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Environmental Funding in the 1990s

This information brief graphically depicts state appropriations for the major environment and natural resources-related agencies. The agencies are traditionally funded under the jurisdiction and recommendations of the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee. It includes bonding dollars and appropriations to agencies recommended by the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources. *Inflationary factors during this period reduced the buying power of dollars appropriated for agencies each year, as shown on the page 9 table and page 10 line graphs.*

Peter Skwira, House Fiscal Analyst, and Yvonne Fritchie, of the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources, provided important data for this report.

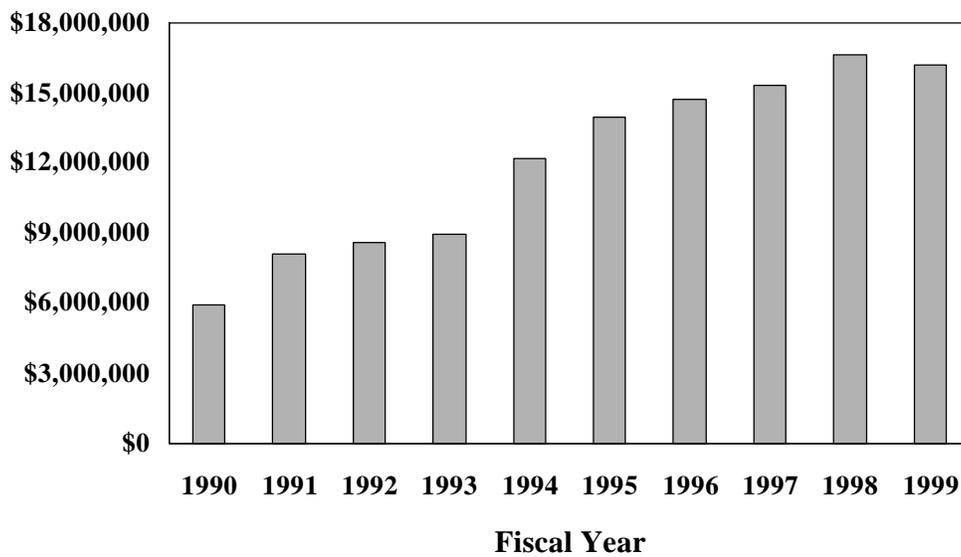
Contents	Page
Agency Appropriations	2
Comparison of Agency Funding: 1990 to 1999	8
Appropriations in Actual and Inflation-Adjusted Dollars	9
Appropriations in Dollar Amounts Graphically	10
LCMR Funding to Agencies	11
2000 Environmental Appropriations	11
Bonding Dollars over the Past Decade	12

Agency Appropriations

These graphs through page 7 include all general, federal, and special funds.

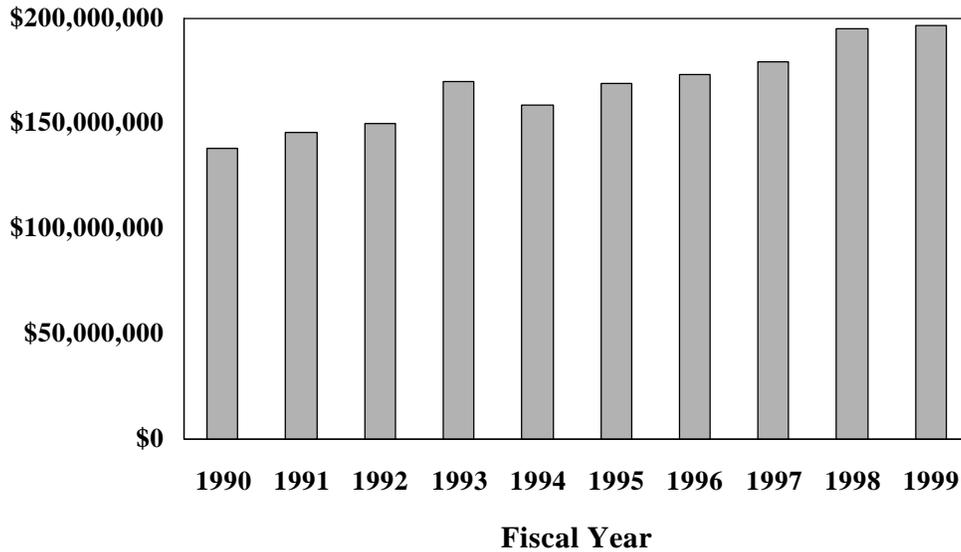
Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR)

The board of 17 local government officials, citizens, and state agency representatives coordinates the water and soil resources management activities of local units of government through educational activities, approval of local plans, and administration of state grants and cost-sharing contracts.



Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

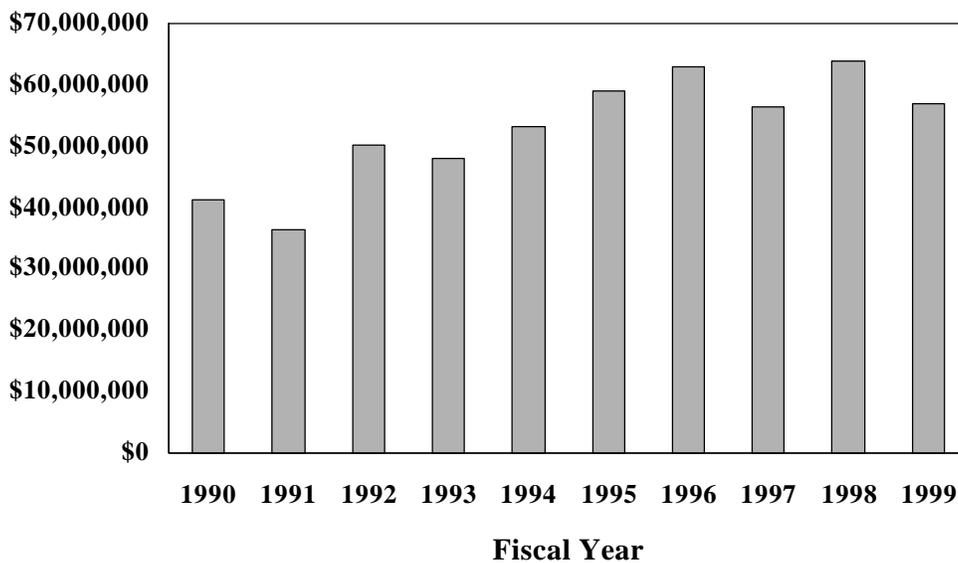
The department coordinates management of public lands and waters through various programs to conserve the state's natural resources.



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Pollution Control Agency (PCA)

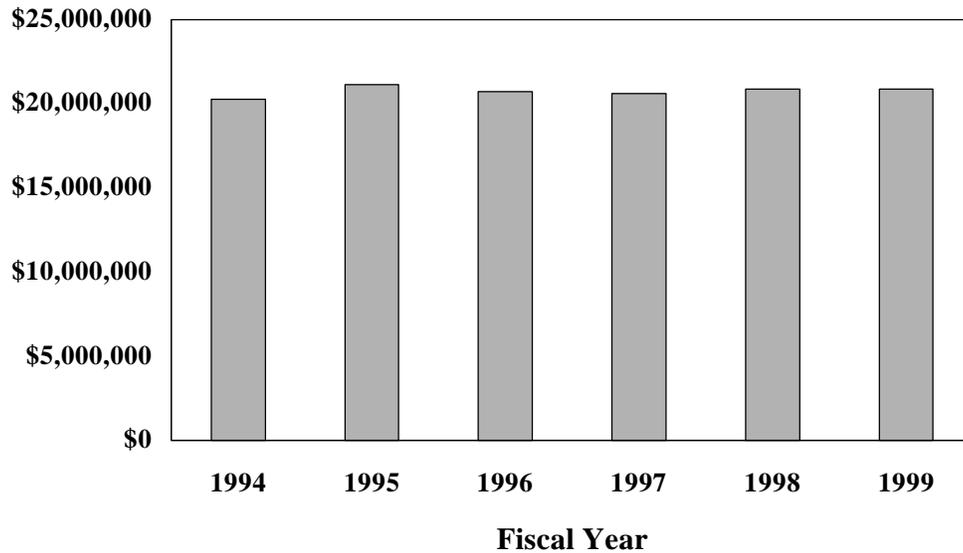
The agency has a commissioner and a nine-member citizen board to administer the laws protecting the environment. The commissioner serves as chair of the citizen board.



