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Review of the Proposed Program 83-85 Biennium

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

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RESOURCE 2000

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i. INTRODUCTION

In 1975, the Department of Natural Resources proposed an accelerated program of land acquisition and development. This proposal was christened "Resource 2000" in recognition of its emphasis on providing a natural resource legacy for future generations. As originally agreed upon the State was entering a multi-biennium project which would cost in excess of \$100,000,000. Although the Resource 2000 program has been paced more moderately than had originally been anticipated, this slower implementation has proved prudent and today nearly 60% of the program is complete.

Today, Resource 2000 is seen not only as an opportunity to provide a Minnesota legacy, but also as a vehicle for improving state tourism and assisting in economic recovery. The Department, has the responsibility and authority to care for a major portion of State's public outdoor recreation facilities. The Department oversees (wholly or in part) state parks, hunting, fishing and water access facilities, trails, forest camping and picnicking and other state day use facilities. These facilities are major attractions for recreation visitors to Minnesota. Their condition, level of development and ability to complement other facilities nearby make the difference between highly attractive tourism areas and simple groupings of facilities. The Resource 2000 request provides the opportunity to attain a top quality Minnesota natural resource tourism recreation system.

The cost of traveling makes it more and more important to offer the tourist a broad range of recreation opportunities within a single geographic area. Today, more and more tourists go to one area and stay there. To be attracted to that area they need a full range of complementary recreational services.

Thus, the State's tourism strategy hinges on developing and marketing major recreation areas. It is on this strategy as well as other economic recovery concepts that the Department of Natural Resources has developed its Resource 2000 bonding request. To the Department this request represents an investment Minnesota's economic recovery and a vehicle to strengthen the working relationship between the public recreation and private tourism sectors.

Resource-Based Lodging Clusters (Figure 1)

Minnesota's tourism recreation industry is sprinkled throughout the State's major scenic areas and is focused around three geographic areas: 1) West Central Lakes area lying between Detroit lakes and Willmar, passing through Alexandria, 2) North Central Lakes between Brainerd, Bemidji and Grand Rapids 3) Arrowhead - North Shore Region (see Figure One). Accelerated and carefully placed public investments in these tourism recreation regions will generate immediate benefits through increased construction activity and long term benefits from increased tourism recreation activity. These capital expenditures build upon past public and private investments and enhance Minnesota's tourism recreation package.

Also shown on Figure 1 are the principle interstate travel routes. Tourism facilities along these routes also stand to benefit from investments made in the resource based lodging areas. As tourists travel to their destinations they spend money on gasoline, food and lodging. The State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan found that, on the average in 1978, each auto tourist party driving into the state spent \$72 in Minnesota. It is estimated that the

average 1981 auto tourist party spent \$100 and those that have Minnesota as their primary destination spent substantially more. A major portion of those dollars go to businesses located on the travel route. In this way, tourism development in major tourism regions benefits the entire state, not just the major tourism regions.

In addition, the tourism regions do not produce and supply many of the goods sold in the region. Rather, these products come from the states farms and manufacturing businesses. Increases in sales in the tourism regions create increases in business across the state.

Furthermore, to better retain resident tourism dollars, the Department proposes public investments in areas of high accessibility to large population centers. Figure Two shows areas highly accessible to major populations.

High Population Growth and Accessibility Areas (Figure 2)

One half of Minnesota population lives in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area and the highest rural population concentrations are in Southeastern Minnesota. These areas are also the areas of greatest population growth. Because of this growth and high accessibility, Minnesota needs to continue development of facilities to enhance the quality of life, keep up with population growth.

The application of this strategy results in a recovery investment proposal made for four major geographic areas and two related tourism and resource management issues. These are:

Geographic Areas

- I. Arrowhead - North Shore
- II. North Central Lakes - Heartland
- III. West Central Lakes
- IV. Areas of Growing Population and Areas Close to Population Growth

