



Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council  
The State of Minnesota

Centennial Office Building, First Floor

658 Cedar Street

Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

January 12, 2024

The Honorable Kari Dziedzic  
President, Minnesota Senate  
95 University Avenue W.  
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3113  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear President Dziedzic,

It is my honor, on behalf of the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council and as required by law, to present a bill jacketed for introduction incorporating the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council's recommendations for FY 2025 appropriations from the Outdoor Heritage Fund. This proposed legislation contains the Council's 16<sup>th</sup> annual appropriation recommendations to protect, enhance, and restore Minnesota's prairies, wetlands, forests, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife which are consistent with and effectively address the Council's strategic statewide and regionally-based conservation and habitat priorities from the Outdoor Heritage Fund's 25-Year Framework.

The Council received 53 requests totaling over \$376 million from a cross-section of public and non-profit organizations and levels of government. The Council's FY 2025 recommendations include 50 proposed appropriations with expenditures totaling \$180,711,000.

The Council's recommendations are consistent with constitutionally specified uses of the Outdoor Heritage Fund and promise to have lasting and positive impact on the state's natural resource based habitats. The following outputs are associated with these recommendations:

- 10,647 acres of wetlands and wetland systems protected, restored, and enhanced;
- 13,643 acres of prairies and prairie systems protected, restored, and enhanced;
- 30,074 acres of forest protected, restored, and enhanced; and
- 7,559 acres of aquatic and other habitat protected, restored, and enhanced

Restoration and enhancement of public lands accounts for approximately half (49%) of acres impacted by these recommendations. Over 61,000 total acres are to be affected and will improve habitat for a range of species, from duck habitat in the prairie pothole region, to pheasant habitat in the tall grass regions, to trout streams in the southeast and northeast, to various wildlife habitats in the metropolitan region. Habitat restoration and enhancement activity puts money on the ground by creating and supporting jobs in

local economies. The Council remains focused on recommending funding for those programs with the potential greatest impact on habitat heritage for future generations.

The Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council is confident its recommendations will be broadly supported by the citizens of Minnesota. The Council stands prepared to provide any assistance and additional information necessary during the legislative session.

On behalf of the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council, I thank you for the opportunity to serve the people of Minnesota in improving our state's great outdoors habitat heritage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DH', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

David Hartwell  
Chair, Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

C: Members and staff, Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Attachment: copy of Jacketed OHF bill

A bill for an act  
relating to legacy; appropriating money from outdoor heritage fund.  
BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. **APPROPRIATIONS.**

The sums shown in the columns marked "Appropriations" are appropriated to the agencies and for the purposes specified in this act. The appropriations are from the outdoor heritage fund for the fiscal year indicated for each purpose. The figures "2024" and "2025" used in this act mean that the appropriations listed under them are available for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, or June 30, 2025, respectively. "The first year" is fiscal year 2024. "The second year" is fiscal year 2025. "The biennium" is fiscal years 2024 and 2025. The appropriations in this act are onetime appropriations.

<b><u>APPROPRIATIONS</u></b>	
<b><u>Available for the Year</u></b>	
<b><u>Ending June 30</u></b>	
<b><u>2024</u></b>	<b><u>2025</u></b>

Sec. 2.**OUTDOOR HERITAGE FUND**

Subdivision 1. <b><u>Total Appropriation</u></b>	<b><u>\$</u></b>	<b><u>0</u></b>	<b><u>\$</u></b>	<b><u>180,711,000</u></b>
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This appropriation is from the outdoor heritage fund. The amounts that may be spent for each purpose are specified in the following subdivisions.

2.1	<u>Subd. 2. <b>Prairies</b></u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>19,439,000</u>
2.2	<u><b>(a) Northern Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife</b></u>		
2.3	<u><b>Refuge, Phase 14</b></u>		
2.4	<u>\$4,412,000 the second year is to the</u>		
2.5	<u>commissioner of natural resources for an</u>		
2.6	<u>agreement with The Nature Conservancy, in</u>		
2.7	<u>cooperation with the United States Fish and</u>		
2.8	<u>Wildlife Service, to acquire land in fee or</u>		
2.9	<u>permanent conservation easements and restore</u>		
2.10	<u>and enhance lands within the Northern</u>		
2.11	<u>Tallgrass Prairie Habitat Preservation Area in</u>		
2.12	<u>western Minnesota for addition to the Northern</u>		
2.13	<u>Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge.</u>		
2.14	<u>Subject to evaluation criteria in Minnesota</u>		
2.15	<u>Rules, part 6136.0900, priority must be given</u>		
2.16	<u>to acquiring lands that are eligible for the</u>		
2.17	<u>native prairie bank under Minnesota Statutes,</u>		
2.18	<u>section 84.96, or lands adjacent to protected</u>		
2.19	<u>native prairie.</u>		
2.20	<u><b>(b) Accelerating Wildlife Management Area</b></u>		
2.21	<u><b>Program, Phase 16</b></u>		
2.22	<u>\$5,315,000 the second year is to the</u>		
2.23	<u>commissioner of natural resources for an</u>		
2.24	<u>agreement with Pheasants Forever to acquire</u>		
2.25	<u>in fee and restore and enhance lands for</u>		
2.26	<u>wildlife management area purposes under</u>		
2.27	<u>Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,</u>		
2.28	<u>subdivision 8. Subject to evaluation criteria</u>		
2.29	<u>in Minnesota Rules, part 6136.0900, priority</u>		
2.30	<u>must be given to acquiring lands that are</u>		
2.31	<u>eligible for the native prairie bank under</u>		
2.32	<u>Minnesota Statutes, section 84.96, or lands</u>		
2.33	<u>adjacent to protected native prairie.</u>		
2.34	<u><b>(c) Prairie Chicken Habitat Partnership of</b></u>		
2.35	<u><b>Southern Red River Valley, Phase 10</b></u>		

