

Game & Fish Fund Budgetary Oversight Committee

—Authorized Under Minnesota Statutes Section 97A.055—

020354

Ira Adelman, Chair

Subcommittee Chairs

John Schneider—Fisheries Operations

Jeff Broberg—Trout & Salmon Stamp

Joe Duggan—Wildlife Operations

Dan Splittstoser—Big Game

Tom Glines—Turkey Stamp

Matt Holland—Pheasant Stamp

Mike McGinty—Waterfowl Stamp

John Curry—Ecological Services

Dave Overland—Enforcement, Support
Services, & Administration

Date: April 1, 2002

To: Allen Garber, Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources
The Honorable Dave Bishop, State Representative
The Honorable Mark Holsten, State Representative
The Honorable Dennis Ozment, State Representative
The Honorable Doug Johnson, State Senator
The Honorable Jane Krentz, State Senator
The Honorable Leonard Price, State Senator

From: Ira R. Adelman, Chair



Subject: **Game and Fish Fund Budgetary Oversight Committee Report**

As per the authorizing legislation (Minn. Stat. Sec. 97A.055 Subd. 4B), the enclosed report is being sent to you, chairs of the legislative committees having jurisdiction over appropriations and environment and natural resources, and the Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources. We would appreciate your calling it to the attention of other legislators and DNR staff. We hope to make it generally available via the Web, but have not yet finalized that arrangement.

Citizens of Minnesota owe a debt of gratitude to the members of the various Citizens Oversight Subcommittees, who spent numerous hours analyzing documents and writing their portions of this report. They receive no compensation for their efforts other than personal satisfaction in helping to ensure that Minnesota has the best-managed fisheries and wildlife resources in the country. We hope that you will seriously consider our findings in your legislative deliberations and do what you can to support our efforts on behalf of excellence in natural resource management.

Thank you for your interest and for your support of the Budgetary Oversight Committee and the Citizens Oversight Subcommittees.

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REPORT OF THE GAME AND FISH FUND BUDGETARY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Background:

This document summarizes the findings and recommendations of the Budgetary Oversight Committee (BOC) and contains the reports from eight of the nine Citizen Oversight Subcommittees. Minnesota statutes assign the Citizen Oversight Subcommittees the task of reviewing the proposed work plans and budgets associated with most of the budgetary units or programs of DNR relative to fisheries and wildlife. The subcommittees are to propose changes in policies, activities, and revenue enhancements or reductions; and make recommendations to the legislature and the commissioner for improvements in the management and use of money in the game and fish fund. The BOC, composed of the chairs of each subcommittee and an independent chairperson, is responsible for coordinating the integration of the subcommittee reports into an annual report. The BOC also recommends changes on a broad level in policies, activities, and revenue enhancements or reductions; and provides a forum to address issues that transcend the subcommittees. After receiving reports from the subcommittees, the BOC identified common issues and issues deemed to be particularly important among the subcommittee reports as well as important issues not dealt with by any subcommittee. Those issues are addressed below. Legislators and the commissioner should review individual subcommittee reports for an in-depth discussion of these as well as various other issues specific to the subcommittees.

Major findings and recommendations of the BOC:

1. All subcommittees found that expenditure of funds by the various units and programs of DNR were appropriate and within the intended guidelines for the use of those funds. Some minor discrepancies were found that appeared to be due to accounting or other errors.
2. Although the recent increases in license fees have put most programs on a solid financial footing for the short term, inflation and other cost increases needed to maintain satisfactory programming will gradually erode programs over time. The legislature should explore various means to ensure stable funding. Suggestions include: 1) indexing license fees to inflation, 2) increasing appropriations from the General Fund to recognize the benefit of Game and Fish Fund programs to all Minnesotans, not just hunters and anglers, 3) dedication of a portion of sales tax revenues, and 4) other mechanisms. As two governor's commissions have pointed out (1984, 1998), Minnesota has never invested sufficiently in fisheries and wildlife resources relative to the value of those resources to the state.
3. Although the various units and programs of DNR have done a good job of moving toward similar reporting and accounting practices in recent years, further improvement is needed to allow the subcommittees and stakeholders to better understand how funds are spent. Furthermore, there is a need to tie expenditures to quantifiable outcome goals, not just activities, as is largely the current practice. Upcoming efforts by the subcommittees and DNR personnel will attempt to identify such outcome goals.

4. Bonding for DNR projects has fallen well short of needs in recent years. Field operations in particular are suffering from deterioration of property and buildings. Without proper maintenance, they will eventually need to be replaced at a much higher cost.
5. Exclusion of Ecological Services from an increase in base funding after the recent increase in license fees has limited the division's ability to contribute as effectively as needed to sustaining Minnesota's fisheries and wildlife resources.
6. The Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Critical Habitat Match Program, which doubles state investments in acquiring or enhancing fish and wildlife habitat by matching private donations of land, easements or cash, dollar for dollar, is seriously short of funds. Private donors have contributed over \$26 million to the program since it began in 1986, but public match has not kept pace with donations. In each of the last five years, there has been a backlog of \$1 to \$3 million in private donations awaiting public match. The current backlog of private donations awaiting public match exceeds \$3.0 million. The new conservation license plate provides nearly \$1.0 million per year for critical habitat match, but it will not generate enough to match all private donations alone. Furthermore, the \$1 million from the conservation license plates should be considered an additional private donation and we question whether it should really count as a state match. The program needs a significant capital budget appropriation to stimulate additional private donations. Eligible land acquisition and enhancement projects include: wetland restoration, forest habitat, winter cover, preserving land for rare natural communities like native prairie and grasslands, preserving spawning areas for fish.
7. Based on the ages of current Conservation Officers, 52 retirements are anticipated in the next several years. There is no funding in the budget for the hiring and training of replacements, which will severely impact enforcement of fish and game laws.
8. Easement acquisition is a high priority activity that enables the public to take advantage of fish and wildlife resources. However, acquisition has been halted because of the administration's questioning the validity of DNR appraisals. Statutory changes are needed to fix the problem.
9. The DNR should consider reducing costs by consolidating booklets and eliminating printed stamps.
10. DNR should be congratulated on: 1) their cooperation with the oversight committees in providing staff after hours to communicate with the committees, 2) their open, honest responses to inquiries by the committees, and 3) continuing efforts to involve the public in decision making through roundtables and other public meetings.
11. We request that the legislature release this document to the media and the public to make them aware of the work of the oversight committees.

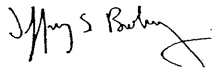
Ira R. Adelman,
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Matt Holland
Pheasant Stamp Subcommittee



Jeff Broberg
Trout and Salmon Stamp Subcommittee



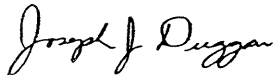
Tom Glines
Turkey Stamp Subcommittee



John Curry
Ecological Services Subcommittee



Joe Duggan
Wildlife Operations Subcommittee




John Schneider
Fish Operations Subcommittee



Dan Splittstoser
Big Game Subcommittee



Dave Overland
Enforcement and Support Services Subcommittee



Big Game Subcommittee Report

The Big Game Sub-Committee has reviewed the "Report to the Legislature on the Game & Fish Fund expenditure for FY 2001," dated November 2001. After examination and discussion the committee believes that Game & Fish Funds were used properly as listed in the report. Based upon our review, following are two basic recommendations.

Recommendation: Listing of expenditures within the report should be supplemented with further information detailing the quantifiable results of expenditures. Specifically, detailed summary of measurable results should be provided (geographic distribution of expenditures, type or category, spatial scope of funded projects, etc), correlating directly with dollars expended from the Big Game account.

Recommendation: Big game account funded expenditures must have direct benefit to Minnesota's big game. Other than deer, moose and bear research projects, Minnesota's big game management has been accomplished in large measure incidentally. In other words, it is felt that many Big Game account funds have been expended on projects that only indirectly benefit deer, moose and bear. Department rationale for such expenditures appear to be that deer, moose and/or bear will directly or indirectly benefit from the project. Thus, it really doesn't matter if a project related to grouse, pheasant, wetlands, etc., is funded with Big Game Account dollars, since deer will benefit in the end.

One example of a project with specific deer related benefit would be the review of deer hunting zones and permit areas. Current zones and permit areas have existed for decades with prognostications of harvest, populations, etc., based mainly upon computer models derived from harvest data or old data.

A second overriding concern relating to Big Game account funds is assurance that funds are spent with direct benefit to Minnesota's big game species. These expenditures must be focused primarily toward "field" expenditures providing the greatest direct benefit possible. Expenditures of a "non-field" nature with less direct benefit to Minnesota's big game species should be funded primarily from the general account.

Minnesotans who provide the revenue that makes up the Big Game Account are hunters. Hunters expect that their license fees should enhance and pay for additional benefits that are related directly with their activity. When the user is informed about issues and/or projects that are not directly connected with their immediate use, the user tends to take issue with the expenditure. Keeping closer correlation between expenditures and direct benefit to big game resources will not only calm concerns, it will also enhance support.

Long Range: It is the position of the Big Game Sub Committee that serious legislative consideration must be given toward providing additional funding to the Game and Fish Fund. The current budgetary difficulties of the State of Minnesota dramatically underscore the necessity for additional supplemental, dedicated funding. Because the

benefits of abundant and prolific game and fish resources within Minnesota are so critical to a healthy state economy, strong financial commitment must be sought and found. Tourism, outdoor activities of all types by the entire spectrum of Minnesota residents, a healthy business climate, and our heritage of living within a premier landscape, are all dependant upon the quality and quantity of Minnesota's natural resources. We can't afford anything less than excellent.

Respectfully submitted by the Big Game Sub Committee
Doug Strecker
Ty Bestor
Dan Splittstoser – Chairman

Division of Ecological Services Report for the Citizen's Oversight Committee on the Game and Fish Fund

Purpose:

The Citizen's Oversight Committee's (COC) subcommittee on Ecological Services reviewed the FY01 expenditures of the Division of Ecological Services at their November and December meetings and the FY02 expenditure outcome goals. The group discussed the financial details of the division as presented in graph and narrative form.

Subcommittee Recommendations:

- The natural resource work conducted by the Division of Ecological Services is core to the Department's mission to "work with citizens to protect and manage the state's natural resources" and is vital to the efforts to protect and manage Minnesota's fish and wildlife resource. The division's use of Game and Fish fund dollars to support work targeted at fish and wildlife conservation is justified and appropriate. Although the dollars provide approximately 18% of the Division's base budget expenditures in FY01 (excluding the FY01 expenditures of Heritage Enhancement dollars) it represents only 2.5% of the Game and Fish Fund (excluding the Heritage Enhancement dollars) and 3.2% of the Fund when the Heritage Enhancement dollars are included. This is a minor investment considering the return to the resource.
- Excluding the Division from an increase in base appropriations from the Game and Fish Fund during the recent license increase initiative compromises the Division's ability to contribute to the conservation of fish and wildlife conservation in areas such as stream protection and restoration, lake mapping, technical assistance to local units of government and environmental review. In the future, any increases in license fees should be distributed to all Divisions that receive Game and Fish Fund dollars, including Ecological Services.
- Future appropriations to Ecological Services should consider the overall nature of funding in the Division and the balance among the different funds, such as the General Fund and Game and Fish Fund. For example, the committee reviewed a list of at least \$700,000 of expenditures in other funds that could be justified as Game and Fish Fund expenditures.
- Prioritize work areas for possible budget reallocations, as required by this administration.
- The department should develop a consistent reporting format for all divisions and operations utilizing Game and Fish Fund dollars. The current report makes it difficult to clearly compare expenditures across the department.
- The Division of Ecological Services should not be the fiscal agent for the Attorney General Fees for the Game and Fish Fund. The Budget Oversight Committee should explore other appropriate fiscal agents.
- The committee reviewed and recommends the Division's implementation plan and outcome goals presented for FY02 expenditures of the Game and Fish Fund.

Summary:

The Game and Fish Fund provided 18% (\$1,816,081) of the total expenditures (\$10,153,707) for the Division of Ecological Services in FY2001 (Figure 1). This includes an expenditure of \$129,948 to the Attorney General's office that covered the costs of the Divisions of Fisheries and Wildlife as well; so the actual expenditure on Ecological Services program is slightly less than the total. This expenditure represents 2.5% of the total expenditures made from the Fund during the fiscal year (minus the expenditures from the Heritage Enhancement Account). An additional expenditure of \$876,906 was directed to one-time projects approved from the Heritage Enhancement account within the Game and Fish Fund.

Allocation of the \$1,816,081 resulted in \$1,118,408 to field activities and \$697,673 to headquarters activities, including the payment to the Attorney General (Table 1.). When expenditures from the Heritage Enhancement account are included a total of \$1,995,313 were spent on field activities. Allocations by program topic are also shown in Figure 2 (includes the Heritage enhancement dollars) and Figure 3 (excludes the Heritage enhancement dollars).

We were presented with complete information and answers to questions from the Division of Ecological Services and did not identify any misuse of Game and Fish Fund dollars. Indeed, the Division of Ecological Services has developed a conservative approach to its management of the Game and Fish Fund dollars that are appropriated to the division. At least \$700,000 in expenditures that directly benefit Minnesota's game and fish resource from other appropriations were reviewed by the committee and could be justified as Game and Fish Fund expenditures.

Figure 1.

