

**SENATE  
STATE OF MINNESOTA  
NINETY-FOURTH SESSION**

**S.F. No. 770**

(SENATE AUTHORS: HAWJ and Lang)

DATE  
01/30/2025

D-PG

Introduction and first reading  
Referred to Environment, Climate, and Legacy

OFFICIAL STATUS

1.1 A bill for an act  
1.2 relating to natural resources; appropriating money from the outdoor heritage fund;  
1.3 providing for leveraging certain land for federal grant funds; amending Minnesota  
1.4 Statutes 2024, section 97A.056, by adding a subdivision.

1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. **APPROPRIATIONS.**

1.7 The sums shown in the columns marked "Appropriations" are appropriated to the agencies  
1.8 and for the purposes specified in this act. The appropriations are from the outdoor heritage  
1.9 fund for the fiscal year indicated for each purpose. The figures "2026" and "2027" used in  
1.10 this act mean that the appropriations listed under them are available for the fiscal year ending  
1.11 June 30, 2026, or June 30, 2027, respectively. "The first year" is fiscal year 2026. "The  
1.12 second year" is fiscal year 2027. "The biennium" is fiscal years 2026 and 2027. The  
1.13 appropriations in this act are onetime appropriations.

1.14		<b><u>APPROPRIATIONS</u></b>	
1.15		<b><u>Available for the Year</u></b>	
1.16		<b><u>Ending June 30</u></b>	
1.17		<b><u>2026</u></b>	<b><u>2027</u></b>

1.18 Sec. 2. **OUTDOOR HERITAGE FUND**

1.19	<b><u>Subdivision 1. Total Appropriation</u></b>	<b><u>\$</u></b>	<b><u>168,512,000</u></b>	<b><u>\$</u></b>	<b><u>775,000</u></b>
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1.20 This appropriation is from the outdoor heritage  
1.21 fund. The amounts that may be spent for each  
1.22 purpose are specified in the following  
1.23 subdivisions.

2.1 Subd. 2. Prairies 34,199,000 -0-

2.2 **(a) Martin County DNR WMA Acquisition,**

2.3 **Phase 9**

2.4 \$1,363,000 the first year is to the

2.5 commissioner of natural resources for

2.6 agreements to acquire land in fee and restore

2.7 and enhance strategic prairie grassland,

2.8 wetland, and other wildlife habitat in Martin

2.9 County for wildlife management area purposes

2.10 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,

2.11 subdivision 8, as follows: \$1,001,000 to Fox

2.12 Lake Conservation League, Inc., \$327,000 to

2.13 Ducks Unlimited, and \$35,000 to the

2.14 Conservation Fund.

2.15 **(b) Prairie Chicken Habitat Partnership of the**

2.16 **Southern Red River Valley, Phase 11**

2.17 \$3,690,000 the first year is to the

2.18 commissioner of natural resources for an

2.19 agreement with Pheasants Forever, in

2.20 cooperation with the Minnesota Prairie

2.21 Chicken Society, to acquire land in fee and

2.22 restore and enhance lands in the southern Red

2.23 River Valley for wildlife management

2.24 purposes under Minnesota Statutes, section

2.25 86A.05, subdivision 8, or to be designated and

2.26 managed as waterfowl production areas in

2.27 Minnesota, in cooperation with the United

2.28 States Fish and Wildlife Service. Subject to

2.29 evaluation criteria in Minnesota Rules, part

2.30 6136.0900, priority must be given to

2.31 acquisitions of lands that are eligible for the

2.32 native prairie bank under Minnesota Statutes,

2.33 section 84.96, or lands adjacent to protected

2.34 native prairie.

2.35 **(c) RIM Grasslands Reserve, Phase 6**

3.1 \$3,452,000 the first year is to the Board of  
 3.2 Water and Soil Resources to acquire  
 3.3 permanent conservation easements and to  
 3.4 restore and enhance grassland habitat under  
 3.5 Minnesota Statutes, sections 103F.501 to  
 3.6 103F.531. Of this amount, up to \$70,000 is to  
 3.7 establish a monitoring and enforcement fund  
 3.8 as approved in the accomplishment plan and  
 3.9 subject to Minnesota Statutes, section  
 3.10 97A.056, subdivision 17. Subdivision 8,  
 3.11 paragraph (b), does not apply to this project.  
 3.12 A list of permanent conservation easements  
 3.13 must be provided as part of the final report.

3.14 **(d) RIM Buffers for Wildlife and Water, Phase**  
 3.15 **11**

3.16 \$4,092,000 the first year is to the Board of  
 3.17 Water and Soil Resources to acquire  
 3.18 permanent conservation easements and restore  
 3.19 habitat under Minnesota Statutes, section  
 3.20 103F.515, to protect, restore, and enhance  
 3.21 habitat by expanding the riparian buffer  
 3.22 program under the clean water fund for  
 3.23 additional wildlife benefits from buffers on  
 3.24 private land. Of this amount, up to \$60,000 is  
 3.25 to establish a monitoring and enforcement  
 3.26 fund as approved in the accomplishment plan  
 3.27 and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section  
 3.28 97A.056, subdivision 17. Subdivision 8,  
 3.29 paragraph (b), does not apply to this project.  
 3.30 A list of permanent conservation easements  
 3.31 must be provided as part of the final report.