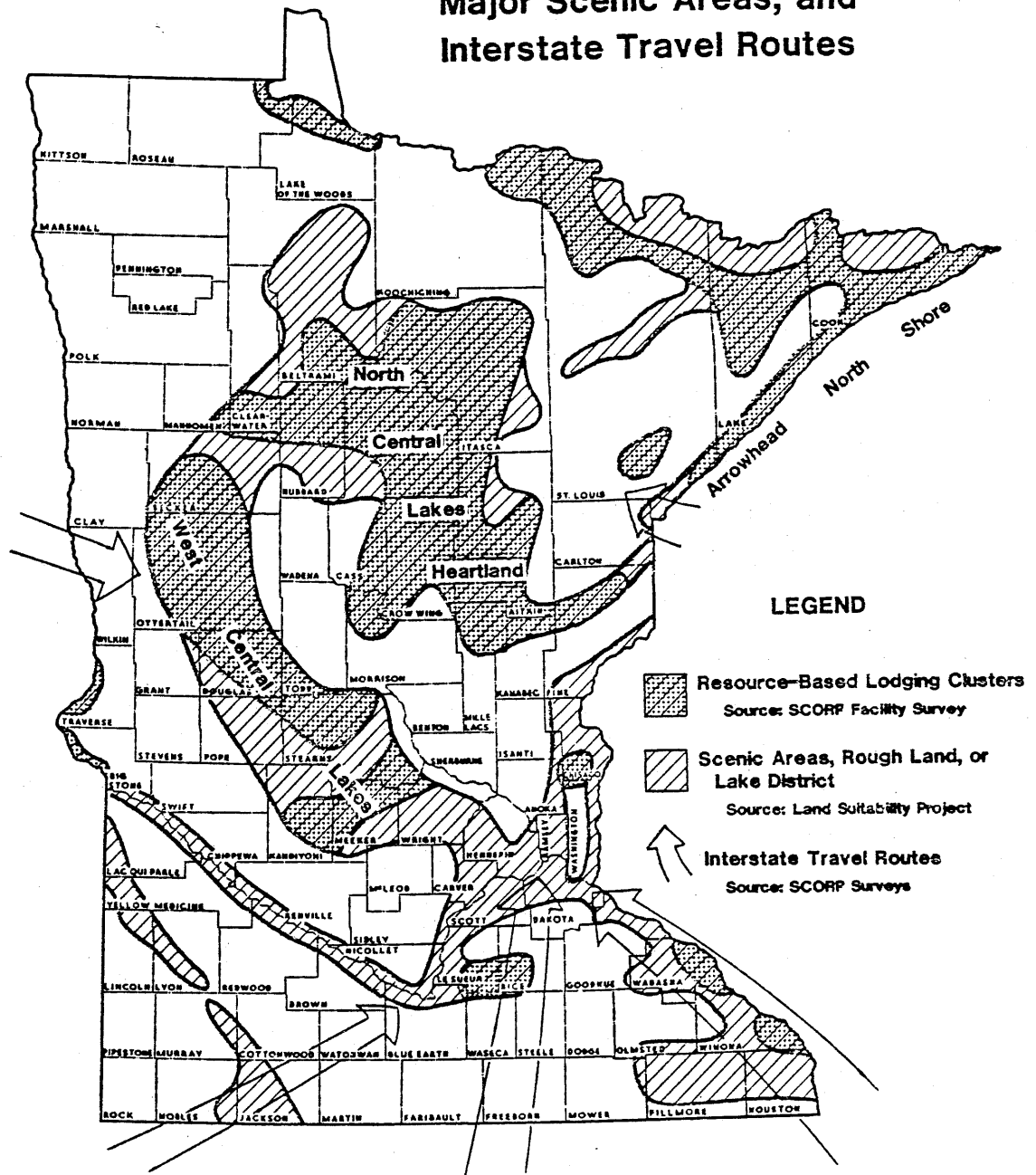
Tourism & Resource Management Issues

- V. Water Management Wildlife Production
- VI. Access For Resource Management and Use

Each of these is discussed in the following pages. Additionally, details of individual projects are organized by resource management discipline and contained in the appendix.

FIGURE 1

Resource-Based Lodging Clusters, Major Scenic Areas, and Interstate Travel Routes



AREAS OF HIGH POPULATION GROWTH AND ACCESSIBILITY



I. ARROWHEAD - NORTH SHORE AREA

Much of the natural resource based tourism and recreation industry in this part of the state is concentrated next to the border lakes Federal recreation areas and the Lake Superior North Shore.

The border lakes area comprises a national recreation corridor which extends nearly 200 miles along the Canadian boundary from Isle Royale to Rainy Lake. It includes two national parks and a major national wilderness area. This area is characterized by large tracts of forested land, many large lakes with good water quality and rough rocky shorelines. It is the only area of the central United States where the rocky lakeshore common in Canada, occurs in the United States. Minnesota, through proper development and management, has the opportunity to intercept tourists seeking this type of experience before they enter Canada.



The Lake Superior North Shore of Minnesota combines areas of high local relief, attractive forest cover, and fast flowing streams with many waterfalls and rapids. This land resource is next to the largest freshwater lake in the world.

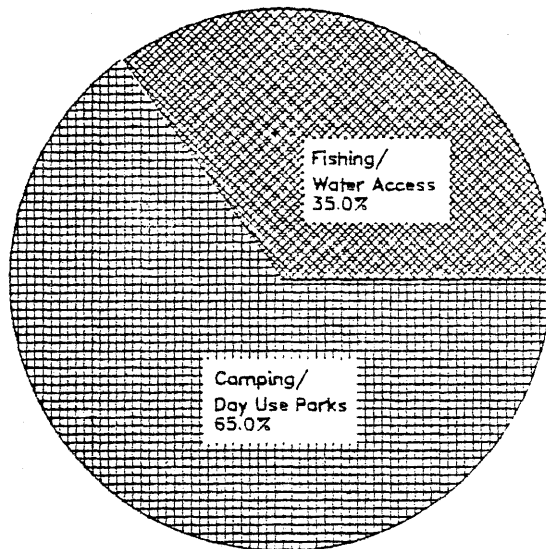
The utilization of these resources through the development of private and public facilities has made the North Shore a major tourist attraction. The construction of Highway 61 and the development of state parks in the prime scenic areas of the North Shore have been major long term public contributions to increased tourism. These facilities complement the large and generally high quality private lodging and service infrastructure that has developed.

During the decade of the 1970's, the state invested substantial capital to protect the North Shore through the regulation of mining and shoreland development. In addition lands were purchased making available for public use and enjoyment key scenic parcels along the shore. Tettegouche State Park is a prime example of this program. The trout fishery resource of Lake Superior was rebuilt with public investment, and a winter recreation trail was built parallel to Highway 61. The trail links public and private tourism facilities together and serves to enhance public use of the shore during the winter.

A. INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE BORDER LAKES NATIONAL RECREATION COORIDOR

RESOURCE 2000
Investment Breakdown

Arrowhead Border Lakes



1. Development of Increased Lake Recreation Opportunities

The department proposes to acquire and develop accesses, often in cooperation with local units of government, to provide, opportunity for fuller utilization of the border lakes resource.