Ecological Services FY01 Expenditures

Total Dollars: \$10,153,707

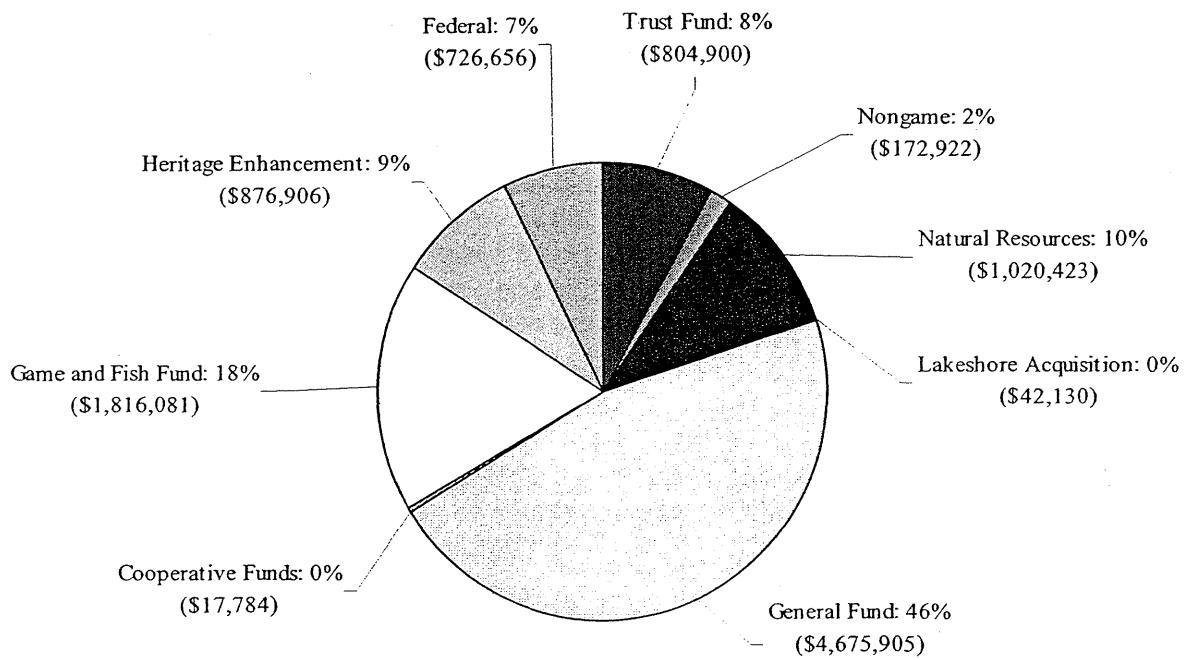


Figure 2. Ecological Services Allocation of Game and Fish Fund, FY01

(\$2,692,986: both base and One-time Heritage Enhancement Dollars)

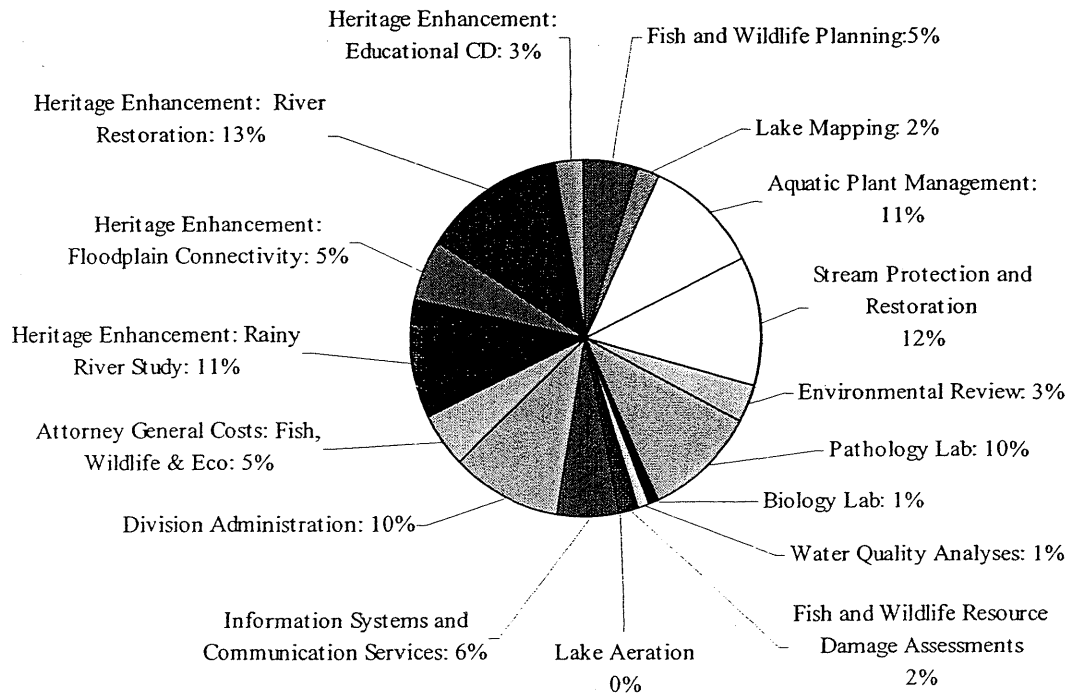


Figure 3.
Ecological Services Allocation of Game and Fish Fund, FY01
(\$1,816,081: Base Dollars only, minus Heritage Enhancement Dollars)

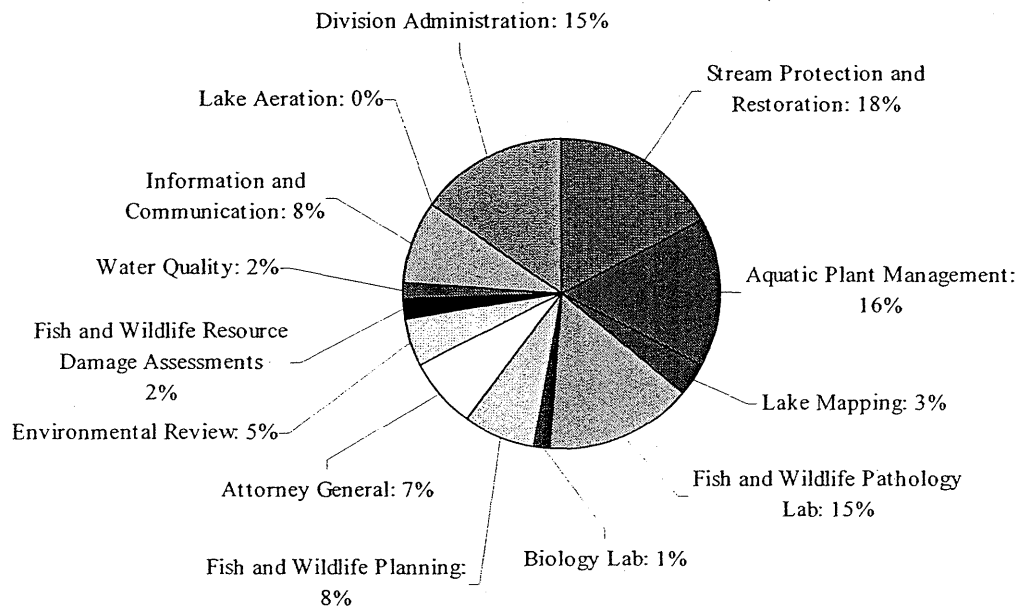


Table 1.
Ecological Services Breakdown of Game and Fish Fund Expenses in FY01

Program Area	Field/St. Paul	FTE's	Salaries	Expenses	Total	Total	% Program Expenses
						Field/St. Paul	covered by GFF
Fish and Wildlife Planning	St. Paul	2.0	\$132,858	\$5,267	\$138,125	\$0/\$138,125	100%
Lake Mapping	Field	1.1	\$53,250	\$4,915	\$58,165	\$58,165/\$0	100%
Aquatic Plant Management	Field	4.2	\$247,406	\$36,084	\$283,490	\$283,490/\$0	91%
Stream Protection & Restoration	Field	5.0	\$225,413	\$87,872	\$313,285	\$313,285/\$0	44%
Environmental Review	Field	1.2	\$77,927	\$12,838	\$90,765	\$90,765/\$0	27%
Pathology Services	Field	3.5	\$206,645	\$66,470	\$273,115	\$273,115/\$0	100%
Biology Lab	Field	0.4	\$19,033	\$5,002	\$24,035	\$24,035/\$0	29%
Water Quality Analyses	Field	0.0	\$0	\$29,964	\$29,964	\$29,964/\$0	50%
Resource Damages	Field	0.8	\$40,232	\$2,458	\$42,690	\$42,690/\$0	100%
Aeration	Field	0.2	\$2,899	\$0	\$2,899	\$2899/\$0	7%
Communication & Info Systems	St. Paul	2.4	\$129,572	\$23,723	\$153,295	\$0/\$153,295	24%
Division Administration	St. Paul	0.0		\$276,305	\$276,305	\$0/\$276,305	19%
Attorney Costs: Eco, Fish & Wild.	St. Paul	0.0		\$129,948	\$129,948	\$0/\$129,948	
Heritage Enhancement	Field	0.4	17,200	\$859,705	\$876,905	\$876,905/\$0	
Totals		21.2	\$1,152,435	\$1,540,551	\$2,692,986	\$1,995,313/\$697,673	

Enforcement, Administration and Support Services BOC Subcommittee Report

Conclusions:

After hearing testimony from the unit supervisors and having time to examine all the documents provided regarding the budgets and operations of the various DNR units we were requested to oversee, we see no problems with the way the money has been spent. The main issue we see is the lack of a consistent funding source to do the job sportsmen and sportswomen expect the DNR to do in order to protect and improve our natural resources.

Summary:

Enforcement expenditures included:

Fishing regulation (non commercial)	\$4,887,703	(133,398 hours down from 143,830 in FY 2000) *
Hunting regulation	\$3,776,045	(103,058 hours down from 118,468 in FY 2000) *
Safety training	\$831,545	(22,695 hours same as FY2000)
Commercial and special investigations	\$411,064	(11,219 hours same as FY2000)
Administration/Overhead	\$4,864,725	(32% of expenditures up from 19% in FY 2000) *
Heritage Enhancement Account	\$1,617,664	(This fund did not exist in FY 2000)

The Heritage money was spent on equipment, academy for 24 officers and to restore mileage cut during previous budget shortfall.

* The reduction of fishing and hunting regulation hours, the increased administration expenses and the use of Heritage dollars for training were all necessitated by the large number of field stations needing to be filled. This year the Enforcement Division filled 32 field vacancies. The largest number in division history. They now have 162 field stations filled (up from 149 in FY 2000) but are still down 14. Fishing and hunting regulation hours should be on the increase with continued increased effort on fishing after hiring these officers. Also administration costs should go down. That's the good news. The bad news is a large number of potential retirements are coming up in the next 5 years.

Administration and Support services expenditures included:

License bureau	\$1,309,459	(\$1,494,160 in FY 2000)
Electronic license system	\$2,267,113	(\$839,796 in FY 2000, cost of pilot program)
Statewide indirect costs	\$1,111,637	(\$896,796 in FY 2000)*
Operations support	\$7,709,054	(\$6,620,082 in FY 2000)*

Operations support includes:

Administrative management	\$3,514,110	(\$2,992,127 in FY 2000)
Field operations support	\$2,770,110	(\$2,399,415 in FY 2000)
Regional operations	\$1,006,089	(\$821,284 in FY 2000)
Land and minerals	\$418,745	(\$407,256 in FY 2000)

Lifetime fish and wildlife trust fund \$0 (Trust fund balance is \$482,766)

*The Administration and Support expenditures were up in 2001 because the overall Game and Fish fund was significantly higher in 2001. The expenditures listed above not including license amount to approximately 14.2% of FY 2001 Game and Fish fund expenditures.

Administration and Support services recommendations:

- 1) All state stamp programs should be revised and administered the same as the Trout and Turkey stamps. The stamps could be maintained as a collector item for those people who want them with any costs for the stamp and service passed on to the collector. Currently the license center spends too much money sending out the stamps and the paper stamps put an additional burden on enforcement. An option might be considered that allows stamp collectors to pick up stamps at DNR offices for no additional handling fees.
- 2) The costs of hunting and fishing licenses should be indexed to inflation to keep up with the cost of doing business. This would hopefully take the politics out of the process and insure that the Game and Fish Fund remains fully funded to provide the best opportunities for the citizens.
- 3) Bonding bills should allow the DNR Field Operations to fully fund building upgrades and major maintenance improvements to DNR property and buildings. Many of these buildings are in less than desirable condition and it is only a matter of time before they will be unsafe to use or due to collapse cost the state more money to replace.
- 4) License for snowmobiles, ATV's, and personal watercraft should be increased and grants to county sheriffs increased so their resources can be used to control the increasing use of these vehicles. Snowmobile and ATV sales have jumped dramatically and as a result they are soon becoming a major part of the Conservation Officers job which takes away from their opportunity to monitor fish and game regulations.
- 5) Recommend aggressive DNR marketing of Lifetime resident and non-resident opportunities using existing media and web outlets.
- 6) Recommend expanding ELS as soon as possible. ELS should be utilized to ask hunters and anglers, at the time of license issuing, if they want their privacy protected. Also ELS survey questions should be kept to a minimum.
- 7) Watch for opportunities to consolidate duties at regional and other offices as appropriate.
- 8) DNR may consider holding regional roundtable meetings besides the statewide one. They put a lot of effort into communicating with the hunters and anglers through the media and the DNR web site. But more needs to be done. The waiting list for the round table in January is a clear indication the hunters and anglers are looking for more information and interaction with the DNR.