3.32 **(e) Accelerating the Wildlife Management Area**  
 3.33 **Program, Phase 17**

3.34 \$4,974,000 the first year is to the  
 3.35 commissioner of natural resources for an  
 3.36 agreement with Pheasants Forever to acquire

4.1 in fee and restore and enhance lands for  
4.2 wildlife management area purposes under  
4.3 Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,  
4.4 subdivision 8. Subject to evaluation criteria  
4.5 in Minnesota Rules, part 6136.0900, priority  
4.6 must be given to acquisition of lands that are  
4.7 eligible for the native prairie bank under  
4.8 Minnesota Statutes, section 84.96, or lands  
4.9 adjacent to protected native prairie.

4.10 **(f) Minnesota Prairie Recovery Program, Phase**  
4.11 **14**

4.12 \$2,489,000 the first year is to the  
4.13 commissioner of natural resources for an  
4.14 agreement with The Nature Conservancy to  
4.15 acquire land in fee and restore and enhance  
4.16 native prairie, grasslands, wetlands, and  
4.17 savanna. Subject to evaluation criteria in  
4.18 Minnesota Rules, part 6136.0900, priority  
4.19 must be given to acquiring lands that are  
4.20 eligible for the native prairie bank under  
4.21 Minnesota Statutes, section 84.96, or lands  
4.22 adjacent to protected native prairie. Annual  
4.23 income statements and balance sheets for  
4.24 income and expenses from land acquired with  
4.25 this appropriation must be submitted to the  
4.26 Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council no  
4.27 later than 180 days following the close of The  
4.28 Nature Conservancy's fiscal year. A list of  
4.29 proposed land acquisitions, restorations, and  
4.30 enhancements must be provided as part of the  
4.31 required accomplishment plan and must be  
4.32 consistent with the priorities identified in  
4.33 Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan.

4.34 **(g) Northern Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife**  
4.35 **Refuge, Phase 15**

5.1 \$3,742,000 the first year is to the  
5.2 commissioner of natural resources for an  
5.3 agreement with The Nature Conservancy, in  
5.4 cooperation with the United States Fish and  
5.5 Wildlife Service, to acquire land in fee or  
5.6 permanent conservation easements and to  
5.7 restore and enhance lands in the Northern  
5.8 Tallgrass Prairie Habitat Preservation Area in  
5.9 western Minnesota for addition to the Northern  
5.10 Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge.  
5.11 Subject to evaluation criteria in Minnesota  
5.12 Rules, part 6136.0900, priority must be given  
5.13 to acquiring lands that are eligible for the  
5.14 native prairie bank under Minnesota Statutes,  
5.15 section 84.96, or lands adjacent to protected  
5.16 native prairie.

5.17 **(h) DNR Wildlife Management Area and**  
5.18 **Scientific and Natural Area Acquisition, Phase**  
5.19 **17**

5.20 \$1,960,000 the first year is to the  
5.21 commissioner of natural resources to acquire  
5.22 in fee and restore and enhance lands for  
5.23 wildlife management purposes under  
5.24 Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,  
5.25 subdivision 8, and to acquire land in fee for  
5.26 scientific and natural area purposes under  
5.27 Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,  
5.28 subdivision 5. Subject to evaluation criteria  
5.29 in Minnesota Rules, part 6136.0900, priority  
5.30 must be given to acquisition of lands that are  
5.31 eligible for the native prairie bank under  
5.32 Minnesota Statutes, section 84.96, or lands  
5.33 adjacent to protected native prairie.

5.34 **(i) Enhanced Public Land - Grasslands, Phase**  
5.35 **8**

6.1 \$3,519,000 the first year is to the  
 6.2 commissioner of natural resources for an  
 6.3 agreement with Pheasants Forever to enhance  
 6.4 and restore grassland and wetland habitat on  
 6.5 public lands in the forest prairie transition,  
 6.6 metro urban, and prairie ecoregions of  
 6.7 Minnesota.

6.8 **(j) Accelerating the USFWS Habitat**  
 6.9 **Conservation Easement Program, Phase 5**

6.10 \$4,918,000 the first year is to the  
 6.11 commissioner of natural resources for  
 6.12 agreements to restore and enhance wetland  
 6.13 and prairie habitat on habitat easements of the  
 6.14 United States Fish and Wildlife Service as  
 6.15 follows: \$3,170,000 to Ducks Unlimited and  
 6.16 \$1,748,000 to Pheasants Forever.

6.17 **Subd. 3. Forests**

20,414,000

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6.18 **(a) Minnesota Forest Recovery Project, Phase**  
 6.19 **3**

6.20 \$3,543,000 the first year is to the  
 6.21 commissioner of natural resources for an  
 6.22 agreement with The Nature Conservancy in  
 6.23 cooperation with the Department of Natural  
 6.24 Resources and Minnesota Land Trust to  
 6.25 acquire permanent conservation easements  
 6.26 and to restore and enhance degraded forests  
 6.27 in Beltrami, Cass, Cook, Itasca, Lake,  
 6.28 Koochiching, and St. Louis Counties. Of this  
 6.29 amount, up to \$84,000 is to the easement  
 6.30 holder to establish a monitoring and  
 6.31 enforcement fund as approved in the  
 6.32 accomplishment plan and subject to Minnesota  
 6.33 Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 17.

6.34 **(b) Itasca County Memorial Forest Project**

7.1 \$2,782,000 the first year is to the  
7.2 commissioner of natural resources for an  
7.3 agreement with Itasca County to acquire  
7.4 priority forest habitat lands in fee as county  
7.5 forests.