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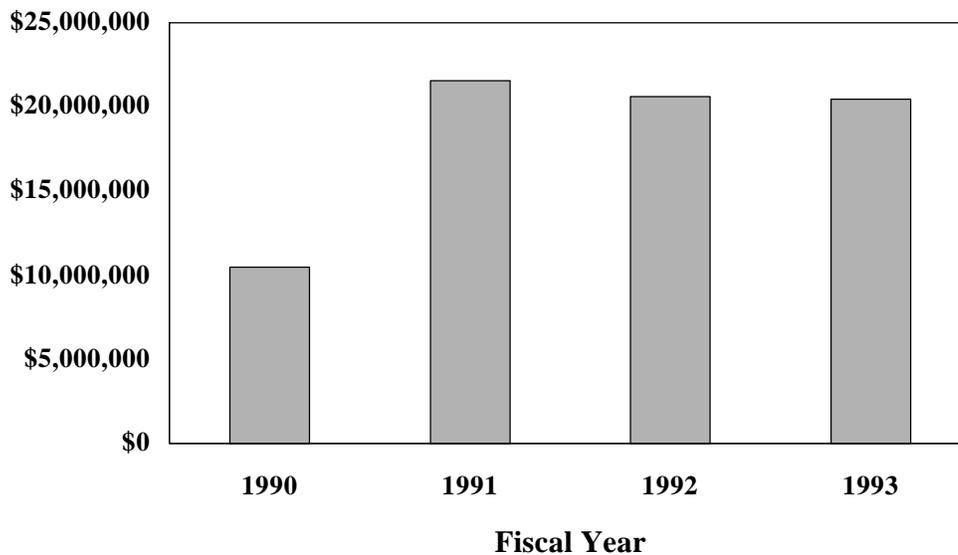
Office of Environmental Assistance (OEA) replaced the Office of Waste Management in 1994

The office administers the Minnesota Waste Management Act and identifies and recommends policy positions on current and evolving critical waste issues facing Minnesota.



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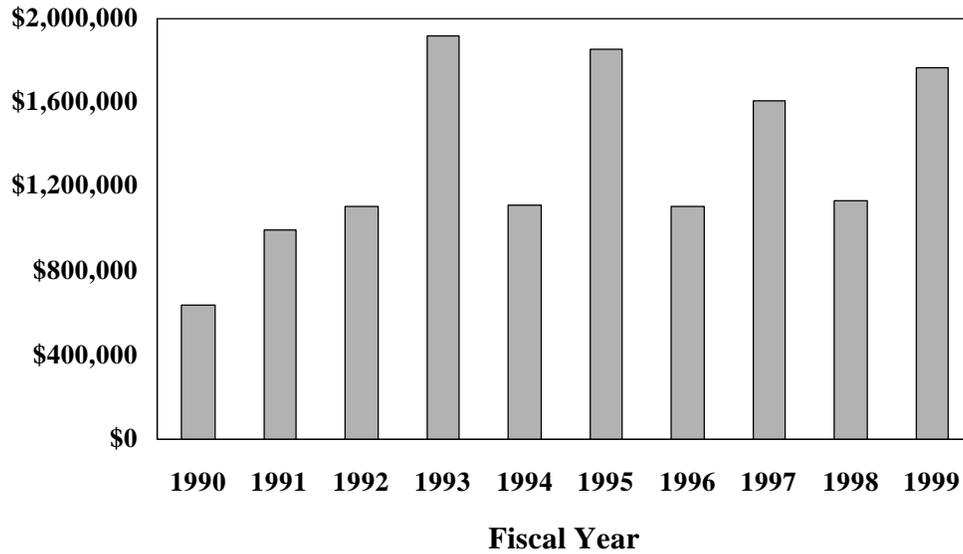
Office of Waste Management