Enforcement recommendations:

- 1) Because Enforcement is a unique law enforcement operation they should be allowed to budget for future retirements and work load. This would allow them to maintain a safe level of Conservation Officers. The funding base formula doesn't take into consideration that 52 of the current Conservation Officers (CO's) are 50 years of age or over and could retire at any time causing the department major replacement problems. Also the funding base does not increase to cover pay raises and it should.
- 2) Enforcement upper management needs to apply project management software that uses the work data input by the Conservation Officers. This would help plan work load requirements and would help plan for the additional enforcement required. For example to make Fisheries Division special regulation lakes a success.

Report written by sub-committee members: Joe Corcoran, Tom Neustrom, Sven Lindquist, Dave Overland (chair)

Game and Fish Fund Fisheries Subcommittee Report

Committee members met frequently to discuss and review the fisheries budget and documents. After reviewing the entire budget and being satisfied, a decision was made to take a closer look at several key elements: the research budget, individual waters management, the overall cold water program, and finally a close look at the impact of recent budget increases. This being a rather ambitious goal, we report here on some preliminary findings and thoughts. As we complete these assessments, the committee will make further recommendations.

Research budget review:

The research program within Fisheries has historically been under appreciated by Fisheries stakeholders. Many anglers, if not most, are not even aware that Fisheries has a research program, and those that do would be hard pressed to describe any of today's projects.

This committee tends to consider research much like R&D expenditures within a business setting. Fisheries can only make the best decisions about management activities if it has the science and understanding to make these judgments. For example, Fisheries is about to instigate new management efforts to improve the state's declining trophy pike fishery. The knowledge gained through research over the past decade is making this possible.

Today, the Fisheries research budget is ~5% of the total; in a business setting this might be considered low. However, several hurdles exist within the research program that limits stakeholder input and funding support.

- the research division largely works in the dark, without stakeholder input or in many cases knowledge. This lack of information flow can and often does generate mistrust between Fisheries and its' stakeholders.

recommendation: this committee over the next 6 months would like to thoroughly evaluate the research program. Furthermore, a process needs to be created that will bring the research program fully into the public's eye. The division should propose an agenda for implementation.

- research outcomes need to directly benefit stakeholder interests and needs. Efforts need to be made to insure that the majority of anglers are being well served by the research program. In many cases, Fisheries has done a poor job explaining long term benefits of its research projects.

recommendation: Fisheries needs to identify and make an effort to explain to its stakeholder's the top "ten topics" that need evaluation/research; then explain how its research program is addressing these important research needs. This committee assumes these are internally done, we're asking that the public be brought into the discussion.

- research is most often understood as merely an academic pursuit. But in reality its about finding answers for problems.

recommendation: a full disclosure and review will improve this misunderstanding. With more public exposure and input, the program will improved and funding support will be generated.

Coldwater program review:

This program is currently being studied, recommendations will follow in a separate brief.

Individual waters management review:

Both Fisheries and its stakeholders support individual waters management. In most cases, these types of management regulations have been credited with improvements to various species within many specific lakes: Mille Lacs and Rainey Lake walleye, Waconia bass, and Cass and Leech muskellunge to name just a few. In the coming years, a concerted effort will be made to improve the size structure of northern pike within 30-50 Minnesota lakes. The outcome of these regulations in large part is in the hands of local anglers, in regard to whether they follow the restrictions or not. This committee and the majority of anglers strongly support these efforts by the department.

This committee reviewed the 6 year *Lake and Stream Management plan, Ecological Classification of Lakes*, and the *Lake Management Planning Guide*. These documents track very closely with the budget documents and forecasts supplied to this committee.

Individual waters management is a more expensive method of regulation than simple statewide regulation. Therefore, the committee wants to stress the need for sound fiscal planning in regards to these changes.

- initial budgets need to make sure that follow up creel surveys and assessments are included.
- adequate enforcement effort is planned and budgeted to insure compliance.
- sufficient dollars and effort are budgeted for angler education. Without the public's acceptance and knowledge, these regulations are doomed to failure.
- as initially offered, experimental regulations were designed to provide case studies to develop a set of special regulations that could be installed over a variety of lakes to improve fishing opportunity. This committee would like to see a time table and short/long term plan developed for when these experimental projects will become routine regulations on many, if not most of our state's waters.

Impacts on the Fisheries Program from recent Fishing License Fee Increases, General Fund Support, and the Heritage Enhancement Account (1/30/02)

Background:

The Division of Fisheries has relied on fishing license fees and federal excise tax dollars [fishing related equipment] to fund most of its programs. Minnesota's reinvestment of the general tax revenue generated by the state's angling industry has historically been very limited.

Much of a typical Fisheries budget is used for salaries and other "fixed" costs associated with facility and equipment overhead. To keep pace with inflation, fishing license fees are therefore increased every five to six years. Fisheries received a small fee increase in 1991, followed by another in 1998. By the

later 1990s, inflation had seriously eroded the budget. 22 positions were unfilled and an unacceptable number of field projects were being accomplished. These levels were considered. The legislature in response to angler/stakeholder input approved increased budgets for Fisheries through several funding initiatives:

- 1) fishing license fee increases that took affect in 1998 and 2000;
- 2) increased general fund support;
- 3) the creation of the Heritage Enhancement Account [state lottery in lieu of sales tax].

This document will demonstrate how these increases have benefited Fisheries programs and how their lose would damage the program.

Fisheries' Budget at a Glance:

Fisheries receives most of its funding from the Game and Fish Fund. On an annual basis this fund receives a little over \$20 million from angler licenses and another \$10 million from the federal excise tax. Fisheries is budgeted ~two thirds of these dollars. Prior to the increased funding from the General Fund and Heritage Enhancement Account, about 97% of the Fisheries budget came from the Game and Fish Fund, while only 2% was from the General Fund (Table 1; fiscal year 1997 data, excluding special appropriations from capital bonding and LCMR).

In fiscal year 2001: the Game and Fish Fund provided 76% of the Fisheries budget, the General Fund 8%, and the Heritage Enhancement Account 16%. However, in fiscal year 2002, the General Fund contribution again dropped down to about 2%.

Table 1. Fisheries program funding from various accounts for fiscal years 1997-2002.

Fiscal Year	General Fund	Water Recreation Account	Game & Fish Fund	Trout Star	Heritage Account	Total
1997	\$ 430,300	\$166,808	\$16,456,882	\$399,999		\$17,453,989
1998	\$ 381,460	\$170,995	\$18,543,000	\$652,000		\$19,747,455
1999	\$ 906,995	\$175,000	\$20,294,000	\$654,000		\$22,029,995
2000	\$1,848,614	\$180,000	\$19,835,897	\$658,000		\$22,522,511
2001	\$2,254,396	\$186,001	\$20,893,946	\$586,528	\$4,493,870	\$28,414,741
2002	\$ 646,000	\$191,000	\$21,454,000	\$666,000	\$4,735,000	\$27,692,000

Funding for Fisheries Programs

Fisheries programs and management activities fall into one of two funding categories, although this distinction is not absolute:

- 1) *"core" activities that are funded with "base" budgets:* includes the dollars programmed for salaries of full-time employees, a portion of the salaries for part-time employees, costs of fish culture and stocking, lake and stream assessment and surveys, and facility and equipment maintenance.
- 2) *"project-related" activities that are funded with "discretionary" budgets:* includes salaries of part-time employees and the costs of contracts, materials, and other items associated with specific projects. [see tables 2, 5, 6 and appendix 1]

When the Fisheries budget is reduced by either inflation or less appropriations, both core and project-related activities suffer. However, project-related activities tend to suffer most. Core activities such as fish culture and stocking, surveys and assessments, environmental protection, etc. are the foundation of the Fisheries program and are managed at the best cost/efficiency/efficacy possible. As a result, Fisheries' budget cuts tend to affect habitat improvement projects, acquisition projects, creel surveys, research contracts, and hatchery improvements more than the core activities. Conversely, when budgets are increased, project-related activities tend to benefit the most.

Table 2. Major Fisheries management activities identified by funding source.

Activity	Base	Discretionary
Habitat protection	X	
Habitat improvement		X
Acquisition		X
Lake & stream surveys	X	
Creel surveys & special projects		X
Research (in-house)	X	
Research (contracts)		X
Fish culture & stocking	X	
Hatchery improvement		X
Aquatic education	X	
Public information	X	
Planning & coordination	X	

Impacts of Budget Increases

The recent funding initiatives have dramatically increased the dollars allocated for projects, peaking in FY 2001 (Table 3). However, total project dollars in 2002 decreased by 44%, and Game and Fish Fund / General Fund contributions hit a low of \$335,876 [just 12% of the total project dollars]. *There is concern that project dollars are becoming totally dependent on the Heritage Enhancement Account.*

Core expenditures have increased. In FY01, six positions left vacant were filled (five field positions and one GIS position in the central office), and a classification study was implemented increasing full time salary costs. The total increase for full-time salaries charged to the Game and Fish Fund was \$1.2 million; and fixed costs allocated for part-time salaries, facility maintenance, and equipment also increased by almost \$0.5 million. These increased costs exceeded the approximately \$1 million increase in game and fish fund dollars in fiscal year 2001, hence the drop in project related dollars supported by the Game and Fish Fund.

Table 3. Dollars allocated for fisheries projects at the start of fiscal years 1997-2002.

Fiscal	Total Budget	Project dollars available			Total
		General Fu	Game & Fi	Trout Sta Heritage Account	
1997	\$17,453,989		\$ 300,000	\$200,000	\$ 500,000
1998	\$19,747,455		\$ 894,000	\$375,000	\$1,269,000
1999	\$22,029,995		\$1,385,980	\$319,000	\$1,704,980
2000	\$22,522,511	\$1,014,615	\$ 70,384*	\$316,000	\$1,400,999

2001	\$28,414,741	\$ 958,522	\$ 152,000	\$320,000	\$3,786,317	\$5,216,839
2002	\$27,692,000	\$ 152,428	\$ 183,448	\$324,000	\$2,237,512	\$2,897,388

* In fiscal year 2000, Fisheries reserved about \$750,000 in Game and Fish Fund dollars in anticipation of increased salaries result from a job classification study. Implementation was delayed until fiscal year 2001, therefore, most of these dollars ended up being used for projects. This analysis represents only what were allocated for projects at the beginning of the fiscal year. Additional project dollars are usually allocated during the fiscal year using salary savings from vacant positions. In addition, some dollars not identified as project dollars, i.e. dollars for full-time salaries, actually go towards projects because employees participate in project work. For example, in fiscal year 2001 full-time salary expenditures for projects totaled over \$900,000.

Comparing dollars that are allocated up front for projects is one indicator of how increased funding has been used for fisheries programs, but it does not provide a complete picture. Perhaps a better indicator of how Fisheries has used increased funding is a comparison of total expenditures in various program areas (Table 4). This shows that the biggest increases in expenditures, both in total dollars and as a percentage of the budget, were for habitat improvement and protection (including acquisition), and fish culture and stocking.

Table 4. Program expenditures showing dollar amounts and percentage of total expenditures.*

Program	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01
Habitat improvement & prot	\$1,368,198 8%	\$1,684,306 9%	\$3,173,723 14%	\$2,096,131 10%	\$5,904,992 20%
Lake & stream surveys	\$5,175,550 29%	\$5,599,497 30%	\$5,870,646 26%	\$5,709,852 27%	\$5,917,132 20%
Research	\$1,035,469 6%	\$1,030,103 6%	\$1,337,850 6%	\$1,294,561 6%	\$1,587,910 5%
Fish culture & stocking	\$2,622,351 15%	\$2,527,979 14%	\$3,254,736 14%	\$3,202,858 15%	\$5,656,210 19%
Aquatic education	\$ 281,841 2%	\$ 261,162 1%	\$ 502,524 2%	\$ 353,125 2%	\$ 528,058 2%
Public information	\$ 748,929 4%	\$ 838,216 4%	\$ 877,314 4%	\$ 773,951 4%	\$ 852,789 3%
Planning & coordination	\$2,072,639 12%	\$2,061,754 11%	\$2,247,772 10%	\$2,239,913 11%	\$2,538,965 8%
Facilities & equipment	\$1,602,675 9%	\$1,400,469 8%	\$1,825,831 8%	\$1,722,270 8%	\$2,189,511 7%
Administration	\$2,728,356 15%	\$3,005,656 16%	\$3,612,774 16%	\$3,311,366 16%	\$4,386,885 15%
Workers & unemployment compensation	\$ 268,408 2%	\$ 307,218 2%	\$ 224,552 1%	\$ 303,173 2%	\$ 367,599 1%

*The sum of percentages in a fiscal year may slightly exceed 100 due to rounding error.

A third way to assess the impact of increased funding on Fisheries programs is to exam the number of projects accomplished during each year (Table 5). As expected, the number of projects peaked along with project funding in fiscal year 2001. A complete listing of projects is given in Appendix 1. The number of projects accomplished in fiscal year 2000 is higher than indicated because, as mentioned earlier, additional project dollars became available later that year.

Table 5. Number of Fisheries projects funded - 1997 to 2001. Total project number compared to the number that would have been funded without budget increases.

Fiscal Year	Number of Projects Funded	Number of Projects Funded without Increase
1997	48	NA (pre-budget increase)
1998	104	41
1999	114	37
2000	67*	37
2001	170	37

*Number of projects accomplished was actually higher because more dollars were available after start of fiscal year.