3.1 \$3,794,000 the second year is to the  
3.2 commissioner of natural resources for an  
3.3 agreement with Pheasants Forever, in  
3.4 cooperation with the Minnesota Prairie  
3.5 Chicken Society, to acquire land in fee and  
3.6 restore and enhance lands within the southern  
3.7 Red River Valley for wildlife management  
3.8 purposes under Minnesota Statutes, section  
3.9 86A.05, subdivision 8, or to be designated and  
3.10 managed as waterfowl production areas in  
3.11 Minnesota, in cooperation with the United  
3.12 States Fish and Wildlife Service. Subject to  
3.13 evaluation criteria in Minnesota Rules, part  
3.14 6136.0900, priority must be given to acquiring  
3.15 lands that are eligible for the native prairie  
3.16 bank under Minnesota Statutes, section 84.96,  
3.17 or lands adjacent to protected native prairie.

3.18 **(d) Martin County DNR WMA Acquisition,**  
3.19 **Phase 8**

3.20 \$2,589,000 the second year is to the  
3.21 commissioner of natural resources for  
3.22 agreements to acquire land in fee and to  
3.23 restore and enhance strategic prairie grassland,  
3.24 wetland, and other wildlife habitat within  
3.25 Martin County for wildlife management area  
3.26 purposes under Minnesota Statutes, section  
3.27 86A.05, subdivision 8, as follows: \$1,921,000  
3.28 to Fox Lake Conservation League, Inc.;  
3.29 \$613,000 to Ducks Unlimited; and \$55,000 to  
3.30 the Conservation Fund.

3.31 **(e) DNR Grassland Enhancement, Phase 16**

3.32 \$1,427,000 the second year is to the  
3.33 commissioner of natural resources to  
3.34 accelerate restoration and enhancement of  
3.35 prairies, grasslands, and savannas in wildlife

4.1 management areas, in scientific and natural  
 4.2 areas, in aquatic management areas, on lands  
 4.3 in the native prairie bank, in bluff prairies on  
 4.4 state forest land in southeastern Minnesota,  
 4.5 and in waterfowl production areas and refuge  
 4.6 lands of the United States Fish and Wildlife  
 4.7 Service.

4.8 **(f) Enhanced Public Land - Grasslands, Phase**  
 4.9 **7**

4.10 \$1,902,000 the second year is to the  
 4.11 commissioner of natural resources for an  
 4.12 agreement with Pheasants Forever to enhance  
 4.13 and restore grassland and wetland habitat on  
 4.14 public lands within the forest prairie transition,  
 4.15 metro urban, and prairie ecoregions of  
 4.16 Minnesota.

4.17 **Subd. 3. Forests**

-0-

32,164,000

4.18 **(a) Minnesota Heritage Forest - Transition to**  
 4.19 **Public Ownership Program**

4.20 \$22,647,000 the second year is to the  
 4.21 commissioner of natural resources to acquire  
 4.22 priority forest habitat lands in fee as wildlife  
 4.23 management areas, scientific and natural areas,  
 4.24 state forests, and county forests. Of this  
 4.25 amount, \$11,737,000 is for an agreement with  
 4.26 Northern Waters Land Trust.

4.27 **(b) Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape Protection**  
 4.28 **Program ACUB, Phase 12**

4.29 \$2,068,000 the second year is to the Board of  
 4.30 Water and Soil Resources, in cooperation with  
 4.31 the Morrison County Soil and Water  
 4.32 Conservation District, to acquire permanent  
 4.33 conservation easements and restore and  
 4.34 enhance forest wildlife habitat within the  
 4.35 boundaries of the Minnesota National Guard

5.1 Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape and Army  
5.2 Compatible Use Buffer. Up to \$110,000 to the  
5.3 Board of Water and Soil Resources is to  
5.4 establish a monitoring and enforcement fund  
5.5 as approved in the accomplishment plan and  
5.6 subject to Minnesota Statutes, section  
5.7 97A.056, subdivision 17. Subdivision 8,  
5.8 paragraph (b), does not apply to this project.

5.9 A list of permanent conservation easements  
5.10 must be provided as part of the final report.

5.11 **(c) Riparian Habitat Protection in Kettle and**  
5.12 **Snake River Watersheds, Phase 2**

5.13 \$1,569,000 the second year is to the Board of  
5.14 Water and Soil Resources, in cooperation with  
5.15 the Pine County Soil and Water Conservation  
5.16 District, to acquire permanent conservation  
5.17 easements to protect high-quality forests,  
5.18 wetlands, and shoreline within the Kettle and  
5.19 Snake River watersheds. Up to \$150,000 to  
5.20 the Board of Water and Soil Resources is to  
5.21 establish a monitoring and enforcement fund  
5.22 as approved in the accomplishment plan and  
5.23 subject to Minnesota Statutes, section  
5.24 97A.056, subdivision 17. Subdivision 8,  
5.25 paragraph (b), does not apply to this project.