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Minnesota Zoological Board

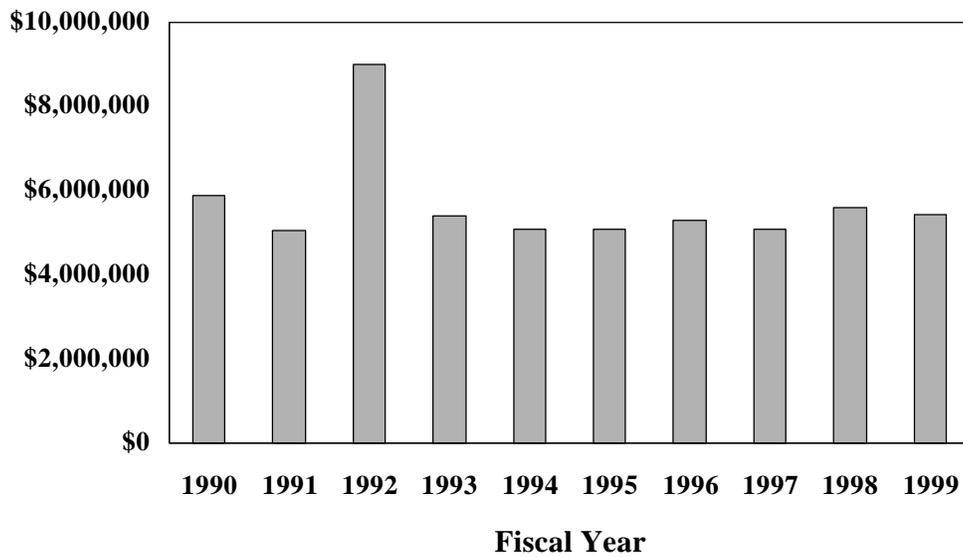
The 30-member board acquires, constructs, equips, operates, and maintains the Minnesota Zoological Garden.



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Science Museum of Minnesota

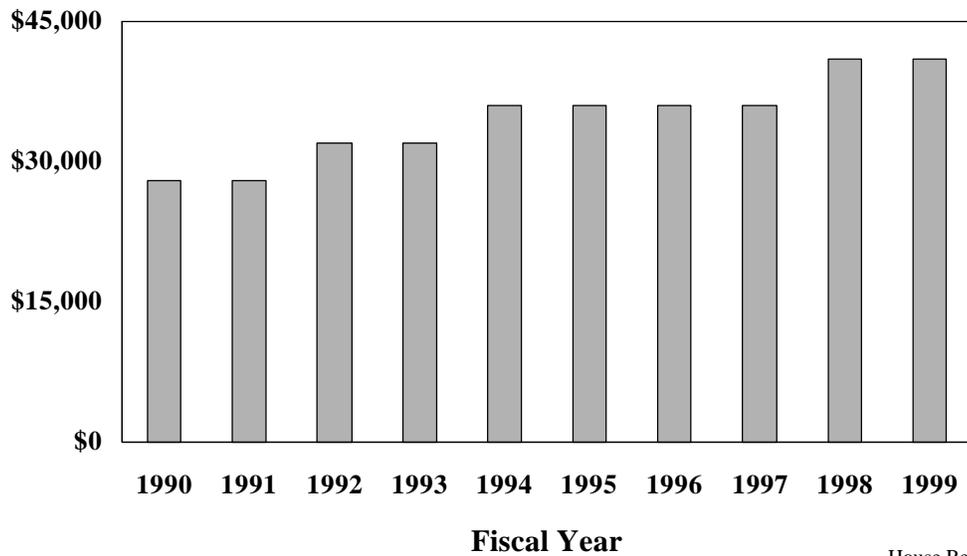
Provides educational opportunities on science and the environment to state residents.



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Minnesota-Wisconsin Boundary Area Commission

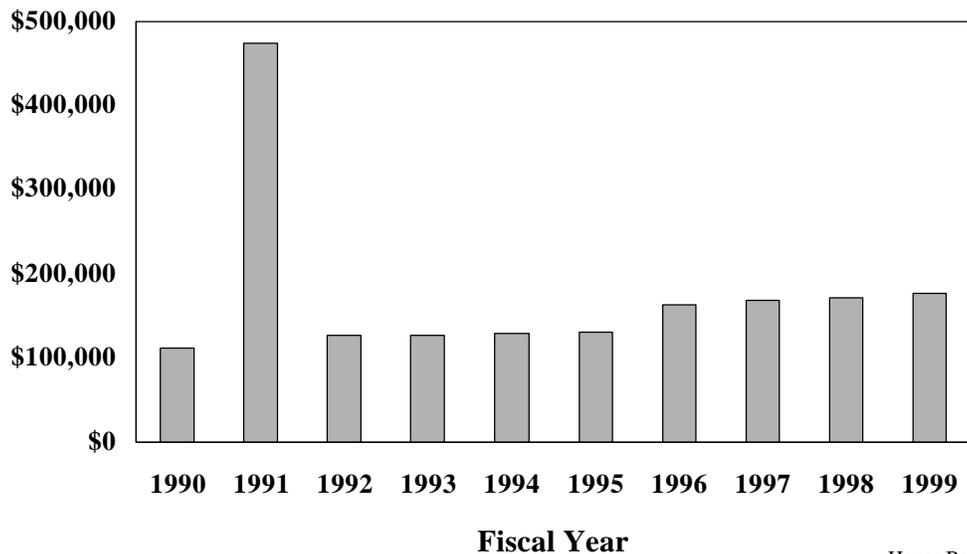
The interstate commission is composed of five members from each state appointed by their respective governors. The commission recommends, reviews, and correlates studies for the use of lands and waters which form the common boundaries of the two states, especially the St. Croix and Mississippi Rivers.