<u>Project</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Water Access Acquisition	\$ 75,000
Water Access Betterment	\$ 80,000

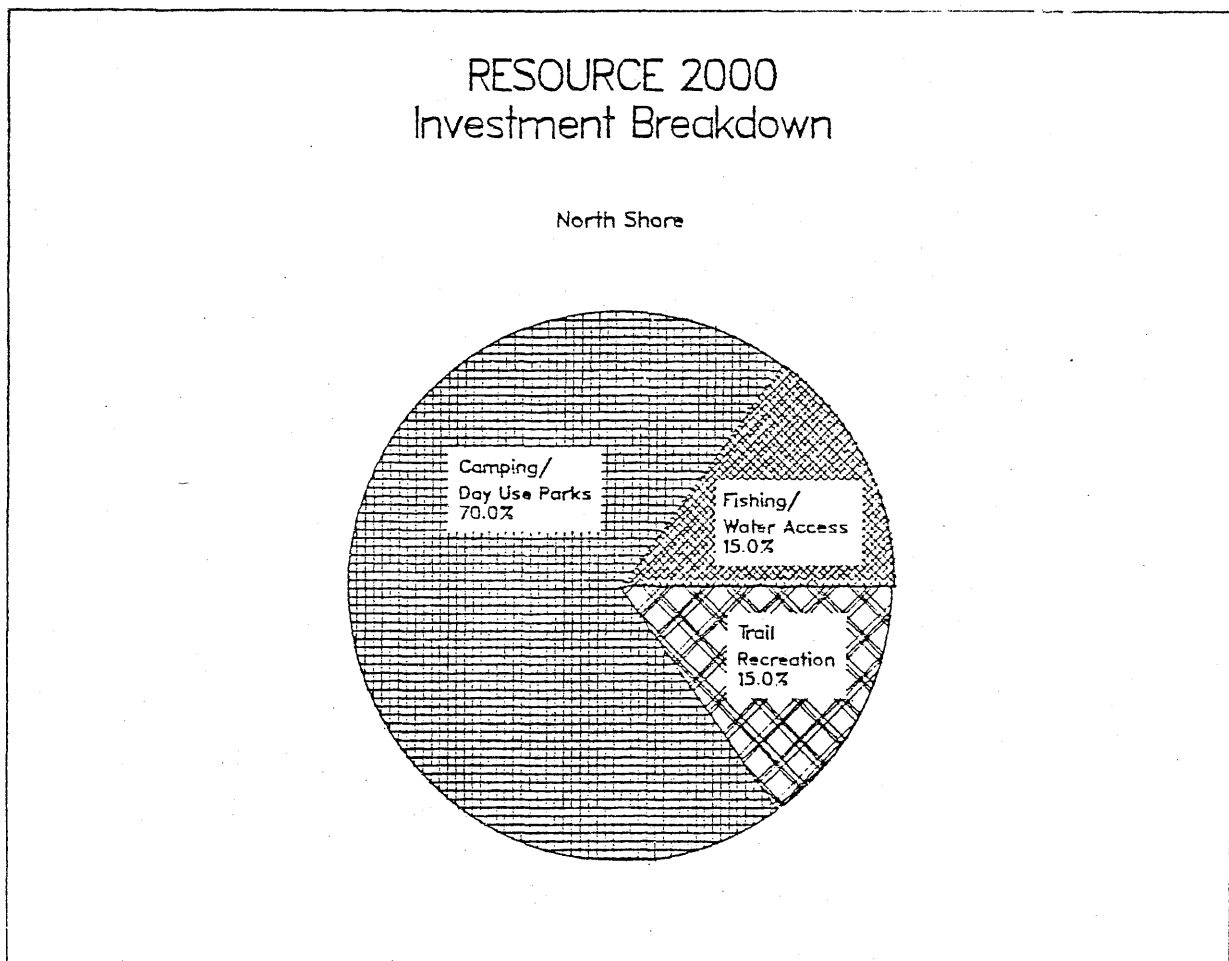
2. Provision of Better Interpretation of Underground Iron Ore Mining

<u>Project</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Tower Soudan Mine	\$ 15,000

3. Provision of Additional State Parks Camping and Other Recreational Opportunities

<u>Project</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Bear Head Lake State Park	\$ 65,000
Scenic State Park (Acquisition)	\$205,000

B. INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES ALONG THE NORTH SHORE



1. Stream Trout Fishing

The numbers and quality of the streams flowing into Lake Superior comprise a unique trout fishery resource in the midwest. The DNR proposes to accelerate the acquisition of fishing easements on private lands along the shore to make these streams available for fishermen.

<u>Projects</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Trout Stream Easements 7 streams	\$62,000

2. Lake Fishing

In order to fully capitalize on the public investment made in rebuilding the Lake Superior fishery resource an accelerated program of public water access is proposed to make all parts of Lake Superior easily accessible to tourists wishing to fish. This includes accesses made possible through working agreements with local units of government.

<u>Projects</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Water Access Betterment	\$300,000

3. Camping and Day Use Development

Increased development of the State Park system on the North Shore can provide high quality day use experiences for tourists staying in private lodging facilities and fill the expected increased need for public camping facilities documented in the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP).

<u>Projects</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Tettegouche State Park	\$895,000
Split Rock Lighthouse State Park	\$295,000
Split Rock Lighthouse State Park (Acq.)	\$ 89,000
Temperance River State Park	\$245,000
Cascade River State Park	\$130,000
Gooseberry Falls State Park	\$ 35,000