7.6 **(c) Hardwood Hills Habitat Conservation**  
7.7 **Program, Phase 2**

7.8 \$1,844,000 the first year is to the  
7.9 commissioner of natural resources for  
7.10 agreements to acquire permanent conservation  
7.11 easements and to restore and enhance forest  
7.12 habitats in the hardwood hills ecological  
7.13 section of west-central Minnesota as follows:  
7.14 \$100,000 to St. John's University and  
7.15 \$1,744,000 to Minnesota Land Trust. Of the  
7.16 amount to Minnesota Land Trust, \$196,000 is  
7.17 to establish a monitoring and enforcement  
7.18 fund as approved in the accomplishment plan  
7.19 and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section  
7.20 97A.056, subdivision 17.

7.21 **(d) Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape Protection**  
7.22 **Program ACUB, Phase 13**

7.23 \$2,233,000 the first year is to the Board of  
7.24 Water and Soil Resources, in cooperation with  
7.25 the Morrison County Soil and Water  
7.26 Conservation District, to acquire permanent  
7.27 conservation easements and to restore and  
7.28 enhance forest wildlife habitat within the  
7.29 boundaries of the Minnesota National Guard  
7.30 Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape and Army  
7.31 Compatible Use Buffer. Of this amount, up to  
7.32 \$110,000 is to establish a monitoring and  
7.33 enforcement fund as approved in the  
7.34 accomplishment plan and subject to Minnesota  
7.35 Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 17.  
7.36 Subdivision 8, paragraph (b), does not apply

8.1 to this project. A list of permanent  
8.2 conservation easements must be provided as  
8.3 part of the final report.

8.4 **(e) Minnesota Forests for the Future, Phase 5**

8.5 \$5,361,000 the first year is to the  
8.6 commissioner of natural resources to acquire  
8.7 lands in conservation easements and to restore  
8.8 and enhance forests, wetlands, and shoreline  
8.9 habitat through working forest permanent  
8.10 conservation easements under the Minnesota  
8.11 forests for the future program according to  
8.12 Minnesota Statutes, section 84.66. A  
8.13 conservation easement acquired with money  
8.14 appropriated under this paragraph must  
8.15 comply with Minnesota Statutes, section  
8.16 97A.056, subdivision 13. The accomplishment  
8.17 plan must include an easement monitoring and  
8.18 enforcement plan. Of this amount, up to  
8.19 \$400,000 is to establish a monitoring and  
8.20 enforcement fund as approved in the  
8.21 accomplishment plan and subject to Minnesota  
8.22 Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 17.

8.23 **(f) DNR Forest Habitat Enhancement, Phase 5**

8.24 \$2,601,000 the first year is to the  
8.25 commissioner of natural resources to restore  
8.26 and enhance forest wildlife habitats on public  
8.27 lands throughout Minnesota.

8.28 **(g) Moose Habitat Collaborative - Northeast**  
8.29 **Minnesota Forest Habitat Enhancement, Phase**  
8.30 **5**

8.31 \$2,050,000 the first year is to the  
8.32 commissioner of natural resources for an  
8.33 agreement with the Ruffed Grouse Society to  
8.34 restore and enhance public forest lands in the



9.1 northern forest region for moose habitat  
9.2 purposes.

9.3 **Subd. 4. Wetlands** 29,695,000 -0-

9.4 **(a) Wetland Habitat Protection and Restoration**  
9.5 **Program, Phase 10**

9.6 \$2,918,000 the first year is to the  
9.7 commissioner of natural resources for an  
9.8 agreement with Minnesota Land Trust to  
9.9 acquire permanent conservation easements  
9.10 and to restore and enhance prairie, wetland,  
9.11 and other habitats on permanently protected  
9.12 conservation easements in high-priority  
9.13 wetland habitat complexes in the prairie,  
9.14 forest/prairie transition, and forest ecoregions.

9.15 Of this amount, up to \$168,000 is to establish  
9.16 a monitoring and enforcement fund as  
9.17 approved in the accomplishment plan and  
9.18 subject to Minnesota Statutes, section  
9.19 97A.056, subdivision 17.

9.20 **(b) Shallow Lake and Wetland Protection and**  
9.21 **Restoration Program, Phase 14**

9.22 \$5,803,000 the first year is to the  
9.23 commissioner of natural resources for an  
9.24 agreement with Ducks Unlimited to acquire  
9.25 land in fee for wildlife management purposes  
9.26 under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05,  
9.27 subdivision 8, or to be designated and  
9.28 managed as waterfowl production areas or  
9.29 national wildlife refuges in Minnesota, in  
9.30 cooperation with the United States Fish and  
9.31 Wildlife Service, and to restore and enhance  
9.32 prairie lands, wetlands, and land-buffering  
9.33 shallow lakes.

9.34 **(c) RIM Wetlands - Restoring the Most**  
9.35 **Productive Habitat in Minnesota, Phase 14**

10.1 \$4,389,000 the first year is to the Board of  
10.2 Water and Soil Resources to acquire  
10.3 permanent conservation easements and to  
10.4 restore wetlands and native grassland habitat  
10.5 under Minnesota Statutes, section 103F.515.  
10.6 Of this amount, up to \$70,000 is for  
10.7 establishing a monitoring and enforcement  
10.8 fund as approved in the accomplishment plan  
10.9 and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section  
10.10 97A.056, subdivision 17. Subdivision 8,  
10.11 paragraph (b), does not apply to this project.  
10.12 A list of permanent conservation easements  
10.13 must be provided as part of the final report.