5.26 A list of permanent conservation easements  
5.27 must be provided as part of the final report.

5.28 **(d) DNR Forest Habitat Enhancement, Phase 4**

5.29 \$1,727,000 the second year is to the  
5.30 commissioner of natural resources to restore  
5.31 and enhance forest wildlife habitats on public  
5.32 lands throughout Minnesota.

5.33 **(e) Young Forest Conservation, Phase 4**

5.34 \$2,229,000 the second year is to the  
5.35 commissioner of natural resources for an

6.1 agreement with the American Bird  
 6.2 Conservancy to enhance publicly owned,  
 6.3 permanently protected forest lands for wildlife  
 6.4 management.

6.5 **(f) Floodplain and Upland Forest Enhancement**  
 6.6 **- Mississippi River, Phase 5**

6.7 \$1,924,000 the second year is to the  
 6.8 commissioner of natural resources for an  
 6.9 agreement with the National Audubon Society  
 6.10 to restore and enhance floodplain and upland  
 6.11 forest habitat for wildlife on public lands along  
 6.12 the Mississippi River and Mississippi River  
 6.13 tributaries.

6.14 **Subd. 4. Wetlands** -0- 38,412,000

6.15 **(a) Wild-Rice Shoreland Protection, Phase 9**

6.16 \$2,042,000 the second year is to the Board of  
 6.17 Water and Soil Resources to acquire  
 6.18 permanent conservation easements on  
 6.19 wild-rice lake shoreland habitat for native  
 6.20 wild-rice bed protection. Of this amount, up  
 6.21 to \$110,000 is for establishing a monitoring  
 6.22 and enforcement fund as approved in the  
 6.23 accomplishment plan and subject to Minnesota  
 6.24 Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 17.  
 6.25 Subdivision 8, paragraph (b), does not apply  
 6.26 to this project. A list of permanent  
 6.27 conservation easements must be provided as  
 6.28 part of the final report.

6.29 **(b) Shallow Lake and Wetland Protection and**  
 6.30 **Restoration Program, Phase 13**

6.31 \$7,670,000 the second year is to the  
 6.32 commissioner of natural resources for an  
 6.33 agreement with Ducks Unlimited to acquire  
 6.34 land in fee for wildlife management purposes  
 6.35 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,



7.1 subdivision 8, or to be designated and  
7.2 managed as waterfowl production areas or  
7.3 national wildlife refuges in Minnesota, in  
7.4 cooperation with the United States Fish and  
7.5 Wildlife Service, and to restore and enhance  
7.6 prairie lands, wetlands, and land buffering  
7.7 shallow lakes.

7.8 **(c) RIM Wetlands - Restoring Most Productive**  
7.9 **Habitat in Minnesota, Phase 13**

7.10 \$3,202,000 the second year is to the Board of  
7.11 Water and Soil Resources to acquire  
7.12 permanent conservation easements and to  
7.13 restore wetlands and native grassland habitat  
7.14 under Minnesota Statutes, section 103F.515.  
7.15 Of this amount, up to \$50,000 is for  
7.16 establishing a monitoring and enforcement  
7.17 fund as approved in the accomplishment plan  
7.18 and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section  
7.19 97A.056, subdivision 17. Subdivision 8,  
7.20 paragraph (b), does not apply to this project.  
7.21 A list of permanent conservation easements  
7.22 must be provided as part of the final report.

7.23 **(d) Accelerating Waterfowl Production Area**  
7.24 **Acquisition Program, Phase 16**

7.25 \$7,020,000 the second year is to the  
7.26 commissioner of natural resources for an  
7.27 agreement with Pheasants Forever, in  
7.28 cooperation with the United States Fish and  
7.29 Wildlife Service, to acquire land in fee and  
7.30 restore and enhance wetlands and grasslands  
7.31 to be designated and managed as waterfowl  
7.32 production areas in Minnesota.

7.33 **(e) DNR Accelerated Shallow Lakes and**  
7.34 **Wetland Enhancement, Phase 16**

8.1 \$3,809,000 the second year is to the  
8.2 commissioner of natural resources to enhance  
8.3 and restore shallow lakes and wetland habitat  
8.4 statewide.

8.5 **(f) Nelson Slough - East Park Wildlife**  
8.6 **Management Area**

8.7 \$4,174,000 the second year is to the  
8.8 commissioner of natural resources for an  
8.9 agreement with the Middle-Snake-Tamarac  
8.10 Rivers Watershed District to restore and  
8.11 enhance wetland and upland wildlife habitat  
8.12 on Nelson Slough and East Park Wildlife  
8.13 Management Area in Marshall County,  
8.14 Minnesota.

8.15 **(g) Wetland Habitat Protection and Restoration**  
8.16 **Program, Phase 9**

8.17 \$2,128,000 the second year is to the  
8.18 commissioner of natural resources for an  
8.19 agreement with Minnesota Land Trust to  
8.20 restore and enhance prairie, wetland, and other  
8.21 habitat on permanently protected conservation  
8.22 easements in high-priority wetland habitat  
8.23 complexes within the prairie, forest/prairie  
8.24 transition, and forest ecoregions.