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Minnesota Academy of Science

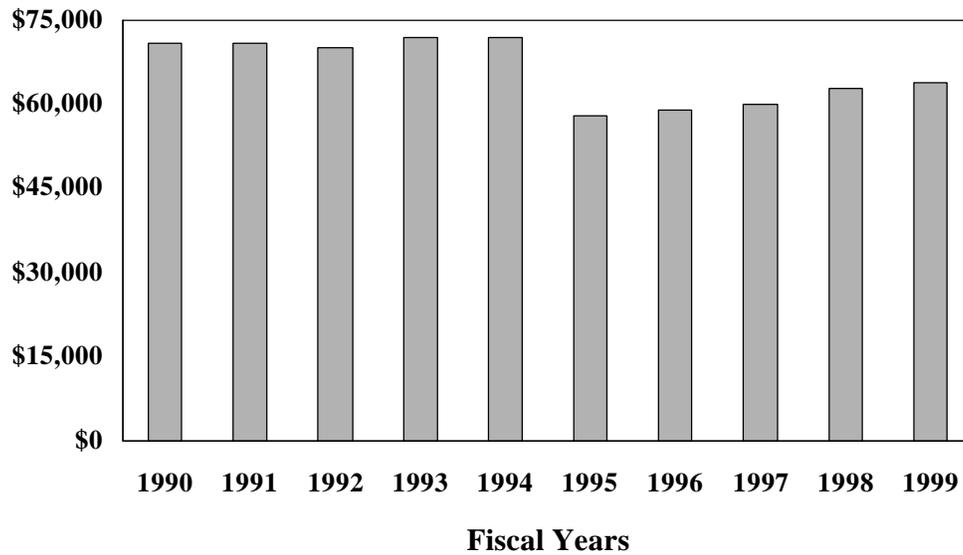
The Minnesota Academy of Science promotes interest in and appreciation of science among the citizens of Minnesota by encouraging and facilitating excellence in science and science education at all levels.



House Research Graphics

Citizens' Council on Voyageurs National Park*

The 17-member board researches matters related to the establishment and operation of Voyageurs National Park and makes recommendations to the U.S. National Park Service and other concerned federal and state agencies.

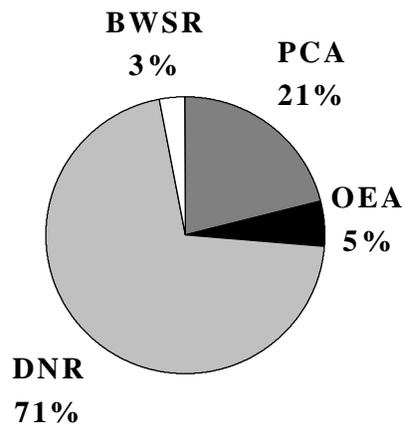


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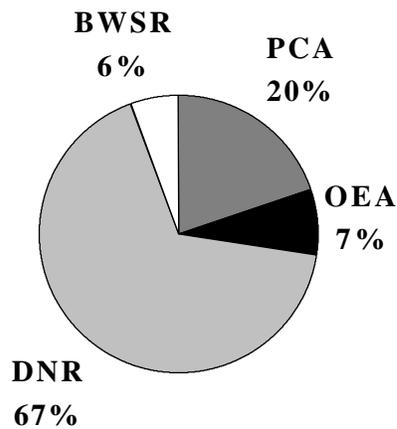
* The 1999 appropriation was vetoed by the governor, and the council is no longer operating.