10.14 **(d) Accelerating the Waterfowl Production Area**  
10.15 **Acquisition Program, Phase 17**

10.16 \$5,238,000 the first year is to the  
10.17 commissioner of natural resources for an  
10.18 agreement with Pheasants Forever, in  
10.19 cooperation with the United States Fish and  
10.20 Wildlife Service, to acquire land in fee and to  
10.21 restore and enhance wetlands and grasslands  
10.22 to be designated and managed as waterfowl  
10.23 production areas in Minnesota.

10.24 **(e) Nelson Slough - East Park Wildlife**  
10.25 **Management Area, Phase 2**

10.26 \$1,578,000 the first year is to the  
10.27 commissioner of natural resources for an  
10.28 agreement with the Middle-Snake-Tamarac  
10.29 Rivers Watershed District to restore and  
10.30 enhance wetland and upland wildlife habitat  
10.31 in Nelson Slough and the East Park Wildlife  
10.32 Management Area in Marshall County.

10.33 **(f) Living Shallow Lakes and Wetlands**  
10.34 **Enhancement and Restoration Initiative, Phase**  
10.35 **11**

11.1 \$5,729,000 the first year is to the  
 11.2 commissioner of natural resources for an  
 11.3 agreement with Ducks Unlimited to restore  
 11.4 and enhance shallow lakes and wetlands on  
 11.5 public lands and wetlands under permanent  
 11.6 conservation easement for wildlife  
 11.7 management.

11.8 **(g) Big Swamp North**

11.9 \$1,475,000 the first year is to the  
 11.10 commissioner of natural resources for an  
 11.11 agreement with the Roseau River Watershed  
 11.12 District to restore and enhance wetland,  
 11.13 stream, and other related wildlife habitat on  
 11.14 public lands in the Big Swamp area in Roseau  
 11.15 County.

11.16 **(h) DNR Accelerated Shallow Lakes and**  
 11.17 **Wetland Enhancement, Phase 17**

11.18 \$2,565,000 the first year is to the  
 11.19 commissioner of natural resources to enhance  
 11.20 and restore shallow lakes and wetland habitat  
 11.21 statewide.

11.22 **Subd. 5. Habitats**

82,150,000

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11.23 **(a) Cannon River Watershed Habitat**  
 11.24 **Restoration and Protection Program, Phase 14**

11.25 \$2,724,000 the first year is to the  
 11.26 commissioner of natural resources for  
 11.27 agreements to acquire land in fee and to  
 11.28 restore and enhance wildlife habitat in the  
 11.29 Cannon River Watershed as follows: \$62,000  
 11.30 to Clean River Partners; \$1,228,000 to Great  
 11.31 River Greening; and \$1,434,000 to the Trust  
 11.32 for Public Land.

11.33 **(b) Spring Road Conservation Project**

12.1 \$2,027,000 the first year is to the  
 12.2 commissioner of natural resources for an  
 12.3 agreement with the Riley Purgatory Bluff  
 12.4 Creek Watershed District to acquire priority  
 12.5 wildlife habitat lands in fee in Hennepin  
 12.6 County.

12.7 **(c) Anoka Sand Plain Habitat Conservation,**  
 12.8 **Phase 10**

12.9 \$3,599,000 the first year is to the  
 12.10 commissioner of natural resources for  
 12.11 agreements to acquire permanent conservation  
 12.12 easements and to restore and enhance wildlife  
 12.13 habitat on public lands and easements in the  
 12.14 Anoka Sand Plain ecoregion and intersecting  
 12.15 minor watersheds as follows: \$599,000 to  
 12.16 Anoka Conservation District; \$1,404,000 to  
 12.17 Great River Greening; \$300,000 to The Nature  
 12.18 Conservancy; and \$1,296,000 to Minnesota  
 12.19 Land Trust. Up to \$112,000 to Minnesota  
 12.20 Land Trust is to establish a monitoring and  
 12.21 enforcement fund as approved in the  
 12.22 accomplishment plan and subject to Minnesota  
 12.23 Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 17.

12.24 **(d) Integrating Habitat and Clean Water, Phase**  
 12.25 **3**

12.26 \$2,753,000 the first year is to the Board of  
 12.27 Water and Soil Resources to acquire  
 12.28 permanent conservation easements and restore  
 12.29 and enhance wildlife habitat identified in One  
 12.30 Watershed, One Plan for stacked benefit to  
 12.31 wildlife and clean water. Of this amount, up  
 12.32 to \$80,000 is for establishing a monitoring and  
 12.33 enforcement fund as approved in the  
 12.34 accomplishment plan and subject to Minnesota  
 12.35 Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 17.  
 12.36 Subdivision 8, paragraph (b), does not apply

13.1 to this project. A list of permanent  
13.2 conservation easements must be provided as  
13.3 part of the final report.

13.4 **(e) St. Croix Watershed Habitat Protection and**  
13.5 **Restoration, Phase 6**

13.6 \$3,257,000 the first year is to the  
13.7 commissioner of natural resources for  
13.8 agreements to acquire land in fee and  
13.9 permanent conservation easements and to  
13.10 restore and enhance natural habitat systems in  
13.11 the St. Croix River Watershed as follows:  
13.12 \$1,236,000 to the Trust for Public Land;  
13.13 \$121,000 to Wild Rivers Conservancy; and  
13.14 \$1,900,000 to Minnesota Land Trust. Up to  
13.15 \$168,000 to Minnesota Land Trust is to  
13.16 establish a monitoring and enforcement fund  
13.17 as approved in the accomplishment plan and  
13.18 subject to Minnesota Statutes, section  
13.19 97A.056, subdivision 17.