4. Summer Trail Facilities

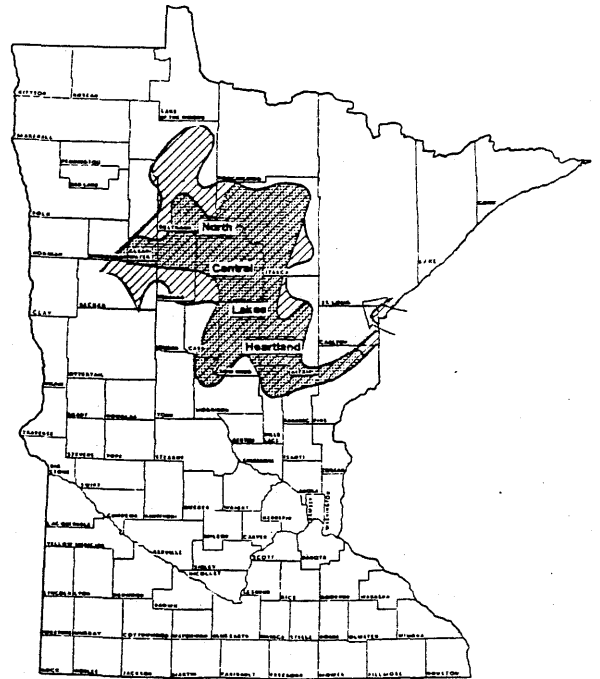
The Department proposes to develop two trail facilities related to the North Shore. A day use trail in the Duluth area which will give residents and visitors to Duluth access to high quality summer bicycling. The other project is the development of a summer hiking trail on the ridgeline of the North Shore. This project is the only long distance hiking trail recommended in the State Outdoor Recreation Plan. This trail on the ridgeline would offer excellent scenic vistas and access to upper reaches of scenic north shore streams and tie together private and public accommodation facilities with a new transportation corridor. This can be a joint federal-state project.

<u>Projects</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Carlton - Duluth Bike Trail	\$350,000
Ridgeline Hiking Trail	

II. NORTH CENTRAL LAKES - HEARTLAND AREA

The natural resource base of the North Central Lakes Region is composed of large clear lakes that contain plentiful populations of game fish and that are bordered by fine sand beaches and attractive northern forests. This natural resource base supports one of Minnesota's primary tourism complexes, with a large concentration of resorts and seasonal homes. The region is served by the major tourist centers of Brainerd, Grand Rapids, Park Rapids and Bemidji.

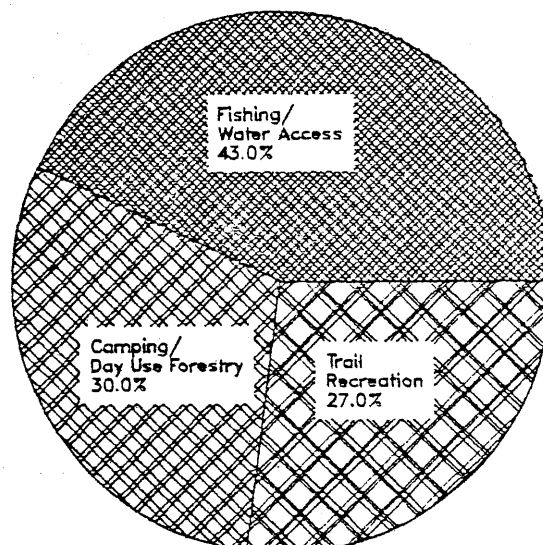
Private and public investments have developed the region for tourism. To enhance the public recreational use of the region, the state has invested in water accesses, fisheries programs, forest recreation development and trail facilities. The DNR believes that continued public support for the total tourism package of the region will lead to benefits from an expansion of both out-of-state and resident use of the region for recreation.



A. INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE NORTH CENTRAL LAKES - HEARTLAND AREA

RESOURCE 2000 Investment Breakdown

North Central Lakes



1. Lake and Stream Fishing and Recreation Access

Water access and the high quality of the fishery resource are important components of the recreational attractiveness of the region. The DNR proposes to invest in water accesses in the region (e.g., on Woman, Sugar, Farm Island and Gull Lakes), and to invest in the betterment of the sport fishery through fishing easements and rough fish control. A number of access will be provided through cooperative programs with local units of government.

<u>Project</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Water Access	\$120,000 Betterment \$250,000 Acquisition
Fishing Easements (5 streams) and Rough Fish Control (1 sites)	\$ 34,000

2. Forest Recreation Development

The purpose of these projects is to improve the recreational attractiveness of prime shoreland sites and to complement existing recreational facilities in the region. Access to shoreland sites are to be improved and facilities added, including lake-oriented camping facilities which have been found to be a desired campground type in State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) surveys.

<u>Projects</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Bluewater - Wabana Lakes	\$160,000
Gull Lake	\$ 60,000
Pelican Beach - Pelican Lake	\$ 60,000

3. Trail Recreation Opportunities

The existing Heartland Trail, extending from Park Rapids to Cass Lake via Walker, is a proven successful investment in the overall tourist trade of the region. Its rehabilitation and completion will further the recreational use of the region.

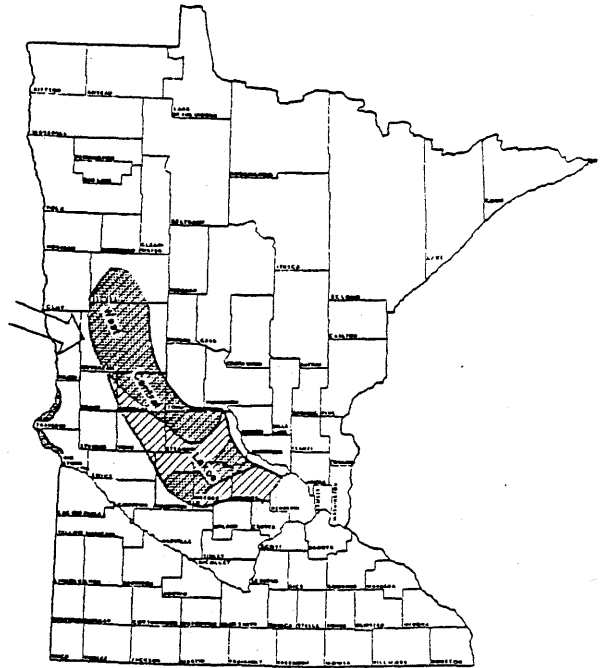
In addition, the Department proposes to study the feasibility of a trail to complement tourism in the Brainerd Lakes Area.