Comparison of Agency Funding: 1990 to 1999

1990 Environmental Funding to Major Agencies



1999 Environmental Funding to Major Agencies



Appropriations in Actual and Inflation-Adjusted Dollars*

The table below shows the difference in actual dollars appropriated and constant dollars after adjusting for inflation, and includes the percentage increases over the decade for each agency. The next page shows these dollar figures graphically. Although appropriations for each agency increased over the decade, the inflation factor reduced buying power of these dollars over the same period to 78 percent of their nominal value. This is reflected in the percentage changes in the last row of this table and the graphs on page 10. While the actual funding increased significantly, the increase in the inflation adjusted funding is considerably less.

Adjusting Actual Amounts for Price Inflation Using the Consumer Price Index

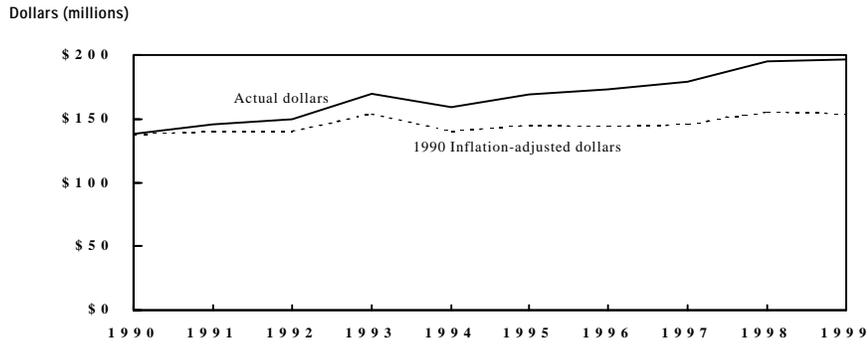
(in thousands)

	BLS/CPI**	PCA		OEA (Office of Waste Management)		DNR		BWSR	
	Annual	Actual dollars	Constant dollars	Actual dollars	Constant dollars	Actual dollars	Constant dollars	Actual dollars	Constant dollars
1990	127.4	\$41,264	\$41,264	\$10,486	\$10,486	\$138,105	\$138,105	\$5,948	\$5,948
1991	132.4	36,404	35,029	21,547	20,733	145,693	140,191	8,119	7,812
1992	136.1	50,110	46,907	20,643	19,323	150,118	140,522	8,595	8,046
1993	140.0	48,048	43,724	20,482	18,639	169,620	154,354	8,942	8,137
1994	144.0	53,204	47,071	20,289	17,950	158,709	140,413	12,158	10,756
1995	148.4	58,939	50,599	21,113	18,125	168,941	145,034	13,988	12,009
1996	153.0	63,035	52,488	20,739	17,269	173,287	144,293	14,715	12,253
1997	156.7	56,562	45,986	20,638	16,779	179,496	145,934	15,348	12,478
1998	159.3	63,827	51,046	20,872	16,692	195,009	155,958	16,651	13,317
1999	162.7	56,928	44,577	20,900	16,365	196,744	154,058	16,196	12,682
% increase 1990-1999		38%	9%	99%	56%	42%	16%	270%	213%

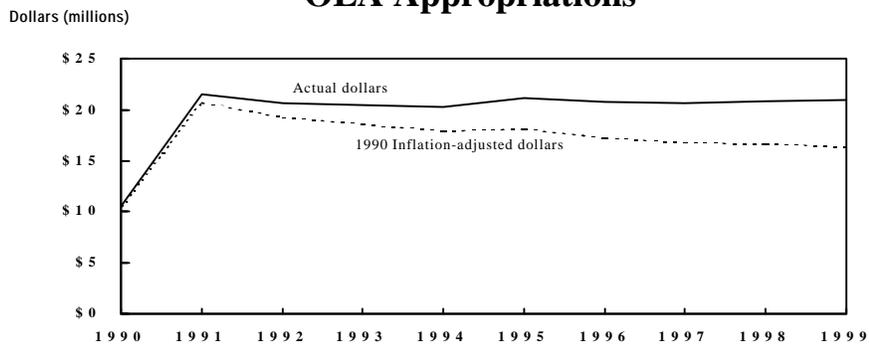
* Bonding dollars are not included here; see page 12.