Increased funding for Fisheries programs is also reflected in the amount of work accomplished. Table 6 lists various project-related activities that are most likely to be influenced by increases in the discretionary part of Fisheries' budget. The units of measure are not an absolute indication of the amount of work done, because the intensity of work such as stream improvement can vary from project to project. Also, accomplishments in some areas, particularly acquisition, are influenced by special appropriations from capital bonding and the Environmental Trust Fund. Nevertheless, the data does show that most project-related activities have increased since fiscal year 1997.

Table 6. Project-related fisheries activities accomplished from fiscal years 1997 – 2001.

Activity	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01
Stream corridor acquisition (miles)	1	10	2	3	8
Lakeshore acquisition (acres)	45	88	2	56	662
Trout stream improvement (miles)	4	6	7	13	18
Trout stream maintenance (miles)	330	280	400	497	407
Warmwater stream improvement (miles)	0	0	2	30	42
Walleye spawning areas (number)	1	1	3	3	3
Lake aeration systems (number)	4	7	9	12	9
Fishing piers (number)	9	10	14	14	9
Lake reclamations (number)	3	1	2	2	1
Aquatic plant restoration (shoreline feet)	0	300	3,150	7,911	10,096
Creel surveys & special studies (number)	22	18	25	31	34

Recommendations:

* Recent budget increases have expanded "core" expenditures and greatly enhanced "discretionary projects". However, without the **General Fund and Heritage Enhancement Account appropriations**, fisheries' ability to do discretionary projects [such as habitat improvement, hatchery improvement, and creel surveys to implement individual waters management, etc.] would be severely curtailed. If future budgets decrease these funds, Fisheries ability to do project related activities would return to the unacceptable pre-1997 levels and force numerous position vacancies.

* As a more holistic ecological management philosophy has evolved, Fisheries “core” activities have taken on many new non-traditional angling management expenses. These activities although supported by angler stakeholders would garner much greater support if they were funded with *non* Game and Fish Fund dollars – remembering that Game and Fish dollars are user fees paid by anglers and the expectation exists that they will be spent on angling/stocking management activities.

* This committee applauds the efforts and bold steps by both the MN legislature and DNR in regards to the Heritage Enhancement Account. However, we believe that a dedicated long term general funding source needs to be found that will augment the Game and Fish Fund. The DNR’s move towards a better, more holistic ecological management philosophy and its increased workload demands greater funding from a source other than the Game and Fish Fund.

Active committee members included:

John F. Schneider Ph.D. [Chair]

Metropolitan State University – Natural Sciences Professor
Roseville, Minnesota

Dave Thompson

Fisherman’s Village Resort – Battle Lake, Mn

Michael Dosch

Chaska, Minnesota

Steve Hirsch - DNR liaison to the committee.

A special thanks to the many DNR employees that offered information and effort on behalf of this committee.

endix 1. Fisheries projects funded at the start of fiscal years 1998 – 2001, showing projects that would not have been funded without budget increases.

Fiscal			Estimated
Year	Location	Project	Costs (Thousands)
1998	BEMIDJI	RED RIVER CHANNEL CATFISH TELEMTRY	\$23.0
	DETROIT LAKES	WHITE EARTH LAKE CREEL SURVEY	\$11.0
	WALKER	WOMAN LAKE CREEL SURVEY	\$8.3
	FERGUS FALLS	OTTER TAIL RIVER HABITAT IMPROVEMENT	\$7.0
	BEMIDJI	AQUATIC PLANT INVENTORY	\$3.5
	FERGUS FALLS	NORTH LIDA LAKE SHORELINE STABILIZATION	\$2.5
	STATEWIDE	METAL CUTTING BAND SAW	\$2.9
	STATEWIDE	PUMPS	\$3.4
	GRAND RAPIDS	CUTFOOT HATCHERY DEMOLITION	\$10.0
	ELY	WOLF LAKE POND REPAIR	\$63.0
	GRAND MARAIS	CLEARWATER CREEL SURVEY	\$12.4
	GRAND MARAIS	GILLIS LAKE – LAKE TROUT POPULATION ESTIMATE	\$3.9
	MONTROSE	MISSISSIPPI RIVER CREEL SURVEY	\$28.3
	MONTROSE	MINK-SOMMER LAKES CREEL SURVEY	\$4.0
	HINCKLEY	ST CROIX RIVER CREEL SURVEY	\$50.5
	LITTLE FALLS	MORRISON COUNTY LAKES CREEL SURVEY	\$10.4
	HUTCHINSON	MINNESOTA RIVER CREEL SURVEY	\$18.4
	SPICER	SPAWNING/REARING AREA DEVELOPMENT	\$0.9
	WINDOM	SHETEK/SARAH LAKE CREEL SURVEY	\$3.6
	METRO EAST	MISSISSIPPI RIVER POOL 2 CREEL SURVEY	\$46.7
	METRO EAST	ST CROIX RIVER CREEL SURVEY	\$34.6
	METRO EAST	REBECCA LAKE REHABILITATION	\$10.1
	CRYSTAL SPRINGS	VISITOR CENTER DISPLAYS	\$4.5
	PARK RAPIDS	STRAIGHT RIVER HABITAT IMPROVEMENT	\$2.0
	WALKER	DIAMOND LAKE RECLAMATION	\$15.0
	GRAND MARAIS	LAKE TROUT DISEASE TESTING	\$3.6
	LAKE SUPERIOR	RAINBOW TROUT LATEX MARKING EVALUATION	\$1.9
	DULUTH	KNIFE RIVER BEAVER CONTROL	\$4.9
	GRAND MARAIS	IRISH CREEK HABITAT IMPROVEMENT	\$17.4
	GRAND MARAIS	MAINTENANCE OF FISH BARRIERS	\$2.1
	DULUTH	TROUT STREAM BEAVER CONTROL	\$3.1
	DULUTH	WHITE PINE RIVER HABITAT IMPROVEMENT	\$1.0
	BRAINERD	STONE BROOK HAVITAT IMPROVEMENT	\$4.2
	ROCHESTER	HABITAT MAINTENANCE – TROUT STREAMS	\$41.7
	ROCHESTER	DUSCHEE CREEK HABITAT IMPROVEMENT	\$42.8
	ROCHESTER	GILBERT CREEK HAVITAT IMPROVEMENT	\$24.0
	ROCHESTER	LITTLE JORDAN CREEK HABITAT IMPROVEMENT	\$10.0
	METRO EAST	BROWNS CREEK HABITAT IMPROVEMENT	\$2.0
	CRYSTAL SPRINGS	DEWATERING TOWER	\$6.0
	SPIRE VALLEY	REPLACE WELL WATERLINES	\$6.0
	PETERSON	CHEMICAL DELIVERY SYSTEM	\$5.0
Fiscal year 1998 funding would have ended here without budget increase.			
	PARK RAPIDS	ELECTROFISHING BOAT	\$33.0
	GLENWOOD	DIGITIZE WATERSHED MAPS – GIS	\$14.8
	DETROIT LAKES	RED RIVER TRIBUTARY STUDY	\$20.0
	BEMIDJI	FARGO MIDTOWN DAM COST SHARE	\$25.0
	GLENWOOD	AQUATIC VEGETATION ESTABLISHMENT	\$10.0
	BAUDETTE	LAKE OF THE WOODS WINTER CREEL SURVEY	\$9.1
	INTERNATIONAL FALLS	SPECIAL REGULATIONS CREEL SURVEY	\$6.6
	FINLAND	WILSON LAKE CREEL SURVEY	\$6.6
	INTERNATIONAL FALLS	RAINY RIVER SHORELINE EROSION CONTROL	\$20.0
	DULUTH	BEAR LAKE DAM	\$18.7
	DULUTH	FRENCH RIVER DOT	\$9.9
	GRAND RAPIDS	SPRING/POOLE CREEK HABITAT IMPROVEMENT	\$6.6
	GRAND RAPIDS	SMITH/MORRISON CREEK HABITAT IMPROVEMENT	\$14.5
	WATERVILLE	IDA LAKE AERTION	\$15.0
	ORTONVILLE	LAC QUI PARLE SHORELINE EROSION CONTROL	\$58.3
	WATERVILLE	LOON LAKE AERATION	\$10.0
	SPICER	SPAWN/REARING AREA DEV. – NEW LONDON	\$2.5
	HUTCHINSON	WATERSHED MAPPING	\$2.8
	SPICER	SPAWN/REARING AREA DEV. – RICE LAKE	\$0.3
	SPICER	NEW LONDON EMERGENCY SPILLWAY	\$0.5
	WATERVILLE	SECURITY FENCE	\$10.0

SPICER	NEW LONDON POND 11 REPAIR	\$1.5
SPICER	NEW LONDON POND 2 REPAIR	\$1.5
SPICER	REARING MUSKIE FINGERLINGS - NEW LONDON	\$2.9
SPICER	NEW LONDON POND 3 REPAIR	\$1.5
LAKE CITY	MISSISSIPPI RIVER POOL 4 WALLEYE TELEMTRY	\$19.3
LAKE CITY	MISSISSIPPI RIVER WINTER CREEL SURVEY	\$25.9
METRO EAST	MISSISSIPPI RIVER POOL 2 WALLEYE TELEMTRY	\$29.0
METRO WEST	EAGLE CREEK UPLAND RESTORATION	\$25.0
METRO WEST	HOLLAND LAKE AERATION	\$50.0
METRO WEST	SILVER LAKE AERATION	\$50.0
STATEWIDE	FISHING PIER MAINTENANCE	\$20.0
STATEWIDE	GIS POSITION	\$27.0
STATEWIDE	STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE FUNDING	\$12.3
LAKE SUPERIOR	COASTER BROOK TROUT STUDY	\$9.5
LAKE SUPERIOR	SALMONID DIET SURVEY	\$17.2
LAKE SUPERIOR	HERRING COMMERCIAL HARVEST STUDY	\$9.8
LAKE SUPERIOR	LAKE TROUT OTOLITH ANALYSIS	\$3.0
LAKE SUPERIOR	LAKE TROUT SCALE ANALYSIS	\$3.0
ROCHESTER	PICKWICK CREEK HABITAT IMPROVEMENT	\$25.0
ROCHESTER	TROUT STREAM EASEMENT IDENTIFICATION	\$75.0
FRENCH RIVER	FRENCH RIVER BLACKTOP DRIVEWAY	\$35.2
GLENWOOD	MOUNTAIN LAKE AERATION	\$5.0
GRAND RAPIDS	WINNIE EROSION CONTROL	\$440.0
MONTROSE	SOMMERS LAKE AERATION	\$20.0
MONTROSE	MINK LAKE AERATION	\$11.1
AITKIN	MILLE LACS WINTER CREEL SURVEY	\$11.2
WATERVILLE	HATCHERY REPAIRS	\$289.0
WATERVILLE	HATCHERY POND NETTING	\$8.0
GRAND MARAIS	KIMBALL CREEK HABITAT IMPROVEMENT	\$4.0
GRAND MARAIS	CASCADE CREEK HABITAT IMPROVEMENT	\$6.0
GRAND MARAIS	CREEL SURVEYS ON ASPEN, FLOUR, & HUNGRY JACK LKS	\$8.1
DULUTH	BEAVER REMOVAL - BLACKHOOF & KNIFE RIVERS	\$5.5
DULUTH	KNIFE RIVER TRAP DIVERSION	\$7.0
METRO WEST	CROOKED LAKE AERATION	\$30.0
METRO WEST	SNELLING LAKE BARRIER	\$15.0
METRO EAST	LOEB LAKE AERATION	\$30.0
METRO EAST	BENNET LAKE AERATION	\$25.0
METRO EAST	BATTLE CREEK AERATION	\$30.0
METRO EAST	OWASSO LAKE AERATION	\$30.0
METRO EAST	COMO LAKE AERATION	\$30.0
METRO WEST	WIRTH LAKE AERATION	\$30.0

Fiscal Year	Location	Project	Estimated Costs (Thousands)
1999	BEMIDJI 1	RED RIVER LARVAL FISH STUDY CONTRACT	\$26.1
	BEMIDJI	ELK LAKE DAM REPAIR	\$15.0
	FERGUS FALLS	OTTER TAIL RIVER CHANNEL RESTORATION	\$5.1
	GLENWOOD	WHISKEY LAKE OUTLET BARRIER REPAIR	\$15.9
	GRAND MARAIS	98 SUMMER CREELS - ASPEN, FLOUR, ETC.	\$13.6
	FINLAND	98 SUMMER CREELS - DUMBBELL, WILSON	\$10.8
	ELY	99 SPRING CREELS - BURNTSIDE	\$4.9
	GRAND RAPIDS	KENOGAMA REARING POND ACCESS	\$5.0
	MONTROSE	CREEL SURVEY - MINK, SOMERS	\$11.2
	LITTLE FALLS	MORRISON CO LAKE CREEL SURVEYS	\$19.4
	AITKIN	CREEL SURVEYS - HILL, TAYLOR	\$10.7
	TREATY	MILLE LACS NIGHT CREEL	\$24.0
	HUTCHINSON	MINESOTA RIVER CREEL SURVEY	\$24.1
	WINDOM	SHETEK/SARAH CREEL SURVEY	\$12.0
	WATERVILLE	RICE LAKE RECLAMATION	\$9.8
	LAKE CITY	LAKE PEPIN SAUGER/WALLEYE TELEMTRY	\$30.0
	CRYSTAL SPRINGS	WELDING AREA VENTILATION	\$5.0
	CRYSTAL SPRINGS	TREE REMOVAL	\$5.0
	METRO EAST	MISSISSIPPI RIVER TELEMTRY	\$32.0
	PARK RAPIDS	STRAIGHT RIVER LIVESTOCK FENCING	\$2.0
	WALKER	WILLARD LAKE SHORELINE EROSION CONTROL	\$3.0
	GRAND MARAIS	LAKE TROUT BROODSTOCK	\$2.3
	GRAND MARAIS	GILLIS LAKE EGG TAKE	\$6.7
	LAKE SUPERIOR	SMOLT SYNTHESIS PAPER	\$3.0