13.20 **(f) Mississippi Headwaters Habitat Corridor**  
13.21 **Project, Phase 9**

13.22 \$2,832,000 the first year is to acquire lands in  
13.23 fee and permanent conservation easements  
13.24 and to restore wildlife habitat in the  
13.25 Mississippi headwaters. Of this amount: (1)  
13.26 \$1,768,000 is to the commissioner of natural  
13.27 resources for agreements as follows: \$60,000  
13.28 to the Mississippi Headwaters Board and  
13.29 \$1,708,000 to the Trust for Public Land; and  
13.30 (2) \$1,064,000 is to the Board of Water and  
13.31 Soil Resources, of which up to \$50,000 is to  
13.32 establish a monitoring and enforcement fund  
13.33 as approved in the accomplishment plan and  
13.34 subject to Minnesota Statutes, section  
13.35 97A.056, subdivision 17.

14.1 **(g) Southeast Minnesota Protection and**  
14.2 **Restoration, Phase 13**

14.3 \$2,387,000 the first year is to the  
14.4 commissioner of natural resources for an  
14.5 agreement with Minnesota Land Trust to  
14.6 acquire permanent conservation easements  
14.7 and to restore and enhance wildlife habitat on  
14.8 public lands and permanent conservation  
14.9 easements in southeast Minnesota. Of this  
14.10 amount, up to \$140,000 is to establish a  
14.11 monitoring and enforcement fund as approved  
14.12 in the accomplishment plan and subject to  
14.13 Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056,  
14.14 subdivision 17.

14.15 **(h) Protecting Coldwater Fisheries on**  
14.16 **Minnesota's North Shore, Phase 3**

14.17 \$2,237,000 the first year is to the  
14.18 commissioner of natural resources for an  
14.19 agreement with Minnesota Land Trust to  
14.20 acquire permanent conservation easements  
14.21 and to restore and enhance wildlife habitat in  
14.22 priority coldwater tributaries to Lake Superior.  
14.23 Of this amount, up to \$196,000 is to establish  
14.24 a monitoring and enforcement fund as  
14.25 approved in the accomplishment plan and  
14.26 subject to Minnesota Statutes, section  
14.27 97A.056, subdivision 17.

14.28 **(i) Metro Big Rivers, Phase 15**

14.29 \$6,949,000 the first year is to the  
14.30 commissioner of natural resources for  
14.31 agreements to acquire land in fee and  
14.32 permanent conservation easements and to  
14.33 restore and enhance natural habitat systems  
14.34 associated with the Mississippi, Minnesota,  
14.35 and St. Croix Rivers and their tributaries in

15.1 the metropolitan area as follows: \$1,000,000  
15.2 to Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge  
15.3 Trust, Inc.; \$529,000 to Friends of the  
15.4 Mississippi River; \$1,015,000 to Great River  
15.5 Greening; \$2,185,000 to the Trust for Public  
15.6 Land; and \$2,220,000 to Minnesota Land  
15.7 Trust. Up to \$168,000 to Minnesota Land  
15.8 Trust is to establish a monitoring and  
15.9 enforcement fund as approved in the  
15.10 accomplishment plan and subject to Minnesota  
15.11 Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 17.

15.12 **(j) Minnesota River Watershed Habitat**  
15.13 **Conservation Program**

15.14 \$3,148,000 the first year is to the  
15.15 commissioner of natural resources for  
15.16 agreements to acquire land in fee and  
15.17 permanent conservation easements and to  
15.18 restore and enhance priority habitat in the  
15.19 Minnesota River watershed as follows:  
15.20 \$1,395,000 to Great River Greening and  
15.21 \$1,753,000 to Minnesota Land Trust. Up to  
15.22 \$168,000 to Minnesota Land Trust is to  
15.23 establish a monitoring and enforcement fund  
15.24 as approved in the accomplishment plan and  
15.25 subject to Minnesota Statutes, section  
15.26 97A.056, subdivision 17.

15.27 **(k) Shell Rock River Watershed Habitat**  
15.28 **Restoration Program, Phase 14**

15.29 \$2,190,000 the first year is to the  
15.30 commissioner of natural resources for an  
15.31 agreement with the Shell Rock River  
15.32 Watershed District to acquire land in fee and  
15.33 to restore and enhance habitat in the Shell  
15.34 Rock River watershed.

15.35 **(l) Protecting Minnesota's Lakes of Outstanding**  
15.36 **Biological Significance, Phase 4**

16.1 \$3,209,000 the first year is to the  
16.2 commissioner of natural resources for  
16.3 agreements to acquire land in fee and  
16.4 permanent conservation easements and to  
16.5 restore and enhance lakes of outstanding  
16.6 biological significance in northeast and  
16.7 north-central Minnesota. Of this amount,  
16.8 \$1,530,000 is to the Northern Waters Land  
16.9 Trust and \$1,679,000 is to Minnesota Land  
16.10 Trust. Up to \$168,000 to Minnesota Land  
16.11 Trust is for establishing a monitoring and  
16.12 enforcement fund as approved in the  
16.13 accomplishment plan and subject to Minnesota  
16.14 Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 17.