** Bureau of Labor Statistics/Consumer Price Index inflation factor.

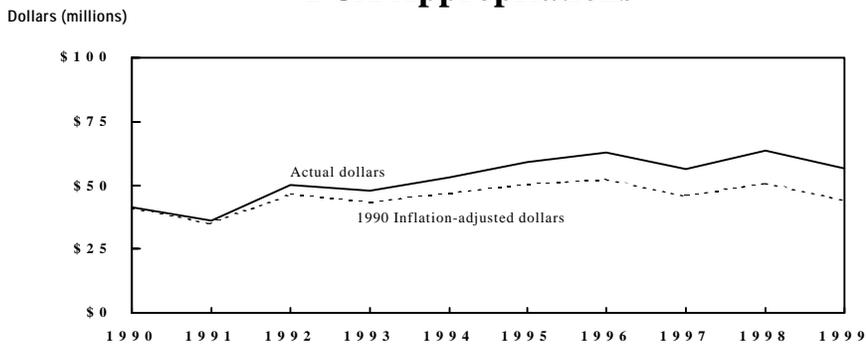
DNR Appropriations



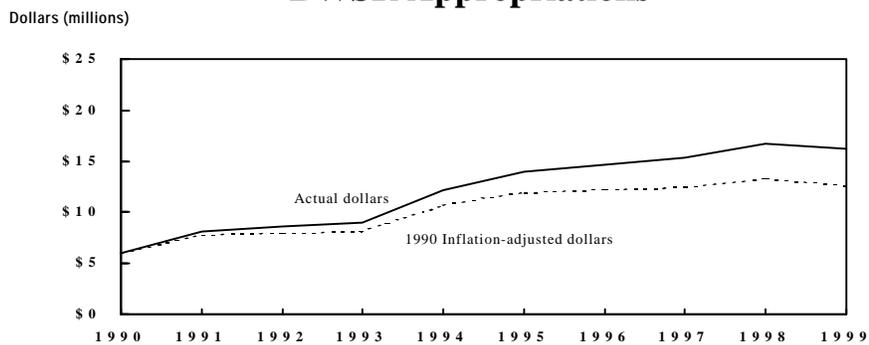
OEA Appropriations



PCA Appropriations



BWSR Appropriations



LCMR Funding to Environmental Agencies

The Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR) makes funding recommendations on environment and natural resources projects from various sources to the full legislature for funding. The main sources are the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund, funded by a percentage of lottery dollars, and the Minnesota Resources Fund, funded by cigarette tax dollars. Amounts shown in the following table are direct appropriations from these funds to selected state agencies. These amounts are included in the preceding tables and graphs.

LCMR Funding to Environmental Agencies 1990-1999

(in thousands)

	DNR	PCA	OEA	BWSR	Science Museum	MN/WI Boundary Area Commission
1990						
1991	\$8,154	\$2,502			\$400	\$360
1992						
1993	19,014	1,100			810	
1994	2,500					
1995	11,390	1,700	700		750	
1996	2,417	151		15		
1997	10,577	1,750		145	500	
1998						
1999	9,176	550		500	600	

2000 Environmental Appropriations

A limited amount of funding for some agencies was appropriated during the “off-budget” 2000 session.

DNR	PCA	BWSR
\$25,055,000*	\$307,000	\$3,150,000
* This number includes general fund dollars, the game and fish fee increase, and the DNR’s share of the lottery in-lieu-of sales tax dollars.		

Bonding Dollars over the Past Decade

Capital improvement (bonding) dollars fluctuated greatly for environment and natural resources agencies over the past decade from an environmental project low of \$2.625 million in 1995 to a high of \$197.6 million in 1998. Because of this, the amounts are shown below and separated from the preceding graphs.

Capital Improvement

(in thousands)

	DNR	PCA	BWSR	OEA/OWM	Public Facilities Authority*	Total
1992	\$11,682	\$13,050	\$2,000	\$1,250	\$7,500	\$35,482
1994	58,917	23,401	0	9,800	13,400	105,518
1995	1,875	750	0	0	0	2,625
1996	39,676	3,500	3,000	14,750	22,100	83,026
1997	4,000	7,400	0	0	7,000	18,400
1998	130,251	0	3,500	19,800	44,050	197,601
1999	19,000	0	2,375	3,000	22,700	47,000
2000	36,000	0	2,200	23,800	33,212	95,212

* The numbers for the Public Facilities Authority reflect only dollars for water treatment loans and grants.