8.25 **(h) Living Shallow Lakes and Wetlands**  
8.26 **Enhancement and Restoration Initiative, Phase**  
8.27 **10**

8.28 \$7,867,000 the second year is to the  
8.29 commissioner of natural resources for an  
8.30 agreement with Ducks Unlimited to restore  
8.31 and enhance shallow lakes and wetlands on  
8.32 public lands and wetlands under permanent  
8.33 conservation easement for wildlife  
8.34 management.

8.35 **(i) Lake Alice Enhancement, Fergus Falls**

9.1 \$500,000 the second year is to the  
 9.2 commissioner of natural resources for an  
 9.3 agreement with the city of Fergus Falls to  
 9.4 enhance Lake Alice in Fergus Falls.

9.5 Subd. 5. **Habitats** -0- 89,294,000

9.6 **(a) St. Croix Watershed Habitat Protection and**  
 9.7 **Restoration, Phase 5**

9.8 \$4,711,000 the second year is to the  
 9.9 commissioner of natural resources for  
 9.10 agreements to acquire land in fee and acquire  
 9.11 permanent conservation easements and to  
 9.12 restore and enhance natural habitat systems in  
 9.13 the St. Croix River watershed as follows:  
 9.14 \$1,905,000 to Trust for Public Land; \$110,000  
 9.15 to Wild Rivers Conservancy; and \$2,696,000  
 9.16 to Minnesota Land Trust. Up to \$224,000 to  
 9.17 Minnesota Land Trust is to establish a  
 9.18 monitoring and enforcement fund as approved  
 9.19 in the accomplishment plan and subject to  
 9.20 Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056,  
 9.21 subdivision 17.

9.22 **(b) Pine and Leech Watershed Targeted RIM**  
 9.23 **Easement Permanent Land Protection, Phase 3**

9.24 \$2,242,000 the second year is to the Board of  
 9.25 Water and Soil Resources, in cooperation with  
 9.26 the Crow Wing County Soil and Water  
 9.27 Conservation District, to acquire permanent  
 9.28 conservation easements of high-quality forest,  
 9.29 wetland, and shoreline habitat. Up to \$120,000  
 9.30 of the total amount is for establishing a  
 9.31 monitoring and enforcement fund as approved  
 9.32 in the accomplishment plan and subject to  
 9.33 Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056,  
 9.34 subdivision 17. Subdivision 8, paragraph (b),  
 9.35 does not apply to this project. A list of

10.1 permanent conservation easements must be  
10.2 provided as part of the final report.

10.3 **(c) Protecting Minnesota's Lakes of Outstanding**  
10.4 **Biological Significance, Phase 3**

10.5 \$3,321,000 the second year is to the  
10.6 commissioner of natural resources for  
10.7 agreements to acquire land in fee and  
10.8 permanent conservation easements and to  
10.9 restore and enhance lakes of outstanding  
10.10 biological significance in northeast and  
10.11 north-central Minnesota. Of this amount,  
10.12 \$1,083,000 is to the Northern Waters Land  
10.13 Trust and \$2,238,000 is to Minnesota Land  
10.14 Trust. Up to \$224,000 to Minnesota Land  
10.15 Trust is for establishing a monitoring and  
10.16 enforcement fund as approved in the  
10.17 accomplishment plan and subject to Minnesota  
10.18 Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 17.

10.19 **(d) Shell Rock River Watershed Habitat**  
10.20 **Restoration Program, Phase 13**

10.21 \$2,060,000 the second year is to the  
10.22 commissioner of natural resources for an  
10.23 agreement with the Shell Rock River  
10.24 Watershed District to acquire land in fee and  
10.25 restore and enhance habitat in the Shell Rock  
10.26 River watershed.

10.27 **(e) Cannon River Watershed Habitat**  
10.28 **Restoration and Protection Program, Phase 13**

10.29 \$2,555,000 the second year is to the  
10.30 commissioner of natural resources for  
10.31 agreements to acquire lands in fee and restore  
10.32 and enhance wildlife habitat in the Cannon  
10.33 River watershed as follows: \$54,000 to Clean  
10.34 River Partners; \$888,000 to Great River

11.1 Greening; and \$1,613,000 to Trust for Public  
11.2 Land.

11.3 **(f) Mississippi Headwaters Habitat Corridor**  
11.4 **Project, Phase 8**

11.5 \$2,706,000 the second year is to acquire lands  
11.6 in fee and permanent conservation easements  
11.7 and to restore wildlife habitat in the  
11.8 Mississippi headwaters. Of this amount:

11.9 (1) \$1,706,000 is to the commissioner of  
11.10 natural resources for agreements as follows:  
11.11 \$57,000 to the Mississippi Headwaters Board  
11.12 and \$1,649,000 to Trust for Public Land; and  
11.13 (2) \$1,000,000 is to the Board of Water and  
11.14 Soil Resources, of which up to \$100,000 is to  
11.15 establish a monitoring and enforcement fund  
11.16 as approved in the accomplishment plan and  
11.17 subject to Minnesota Statutes, section  
11.18 97A.056, subdivision 17.