LAKE SUPERIOR	COASTER BROOK TROUT STUDY	\$4.0
DULUTH	BEAVER REMOVAL - KNIFE/BLACKHOOF RIVER	\$10.9
DULUTH	BEAVER CONTROL FOR TROUT STREAMS	\$7.3
LAKE SUPERIOR	LAKE TROUT FINCLIPPING	\$3.0
LAKE SUPERIOR	TAC MODEL - 1854 TREATY	\$3.0
GRAND RAPIDS	MORRISON BROOK CULVERT	\$10.0
BRAINERD	PLEASANT LAKE RECLAMATION	\$11.1
ROCHESTER	TROUT STREAM HABITAT MAINTENANCE	\$53.1
ROCHESTER	DUSCHEE CREEK HABITAT MAINTENANCE	\$37.8
CRYSTAL SPRINGS	HATCHERY LIGHTING	\$1.8
CRYSTAL SPRINGS	VACUUM PUMP REPAIRS	\$10.0
CRYSTAL SPRINGS	SURGE PROTECTORS	\$10.0
SPIRE VALLEY	REMODEL POND #4	\$17.4
Fiscal year 1999 funding would have ended here without budget increase.		
FERGUS FALLS	CLITHERALL LAKE SMALLMOUTH BASS HABITAT IMPROVE	\$5.2
PARK RAPIDS	FISH HOOK RIVER BANK STABILIZATION	\$4.5
BAUDETTE	FLORIAN RESERVIOR AERATION SYSTEM	\$24.0
WALKER	BOY RIVER AMA/SPAWN TAKE AREA IMPROVEMENT	\$5.0
WALKER	MUSKIE SPAWNTAKE LABOR	\$1.2
FERGUS FALLS	OTTER TAIL RIVER SHORELINE STABILIZATION	\$6.5
FERGUS FALLS	NORTH LIDA LAKE SHORELINE STABILIZATION	\$3.1
BEMIDJI	BENJAMIN LAKE FISHING PIER	\$14.0
FERGUS FALLS	SOUTH TEN MILE LAKE SHORELINE STABILIZATION	\$5.1
GLENWOOD	GIS WATERSHED EVALUATION LABOR	\$14.9
BAUDETTE	WARROAD RIVER FISHING PIER	22.0
DETROIT LAKES	BUCK'S MILL MUSKIE POND RENOVATION	\$25.0
GRAND RAPIDS	3RD RIVER RIP-RAP	\$45.0
DULUTH	WHITFACE RIVER STREAM SURVEY	\$10.4
GRAND RAPIDS	SAND LAKE HAVITAT DEVELOPMENT	\$50.0
DULUTH	RECREATION USE SURVEY	\$12.0
GRAND MARAIS	99 CREEL SURVEYS - CARIBOU/TWO ISLAND	\$8.1
GRAND RAPIDS	SPRING AND POLE CREEK HABITAT IMPROVEMENT	\$2.3
BRAINERD	AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT INSPECTOR	\$7.3
BRAINERD	COOPERATIVE REGIONAL PROJECTS	\$10.0
BRAINERD	PLEASANT LAKE ACCESS MAINTENANCE	\$13.9
HINCKLEY	MUSKIE FORAGE	\$1.0
MONTROSE	HORSEHOE CHAIN CREEL SURVEY	\$6.5
LITTLE FALLS	PUBLIC INFORMATIN PORTABLE DISPLAY	\$2.0
HINCKLEY	WARMWATER STREAM INVENTORY	\$3.8
BRAINERD	CUYUNA FISH BARRIER/CULVERT	\$8.0
MONTROSE	CRAWFORD LAKE REHBILITATION	\$5.8
MONTROSE	CRAWFORD LAKE AERATION	\$7.2
BRAINERD	GULL/PELICAN CREEL SURVEY	\$20.0
WINDOM	MOUNTAIN LAKE RECLAMATION	\$23.0
WATERVILLE	MILLS LAKE RECLAMATION	\$11.4
HUTCHINSON	HABITAT DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS	\$18.0
ORTONVILLE	LAC QUI PARLE SHORELINE STABILIZATION	\$42.0
HUTCHINSON	THOMPSON LAKE AQUATIC MANAGEMENT AREA	\$42.0
SPICER	GEORGE POND WALLEYE EASEMENT	\$10.0
ORTONVILLE	BIG STONE LAKE FENCING	\$1.1
ORTONVILLE	R6 LAKE FENCING	\$4.6
SPICER	HENRY POND WALLEYE EASEMENT	\$4.0
HUTCHINSON	FRANCIS NORTHERN PIKE SPAWNING AREA	\$6.3
ORTONVILLE	BIG STONE NORTHERN PIKE SPAWNING RESTORATION	\$1.6
ORTONVILLE	EMILY CREEK FENCING	\$4.6
HUTCHINSON	DUNN LAKE FISH LADDER	\$2.1
SPICER	KNUTSON POND WALLEYE EASEMENT	\$4.0
SPICER	WATER VALVE REPLACEMENT	\$2.6
SPICER	SCHOOL GROVE AQUATIC MANAGEMENT AREA	\$6.0
SPICER	RECIRCULATING WATER SYSTEM	\$8.0
LAKE CITY	SOUTHEAST MN TROUT STREAM CREEL SURVEYS	\$17.6
LANESBORO	SOUTHEAST MN TROUT STREAM CREEL SURVEYS	\$17.6
LAKE CITY	UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER WINTER CREEL SURVEYS	\$27.7
METRO	AERATION SYSTEM INSTALLATION	\$50.0
METRO EAST	BASS LAKES CREEL	\$19.9
METRO EAST	DAKOTA CO. LAKE CREELS	\$19.0
METRO WEST	SCOTT CO. LAKE CREELS	\$15.9
METRO	EAGLE CREEK HABITAT DEVELOPMENT	\$10.0
METRO	EAGLE CREEK PRAIRIE RESTORATION	\$25.0
METRO EAST	VERMILLION RIVER STREAM INVENTORY	\$8.4

CRYSTAL SPRINGS	LAWN TRACTOR	\$8.0
LANESBORO	DUSCHEE CREEK INTERPRETATION CENTER	\$24.8
PARK RAPIDS	TROUT STREAM HABITAT MAINTENANCE	\$4.6
LAKE SUPERIOR	FALL CREEL SURVEY ON LAKE SUPERIOR	\$14.0
LAKE SUPERIOR	CHINOOK SALMON FIN CLIP	\$8.0
AITKIN	MORRISON BROOK TROUT HABITAT MAINTENANCE	\$4.6
BRAINERD	STONEY BROOK HABITAT DEVELOPMENT	\$5.7
ROCHESTER	DUSCHEE CREEK HABITAT DEVELOPMENT	\$35.9
ROCHESTER	MIDDLE BRANCH WHITEWATER HABITAT DEV.	\$8.9
ROCHESTER	PICKWICK CREEK HABITAT DEVELOPMENT	\$16.2
CRYSTAL SPRINGS	RACEWAY #1 FLOOR REPAIR	\$4.3
STATEWIDE	ALUMINUM WELDING COMPONENTS	\$1.8
WALKER	MICRO TAGS FOR WALLEYE EVALUATION	\$2.5
BEMIDJI	COMPUTER	\$20.0
BEMIDJI	OUTBOARD MOTORS	\$10.0
DULUTH	GIS PROJECTS	\$7.4
GRAND MARAIS	POPULATION ASSESSMENTS	\$3.9
GRAND MARAIS	GAUTHIER CREEK STREAM ASSESSMENT	\$0.6
GRAND MARAIS	BWCAW LAKE TROUT LAKE SURVEY	\$8.2
GRAND RAPIDS	BOSTON WHALER	\$35.0
GRAND RAPIDS	ELECTROFISHING BOAT	\$41.1
TREATY	1837 FIELD COMPUTERS	\$10.0
MONTROSE	ELECTROFISHING BOAT	\$40.0
SPICER	NEW LONDON HATCHERY WATER ANALYSIS	\$0.9
WINDOM	STREAM SHOCKER	\$10.0
SPICER	STREAM SHOCKER	\$10.0
ORTONVILLE	ASSESS WALLEYE FRY STOCKING	\$4.5
WATERVILLE	INSTALL AIR BLOWER	\$1.0
SPICER	GAGE/STAGE READER	\$3.0
LANESBORO	PURCHASE COMPUTERS AND SUPPLIES	\$13.6
LAKE CITY	WARM STORAGE	\$35.0
LAKE CITY	PURCHASE COMPUTERS AND PRINTER	\$13.7
LAKE CITY	UPGRADE NETWORK SOFTWARE	\$10.8
GRAND RAPIDS	MOOTY CREEK HABITAT IMPROVEMENT	\$0.8
GRAND RAPIDS	DEER LAKE WALLEYE SPAWNING HABITAT	\$0.7
GRAND RAPIDS	TAMARAK POINT EROSION CONTROL	\$12.7
GRAND RAPIDS	LITTLE BOWSTRING WALLEYE SPAWNING HABITAT	\$0.9
GRAND MARAIS	WINTER CREEL SURVEY, MINK, BOGUS, KIMBALL, TROUT	\$7.5
METRO	EQUIPMENT PURCHASE	\$29.1

<u>Fiscal</u>			<u>Estimated</u>
<u>Year</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Costs (Thousands)</u>
2000	BEMIDJI	BASS CREEK CHANNEL RESTORATION	\$10.0
	BEMIDJI	RED RIVER DAM MODIFICATION	\$37.7
	WALKER	LITTLE BOY/WABEDO CREEL SURVEY	\$4.6
	PARK RAPIDS	ISLAND/EAGLE/POTATOE CREEL SURVEYS	\$4.2
	DULUTH	RECREATOIONAL USE SURVEY	\$25.1
	ELY	BURNTSIDE CREEL SURVEY	\$9.2
	GRAND MARAIS	TWO ISLAND CARIBOU CREEL SURVEY	\$16.4
	GRAND MARAIS	WINTER CREEL SURVEYS	\$1.4
	BRAINERD	GULL PELICAN CREEL SURVEY	\$42.7
	WATERVILLE	MILLS LAKE AERATION SYSTEM	\$6.1
	WATERVILLE	RICE LAKE RECLAMATION	\$14.7
	ORTONVILLE	POMME DE TERRE CHANNEL RESTORATION	\$5.0
	SPICER	NEST LAKE EROSION CONTROL PROJECT	\$0.7
	SPICER	INFORMATION KIOSKS	\$1.0
	SPICER	WAGONGA LAKE BARRIER REPAIR	\$0.6
	SPICER	MUSKIE POND MAINTENANCE	\$2.5
	SPICER	ELIZABETH LAKE AERATION SYSTEM	\$5.8
	SPICER	RECIRCULATION SYSTEM FOR CHANNEL CATFISH	\$8.2
	LAKE CITY	LAKE PEPIN /POOL 4 CREEL SURVEY	\$37.6
	LANESBORO	SOUTHEAST TROUT STREAM CREEL SURVEYS	\$19.6
	METRO EAST	BASS LAKE CREEL SURVEY	\$13.4
	METRO EAST	DAKOTA COUNTY LAKE CREEL SURVEYS	\$10.9
	METRO WEST	SCOTT COUNTY LAKE CREEL SURVEYS	\$10.0
	METRO EAST	WARM WATER REARING CHANNEL CATFISH	\$16.6
	METRO	COOPERATIVE REGIONAL PROJECTS	\$10.0
	STATEWIDE	LARGE LAKE SAFE HARVEST ANALYSIS	\$4.0