<u>Project</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Heartland Trail (rehabilitation and improvement)	\$260,000
Brainerd Lakes Trail Planning	<u>0</u>

III. WEST CENTRAL LAKES AREA

Lying within the forest-prairie transition zone, the West Central Lakes Region is composed of many large productive fish lakes that are interspersed with forests and scattered parklands. The region supports one of Minnesota's primary tourist complexes, with a major concentration of resorts and seasonal homes. Situated near the northern and southern boundaries of the region are the large tourist centers of Detroit Lakes and Alexandria.

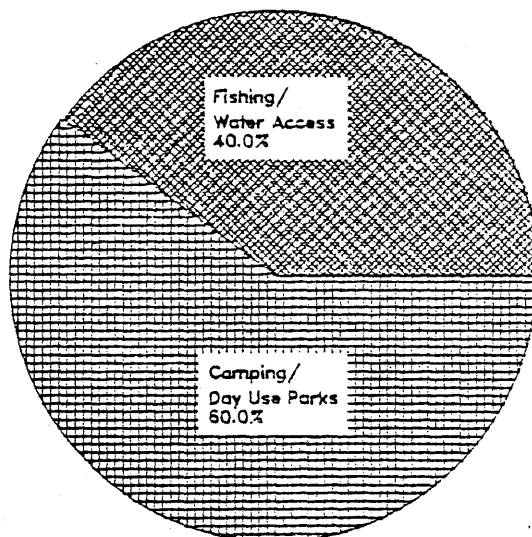
Private and public investments have developed the region for tourism. The DNR believes that continued public support for the overall tourism package of the region will bring economic benefits from expanded recreational use of the region by both out-of-state and Minnesota inhabitants.



A. INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE WEST CENTRAL LAKES AREA

RESOURCE 2000 Investment Breakdown

West Central Lakes



1. Lake and Stream Fishing and Recreation Access

Water access and the quality of the fishery resource are important components of the recreational attractiveness of the region. The DNR proposes to invest in water accesses in the region (e.g., on Miliona, and West Battle Lakes) and to invest in the enhancement of the sport fishery through fishing easements, rough fish control and spawning areas. A number of accesses will be provided through a cooperative program with local units of government.

<u>Projects</u>		<u>Cost</u>	
Water Access	Region I	\$110,000	Betterment
		\$300,000	Acquisition
	Region IV	\$ 70,000	Betterment
		\$ 75,000	Acquisition
Fishing Easements (2 streams) and 5 Roughfish Control Sites			
	Region I	\$ 32,000	
Fishing Easements (2 streams) and Northern Pike Spawning Areas (2 areas)			
	Region IV	\$ 14,000	

2. State Park Development

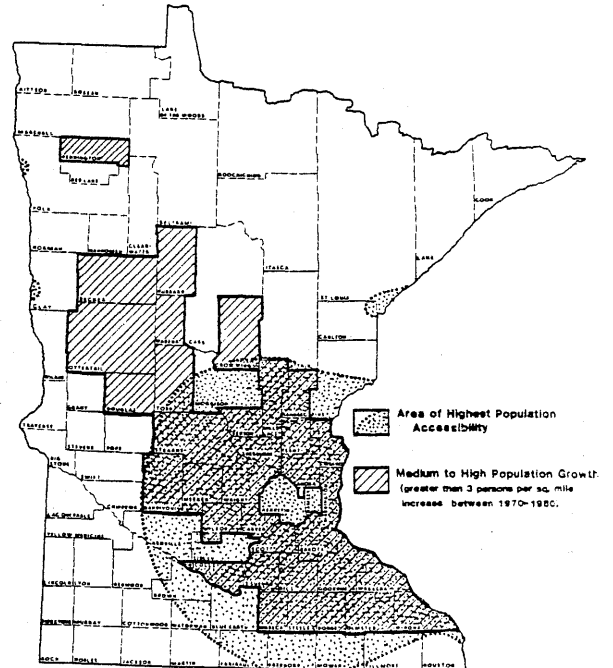
The purpose of these projects is to improve the recreational attractiveness of state parks within the region to both out-of-state and Minnesota inhabitants. The projects involve development on important recreational lakes.

<u>Projects</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Lake Carlos	\$160,000
Lake Shetek	\$230,000
Maplewood (Lydia Lake campground)	\$165,000
Sibley State Park (Acquisition)	\$361,000

IV. AREAS OF GROWING POPULATION AND HIGH ACCESSIBILITY

The Seven County Metropolitan Area is one of the major metropolitan areas that is still growing. One-half of the state's population lives in this area. Southeastern Minnesota also continues to experience population growth. These areas contain excellent recreational rivers such as the St. Croix, a National Wild and Scenic River. In addition, the Upper Mississippi River and its many scenic tributary rivers offers abundant fishing and boating opportunities. The lake districts of Chisago and Mankato-Faribault are also close and heavily used for recreation.