16.15 **(m) Shakopee Creek: Headwaters Restored,**  
16.16 **Species and Land Protected**

16.17 \$2,413,000 the first year is to the  
16.18 commissioner of natural resources for an  
16.19 agreement with the Kandiyohi Soil and Water  
16.20 Conservation District to restore and enhance  
16.21 wildlife habitat in the headwaters area of  
16.22 Shakopee Creek in Kandiyohi County.

16.23 **(n) DNR Trout Stream Conservation Easements,**  
16.24 **Phase 4**

16.25 \$995,000 the first year is to the commissioner  
16.26 of natural resources to acquire land in  
16.27 permanent conservation easements to protect  
16.28 trout-stream aquatic habitat. Of this amount,  
16.29 up to \$120,000 is for establishing a monitoring  
16.30 and enforcement fund as approved in the  
16.31 accomplishment plan and subject to Minnesota  
16.32 Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 17.

16.33 **(o) Fisheries Habitat Protection on Strategic**  
16.34 **North-Central Minnesota Lakes, Phase 11**



17.1 \$2,944,000 the first year is to the  
 17.2 commissioner of natural resources for  
 17.3 agreements to acquire land in fee and  
 17.4 permanent conservation easements and to  
 17.5 restore and enhance wildlife habitat to sustain  
 17.6 healthy fish habitat on coldwater lakes in  
 17.7 Aitkin, Cass, Crow Wing, and Hubbard  
 17.8 Counties as follows: \$1,292,000 to Northern  
 17.9 Waters Land Trust and \$1,652,000 to  
 17.10 Minnesota Land Trust. Up to \$168,000 to  
 17.11 Minnesota Land Trust is to establish a  
 17.12 monitoring and enforcement fund as approved  
 17.13 in the accomplishment plan and subject to  
 17.14 Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056,  
 17.15 subdivision 17.

17.16 **(p) Minnesota Statewide Trout Habitat**  
 17.17 **Enhancement, Phase 2**

17.18 \$2,173,000 the first year is to the  
 17.19 commissioner of natural resources for an  
 17.20 agreement with Minnesota Trout Unlimited  
 17.21 to restore and enhance habitat for trout and  
 17.22 other species in and along coldwater rivers,  
 17.23 lakes, and streams throughout Minnesota.

17.24 **(q) Restoring and Enhancing Minnesota's**  
 17.25 **Important Bird Areas, Phase 4**

17.26 \$2,049,000 the first year is to the  
 17.27 commissioner of natural resources for an  
 17.28 agreement with Audubon Minnesota to restore  
 17.29 and enhance wildlife habitat in important bird  
 17.30 areas or Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan  
 17.31 Priority areas of northwestern Minnesota.

17.32 **(r) Fall River Restoration**

17.33 \$1,348,000 the first year is to the  
 17.34 commissioner of natural resources for an  
 17.35 agreement with Cook County to restore and

18.1 enhance coldwater stream habitat in the Fall  
18.2 River in Cook County.

18.3 **(s) DNR Aquatic Habitat Restoration and**  
18.4 **Enhancement, Phase 8**

18.5 \$3,887,000 the first year is to the  
18.6 commissioner of natural resources to restore  
18.7 and enhance aquatic habitat in degraded  
18.8 streams and aquatic management areas and to  
18.9 facilitate fish passage throughout Minnesota.

18.10 **(t) Rum River Corridor Fish and Wildlife**  
18.11 **Habitat Enhancement, Phase 3**

18.12 \$1,387,000 the first year is to the  
18.13 commissioner of natural resources for an  
18.14 agreement with the Anoka County Soil and  
18.15 Water Conservation District to restore and  
18.16 enhance upland and riverine habitat in the  
18.17 Rum River corridor.

18.18 **(u) DNR Roving Crew, Phase 3**

18.19 \$12,642,000 the first year is to the  
18.20 commissioner of natural resources to restore  
18.21 and enhance fish and wildlife habitat on  
18.22 permanently protected lands throughout  
18.23 Minnesota using the roving crew program of  
18.24 the Department of Natural Resources.

18.25 **(v) Conservation Partners Legacy Grant**  
18.26 **Program: Statewide and Metro Habitat, Phase**  
18.27 **17**

18.28 \$15,000,000 the first year is to the  
18.29 commissioner of natural resources for a  
18.30 program to provide competitive matching  
18.31 grants of up to \$500,000 to local, regional,  
18.32 state, and national organizations for enhancing,  
18.33 restoring, or protecting forests, wetlands,  
18.34 prairies, or habitat for fish, game, or wildlife  
18.35 in Minnesota. Of this amount, unless not