LAKE SUPERIOR	LARGE LAKE INVENTORY	\$22.0
LAKE SUPERIOR	LAKE TROUT FIN CLIPPING	\$5.8
LAKE SUPERIOR	CHINOOK FIN CLIPPING	\$16.0
GRAND MARAIS	LAKE TROUT DISEASE TESTING	\$6.4
LAKE SUPERIOR	LAKE HERRING INVENTORY	\$9.4
AITKIN	TAYLOR LAKE EROSION CONTROL	\$4.8
ROCHESTER	TROUT STREAM HABITAT MAINTENANCE	\$67.1
LANESBORO	EMERGENCY GENERATOR	\$20.0
PETERSON	FISH PUMP	\$13.8
CRYSTAL SPRINGS	RACEWAY REPAIRS	\$5.1
LANESBORO	CONCRETE SLUDGE PIT	\$35.0
Fiscal year 2000 funding would have ended here without budget increase.		
BEMIDJI	RED RIVER LARVAL FISH STUDY CONTINUATION	\$14.7
DETROIT LAKES	MUNSON LAKE AMA	\$18.0
BEMIDJI	CLEARWATER RIVER WHEELCHAIR ACCESS	\$40.0
DULUTH	WHITEFACE SURVEY	\$10.8
INTERNATIONAL FALLS	LITTLE FORK RECONNAISSANCE	\$14.5
GRAND MARAIS	USFS LAKES POPULATION ASSESSMENTS	\$7.2
DULUTH	BEAVER/KNIFE/BLACKHOOF SURVEYS	\$14.3
MONTROSE	HORSESHOE CREEL SURVEY	\$14.5
AITKIN	HILL LAKE SPAWNING AREA AND STABILIZATION	\$2.7
BRAINERD	NORTH LONG/EDWARD CREEL SURVEYS	\$15.9
BRAINERD	COOPERATIVE REGIONAL PROJECTS	\$10.0
SPICER	GREEN LAKE AMA	\$66.0
WATERVILLE	CLEAR LAKE RECLAMATION	\$41.3
LAKE CITY	WHITEWATER RIVER PIER	\$7.0
METRO EAST	HOLLAND LAKE AERATION SYSTEM	\$28.4
METRO EAST	SNELLING LAKE AERATION SYSTEM	\$25.0
METRO EAST	FRIDLEY AERATION SYSTEM	\$15.0
METRO EAST	WIRTH LAKE AERATION SYSTEM	\$30.0
LANESBORO	HATCHERY TOUR GUIDE	\$8.0
NEW LONDON	MUSKIE NET MAKER TEMPORARY POSITIONS	\$33.9
LAKE SUPERIOR	LAKE TROUT POPULATION MODEL	\$7.7
LANESBORO	FISH TRANSPORT TRAILER	\$37.9
BRAINERD	STONE BROOK HABITAT IMPROVEMENT	\$5.1
ROCHESTER	PICKWICK CREEK HABITAT DEVELOPMENT	\$16.9
ROCHESTER	LITTLE JORDAN CREEK HABITAT DEVELOPMENT	\$23.0
GRAND MARAIS	CREEL SURVEY - DEVIL TRACK, PIKE	\$8.4
DULUTH	TROUT STREAM HABITAT IMPROVEMENT	\$0.5
METRO WEST	OLD MILL STREAM HABITAT IMPROVEMENT	\$10.0

Fiscal			Estimated
Year	Location	Project	Costs (Thousands)
2001	FERGUS FALLS	WEST BATTLE AND CLITHERAL CREEL SURVEY	\$10.5
	PARK RAPIDS	ISLAND/EAGLE/POTATO CREEL SURVEYS	\$27.6
	WALKER	LITTLE BOY/WABEDO CREEL SURVEYS	\$8.1
	BEMIDJI	RED RIVER CREEL SURVEY	\$25.6
	GRAND MARAIS	SUMMER CREEL SMALLMOUTH BASS EXP. REGS	\$7.6
	GRAND RAPIDS	AERIAL RECREATIONAL USE SURVEY	\$14.0
	GRAND RAPIDS	GIS TROUT STREAM LAYER	\$14.2
	GRAND RAPIDS	POKEGAMA CREEL SURVEY	\$16.9
	AITKIN	BIG SANDY LAKE CREEL SURVEY	\$4.7
	BRAINERD	NORTH LONG/EDWARD CREEL SURVEY	\$20.9
	BRAINERD	LOON LAKE AERATION	\$7.0
	ORTONVILLE	BIG STONE LAKE CREEL SURVEY	\$7.2
	ORTONVILLE	LAC QUI PARLE CREEL SURVEY	\$7.2
	SPICER	GREEN LAKE EVALUATION	\$5.9
	WINDOM	FOX AND OKABENA CREEL SURVEY	\$6.6
	HUTCHINSON	HUTCHISON AREA FISHING GUIDE	\$2.0
	ROCHESTER	NORTH BRANCH WHITEWATER MONITORING	\$5.5
	ROCHESTER	FORESTRY AERIAL PHOTOS	\$10.0
	LAKE CITY	LAKE PEPIN/POOL 4 CREEL SURVEY	\$16.2
	METRO WEST	WEST METRO EXPERIMENTAL LAKE CREEL SURVEYS	\$23.9
	DULUTH	BEAVER CONTROL IN TROUT STREAMS	\$6.8
	DULUTH	BEAVER DAM REMOVAL ON KINIFE	\$5.5
	GRAND MARAIS	GILLIS LAKE EGG TAKE	\$8.7
	GRAND MARAIS	LAKE TROUT DISEASE TESTING	\$3.1
	GRAND MARAIS	JUNCO CREEK HABITAT MAINTENANCE	\$4.3

LAKE SUPERIOR	CHINOOK FIN CLIPPING	\$16.5
LAKE SUPERIOR	LAKE SUPERIOR WINTER CREEL SURVEY	\$12.4
ROCHESTER	SOUTHEAST MN TROUT STREAM MAINTENANCE	\$38.1
METRO	VERMILLION RIVER TROUT HABITAT IMPROVEMENT	\$26.9
METRO	BROWN'S CREEK TROUT HABITAT IMPROVEMENT	\$24.0
LANESBORO	LANESBORO HATCHERY PUMPS FOR PONDS	\$11.0
CRYSTAL SPRINGS	HATCHERY REPAIRS	\$11.9
PETERSON	HATCHERY REPAIRS	\$23.6
Fiscal year 2001 funding would have ended here without budget increase.		
BEMIDJI	EQUIPMENT	\$23.5
BEMIDJI	ELECTROFISHING BOAT	\$18.0
BEMIDJI	RED RIVER DAM REMOVAL DOCUMENTARY VIDEO	\$15.0
BEMIDJI	LAKE BEMIDJI CREEL SURVEY	\$18.4
GLENWOOD	LAKESHED GIS MAPPING	\$22.5
CONSTRUCTION CREW	NEW TRAILER AND REPAIRS	\$17.5
CONSTRUCTION CREW	AIR POWERED TOOLS	\$2.0
FINLAND	TROUT LAKE WINTER CREELS	\$8.3
INTERNATIONAL FALLS	LITTLEFORK RIVER SURVEY	\$16.1
INTERNATIONAL FALLS	RAINY LAKE WHITEFISH AGE & GROWTH ANALYSIS	\$4.5
GRAND MARAIS	PIKE AND DEVIL TRACK SUMMER CREEL SURVEYS	\$14.4
LAKE SUPERIOR	ECONOMIC STUDY OF LAKE SUPERIOR FISHING	\$25.0
BRainerd	ELECTROFISHING BOAT	\$50.0
HUTCHINSON	MANUELLA, WASHINGTON, & STELLA CREEL SURVEYS	\$20.2
WATERVILLE	ST OLAF LAKE FISHING PIER	\$22.0
ROCHESTER	EQUIPMENT PACKAGE	\$24.1
ROCHESTER	SE. TROUT ANGLER CONSTRAINTS SURVEY	\$80.0
ROCHESTER	HOLLAND LAKE AERATION	\$40.0
METRO EAST	WASHINGTON CO. WALLEYE LAKE CREEL SURVEYS	\$48.3
STATEWIDE	MARKETING CONTRACT	\$30.0
STATEWIDE	WETLAND AQUACULTURE	\$110.0
GRAND MARAIS	KIMBALL CREEK HABITAT MAINTENANCE	\$3.5
GRAND MARAIS	CASCADE RIVER HABITAT IMPROVEMENT	\$7.7
LAKE SUPERIOR	LAKE TROUT POPULATION MODEL	\$4.8
LAKE SUPERIOR	CHINOOK SALMON MORTALITY RATES	\$5.2
ROCHESTER	SOUTHEAST MN TROUT STREAM MAINTENANCE	\$62.2
ROCHESTER	CANFIELD CREEK HABITAT DEVELOPMENT	\$19.2
ROCHESTER	LITTLE JORDON CREEK HABITAT DEVELOPMENT	\$24.6
BEMIDJI	AREA OPERATIONS	\$65.0
GRAND RAPIDS	WALLEYE PROJECTS	\$6.0
DULUTH	WALLEYE POND HARVEST	\$3.3
DULUTH	BLACKHOOF RIVER STABILIZATION	\$30.0
GRAND RAPIDS	REARING POND ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS	\$7.3
BRainerd	EQUIPMENT	\$9.5
NEW ULM	POND LEASES	\$4.0
NEW ULM	AREA OPERATIONS	\$11.4
NEW ULM	WALLEYE POND REHABILITATION	\$39.4
WATERVILLE	ARMSTRONG AND LIEBERG LAKES	\$26.0
METRO EAST	REARING POND RECLAMATIONS	\$5.3
STATEWIDE	WALLEY FINGERLING PURCHASE - PRIVATE INDUSTRY	\$9.7
BEMIDJI	TAMARAC RIVER SHOREFISHING ACCESS	\$20.0
HUTCHINSON	RIPLEY LAKE FISHING PIER	\$22.0
DETROIT LAKES	LAKE SALLIE HATCHERY WATER BACKUP	\$18.0
PARK RAPIDS	FACILITIES MAINTENANCE - COLD STORAGE	\$40.0
GRAND RAPIDS	GRAND RAPIDS HATCHERY FOR WALLEYE	\$85.0
GRAND RAPIDS	CUTFOOT DOCK	\$10.0
ELY	PIKE RIVER HATCHERY CHILLERS	\$175.0
BRainerd	DISTRIBUTION EQUIPMENT AND HATCHERY REPAIRS	\$20.5
SPICER	NEW LONDON HATCHERY REPAIRS	\$122.0
METRO EAST	ST. PAUL HATCHERY REPAIRS	\$17.6
METRO EAST	STATE FAIR DISPLAY FISH HOLDING SYSTEM	\$1.0
FRENCH RIVER	ULTRA VIOLET LAMP REPLACEMENT	\$7.2
FRENCH RIVER	OUTSIDE POND BUILDING	\$17.4
SPIRE VALLEY	POND #3 RENOVATION	\$8.0
LANESBORO	NEW FISH TRANSPORT	\$90.0
CRYSTAL SPRINGS	RACEWAY REPAIRS	\$4.9
PETERSON	WILD EGG TAKE	\$2.0
PETERSON	HATCHERY REPAIRS	\$25.8
BEMIDJI	DISTRIBUTION TANKS	\$24.0
BAUDETTE	ROSEAU CITY PARK FISHING PIER	\$22.0
BAUDETTE	EDUCATION DISPLAYS	\$6.0

BEMIDJI	RED LAKE OTC WALLEYE MARKING	\$2.5
BEMIDJI	EDUCATIONAL FISH MOUNTS	\$2.8
DETROIT LAKES	SARGENT LAKE DAM REPAIR	\$12.5
DETROIT LAKES	DUNTON LOCKS FISH PASSAGE AND SHORE REPAIR	\$50.0
FERGUS FALLS	OTTER TAIL RIVER HABITAT DEVELOPMENT	\$7.7
FERGUS FALLS	BRECKENRIDGE WATERPLANT DAM REMOVAL	\$40.0
GLENWOOD	MAPLE LAKE PIER	\$20.1
GLENWOOD	FISH TRAP BARRIER MAINTENANCE OR REMOVAL	\$17.6
PARK RAPIDS	STRAIGHT RIVER TROUT HABITAT DEVELOPMENT	\$2.0
PARK RAPIDS	EDUCATION DISPLAYS	\$3.0
WALKER	LITTLE BOY AND WABEDO CREEL SURVEY	\$4.5
GRAND RAPIDS	BOWENS WALLEYE SPAWN AREA	\$80.0
DULUTH	WHITE PINE RIVER CHANNEL BLOCK	\$2.8
DULUTH	NEMADJI RIVER HABITAT IMPROVEMENT	\$150.0
AITKIN	MORRISON BROOK FENCING AND CROSSING	\$38.3
BRAINERD	DASSETT ISLAND STABILIZATION	\$10.0
BRAINERD	LOWER S. LONG LAKE HABITAT IMPROVEMENT	\$4.0
HINCKLEY	WALLEYE SPAWNING REEF	\$6.0
HINCKLEY	SOUTH BIG PINE WALLEYE SPAWNING REEF	\$2.0
NEW ULM	EDUCATION DISPLAYS	\$2.8
HUTCHINSON	SWAN LAKE AMA	\$5.0
HUTCHINSON	SHORELINE BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES SITES	\$5.0
HUTCHINSON	ALLIE LAKE SHORELINE RESTORATION	\$60.0
ORTONVILLE	EAST TOQUA LAKE FISHING PIER	\$25.1
ORTONVILLE	DISTRIBUTION TANK	\$8.5
ORTONVILLE	DEL CLARK SHORELINE STABILIZATION	\$50.0
WATERVILLE	AERATION	\$5.8
WATERVILLE	LAKE TETONKA FISHING PIER	\$19.5
WINDOM	BEAVER CREEK DAM REMOVAL	\$9.5
METRO	ROGERS LAKE AERATION	\$30.0
METRO	REGIONAL COOPERATIVE PROJECTS	\$10.0
METRO	MN CONSERVATION CORE LABOR	\$10.0
METRO EAST	OVERWINTER CHANNEL CATFISH	\$20.0
STATEWIDE	ROTENONE	\$59.1
STATEWIDE	FINTRIL	\$23.1
ORTONVILLE	LQP ROCK	\$143.7
SPICER	DRUM DISK FILTER	\$27.0
METRO EAST	CENAIKOLAKE/MISS. RIVER EROSION CONTROL	\$40.0
DETROIT LAKES	DUNTON LOCKS	\$61.5
SPICER	NEW LONDON DISK FILTER	\$89.3
ORTONVILLE	LARGE LAKE BOAT	\$25.0
GRAND RAPIDS	DARK RIVER/SMITH CREEK HABITAT IMPROVEMENT	\$1.5
BAUDETTE	ROSEAU RIVER DAM MODIFICATION	\$25.0
METRO EAST	HATCHERY BOLIER AND IRON FILTER	\$200.0
METRO EAST	HAM LAKE AERATION	\$7.0
METRO EAST	COON LAKE AERATION	\$7.0
METRO WEST	MURPHY LAKE AERATION	\$30.0
METRO EAST	HANDLOS LAKE FISHING PIER	\$20.0
METRO EAST	EAST MOORE LAKE FISHING PIER	\$20.0
METRO WEST	SMITH PARK POND FISHING PIER	\$20.0
ACQUISITION		
GRAND RAPIDS	CRAWFORD ISLAND	\$192.0
BRAINERD	DASSETT ISLAND	\$87.4
SPICER	LAKE ELIZABETH	\$126.0
HUTCHINSON	JENNIE LAKE	\$155.0
HUTCHINSON	MINNIEBELLE LAKE	\$377.0
WALKER	MULE LAKE	\$300.0
GLENWOOD	PRISTINE BAY	\$50.0
HINCKLEY	SAND CREEK	\$25.6
WATERVILLE	SAVIDGE LAKE	\$153.0
MONTROSE	THREE MILE CREEK	\$20.0
AITKIN	BIG SANDY LAKE	\$375.0
HUTCHINSON	SWAN LAKE	\$20.0
HINCKLEY	HORSELEG LAKE	\$15.8
GLENWOOD	GEORGE LAKE	\$5.7
LITTLE FALLS	CEDAR LAKE	\$1.0
WATERVILLE	ST. OLAF LAKE	\$76.5
LAKE CITY	GARVIN BROOK	\$18.6
LAKE CITY	MAIN BURNS VALLEY	\$10.3