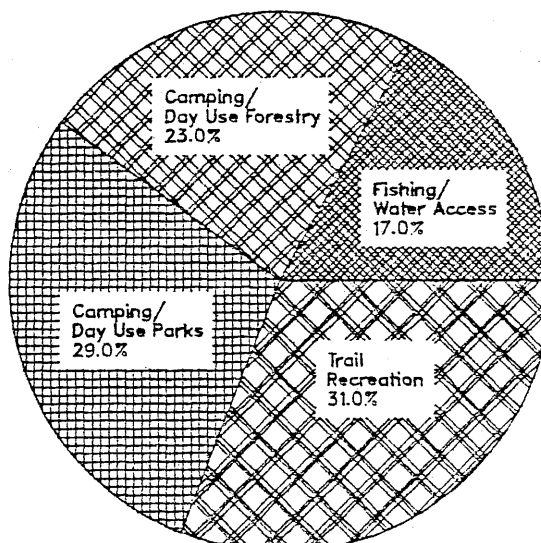
Although the resource is present, the intensity of demand on current facilities often creates over-crowded conditions and diminishes levels of tourist satisfaction. This problem is made worse as populations in these areas continue to increase. Targeted resource acquisition and development can mitigate this problem.



A. INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN AREAS OF POPULATION GROWTH AND HIGH ACCESSIBILITY

RESOURCE 2000 Investment Breakdown

Areas of Growing Population and High Accessibility



1. Water Recreation

This region possesses one of Minnesota's finest stream trout fisheries. The DNR proposes accelerated acquisition of fishing easements on private lands bordering these trout streams.

<u>Projects</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Shore fishing easements and rough fish control 8 streams and 1 control sites	\$ 58,000

2. Water Access

Water accesses improve public access to the state's most accessible lakes and rivers. Often accesses are provided through a cooperative program with local units of government.

<u>Projects</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Water Access Region V	\$ 50,000 Acquisition
	\$ 20,000 Betterment
Region VI	\$250,000 Acquisition
	\$100,000 Betterment

3. Camping and Day Use Development

Improved state park facilities can serve to meet needs for public recreation opportunities

<u>Projects</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Sakatah State Park	\$160,000
St. Croix Wild River State Park	\$ 60,000
St. Croix State Park	\$275,000
William O'Brien State Park	\$200,000
Fort Snelling State Park (Acquisition)	\$145,000

4. Trail Development

Trails provide major recreation opportunities in this area of high scenic quality and urban populations.

<u>Projects</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Luce Line Trail	\$ 50,000
Minnesota Valley Trails	\$200,000
Douglas Trail	\$540,000
Sakatah Trail	\$100,000

5. Forest Acquisition and Betterment

The Richard J. Dorer Memorial forest is established in the steep hollows of southeast Minnesota, providing unique recreational opportunities in an area of publicly owned resource scarcity.

<u>Projects</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Purchase of units identified in the acquisition plan	\$400,000
Forest fencing, water control and soil stabilization	\$200,000

6. Forest Recreation Development

The trails and campgrounds of Minnesota State Forests provide recreation for the many Minnesotans seeking smaller and more isolated opportunities than are available in other facilities.

<u>Projects</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Campground and picnic area development and rehabilitation	\$ 50,000

V. WATER MANAGEMENT - WILDLIFE PRODUCTION

The State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan details two inter-related issue areas.

1. Preservation of wetlands in Minnesota (wetland preservation is an issue of not only statewide but also national significance). In Minnesota, wetlands serve to trap nutrients, retain storm and floodwater, provide fish and wildlife habitat, recharge groundwater, and provide opportunities for a variety of recreational activities. These valuable resources are being drained and thus lost at an alarming rate.
2. Provision of additional hunting opportunities - intensive agriculture and limited public ownership in the southwestern and southern sectors of the state limit the opportunities to hunt and to provide habitat for wildlife populations.

The Department's Resource 2000 proposal contains three projects which address these SCORP issues and which impact Minnesota's tourism industry. These proposed projects are the state water bank program and the state wildlife lands acquisition and betterment programs.

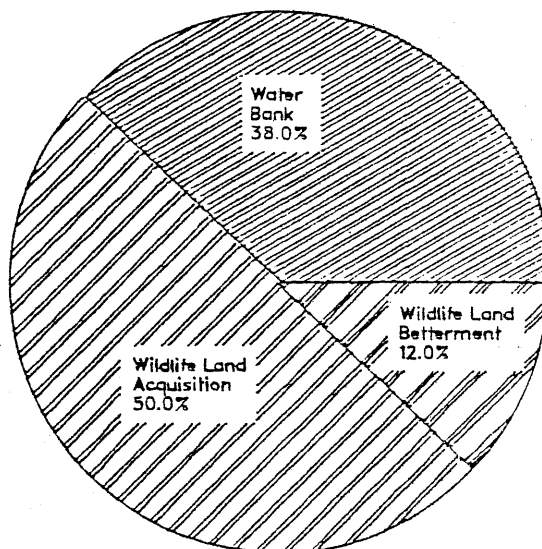
Together the three proposed projects do much toward providing both waterfowl and upland birds and animals with habitat. Additionally, together they assist in the protection of the water quality of major state recreational lakes. The acquisition and betterment of wildlife management lands, particularly that which would take place in the major WMA's, will enhance the attractiveness of Minnesota for hunting. These large intensively managed areas (e.g., Lac qui Parle, Talcot Lake, and Roseau River) provide rare and very popular goose hunting opportunities. Whitewater, another major WMA, provides a rare large public land hunting opportunity in the high population growth and high accessibility area.

The acquisition and betterment of smaller more scattered WMA's assists in bringing hunting and wildlife recreation opportunities closer to the state's population centers. Thus both programs directly impact Minnesota tourism and indirectly affect the quality of Minnesota life.

A. INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR WATER MANAGEMENT AND WILDLIFE PRODUCTION

RESOURCE 2000 Investment Breakdown

Water Management and Wildlife Production



1. Water Bank Program

Through the Water Bank Program the legislative and executive branches have agreed that one way to save wetlands is to compensate landowners for preserving them. With some exceptions the agricultural community has accepted this. Failure to fund the program adequately will be viewed as a breach of faith.

