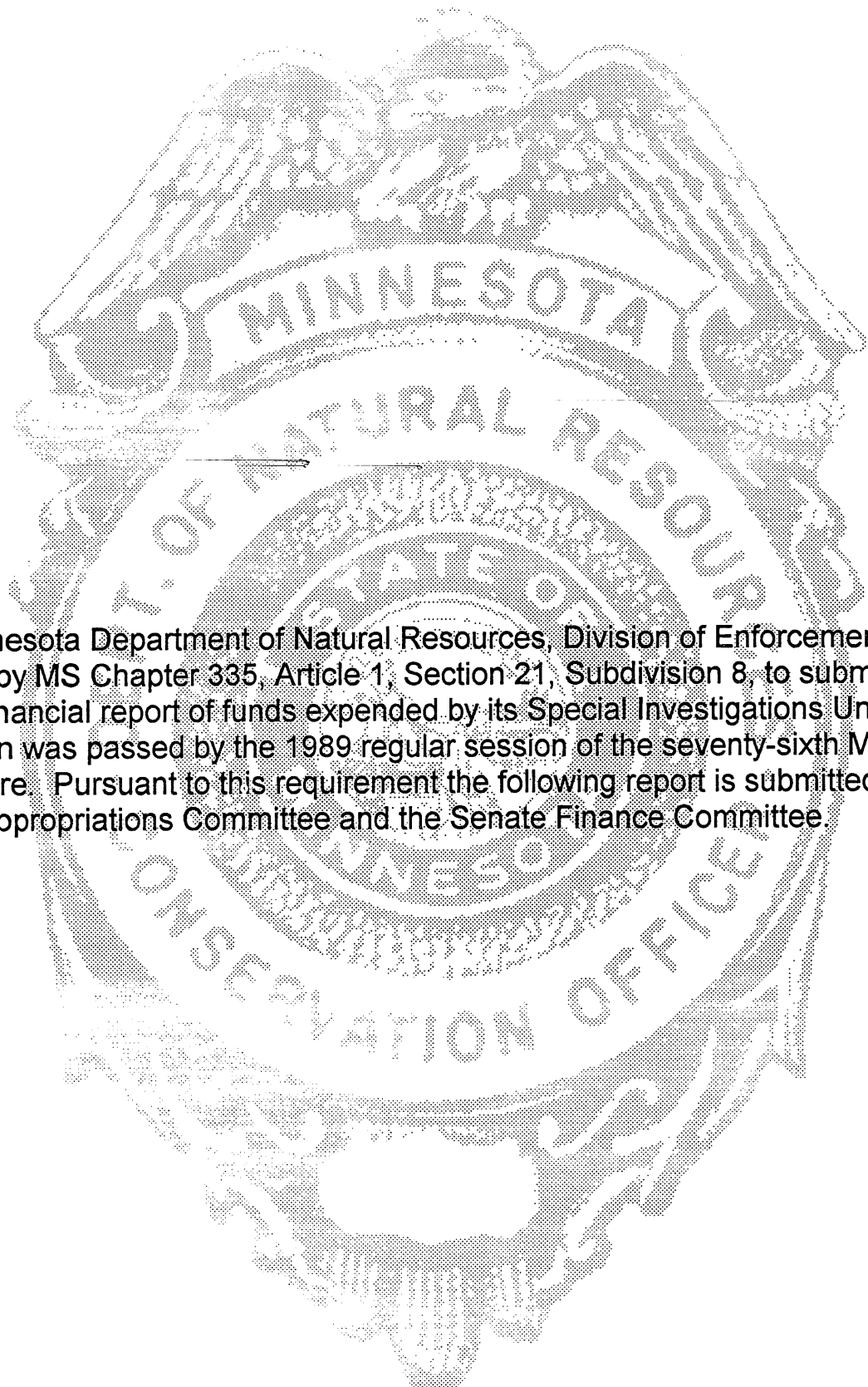




*Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Enforcement*

*Special Investigations Unit  
1995 Legislative Report*

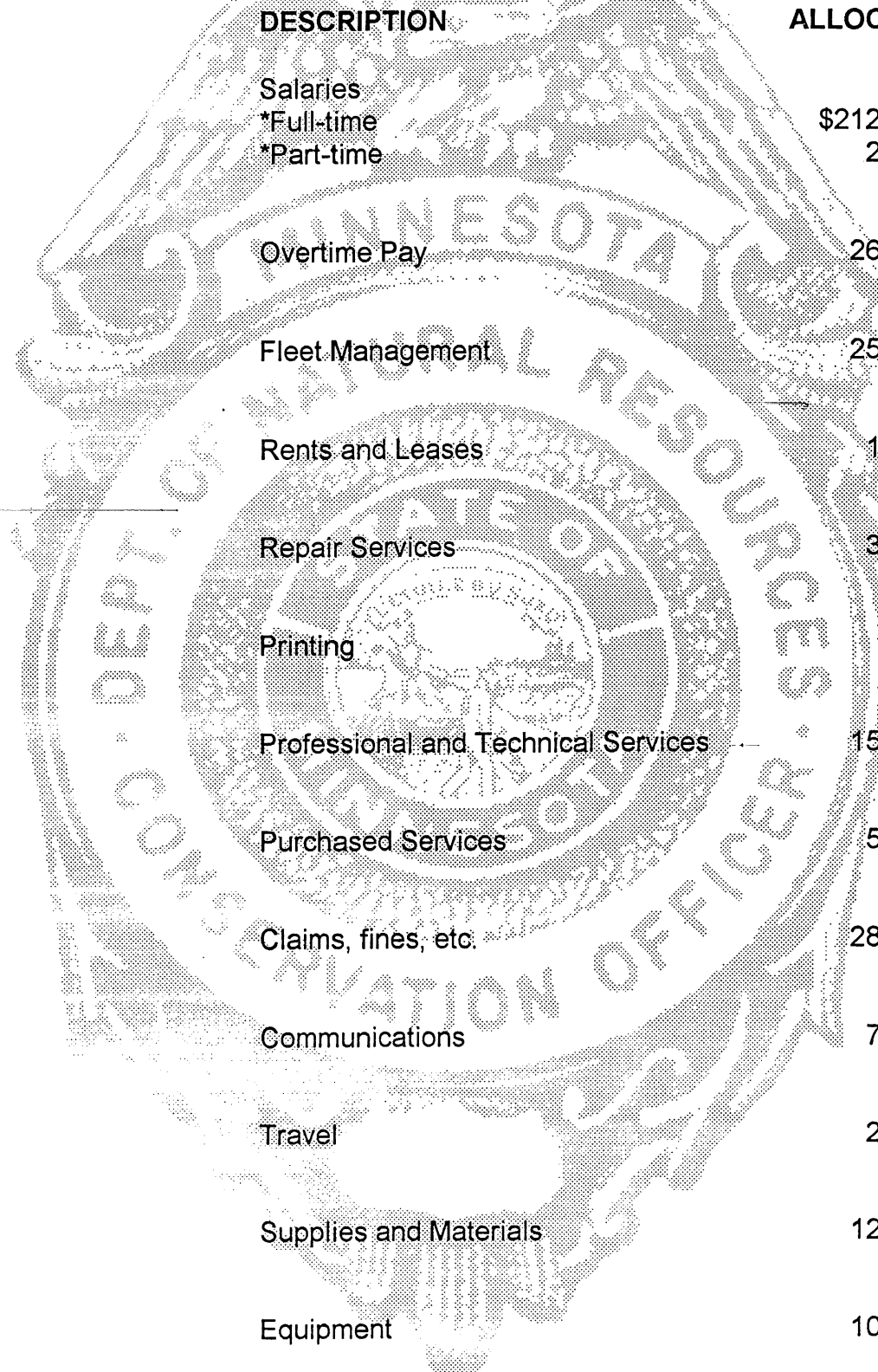
*January 1996*

The seal of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Division of Enforcement, Conservation Office is a large, circular emblem. It features a central shield with a landscape scene, surrounded by a wreath. The text "MINNESOTA" is arched across the top, "DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES" is arched across the middle, and "DIVISION OF ENFORCEMENT CONSERVATION OFFICE" is arched across the bottom. The seal is rendered in a light, halftone style.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Division of Enforcement is directed by MS Chapter 335, Article 1, Section 21, Subdivision 8, to submit an annual financial report of funds expended by its Special Investigations Unit. This legislation was passed by the 1989 regular session of the seventy-sixth Minnesota Legislature. Pursuant to this requirement the following report is submitted to the House Appropriations Committee and the Senate Finance Committee.

LINE	DESCRIPTION	EXPENDITURE
1	Salaries, full time classified with benefits (Two N.R. Spec III, one N.R. Spec IV)	\$203,383
	Unclassified and temporary assignments (One Clerk Typist III, one contracted officer)	
2	Overtime Pay (893.5 overtime hours for the entire unit)	22,096
3	Fleet Management (Vehicle operational costs paid to DNR fleet management for insurance, maintenance and replacement of vehicles)	17,613
4	Rents and Leases (Lease of pagers for communication purposes, maintenance contracts for equipment)	133
5	Repairs (Equipment repair costs)	1,764
6	Printing (Printing costs for informational handouts for commercial licensees)	438
7	Professional and Technical Services (Laboratory costs and scientific research for the testing and verification of evidence for court purposes of all Division of Enforcement wildlife evidence)	15,000
8	Purchased Services (Seminars, film processing, catering, meeting rooms)	835
9	Claims, fines, etc. (Funds dedicated for the purchase of evidence and associated costs of investigations directed at commercialized resource crime)	28,489
10	Communications (Telephone charges, long distance tolls, etc.)	9,406
11	Travel (Expenses incurred for intelligence sharing, training, etc.)	3,369
12	Supplies and Materials (Gasoline, audio/video tapes, batteries, office supplies, etc.)	14,387
13	Equipment	9,196
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$326,109</b>