11.19 **(g) Fisheries Habitat Protection on Strategic**  
11.20 **North Central Minnesota Lakes, Phase 10**

11.21 \$2,687,000 the second year is to the  
11.22 commissioner of natural resources for  
11.23 agreements to acquire land in fee and in  
11.24 permanent conservation easements and to  
11.25 restore and enhance wildlife habitat to sustain  
11.26 healthy fish habitat on coldwater lakes in  
11.27 Aitkin, Cass, Crow Wing, and Hubbard  
11.28 Counties as follows: \$2,252,000 to Northern  
11.29 Waters Land Trust and \$435,000 to Minnesota  
11.30 Land Trust. Up to \$56,000 to Minnesota Land  
11.31 Trust is to establish a monitoring and  
11.32 enforcement fund as approved in the  
11.33 accomplishment plan and subject to Minnesota  
11.34 Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 17.

11.35 **(h) Red River Basin Riparian Habitat Program**

12.1 \$5,119,000 the second year is to acquire  
12.2 permanent conservation easements to protect,  
12.3 restore, and enhance stream and riparian  
12.4 habitat throughout the Red River watershed.  
12.5 Of this amount, \$169,000 is to the  
12.6 commissioner of natural resources for an  
12.7 agreement with the Red River Watershed  
12.8 Management Board and \$4,950,000 is to the  
12.9 Board of Water and Soil Resources. Up to  
12.10 \$380,000 of the total amount is for  
12.11 establishing a monitoring and enforcement  
12.12 fund as approved in the accomplishment plan  
12.13 and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section  
12.14 97A.056, subdivision 17. Subdivision 8,  
12.15 paragraph (b), does not apply to this project.  
12.16 A list of permanent conservation easements  
12.17 must be provided as part of the final report.

12.18 **(i) Resilient Habitat for Heritage Brook Trout,**  
12.19 **Phase 2**

12.20 \$2,486,000 the second year is to the  
12.21 commissioner of natural resources for  
12.22 agreements to acquire permanent conservation  
12.23 easements and to restore and enhance habitat  
12.24 in targeted watersheds of southeast Minnesota  
12.25 to improve heritage brook trout and coldwater  
12.26 aquatic communities. Of this amount,  
12.27 \$400,000 is to The Nature Conservancy,  
12.28 \$612,000 is to Trout Unlimited, and  
12.29 \$1,474,000 is to Minnesota Land Trust. Up to  
12.30 \$168,000 to Minnesota Land Trust is to  
12.31 establish a monitoring and enforcement fund  
12.32 as approved in the accomplishment plan and  
12.33 subject to Minnesota Statutes, section  
12.34 97A.056, subdivision 17.

12.35 **(j) Southeast Minnesota Protection and**  
12.36 **Restoration, Phase 12**

13.1 \$3,052,000 the second year is to the  
13.2 commissioner of natural resources for  
13.3 agreements to acquire lands in fee and  
13.4 permanent conservation easements and to  
13.5 restore and enhance wildlife habitat on public  
13.6 lands and permanent conservation easements  
13.7 in southeast Minnesota as follows: \$970,000  
13.8 to The Nature Conservancy, \$964,000 to Trust  
13.9 for Public Land, and \$1,118,000 to Minnesota  
13.10 Land Trust. Up to \$112,000 to Minnesota  
13.11 Land Trust is to establish a monitoring and  
13.12 enforcement fund as approved in the  
13.13 accomplishment plan and subject to Minnesota  
13.14 Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 17.

13.15 **(k) Lower Wild Rice River Corridor Habitat**  
13.16 **Restoration, Phase 4**

13.17 \$2,345,000 the second year is to acquire land  
13.18 in permanent conservation easement and to  
13.19 restore river and related habitat in the Wild  
13.20 Rice River corridor. Of this amount, \$30,000  
13.21 is to the commissioner of natural resources for  
13.22 an agreement with the Wild Rice Watershed  
13.23 District and \$2,315,000 is to the Board of  
13.24 Water and Soil Resources. The Board of Water  
13.25 and Soil Resources may use up to \$60,000 for  
13.26 establishing a monitoring and enforcement  
13.27 fund as approved in the accomplishment plan  
13.28 and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section  
13.29 97A.056, subdivision 17. Subdivision 8,  
13.30 paragraph (b), does not apply to this project.  
13.31 A list of permanent conservation easements  
13.32 must be provided as part of the final report.

13.33 **(l) DNR Wildlife Management Area and**  
13.34 **Scientific and Natural Area Acquisition, Phase**  
13.35 **16**

14.1 \$1,359,000 the second year is to the  
 14.2 commissioner of natural resources to acquire  
 14.3 in fee and restore and enhance lands for  
 14.4 wildlife management purposes under  
 14.5 Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,  
 14.6 subdivision 8, and to acquire land in fee for  
 14.7 scientific and natural area purposes under  
 14.8 Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,  
 14.9 subdivision 5. Subject to evaluation criteria  
 14.10 in Minnesota Rules, part 6136.0900, priority  
 14.11 must be given to acquiring lands that are  
 14.12 eligible for the native prairie bank under  
 14.13 Minnesota Statutes, section 84.96, or lands  
 14.14 adjacent to protected native prairie.

14.15 **(m) Accelerating Habitat Conservation in**  
 14.16 **Southwest Minnesota, Phase 3**

14.17 \$2,872,000 the second year is to the  
 14.18 commissioner of natural resources for an  
 14.19 agreement with Minnesota Land Trust to  
 14.20 acquire permanent conservation easements  
 14.21 and to restore and enhance high-quality  
 14.22 wildlife habitat in southwest Minnesota. Of  
 14.23 this amount, up to \$168,000 is to establish a  
 14.24 monitoring and enforcement fund as approved  
 14.25 in the accomplishment plan and subject to  
 14.26 Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056,  
 14.27 subdivision 17.