<u>Project</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Location -(by Region)</u>
State Water Bank Program	\$1,500,000	Statewide

2. Acquisition of Wildlife Lands

Acquisition of these wildlife lands will consolidate existing holdings, protect valuable habitat, safeguard past investments, and provide additional opportunities for compatible recreational activities to the thousands of wildlife enthusiasts who utilize these areas.

ProjectsCost

MAJOR UNITS

Whitewater WMA	\$ 600,000
Lac qui parle WMA	217,000
Talcot Lake WMA	190,000
Roseau River WMA	80,000

SMALLER UNITS

(Acquisition of important tracts in existing smaller units)

Region 1 - 14 units	\$500,000
Region 2 - 2 units	55,000
Region 3 - 3 units	86,000
Region 4 - 6 units	150,000
Region 5 - 2 units	77,000
Region 6 - 1 unit	45,000

3. Betterment of Wildlife Lands

Increased recreational demand and use of state Wildlife Management Area lands and waters for activities such as hunting, hiking, bird watching and trapping will require a continuing emphasis on management and improvement of these resources. Recent acquisition of 4,700 acres of Wildlife Management Areas in 24 counties during F.Y. 82 will require further development and improvement for wildlife and an increasing public use.

ProjectsCosts

Provide and improve Public Use Facilities.	\$129,000
Provide food plots, winter cover, and nesting cover for wildlife.	\$155,000
Enhance wetland and forest wildlife habitats.	\$145,000
Mark and protect boundaries.	\$ 71,000

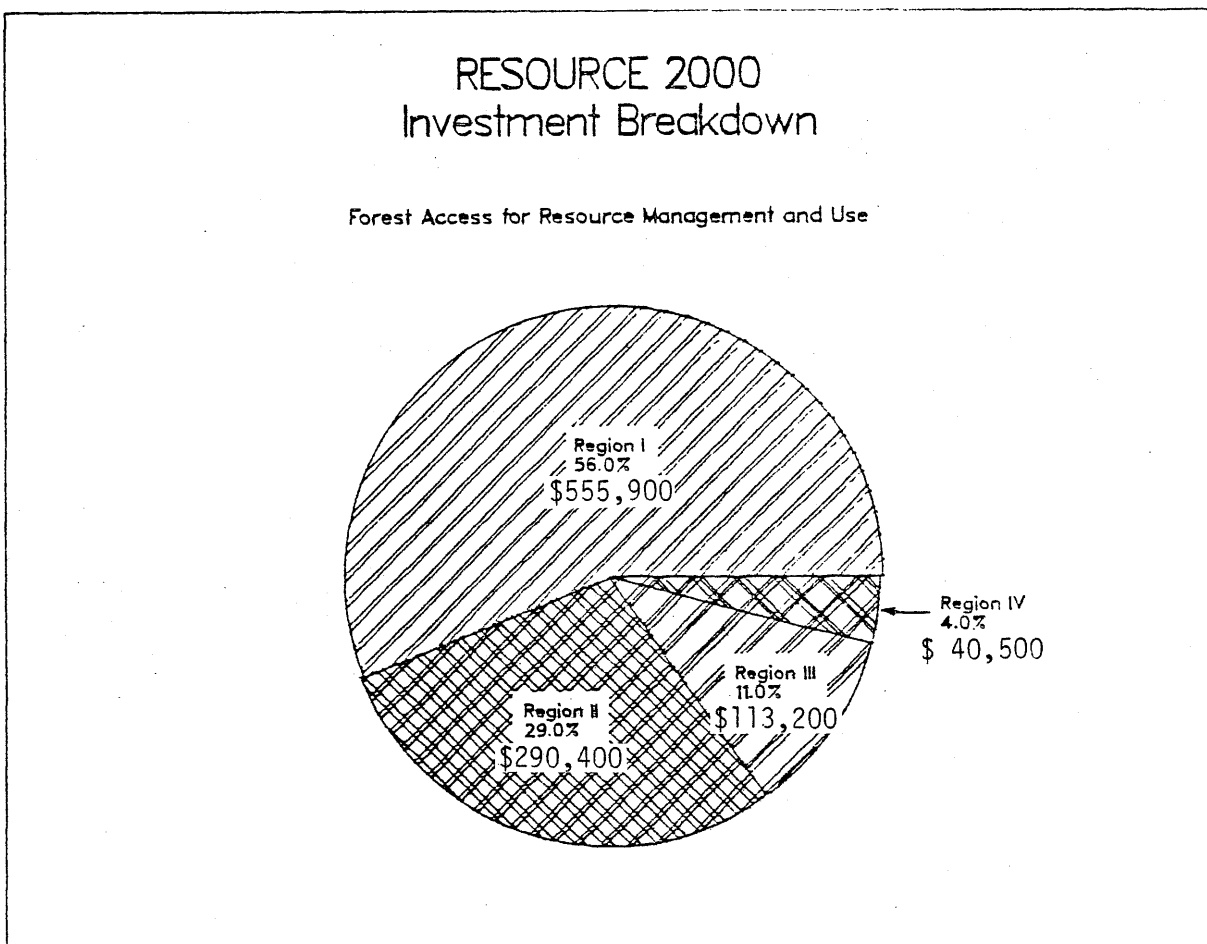
VI. ACCESS FOR RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND USE

The Department's Division of Forestry provides for the protection and management of Minnesota's forest resources. This management includes the development and maintenance of a state forest road system.

The 1983-85 biennium Resource 2000 request includes a program for the reconstruction of state forest roads and bridges. Anticipated increased harvest activity as a result of newly developed waferboard plants and increased capacity at state paper mills will increase the demands put upon a presently deteriorated road system. Acceleration of the system is needed to bring this transportation network up to a state operating standard for today's uses. These uses includes provision of access for modern timber management and harvest equipment as well as for the enhancement of forest recreation opportunities.