LAKE CITY
LANESBORO
LANESBORO
LAKE CITY
LAKE CITY
STATEWIDE

RUSH CREEK, PAR 22&23
S. BRANCH ROOT, PAR 18
S. BRANCH ROOT, PAR 56
SPRING CREEK
CEDAR VALLEY CREEK
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

\$54.2
\$17.5
\$29.7
\$19.1
\$52.0

\$179.6

Pheasant Stamp Subcommittee Report

On December 17, 2001 the Pheasant Stamp Committee (PSC) convened in Hutchinson, MN to review the PHIP account. Those present were: Lloyd Knudson, Dennis Simon, Brad Cobb, Kevin Ausland, Loran Kaardal, Matt Holland. The PSC also convened November 13-14, 2001 in Redwood Falls for historical background, information gathering, and habitat evaluation. The concern and momentum to increase pheasant populations in Minnesota was quite evident based on the lively discussions, shared information, and excitement generated at these meetings.

I would like to thank all members of the subcommittee for their time, input and energy put into this effort. I would also like to thank the DNR staff, and others who provided input during the two meetings.

All recommendations below were unanimously accepted by the Pheasant Stamp Oversight Subcommittee and include:

Recommendation: Expenditures of the Pheasant Stamp Fund for year 2001 and reconciliation to that account by the DNR have been approved unanimously by the Pheasant Stamp Oversight Subcommittee.

Recommendation: A fund specific habitat project tracking process needs to be implemented by the DNR that allows tracking in more detail back to the PHIP fund itself. We recommend a specific tracking process be adopted to identify accomplishments in common measurable terms such as in acres per project of grassland plantings, food plots and woody cover correlated with dollars expended from the PHIP fund. Example: Currently the DNR tracks total planted acres, total cost and what % from each fund for the combined acreage total but specific habitat acreage is not currently being tracked back to the individual stamp funds themselves. Specific acreage reporting needs to be determined by the specific PHIP dollars that accomplished that acreage.

Recommendation: The subcommittee recommends the DNR revisit criteria of PHIP county priority ranking and rating measures and make suggestions for any changes by July 2003. The Pheasant Stamp Oversight Committee would review changes in the rating and ranking criteria suggested by the DNR in the fall of 2003.

Recommendation: A long-term goal of one million annual rooster harvest should be realized within 20 years. The DNR needs to set interim goals and objectives for reaching this 1,000,000 harvest goal and inform each future pheasant stamp oversight subcommittee of progress towards its realization.

Recommendation: That DNR study the adequacy of the current \$5 pheasant stamp. The DNR should review the loss in buying power over time (20 years) due to inflation of the pheasant stamp since its adoption in 1984. The DNR should recommend to the

subcommittee what stamp increase would be needed in today's economy to match the buying power of 1984.

Example: How much acreage in food plots, grassland development and tree plantings are achievable per dollar today verses 1984. In the DNR's recommendation there should also be an allowance of the dollars needed to be built into a pheasant stamp increase that would compensate for pheasant stamp implementation work that may result from projected shortfall in the DNR budget during the mid part of this decade.

Recommendation: The DNR should use all available information and develop a specific pheasant management plan for Minnesota by December 1, 2003 to use during 2004 LCMR funding and other funding opportunities to achieve the goals of this plan.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Respectfully Submitted,
Matt Holland, Chair
Pheasant Stamp Committee

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THINK HABITAT!

MINNESOTA TROUT AND SALMON STAMP SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Jeff Broberg, Chairman (Minnesota Trout Association),

Dave Bennett, (Lake Superior Steelhead Association),

Dave Koneczny (Western Lake Superior Trolling Association),

Jim Franczyk, (Minnesota Trout Unlimited)

Barb Loida, (Wading Women)

The Trout and Salmon Budget Oversight Committee have continued to meet regularly and all of the members wish to thank the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Division for the opportunity to have input into the budget and management of coldwater resources that sustain trout and salmon in Minnesota. During the last year the TSS members have discussed and explored many different issues related to trout and salmon and fishery management and we have used the forum to build lasting relationships between the members, interest groups and the DNR. We are looking forward to continuing in the expanded role defined by the new Legislation.

One of the highlights in reporting on the status of the Trout and Salmon Stamp account is the record of increased revenues since the Trout Stamp fee rose from \$5.00 to \$8.50 four years ago. This angler supported initiative substantially increased trout stamp revenues and with over 85,000 stamps sold in 2001 the dedicated revenues have risen to just under \$750,000/year. We can report that the money in the Trout and Salmon Fund has been well spent for the intended purposes. The increase in dedicated revenue has been an important and useful supplement to the management of trout and salmon in Minnesota and our committee members encourage and support an increase in the stamp fees for pheasants, turkey and ducks. Our committee has seen the impact and results from the dedicated funds and we have every reason to believe that similar success can be realized with fee increases for other dedicated accounts.

In the last year the discussions in the TSSC have been wide ranging, reflecting the wide range of issues that have an impact on trout and salmon in Minnesota. Our committee discussions have often focused on particular regional problems reflecting the fact that trout and salmon are cold-water species native to Lake Superior and its tributary watershed and the coldwater trout stream watersheds of southeastern and north central Minnesota. Committee members have discussed, taken positions and initiated action on issues like the need for more conservation minded creel limits for stream trout or the concerns of changing agriculture and new feedlots near SE Minnesota trout streams or the continuing decline of naturally reproducing Steelhead and the need for safe harbors on the north shore.

For years the TSS committee has adopted the attitude that discussion and understanding of broader policy issues and issues seemingly unrelated to the Trout Stamp dollars actually end up defining the programs, management and funding needed to sustain healthy trout and salmon. We have found that the broad scope of our discussions and shared understanding of critical issues not only strengthens relationships but generates positive results for Minnesota cold water resources. Our committee recommends that all the other Budget Oversight Committees approach the budget and spending from a policy

2 FY 01 Trout and Salmon Stamp Oversight Report

perspective saving the detailed accounting review for the snapshot that measures both progress and accountability.

For the purpose of the 2001 annual report we have chosen to report briefly on the actual spending in the Trout and Salmon Account plus some of the issues that have arisen in the programs for authorized Stamp expenditures, we have also made some brief comments concerning the Fish Funding Account.

Trout and Salmon Account:

The committee after reviewing the 2001 expenditures from two sources the "Report to the Legislature on Game and Fish Fund Expenditures FY2001" and the FY 01 Division of Fisheries Expenditures by Funding Source (11/1/01)". We have been informed and involved in the spending decisions, have found that the Trout and Salmon Stamp spending has been limited to the categories are required by state statutes: Culture and stocking, habitat improvement, easement acquisition and identification and Lake Superior Research and Special projects. We feel the money has been well spent. As with any annual review and report the committee has identified issues that require further comment or action:

1. The annual report summary only reported the 2001 appropriation (\$662,000), not the total stamp sale revenues (\$724,970). Not explaining the difference in these amounts makes it difficult to determine where \$62,970 was spent. We assume that the difference has been spent for administration but we do not see a similar amount of trout stamp money expended toward administration on the FY 01 Expenditures by Source list. The committee would like to see the figures for all Stamp revenues, appropriations and expenditures, including the administrative expenses in a summary table. We would like to see that the recap of expenditures by funding source and trout stamp numbers match and that administrative costs be shown both the Legislative report and FY01 recap.
2. The amount of "Roll Forward" and the "Funds Canceled" has been an ongoing concern for the Committee. In past years we have asked that the roll forward amounts be reduced, making a commitment to spend the money in the year appropriated. Carryover funding should be reduced to a minimum. While the amount of carryover fell from \$108,862 in 2000 to \$75,472 in 2001, a 30% reduction we are still concerned that carryovers equaling a substantial percentage of the total budget may be the symptom of program deficiencies. DNR representative have advised us that the carryover is usually due to either weather related project delays or the lack of staffing to complete scheduled projects. The committee understands weather delays but advises that the DNR employ contractors or find other means to assure that scheduled projects are completed in the year the project is scheduled for funding. We are concerned that substantial carryovers create project backlogs and have a negative financial impact from inflation and other factors that increase costs year to year. We would like to see all of the appropriated money spent in the program year.
3. Trout stamp expenditures are authorized for fish culture and stocking, an activity that has traditionally been critical for restoring depleted fish stocks. Fish rearing and stocking will continue to be an important management tool and the continued

dedication of hatchery space for Lake Superior appears necessary to rehabilitate declining native steelhead stocks and to maintain a diverse sport fishery in that watershed. On the other end of the state the increasing ability of SE Minnesota streams to have naturally reproducing populations is changing the role of hatcheries in those watersheds. The costs to maintain hatchery infrastructure and the specialized expertise needed for successful fish rearing and stocking consumes a large proportion of the coldwater budget (\$2.05MM in a total \$6.4MM budget) and represents 36% of the total fish culture and stocking budget. To a large degree these hatchery dollars are baseline expenditures that must be incurred to keep the hatcheries operating. There is no consensus on the most appropriate role for hatcheries. For example Trout Unlimited feels the focus of trout management should be on developing and sustaining naturally reproducing populations of trout and salmon yet the Steelhead Association and Lake Trout enthusiasts view hatcheries as a critical link in restoring diverse fishing opportunities in Lake Superior. Some others cite the need for hatcheries as a safety net recalling the success of hatchery programs in restoring SE Minnesota stream trout to the abundance we enjoy today after this fishery declined from severe watershed and water quality problems from 1930 to 1980. The role of hatcheries and level of funding will continue to be monitored and discussed.

4. Habitat improvement is an important element for stream trout, especially in the agricultural watersheds in southeast where stream bank erosion, and hydrology determine the quality of habitat and in north central and north shore streams where beaver impacts and overhead cover are critical factors. The committee has spent much time discussing the status of habitat improvement projects and has concerns over the lack of maintenance of existing project and has concerns over the choice of streams and the techniques used on new habitat improvement projects. We have advised that DNR and interested parties form a working group to work toward the common goal of getting the most for the money for new projects and making a commitment to maintain and improve existing habitat projects.
5. Easement acquisition and identification has been identified as one of the priority issues for the next five to ten years in SE Minnesota. The lack of trout stamp funding in 2001 reflects the fact that the easement program was adequately funded from other sources in 2001, however, problems have arisen that require legislative changes in the way that DNR can negotiate and close easement transactions. As it stands easement acquisition is at a standstill because the Administration has determined that current DNR appraisals are not valid and cannot be used as the basis for an offer to a landowner. Appraisals vary wildly and may not reflect any true market value because there are no valid comparable sales except those executed by DNR. The DNR has recommended statutory changes that would fix the problem and make easement acquisition viable once again. The committee views the changes as vitally important and we ask for the support of the Budget Oversight Committee, the DNE Administration and the Legislature to fix the problem.

4 FY 01 Trout and Salmon Stamp Oversight Report

6. Lake Superior Research and Special Projects is a continuing necessity because the understanding of complex interrelated factors affecting Lake Superior fisheries is in its infancy. The Committee has discussed two special concerns for future expenditures: Forage base research and rehabilitation of the steelhead fishery.

The Committee feels that Minnesota trout and salmon resources and the anglers that enjoy them have continued to benefit from the Trout Stamp fees we pay. We also want to be involved in making the programs better.