14.28 **(n) Sauk River Watershed Habitat Protection**  
 14.29 **and Restoration, Phase 5**

14.30 \$3,965,000 the second year is to the  
 14.31 commissioner of natural resources for  
 14.32 agreements to acquire lands in fee and  
 14.33 permanent conservation easements and restore  
 14.34 and enhance wildlife habitat in the Sauk River  
 14.35 watershed as follows: \$375,000 to Great River  
 14.36 Greening; \$1,199,000 to Sauk River



15.1 Watershed District; \$1,192,000 to Pheasants  
15.2 Forever; and \$1,199,000 to Minnesota Land  
15.3 Trust. Up to \$168,000 to Minnesota Land  
15.4 Trust is to establish a monitoring and  
15.5 enforcement fund as approved in the  
15.6 accomplishment plan and subject to Minnesota  
15.7 Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 17.

15.8 **(o) Metro Big Rivers, Phase 14**

15.9 \$8,123,000 the second year is to the  
15.10 commissioner of natural resources for  
15.11 agreements to acquire land in fee and  
15.12 permanent conservation easements and to  
15.13 restore and enhance natural habitat systems  
15.14 associated with the Mississippi, Minnesota,  
15.15 and St. Croix Rivers and their tributaries  
15.16 within the metropolitan area as follows:  
15.17 \$1,250,000 to Minnesota Valley National  
15.18 Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.; \$420,000 to  
15.19 Friends of the Mississippi River; \$803,000 to  
15.20 Great River Greening; \$2,750,000 to Trust for  
15.21 Public Land; and \$2,900,000 to Minnesota  
15.22 Land Trust. Up to \$224,000 to Minnesota  
15.23 Land Trust is to establish a monitoring and  
15.24 enforcement fund as approved in the  
15.25 accomplishment plan and subject to Minnesota  
15.26 Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 17.

15.27 **(p) Anoka Sand Plain Habitat Conservation,**  
15.28 **Phase 9**

15.29 \$1,802,000 the second year is to the  
15.30 commissioner of natural resources for  
15.31 agreements to restore and enhance wildlife  
15.32 habitat on public lands and easements in the  
15.33 Anoka Sand Plain ecoregion and intersecting  
15.34 minor watersheds as follows: \$1,508,000 to

16.1 Great River Greening and \$294,000 to  
16.2 Sherburne County.

16.3 **(q) DNR Aquatic Habitat Restoration and**  
16.4 **Enhancement, Phase 7**

16.5 \$4,206,000 the second year is to the  
16.6 commissioner of natural resources to restore  
16.7 and enhance aquatic habitat in degraded  
16.8 streams and aquatic management areas and to  
16.9 facilitate fish passage.

16.10 **(r) Minnesota Statewide Trout Habitat**  
16.11 **Enhancement**

16.12 \$2,308,000 the second year is to the  
16.13 commissioner of natural resources for an  
16.14 agreement with Trout Unlimited to restore and  
16.15 enhance habitat for trout and other species in  
16.16 and along coldwater rivers, lakes, and streams  
16.17 throughout Minnesota.

16.18 **(s) Knife River Habitat Rehabilitation, Phase 7**

16.19 \$1,572,000 the second year is to the  
16.20 commissioner of natural resources for an  
16.21 agreement with the Arrowhead Regional  
16.22 Development Commission, in cooperation  
16.23 with the Lake Superior Steelhead Association,  
16.24 to restore and enhance trout habitat in the  
16.25 Knife River watershed.

16.26 **(t) DNR St. Louis River Restoration Initiative,**  
16.27 **Phase 11**

16.28 \$2,163,000 the second year is to the  
16.29 commissioner of natural resources to restore  
16.30 and enhance priority aquatic, riparian, and  
16.31 forest habitats in the St. Louis River estuary.  
16.32 Of this amount, \$716,000 is for an agreement  
16.33 with Minnesota Land Trust.

16.34 **(u) Roseau Lake Rehabilitation, Phase 2**

- 17.1 \$3,054,000 the second year is to the  
17.2 commissioner of natural resources for an  
17.3 agreement with the Roseau River Watershed  
17.4 District to restore and enhance the Roseau  
17.5 Lake and Roseau River habitat complex in  
17.6 Roseau County, Minnesota.
- 17.7 **(v) Highbanks Ravine Bat Hibernaculum**
- 17.8 \$2,300,000 the second year is to the  
17.9 commissioner of natural resources for an  
17.10 agreement with the city of St. Cloud to  
17.11 enhance the Highbanks Ravine Bat  
17.12 Hibernaculum in St. Cloud.
- 17.13 **(w) Owámniyomni Native Landscape and River**  
17.14 **Restoration, St. Anthony Falls**
- 17.15 \$1,918,000 the second year is to the  
17.16 commissioner of natural resources for an  
17.17 agreement with Friends of the Falls to restore  
17.18 and enhance wildlife habitat at Upper St.  
17.19 Anthony Falls. This appropriation may only  
17.20 be spent for site grading, oak savanna, and  
17.21 aquatic habitat portions of the project.
- 17.22 **(x) Silver Lake Dam Fish Passage Modification**
- 17.23 \$2,368,000 the second year is to the  
17.24 commissioner of natural resources for an  
17.25 agreement with the city of Rochester to restore  
17.26 and enhance aquatic habitat in Silver Lake and  
17.27 the south fork of the Zumbro River by  
17.28 modifying the existing low-head dam in  
17.29 Rochester.
- 17.30 **(y) Little Devil Track River Restoration**
- 17.31 \$3,000,000 the second year is to the  
17.32 commissioner of natural resources for an  
17.33 agreement with Cook County to restore and

18.1 enhance stream habitat in the Little Devil  
18.2 Track River.