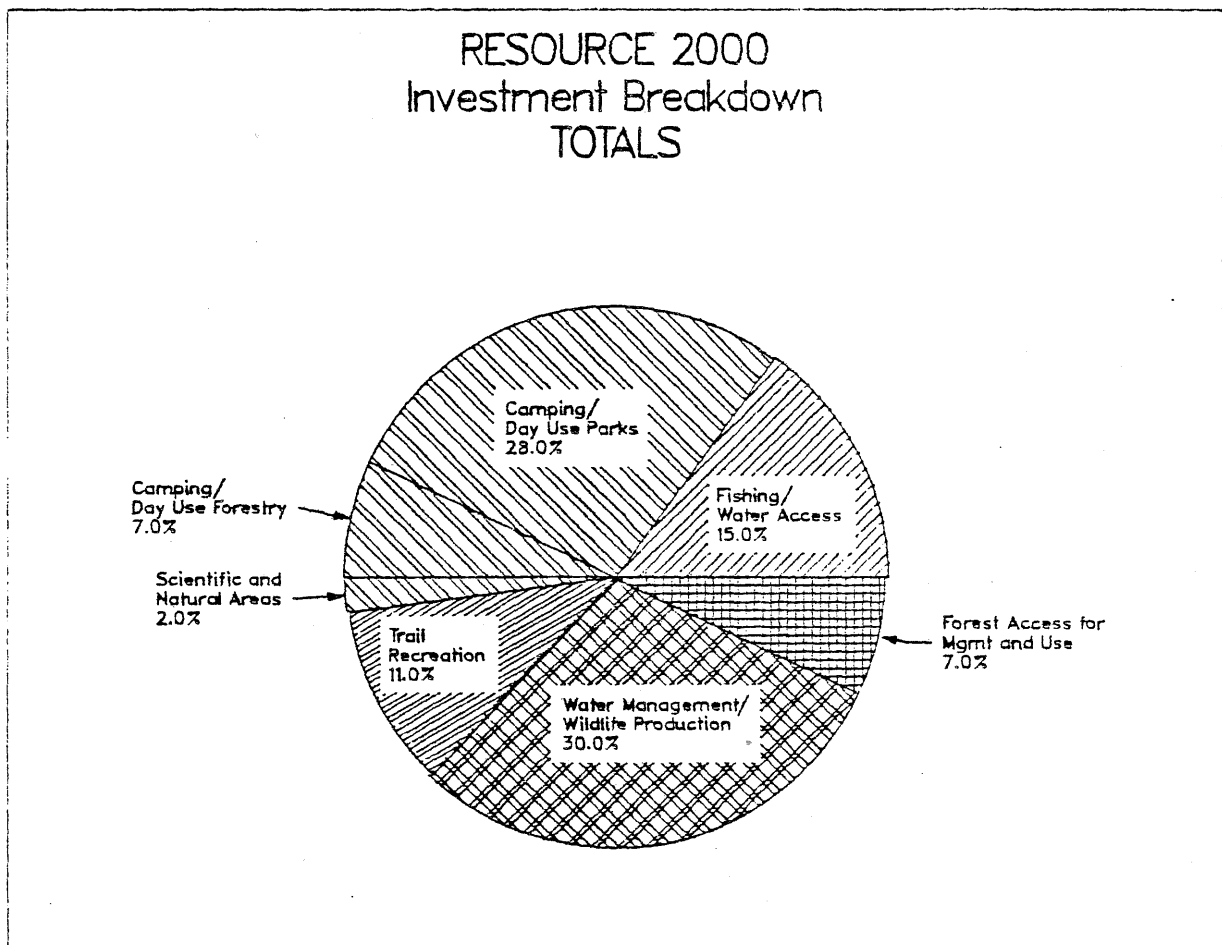
These reconstruction activities will provide jobs for local contractors involved in road construction and will have beneficial effects on local economies from the increased harvesting activities.

A. INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACCESS FOR RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



RESOURCE 2000

INVESTMENT BREAKDOWN - TOTALS BY ACTIVITY



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
RESOURCE 2000

1983 CAPITAL BUDGET
AGENCY PROJECT SUMMARY

Agency Head Department of Natural Resources
 Joseph N. Alexander, Commissioner

Capital Budget Officer Eugene R. Gere

Phone Number 612/296-6922

Agency Mission Statement The Department of Natural Resources exists to protect, conserve, regulate and manage the lands, waters, timber, minerals, fish, wildlife and other natural resources of the state so as to provide the public, now and in the future, with the optimum level, quality and combination of social, cultural and economic benefits. To this end the agency is charged with the administration of the public lands, parks, forest, and minerals of the state as well as with regulation of a broad range of activities which affect natural resources.

Agency Institutions DNR Regions
 Bemidji
 Grand Rapids
 Brainerd
 New Ulm
 Rochester
 St. Paul

<u>Agency Requests:</u>	<u>Biennium 1984-85 *</u>
1. Parks Betterment	\$ 3,450,000
2. Parks Acquisition	940,000
3. Trails Betterment	1,725,000
4. Water Access Betterment	920,000
5. Water Access Acquisition	1,180,000
6. Wildlife Management Area Betterment	575,000
7. Wildlife Lands Acquisition	2,340,000
8. Scientific and Natural Areas Betterment	60,000
9. Scientific and Natural Areas Acquisition	350,000
10. Forest Recreation Betterment	380,000
11. State Forest Land Acquisition	470,000
12. State Forest Betterment, R. J. Dorer	230,000
13. Forest Roads Betterment	1,150,000
14. Fisheries Acquisition	240,000
15. Water Bank Program	1,750,000
Total Agency Request	<u>\$15,760,000</u>

*includes needed professional services