19.1 enough eligible grant applications are  
19.2 received, at least \$4,000,000 is for grants in  
19.3 the seven-county metropolitan area and cities  
19.4 with a population of 50,000 or more and at  
19.5 least \$4,000,000 is for grants to applicants that  
19.6 have not previously applied for money from  
19.7 the outdoor heritage fund. Grants must not be  
19.8 made for activities required to fulfill the duties  
19.9 of owners of lands subject to conservation  
19.10 easements. Grants must not be made from the  
19.11 appropriation in this paragraph for projects  
19.12 that have a total project cost exceeding  
19.13 \$1,000,000. Of the total appropriation,  
19.14 \$600,000 may be spent for personnel costs,  
19.15 outreach, and support to first-time applicants  
19.16 and other direct and necessary administrative  
19.17 costs. Grantees may acquire land or interests  
19.18 in land. Easements must be permanent. Grants  
19.19 may not be used to establish easement  
19.20 stewardship accounts. The program must  
19.21 require a match of at least ten percent from  
19.22 nonstate sources for all grants. The match may  
19.23 be cash or in-kind. For grant applications of  
19.24 \$25,000 or less, the commissioner must  
19.25 provide a separate, simplified application  
19.26 process. Subject to Minnesota Statutes, the  
19.27 commissioner of natural resources must, when  
19.28 evaluating projects of equal value, give  
19.29 priority to organizations that have a history of  
19.30 receiving, or a charter to receive, private  
19.31 contributions for local conservation or habitat  
19.32 projects. All restoration or enhancement  
19.33 projects must be on land permanently  
19.34 protected by a permanent covenant ensuring  
19.35 perpetual maintenance and protection of  
19.36 restored and enhanced habitat, by a

20.1 conservation easement, or by public ownership  
 20.2 or in public waters as defined in Minnesota  
 20.3 Statutes, section 103G.005, subdivision 15.  
 20.4 Priority must be given to restoration and  
 20.5 enhancement projects on public lands.  
 20.6 Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056,  
 20.7 subdivision 13, applies to grants awarded  
 20.8 under this paragraph. This appropriation is  
 20.9 available until June 30, 2028. No less than five  
 20.10 percent of the amount of each grant must be  
 20.11 held back from reimbursement until the grant  
 20.12 recipient completes a grant accomplishment  
 20.13 report by the deadline and in the form  
 20.14 prescribed by and satisfactory to the  
 20.15 Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council. The  
 20.16 commissioner must provide notice of the grant  
 20.17 program in the summary of game and fish law  
 20.18 prepared under Minnesota Statutes, section  
 20.19 97A.051, subdivision 2.

20.20 Subd. 6. Administration 2,054,000 775,000

20.21 **(a) Contract Management**  
 20.22 \$410,000 the first year is to the commissioner  
 20.23 of natural resources for contract management  
 20.24 duties assigned in this section. The  
 20.25 commissioner must provide an  
 20.26 accomplishment plan in the form specified by  
 20.27 the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council  
 20.28 on expending this appropriation. The  
 20.29 accomplishment plan must include a copy of  
 20.30 the grant contract template and reimbursement  
 20.31 manual. No money may be expended before  
 20.32 the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council  
 20.33 approves the accomplishment plan. Money  
 20.34 appropriated in this paragraph is available until  
 20.35 June 30, 2027.

21.1 **(b) Legislative Coordinating Commission**

21.2 \$732,000 the first year and \$772,000 the  
21.3 second year are to the Legislative  
21.4 Coordinating Commission for administrative  
21.5 expenses of the Lessard-Sams Outdoor  
21.6 Heritage Council and for compensating and  
21.7 reimbursing expenses of council members.  
21.8 This appropriation is available until June 30,  
21.9 2027. Minnesota Statutes, section 16A.281,  
21.10 applies to this appropriation.

21.11 **(c) Technical Evaluation Panel**

21.12 \$168,000 the first year is to the commissioner  
21.13 of natural resources for a technical evaluation  
21.14 panel to conduct up to 20 restoration and  
21.15 enhancement evaluations under Minnesota  
21.16 Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 10.  
21.17 Money appropriated in this paragraph is  
21.18 available until June 30, 2027.

21.19 **(d) Core Functions in Partner-Led OHF Land**  
21.20 **Acquisitions**

21.21 \$740,000 the first year is to the commissioner  
21.22 of natural resources for administering the  
21.23 initial development, restoration, and  
21.24 enhancement of land acquired in fee with  
21.25 money appropriated from the outdoor heritage  
21.26 fund. This appropriation may be used for land  
21.27 acquisition costs incurred by the department  
21.28 as part of conveyance of parcels to the  
21.29 Department of Natural Resources and initial  
21.30 development activities on fee title acquisitions.  
21.31 Money appropriated in this paragraph is  
21.32 available until June 30, 2033.

21.33 **(e) Legacy Website**

22.1 \$4,000 the first year and \$3,000 the second  
22.2 year are to the Legislative Coordinating  
22.3 Commission for the website required under  
22.4 Minnesota Statutes, section 3.303, subdivision  
22.5 10.

22.6 **Subd. 7. Availability of Appropriation**

22.7 (a) Money appropriated in this section may  
22.8 not be spent on activities unless they are  
22.9 directly related to and necessary for a specific  
22.10 appropriation and are specified in the  
22.11 accomplishment plan approved by the  
22.12 Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.

22.13 Money appropriated in this section must not  
22.14 be spent on indirect costs or other institutional  
22.15 overhead charges that are not directly related  
22.16 to and necessary for a specific appropriation.

22.17 Money appropriated for fee title acquisition  
22.18 of land may be used to restore, enhance, and  
22.19 provide for public use of the land acquired  
22.20 with the appropriation. Public-use facilities  
22.21 must have a minimal impact on habitat in  
22.22 acquired lands.