18.3 **(z) Conservation Partners Legacy Grant**  
18.4 **Program: Statewide and Metro Habitat, Phase**  
18.5 **16**

18.6 \$15,000,000 the first year is to the  
18.7 commissioner of natural resources for a  
18.8 program to provide competitive matching  
18.9 grants of up to \$500,000 to local, regional,  
18.10 state, and national organizations for enhancing,  
18.11 restoring, or protecting forests, wetlands,  
18.12 prairies, or habitat for fish, game, or wildlife  
18.13 in Minnesota. Unless there are not enough  
18.14 eligible grant applications received, of this  
18.15 amount, at least \$4,000,000 is for grants in the  
18.16 seven-county metropolitan area and cities with  
18.17 a population of 50,000 or more and at least  
18.18 \$4,000,000 is for grants to applicants that have  
18.19 not previously applied for money from the  
18.20 outdoor heritage fund. Grants must not be  
18.21 made for activities required to fulfill the duties  
18.22 of owners of lands subject to conservation  
18.23 easements. Grants must not be made from the  
18.24 appropriation in this paragraph for projects  
18.25 that have a total project cost exceeding  
18.26 \$1,000,000. Of the total appropriation,  
18.27 \$600,000 may be spent for personnel costs,  
18.28 outreach, and support to first-time applicants  
18.29 and other direct and necessary administrative  
18.30 costs. Grantees may acquire land or interests  
18.31 in land. Easements must be permanent. Grants  
18.32 may not be used to establish easement  
18.33 stewardship accounts. The program must  
18.34 require a match of at least ten percent from  
18.35 nonstate sources for all grants. The match may  
18.36 be cash or in-kind. For grant applications of

19.1 \$25,000 or less, the commissioner must  
 19.2 provide a separate, simplified application  
 19.3 process. Subject to Minnesota Statutes, the  
 19.4 commissioner of natural resources must, when  
 19.5 evaluating projects of equal value, give  
 19.6 priority to organizations that have a history of  
 19.7 receiving, or a charter to receive, private  
 19.8 contributions for local conservation or habitat  
 19.9 projects. All restoration or enhancement  
 19.10 projects must be on land permanently  
 19.11 protected by a permanent covenant ensuring  
 19.12 perpetual maintenance and protection of  
 19.13 restored and enhanced habitat, by a  
 19.14 conservation easement, or by public ownership  
 19.15 or in public waters as defined in Minnesota  
 19.16 Statutes, section 103G.005, subdivision 15.  
 19.17 Priority must be given to restoration and  
 19.18 enhancement projects on public lands.  
 19.19 Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056,  
 19.20 subdivision 13, applies to grants awarded  
 19.21 under this paragraph. This appropriation is  
 19.22 available until June 30, 2027. No less than five  
 19.23 percent of the amount of each grant must be  
 19.24 held back from reimbursement until the grant  
 19.25 recipient completes a grant accomplishment  
 19.26 report by the deadline and in the form  
 19.27 prescribed by and satisfactory to the  
 19.28 Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council. The  
 19.29 commissioner must provide notice of the grant  
 19.30 program in the summary of game and fish law  
 19.31 prepared under Minnesota Statutes, section  
 19.32 97A.051, subdivision 2.

19.33 Subd. 6. **Administration**

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1,402,000

19.34 **(a) Contract Management**

20.1 \$350,000 the second year is to the  
20.2 commissioner of natural resources for contract  
20.3 management duties assigned in this section.  
20.4 The commissioner must provide an  
20.5 accomplishment plan in the form specified by  
20.6 the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council  
20.7 on expending this appropriation. The  
20.8 accomplishment plan must include a copy of  
20.9 the grant contract template and reimbursement  
20.10 manual. No money may be expended before  
20.11 the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council  
20.12 approves the accomplishment plan. Money  
20.13 appropriated in this paragraph is available until  
20.14 June 30, 2026.

20.15 **(b) Technical Evaluation Panel**

20.16 \$160,000 the second year is to the  
20.17 commissioner of natural resources for a  
20.18 technical evaluation panel to conduct up to 25  
20.19 restoration and enhancement evaluations under  
20.20 Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056,  
20.21 subdivision 10. Money appropriated in this  
20.22 paragraph is available until June 30, 2026.

20.23 **(c) Core Functions in Partner-led OHF Land**  
20.24 **Acquisitions**

20.25 \$892,000 the second year is to the  
20.26 commissioner of natural resources for  
20.27 administering the initial development,  
20.28 restoration, and enhancement of land acquired  
20.29 in fee with money appropriated from the  
20.30 outdoor heritage fund. This appropriation may  
20.31 be used for land acquisition costs incurred by  
20.32 the department in conveying parcels to the  
20.33 department and for initial development  
20.34 activities on fee title acquisitions. Money

21.1 appropriated in this paragraph is available until  
21.2 June 30, 2032.

