate landowner agreements and track WIA enrollments.
- Continued work to expand activities on WIA lands including birdwatching and nature photography. Other uses such as camping and motorized vehicles will continue to be excluded.

Financial Review

Table 41. Walk-In Access Program Financial Activity

Beginning Balance and Adjustments	Amount
FY2023 Beginning fund balance	$800,688
Prior year adjustment	$0

Receipts	Amount
Donations	$29,954
Transfer-in from 2200	$130,415
Total Revenues and Transfers-in	**$160,369**

Expenditures by Appropriation	Amount
Operating Expenses	$16,334
Compensation	$1,376
Transfers-out	$0
Total Expenditures and Transfers-out	**$17,711**

Fund balance and net change	Amount
FY2023 Ending fund balance	$451,249
Net change for FY2023	$12,727

Appendix D — Permits and Licensing Data

Table 42. Fiscal Year License Sales

Type	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Angling	1,158,156	1,181,336	1,143,699	1,144,788	1,123,042	1,020,944	1,130,337	1,089,497	985,687	1,025,853
Deer	621,627	596,693	610,566	608,341	594,435	694,193	693,548	758,583	741,629	734,801
Small Game	259,289	260,797	255,727	249,852	238,651	224,123	230,799	237,000	220,629	224,491
Sports	161,165	158,518	152,469	148,423	141,845	133,816	142,269	134,402	125,785	134,708

Table 43. Fiscal Year Stamp Sales

Type	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Trout	99,591	107,992	109,328	111,812	111,574	115,619	134,255	139,047	122,645	124,013
Walleye	19,467	17,395	17,052	18,485	18,778	20,215	29,452	34,168	31,424	31,327
Pheasant	75,440	72,730	76,517	75,055	69,367	70,425	69,220	81,383	75,713	75,541
Waterfowl	92,195	93,325	90,454	87,111	83,963	81,188	80,730	87,526	81,781	80,021
Turkey	1,786	1,681	1,685	1,585	1,640	1,549	2,121	2,143	2,418	2,233

Table 44. Lifetime Licenses

Lifetime licenses are available for certain hunting and fishing activities, and must be applied for initially at the DNR license center. This license type can be purchased as a gift. Applicable stamps, tags, or additional harvest permits are purchased separately.

Type	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Fiscal Year	2,207	2,532	2,768	3,442	3,586	3,384	3,605	4,727	4,754	5,280

Table 45. Harvest Transactions

The DNR license center has an Interactive Voice Response (IVR) and an Internet harvest option for animal registrations.

Method	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Interactive Voice Response (IVR)	55,118	46,760	56,452	57,874	65,507	78,999	66,648	74,069	69,977	66,042
Internet	76,963	68,803	80,581	87,607	109,802	90,264	107,558	119,670	113,262	109,024
Agent	52,441	38,787	37,869	44,881	34,484	33,017	26,722	20,322	18,142	14,521
Totals	**184,522**	**154,350**	**174,902**	**190,362**	**209,793**	**202,280**	**200,928**	**214,061**	**201,381**	**189,587**

Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Federal Programs

The DNR Fish and Wildlife Division receives significant funding through two federal grants programs, Wildlife Restoration and Sport Fish Restoration. These programs were initiated by hunters, anglers and conservationists to provide states with funding for fish and wildlife management, habitat management, land acquisition, research, and hunting and aquatic education programs. Revenue for these programs comes from excise taxes on guns, ammunition, archery equipment, fishing equipment and a portion of the gasoline fuel tax attributable to small engines and motorboats. In order to receive these grant funds, hunting and fishing license revenue must be used by states for the administration of the fish and wildlife agency.

Cycle of Success for Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs

- Anglers, hunter, boaters, purchase fishing and hunting equipment and motor-boat fuels
- Manufacturers pay an excise tax on that equipment
- USFWS allocates funds to state fish and wildlife agencies
- Grants to states
- State fish and wildlife agencies implement programs and projects
- The Result: better fishing, boating, hunting and wildlife-oriented recreation
- The cycle begins again

The amount of grant dollars received depends on the number of hunters and anglers, which is certified annually, and the geographic area of the state. The table below includes these certified numbers for the past decade.

Table 46. Hunting and Sport Fishing License Certification

State license data is used in the calculation of state apportionment from the federal trust fund. The table below is what has been reported to the USFWS.

(1): Data submitted to USFWS for License Certification

(2): Data submitted to USFWS as Supporting Information

**2022 total is an estimate. Final numbers will not be calculated/certified until 2024.

License Year	Number of Certified Paid Hunters (1)	Total Hunting Licenses, Tags Permits & Stamps (2)	Number of Certified Paid Anglers (1)	Total Fishing Licenses, Tags, Permits & Stamps (2)
2013	572,203	1,486,362	1,423,502	1,589,856
2014	564,694	1,413,430	1,437,227	1,610,356
2015	568,057	1,421,004	1,447,089	1,623,871
2016	563,127	1,433,698	1,448,327	1,629,811
2017	550,087	1,364,972	1,451,672	1,637,178
2018	543,413	1,331,896	1,415,040	1,578,806
2019	531,385	1,310,538	1,390,681	1,551,905
2020	550,663	1,460,203	1,525,029	1,716,487
2021	542,085	NA	1,421,560	NA
**2022	532,443	NA	1,326,158	NA

Appendix E — Acronym Glossary

Following is a list of the acronyms used more than once in this report.

AMA	Aquatic Management Area
AIS	Aquatic Invasive Species
BOW	Becoming an Outdoors Woman
CRP	Conservation Reserve Program
CWD	Chronic Wasting Disease
DJ	Dingell-Johnson (Sport Fish Restoration Act, federal)
DNR	(Minnesota) Department of Natural Resources
ELS	Electronic Licensing System
GIS	Geographic Information System
LRS	Land Records System
MBS	Minnesota Biological Survey
MMB	Minnesota Management and Budget
OHF	Outdoor Heritage Fund
PR	Pittman-Robertson (Wildlife Restoration Act, federal)
SBI	State Board of Investments
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
WIA	Walk-In Access
WMA	Wildlife Management Area

Appendix F — References

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