In reviewing the FY01 Fisheries Expenditures by Funding Source report we felt that it is important for us to comment on re-cap summaries that focus on the percentage of the total program that are spent on cold water resource programs. The committee has raised a number of questions and concerns:

1. We question if valid comparisons can be made when cost coding differences between regions or programs distort or hide the true value gained from various programs. For example under the heading Fish Culture/Stocking the line item for Kids Fishing Ponds shows no coldwater expenditures suggesting that there are no kids programs funded by coldwater expenditures yet many trout and salmon hatchery programs in Regions I and V are designed for kids fishing with special areas and special events designed for kids, however, fishery managers and workers do not code their time for kids fishing.
2. We question whether a comparison between warm water and coldwater expenditures is valid for many of the line items. For example under Habitat Improvement like Environmental Review, Watershed Projects, Coop & Special Projects benefit all Minnesotans not just cold water anglers. Similar questions arise from the accounting for Lake and Stream Survey Assessment, Planning/Coordination and individual Wasters Planning.
3. The committee noted that fixed percentages of coldwater expenditures are used under the heading Planning and Coordination (8%) and Administration (21%), workers comp and unemployment (21%). These are large expenditures where the fixed percentage has no apparent justification. Our committee requests more detail and justification for these expenditures.
4. The funding recap shows the high cost for coldwater fish culture and stocking. At a level exceeding 33% of the coldwater budget we recognize that trout hatcheries have complicated facilities with fixed costs like heating the water at French River hatchery and complying with regulations concerning the discharge of fish feces and food from the hatcheries raceways. Our committee is interested in exploring the changing role of hatcheries for trout and salmon as we move toward our discussion of future outcomes.

The Trout and Salmon Stamp Committee members are pleased to submit this report for review and consideration and are looking forward to working with citizens, the DNR and the Legislature to make trout and salmon habitat a world-class asset to the State of Minnesota.

5 FY 01 Trout and Salmon Stamp Oversight Report

Jeff Broberg, TSS chairman
Minnesota Trout Association

CC: DNR: Ron Payer, Steve Morse, Brad Moore, Linda Eastwood-Erickson, Steve Hirsch, Mark Ebbers, Don Shriner, Dennis Anderson.

BOC: Ira Adelman, chairman BOC, Beth Carlson

Senate: Sen. Jane Krentz, Sen. Len Price

House: Rep. Mark Holsten, Rep. Dennis Ozment

Citizens Oversight Committee – Turkey Stamp Fund

Report submitted by: Tom Glines, Chairman
Douglas Grann
Theresa Luna

Appropriation for FY 2001 - \$ 85,000
Rollover from FY 2000 - \$ 24,442
Expenditures for FY 2000 - \$103,021
FY 2001 Funds Cancelled - \$ 6,421

Review of expenditures for 2001:

Trap and Transplant Program	\$ 23,387
Turkey Hunter Survey	\$ 9,229
Habitat/Land Acquisition – Beaver Creek WMA	\$ 54,774
Oak Regeneration Procet – Whitewater WMA	\$ 11,166
Corn Food Plots	\$ 2,690
Total	\$101,246

The Committee did not find \$1,775 of expenses that the DNR reports being spent in the Habitat Improvement Account. Also the Summary Report: Trapping and Transportation is listed as \$23,307 but should be corrected to \$23,387.

Upon review of these expenditures we believe the moneys has been properly spent on the projects envisioned when the fund was created... “To further the recreational opportunities of the sport of turkey hunting in the state and to increase the wild turkey flock within the State of Minnesota”.

Total Receipts from Turkey Stamp Fund in 2001 were \$94,791

There is a balance of \$205,518 in the account at the end of FY 2001

Trap and Transplant Program - \$23,387. The most important element, at the present time, within the Trap and Transplant Program is moving the wild turkey population further to the north and west where suitable wild turkey habitat exists for a wild and healthy population. The trapping season, Winter ‘99-‘00, was milder than most on record and the efficiency of the crews were less than average because of snow depths no greater than 7” in the trapping areas. In 2000 there were 4 trappers on the job. 165 birds were relocated to 9 sights. However, in 2001, there were 272 birds relocated to 14 sites. National Wild Turkey Federation staff supplied much of the manpower to move birds to the new release sights in both years of this biennium. The help of the trailers supplied by the Minnesota State Chapter of the NWTF also aided the program. All trappers were seasonal workers for the Department of Natural Resources and not permanent full – time personnel. Prior to the introduction of the Turkey Stamp Fund, this program was slated for discontinuation by the Department due to shortfalls in the Game and Fish Fund (1995). Its continuation has been worthwhile and has added hundreds of acres of wild turkey hunting opportunities throughout Minnesota!

Fall 2000 Turkey Hunter Survey – \$9,229 This expenditure falls under the Promotion, Monitoring and Research Category. But also is in line with maximizing the opportunity to pursue wild turkeys afield in the spring with a quality and safe experience. Data used from this Survey is used in the Model for Setting Spring Turkey Quotas. Dick Kimmel, MN DNR, has developed a unique formula for setting turkey permits per time period and zone levels.

The information resulting from the survey is used in that formula. The data is collected every other year by surveying fall antlerless deer permit holders about the quantity of wild turkeys they observe while afield during their firearms deer hunt. Expectations are to determine whether the population is increasing in the permit area. Permit areas for deer are the same as for wild turkeys. Costs incurred involved mainly printing and postage, with some assembly of the data received. A graduate student (not DNR staff) compiled survey data. Based on the information provided from the Model, the spring permit allocation was increased by 15% to over 23,000 permits for spring of 2001. *This is money paid to temporary research interns that are placed in the Madelia Farmland Wildlife Research station under the supervision of Dr. Richard Kimmel*

Habitat/Land Acquisition – \$54,774 41.4 acres were purchased from Larry Swanson, to be added to the Beaver Creek WMA near Whitewater WMA in Wabasha County to provide additional opportunities for Minnesota Sportsmen. This land is definitely prime wild turkey habitat.

Habitat Enhancement – Post-Sale Treatment/ Tree Planting Project – Whitewater WMA – \$11,166. During 1998, a severe windstorm hit southeastern Minnesota knocking down several hundred acres of timber in the Whitewater Wildlife Management Area (WWMA) alone. Salvage timber was sold to commercial loggers on more than 600 acres within the unit. Silva cultural prescriptions for oak stands require the DNR to go back into these stands and conduct post-sale treatment and perhaps under plant oaks to assure a greater component of oak in the new stand. Post-sale treatment includes hiring a contractor to chainsaw down any remaining competing trees such as elm and box elder and to treat them with herbicides to remove them from the canopy thus increasing sunlight to the forest floor and allow oak to regenerate (a shade intolerant tree). This process also includes cutting any damaged trees that are too small for loggers to sell. This allows them to re-sprout and grow again to a merchantable tree and provide wildlife habitat. Tree planting is required on some stands where there is not enough natural regeneration or re-sprouting occurring to assure an adequate component of oak in the future stand.

In reality the storm provided a very good opportunity to recycle new habitat into the landscape. By salvaging the remaining timber through clear cuts, we were able to regenerate some of these older stands. These stands were succeeding to maple – basswood, a less desirable cover type for numerous species of wildlife. Post-sale treatment allowed us to produce habitat beneficial to wild turkey, ruffed grouse, and whit-tailed deer. As increased sunlight reaches the forest floor, new brush and trees proliferate thus providing excellent habitat for grouse from years 5-15 years after the cut. Young browse and cover provide needed requirements for white-tailed deer. Maintaining a larger component of oak in the new stand furnishes a long-term food resource for wild

turkey as well. Wild turkeys too, use these cutover stands to nest as they provide increased cover.

During fiscal year 2001, funds were obtained to perform post sale work and tree planting on the WWMA. Funds were pooled from the National Wild Turkey Federation - Wild Turkey Super Fund, the Turkey Stamp Fund, Wildlife Heritage Enhancement Fund, and Wildlife Rim Match accounts. Post-Sale treatment was accomplished on 5 sites totaling 123 acres. Tree planting was completed on 105 acres (4 sites) where 29,700 oak and walnut seedlings were planted. For any more information contact: Jon Cole, WWMA 507-932-4133

Corn Food Plots – \$2,600. This is Habitat Development dollars and reserved for areas that are expected to receive new wild turkey releases in the coming winter. It is not a large budget item for the Wild Turkey Stamp Fund. Most of the Habitat Development dollars will be allocated for either land acquisition or permanent habitat work like; oak forest regeneration or wintertime food sources with fruit or berry bush plantings.

Funding is on a first come first served basis, and a plan should be put in place to determine how to allocate this money into the areas that need it most.

Recommendations:

Continue with the Trap and Transplant Program.

Work to involve Conservation Groups (NGO's) in land acquisitions that involve Wild Turkey Stamp Fund dollars. Look to spend money in areas that you seriously want to acquire. Avoid putting the money into a project that is not a priority.

Again recommended for 2001, no involvement in the past year where only 41 acres were acquired. There could have been more "good will" generated by partnering with local and national Conservation Groups to spread the money into additional projects with broader impact.

As Committee also recommends and has the endorsement of the Minnesota State Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation to keep the Turkey Stamp Fund, the Turkey Stamp Contest, sale of the Turkey Stamp, but drop the requirement of possessing the Wild Turkey Stamp while afield when hunting wild turkeys (this was adopted in 2001)

We also discussed the fact that the Department could also discontinue printing the large multiple page booklet with the landowners in it, to save costs. This information could be posted on the Internet. We recommend a simple letter that could be sent out to notify successful winners with a page listing the availability of Turkey Clinics provided by Advanced Hunter Education. All other regulations could be written in the Hunting Synopsis.

TAG/sjg

CC: Douglas Grann, COC – Turkey Stamp Fund
Theresa Luna, COC – Turkey Stamp Fund
Allan Garber, DNR Commissioner
Lloyd Knutson, Farmland Wildlife Program Leader
Dean Potter, President Minnesota Chapter NWTF
Dr Ira Adelman, Chair, Budgetary Oversight Committee

Wildlife Operations Subcommittee Report

Submitted by Joe Duggan-Chair, Gary Botzek, Rick Horton; DNR Staff Dennis Simon

This report is intended to provide the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), Minnesota Legislature and interested citizens with the Citizen's Oversight Committee's recommendations regarding the Wildlife Operations Account including the Small Game Surcharge and the Wildlife Heritage Account. The committee wants to thank the Division of Wildlife's employees for compiling much information, for their time, and valuable input in the preparation of this report.

Background:

The Committee met to review the Wildlife Operations Account Reports provided by the MDNR. This review was limited to expenditures in FY 2001. We also reviewed past reports from this committee and found the following historical concerns and recommendations are still valid.

1. Expenditure reports mean little without associated data on accomplishments. We recommend that the MDNR provide accomplishment data (acres burned, miles of trail maintained, number of accesses created, etc.) within the Wildlife Dedicated Account Detail Reports.
2. Increase stakeholder involvement in advanced planning for the use of these accounts. Oversight after-the-fact is not timely and is not given due attention.
3. Increase the percentage of hunting license and associated fee revenues allocated to wildlife management. Historically 60% was directed to the Wildlife Division, that percentage has declined, the current status should be analyzed.

New Recommendations:

1. **Recommendation** – Develop a protocol for review and compliance with the committee's recommendations or provide written explanations why the recommendations are not feasible. These should be kept with the committee's permanent file and provided to future committee members along with all old reports.
2. **Recommendation** – Develop a standard report format complete with annual graphs depicting efficiency indicators like cost/acre for habitat work (burning, mowing, planting, etc.) and breakdown of allocations to overhead, support services and actual management programs. Establish performance measures with fair and reasonable criteria that can provide reliable data on the MDNR effectiveness and efficiency include accounting definitions. This will provide indicators for areas of improvement. Include the WMA Strategic Plan in the report.
3. **Recommendation** - Adequate personnel is critical in the delivery of quality wildlife management programs when significant staffing/office changes are planned, the Division should inform affected local interests and user groups.
4. **Recommendation** - - This committee applauds the initial effort of the MDNR in compiling the initial Proposed Spending Plan for the Heritage Enhancement Account and

its focus on spending the money "in the field", including a sizeable portion for acquisition. In addition the committee applauds the most recent legislature's Heritage Enhancement Grant Program. This is an innovative approach to expand the partnership with the private sector to implement habitat improvements on wildlife management areas. However, we are troubled by the fact that funding for wildlife land acquisitions was completely cut for FY 2002 and 2003. We recognize that land acquisition is costly, but it is the only practical method for securing permanent fish and wildlife habitat along with public access. Continuing with acquisition is especially important in the face of growing urban development in portions of Minnesota. We recommend that acquisition moneys be reinstated in the FY 2004-05 budget

5. **Recommendation:** - The committee strongly recommends a long-term solution to increase base funding for wildlife programs finally be implemented for Minnesota. Existing models are in place in Missouri and Arkansas that dedicate a very small portion of the state sales tax to fish, wildlife and other natural resource programs. In 1984 and in 1998 two different Governor's commissions have called for long term funding for Minnesota's fish and wildlife resources be enacted. With the public's very strong interest in hunting, fishing and the outdoors along with the very significant economic impact derived from these activities, we feel the citizens of Minnesota will support such funding.

Summary

This committee would like to see the recommendations addressed in writing. Further, the committee feels being provided with meaningful data and reports on expenditures and accomplishments will be helpful to Staff, Policymakers and Oversight Committees in evaluating the effectiveness and efficiency of these accounts. This data should all be maintained in a permanent file and in running graphs that illustrate trends as well as efficiency/effectiveness improvements. We recommend more input into account utilization, before the fact by way of budget review, in conjunction with policy and staffing recommendations. Lastly a long term funding solution to maintain and enhance fish and wildlife programs is critically important to implement in Minnesota.