21.3 **Subd. 7. Availability of Appropriation**

21.4 (a) Money appropriated in this section may  
21.5 not be spent on activities unless they are  
21.6 directly related to and necessary for a specific  
21.7 appropriation and are specified in the  
21.8 accomplishment plan approved by the  
21.9 Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.

21.10 Money appropriated in this section must not  
21.11 be spent on indirect costs or other institutional  
21.12 overhead charges that are not directly related  
21.13 to and necessary for a specific appropriation.

21.14 Money appropriated for fee title acquisition  
21.15 of land may be used to restore, enhance, and  
21.16 provide for public use of the land acquired  
21.17 with the appropriation. Public-use facilities  
21.18 must have a minimal impact on habitat in  
21.19 acquired lands.

21.20 (b) Money appropriated in this section is  
21.21 available as follows:

21.22 (1) money appropriated for acquiring real  
21.23 property is available until June 30, 2028;

21.24 (2) money appropriated for restoring and  
21.25 enhancing land acquired with an appropriation  
21.26 in this section is available for four years after  
21.27 the acquisition date with a maximum end date  
21.28 of June 30, 2032;

21.29 (3) money appropriated for restoring or  
21.30 enhancing other land is available until June  
21.31 30, 2029;

21.32 (4) notwithstanding clauses (1) to (3), money  
21.33 appropriated for a project that receives at least  
21.34 15 percent of its funding from federal funds

22.1 is available until a date sufficient to match the  
22.2 availability of federal funding to a maximum  
22.3 of six years if the federal funding was  
22.4 confirmed and included in the original  
22.5 approved draft accomplishment plan; and  
22.6 (5) money appropriated for other projects is  
22.7 available until the end of the fiscal year in  
22.8 which it is appropriated.

22.9 **Subd. 8. Payment Conditions and Capital**  
22.10 **Equipment Expenditures**

22.11 (a) All agreements referred to in this section  
22.12 must be administered on a reimbursement  
22.13 basis unless otherwise provided in this section.  
22.14 Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, section  
22.15 16A.41, expenditures directly related to each  
22.16 appropriation's purpose made on or after July  
22.17 1, 2024, or the date of accomplishment plan  
22.18 approval, whichever is later, are eligible for  
22.19 reimbursement unless otherwise provided in  
22.20 this section. For the purposes of administering  
22.21 appropriations and legislatively authorized  
22.22 agreements paid out of the outdoor heritage  
22.23 fund, an expense must be considered  
22.24 reimbursable by the administering agency  
22.25 when the recipient presents the agency with  
22.26 an invoice or binding agreement with a  
22.27 landowner and the recipient attests that the  
22.28 goods have been received or the landowner  
22.29 agreement is binding. Periodic reimbursement  
22.30 must be made upon receiving documentation  
22.31 that the items articulated in the  
22.32 accomplishment plan approved by the  
22.33 Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council have  
22.34 been achieved, including partial achievements  
22.35 as evidenced by progress reports approved by



- 23.1 the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.
- 23.2 Reasonable amounts may be advanced to
- 23.3 projects to accommodate cash-flow needs,
- 23.4 support future management of acquired lands,
- 23.5 or match a federal share. The advances must
- 23.6 be approved as part of the accomplishment
- 23.7 plan. Capital equipment expenditures for
- 23.8 specific items in excess of \$10,000 must be
- 23.9 itemized in and approved as part of the
- 23.10 accomplishment plan.
- 23.11 (b) Unless otherwise provided, no money
- 23.12 appropriated from the outdoor heritage fund
- 23.13 in this act may be used to acquire, restore, or
- 23.14 enhance any real property unless the specific
- 23.15 acquisition, restoration, or enhancement is
- 23.16 approved as part of the accomplishment plan
- 23.17 on the parcel list.
- 23.18 **Subd. 9. Mapping**
- 23.19 Each direct recipient of money appropriated
- 23.20 in this section, as well as each recipient of a
- 23.21 grant awarded pursuant to this section, must
- 23.22 provide geographic information to the
- 23.23 Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council for
- 23.24 mapping of any lands acquired in fee with
- 23.25 funds appropriated in this section and open to
- 23.26 public taking of fish and game. The
- 23.27 commissioner of natural resources must
- 23.28 include the lands acquired in fee with money
- 23.29 appropriated in this section on maps showing
- 23.30 public recreation opportunities. Maps must
- 23.31 include information on and acknowledgment
- 23.32 of the outdoor heritage fund, including a
- 23.33 notation of any restrictions.

24.1 Subd. 10. Carryforward

24.2 (a) The availability of the following

24.3 appropriations is extended to June 30, 2025:

24.4 (1) Laws 2019, First Special Session chapter

24.5 2, article 1, section 2, subdivision 5, paragraph

24.6 (f), Trout Unlimited Coldwater Fish Habitat

24.7 Enhancement and Restoration - Phase XI; and

24.8 (2) Laws 2019, First Special Session chapter

24.9 2, article 1, section 2, subdivision 5, paragraph

24.10 (j), Shell Rock River Watershed Habitat

24.11 Restoration Program - Phase VIII.

24.12 (b) The availability of the appropriation in

24.13 Laws 2019, First Special Session chapter 2,

24.14 article 1, section 2, subdivision 4, paragraph

24.15 (g), Big Rice Lake Wild Rice Enhancement,

24.16 is extended to June 30, 2026.