22.23 (b) Money appropriated in this section is  
22.24 available as follows:

22.25 (1) money appropriated for acquiring real  
22.26 property is available until June 30, 2029;

22.27 (2) money appropriated for restoring and  
22.28 enhancing land acquired with an appropriation  
22.29 in this act is available for four years after the  
22.30 acquisition date with a maximum end date of  
22.31 June 30, 2033;

22.32 (3) money appropriated for restoring and  
22.33 enhancing other land is available until June  
22.34 30, 2030;

23.1 (4) notwithstanding clauses (1) to (3), money  
23.2 appropriated for a project that receives at least  
23.3 15 percent of its funding from federal funds  
23.4 is available until a date sufficient to match the  
23.5 availability of federal funding to a maximum  
23.6 of six years if the federal funding was  
23.7 confirmed and included in the original  
23.8 approved draft accomplishment plan; and  
23.9 (5) money appropriated for other projects is  
23.10 available until the end of the fiscal year in  
23.11 which it is appropriated.

23.12 **Subd. 8. Payment Conditions and Capital**  
23.13 **Equipment Expenditures**

23.14 (a) All agreements referred to in this section  
23.15 must be administered on a reimbursement  
23.16 basis unless otherwise provided in this section.  
23.17 Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, section  
23.18 16A.41, expenditures directly related to each  
23.19 appropriation's purpose made on or after July  
23.20 1, 2025, or the date of accomplishment plan  
23.21 approval, whichever is later, are eligible for  
23.22 reimbursement unless otherwise provided in  
23.23 this section. For the purposes of administering  
23.24 appropriations and legislatively authorized  
23.25 agreements paid out of the outdoor heritage  
23.26 fund, an expense must be considered  
23.27 reimbursable by the administering agency  
23.28 when the recipient presents the agency with  
23.29 an invoice or binding agreement with the  
23.30 landowner and the recipient attests that the  
23.31 goods have been received or the landowner  
23.32 agreement is binding. Periodic reimbursement  
23.33 must be made upon receiving documentation  
23.34 that the items articulated in the  
23.35 accomplishment plan approved by the

24.1 Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council have  
24.2 been achieved, including partial achievements  
24.3 as evidenced by progress reports approved by  
24.4 the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.  
24.5 Reasonable amounts may be advanced to  
24.6 projects to accommodate cash flow needs,  
24.7 support future management of acquired lands,  
24.8 or match a federal share. The advances must  
24.9 be approved as part of the accomplishment  
24.10 plan. Capital equipment expenditures for  
24.11 specific items in excess of \$10,000 must be  
24.12 itemized in and approved as part of the  
24.13 accomplishment plan.

24.14 (b) Unless otherwise provided, no money  
24.15 appropriated from the outdoor heritage fund  
24.16 in this act may be used to acquire, restore, or  
24.17 enhance any real property unless the specific  
24.18 acquisition, restoration, or enhancement is  
24.19 approved as part of the accomplishment plan  
24.20 on the parcel list.

24.21 **Subd. 9. Mapping**

24.22 Each direct recipient of money appropriated  
24.23 in this section, as well as each recipient of a  
24.24 grant awarded under this section, must provide  
24.25 geographic information to the Lessard-Sams  
24.26 Outdoor Heritage Council for mapping of any  
24.27 lands acquired in fee with funds appropriated  
24.28 in this section and open to the public taking  
24.29 of fish and game. The commissioner of natural  
24.30 resources must include the lands acquired in  
24.31 fee with money appropriated in this section  
24.32 on maps showing public recreation  
24.33 opportunities. Maps must include information  
24.34 on and acknowledgment of the outdoor



25.1 heritage fund, including a notation of any  
 25.2 restrictions.

25.3 **Subd. 10. Carryforward**

25.4 (a) The availability of the appropriation for  
 25.5 Laws 2020, chapter 104, article 1, section 2,  
 25.6 subdivision 5, paragraph (b), Metro Big Rivers  
 25.7 - Phase X, is extended to June 30, 2026.

25.8 (b) The availability of the appropriation for  
 25.9 Laws 2020, chapter 104, article 1, section 2,  
 25.10 subdivision 5, paragraph (k), St. Louis River  
 25.11 Restoration Initiative - Phase VII, is extended  
 25.12 to June 30, 2026.

25.13 (c) The availability of the appropriation for  
 25.14 Laws 2023, chapter 40, article 1, section 2,  
 25.15 subdivision 6, paragraph (d), Core Functions  
 25.16 in Partner-Led OHF Land Acquisitions, is  
 25.17 extended to June 30, 2031.

25.18 **Subd. 11. Cancellation**

25.19 \$120,000 of the outdoor heritage fund  
 25.20 appropriation in Laws 2020, chapter 104,  
 25.21 article 1, section 2, subdivision 2, paragraph  
 25.22 (i), is canceled no later than June 29, 2025.

25.23 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** Subdivision 11 is effective the day following final enactment.

25.24 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 97A.056, is amended by adding a subdivision to  
 25.25 read:

25.26 **Subd. 25. Federal grant fund requirements.** An interest in real property acquired with  
 25.27 money appropriated from the outdoor heritage fund may be used to leverage federal grant  
 25.28 funds for related conservation programs, such as Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration,  
 25.29 United States Code, title 16, section 669 et seq.; Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration,  
 25.30 United States Code, title 16, section 777 et seq.; and the North American Wetlands  
 25.31 Conservation Act, United States Code, title 16, section 4401. These grant programs may  
 25.32 place conditions on land use that require the continued use of the land for conservation  
 25.33 purposes. Placement of conditions on land use under these programs does not require prior

- 26.1 review and approval of the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council or its successor under
- 26.2 subdivision 15, paragraph (b).