## ANTICIPATED 1996 EXPENDITURES



LINE	DESCRIPTION	ALLOCATION
1	Salaries *Full-time *Part-time	\$212,920 2,000
2	Overtime Pay	26,011
3	Fleet Management	25,000
4	Rents and Leases	1,000
5	Repair Services	3,000
6	Printing	500
7	Professional and Technical Services	15,000
8	Purchased Services	5,500
9	Claims, fines, etc.	28,000
10	Communications	7,800
11	Travel	2,500
12	Supplies and Materials	12,000
13	Equipment	10,960
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$352,191</b>

## Summary

In fiscal year 1995, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Division of Enforcement, Special Investigations Unit accounted for the disbursement of approximately 2 % of the Division's budgetary allotment. The Special Investigations Unit conducted activities utilizing three full time Special Investigators and eighteen Conservation Officers who were certified to conduct part time overt and covert wildlife investigations. A summary of fiscal year 1995 Special Investigations Unit operations includes:

### SPECIALIZED TRAINING

- \* Special Investigators attended a two-week United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) "Covert Wildlife Investigation Training Program." This seminar offers both classroom and technical training, as well as hands-on practical exercises to law enforcement participants involved with the complexities of wildlife undercover work.
- \* Special Investigators attended and made presentations at the Midwest Natural Resources Covert Investigator's Seminar. This program provides investigators with information concerning the legal aspects of conducting covert investigations, introduces innovative specialized equipment, and affords the sharing of information critical in determining illegal trends.
- \* Special Investigators attended the National Association of Marine Investigator's (NAMI) seminar and received training sufficient to conduct watercraft/snowmobile theft investigations and fraudulent titling/ registration.

### ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

Enforcement activities conducted during fiscal year 1995 included but were not limited to the following:

- \* A cooperative covert waterfowl investigation with Canadian and USFWS agents resulted in the arrests and convictions of ten American waterfowl hunters and guides. The sentencing included fines and forfeitures exceeding \$80,000 and the confiscation of more than 250 waterfowl.
- \* Cooperative Commercial Wildlife Investigation-- Convictions of ten federal defendants of Lacey Act violations relating to the illegal commercialization of walleye. Convictions of ten state defendants for illegal sale/purchase of protected game fish. The disposition of six state defendants is still pending.
- \* A two-year covert surveillance operation involving the illegal commercialization of perch by winter anglers on Lake Winnibigoshish was concluded. This cooperative effort between the Special Investigations Unit and uniformed Conservation Officers resulted in the convictions of more than thirty defendants. Seizures of more than 4000 perch, fines/restitution exceeding \$25,000 and media exposure contributed in creating an effective deterrent.
- \* A covert investigation involving an unlicensed aquarium facility illegally importing/selling protected game fish resulted in a successful prosecution with subsequent fines exceeding \$2400

- \* Assisted in a large multi-agency criminal investigation involving a Mankato car/boat equipment leasing agency. Several instances of titling and sales/use tax violations were uncovered using investigative techniques acquired through NAMI training.
- \* Seventeen license fraud investigations were conducted for outstate natural resource law enforcement agencies
- \* In addition, investigations of thirty seven cases involving unlawful natural resource commercialization have been initiated. The Special Investigations Unit had a 100% conviction rate for cases which were prosecuted.
- \* Assisted many federal, state, and county law enforcement agencies in cooperative criminal investigations. The Special Investigations Unit was instrumental in the recovery of two stolen watercraft and two stolen snowmobiles
- \* Receipt, review, maintenance, and associated enforcement of commercial license and record's statutes. These included:

1152 Game Farm Dealers  
54 Raw Fur Dealers  
13 Raw Fur Tanners/Dressers  
14 Wild Rice Dealers  
80 Shooting Preserves  
79 Bear Guides  
394 Minnow Dealers

### ADMINISTRATION

- \* Administrated the Division's forensic research and testing program. During the past year, 116 samples associated with the securing of evidence in criminal cases were custodied from the Special Investigations Unit to University of Minnesota pathobiologists for forensic analysis
- \* Maintained the Division of Enforcement's statewide intelligence information
- \* Provided specialized equipment, training, surveillance and interview assistance to uniformed Conservation Officers

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
 Division of Enforcement  
 Special Investigations Unit

**FINANCIAL REPORT - FISCAL YEAR 1995**

LINE	DESCRIPTION	ALLOCATION	EXPENDITURE
1	Salaries		
	* Full-time	\$201,383	201,383
	* Part-time	2,000	2,000
2	Overtime Pay	22,096	22,096
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$225,479</b>	<b>\$225,479</b>
3	Fleet Management	25,000	17,613
4	Rents and Leases	1,000	133
5	Repairs	3,000	1,764
6	Printing	500	438
7	Professional & Technical	15,000	15,000
8	Purchased Services	5,500	835
9	Claims, fines, etc.	23,000	28,489
10	Communications	7,800	9,406
11	Travel	2,500	3,369
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$83,300</b>	<b>\$77,047</b>
12	Supplies and Materials	12,000	14,387
13	Equipment	5,960	9,196
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$17,960</b>	<b>\$23,583</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$326,739</b>	<b>\$326,109</b>

