

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This is the funding bill for the agencies and departments that have environmental and natural resources responsibilities.

Section

- 1 **Environment and natural resources appropriations.** The general fund dollar amount appropriated is \$348,081,000 for the biennium, and the total amount appropriated from all relevant funds is \$745,283,000.
- 2 **Pollution control agency.** Appropriations total \$110,613,000 for the biennium.
 - Subd. 1. Total appropriation.** \$57,912,000 in the first year and \$52,404,000 in the second.
 - Subd. 2. Protection of the Water.** \$14,823,000 in the first year and \$15,129,000 in the second.
 - Clean water partnership program: \$2,348,000 each year
 - County administration of feedlot permit program: \$1,841,000 each year
 - Community technical assistance and education: \$322,000 each year
 - Individual sewage treatment administration: \$202,000 each year
 - Individual sewage treatment system grants: \$200,000 each year
 - Lake Superior Lakeside Management Plan (LAMP): \$13,000 the first year and \$100,000 the second
 - Subd. 3. Protection of the Air.** \$7,590,000 in the first year and \$7,748,000 in the second.
 - Small business environmental loan program: up to \$150,000 each year
 - Monitoring: \$200,000 each year
 - Subd. 4. Protection of the Land.** \$10,722,000 in the first year and \$11,007,000 in the second.
 - Private water supply monitoring and health assessment: \$200,000 each year

Subd. 5. Integrated Environmental Programs. \$22,710,000 in the first year and \$16,345,000 in the second.

Leaking underground storage tank program: \$562,000 in the first year and \$574,000 in the second.

Empire Builder property: \$1,000,000 in the first year

Pig's Eye dump response action: \$7,100,000 in the first year

Office of Environmental Assistance transfer to PCA: \$1,025,000 in the second year

Subd. 6. Administrative Support. \$2,067,000 in the first year and \$2,175,000 in the second.

Subd. 7. Deficiency Appropriation for FLSA. \$500,000 in fiscal year 2001 for back pay owed under the Fair Labor Standards Act.

3 **Office of environmental assistance.** \$21,883,000 in the first year (abolished in the second).

SCORE block grants to counties: \$14,008,000 each year

4 **Zoo board.** Appropriations total \$14,675,000 for the biennium.

5 **Department of natural resources.** Appropriations total \$467,015,000 for the biennium.

Significant riders (with biennium dollar totals) include (pages 6-25):

\$612,000 for *iron ore cooperative research*, with 2/3 of appropriation requiring dollar per dollar match.

\$16,000,000 for *emergency firefighting*, including \$7 million each year for firefighting aircraft. A report on firefighting costs is required.

\$1,448,000 for regeneration and *protection of white pine* in the state.

\$2,294,000 for implementation of the *sustainable forest resources act* by the Forest Resources Council (FRC).

Requires the FRC to review monitoring, verification and auditing programs for *forest management activities*, with report to the legislature.

\$1,278,000 for *state park development* projects.

\$6,000,000 for metro area *regional parks maintenance and operation* via the Met Council.

\$484,000 for *state forest campground* operations.

\$8,557,000 for *state park and recreation area operations*, including \$3,610,000 for improved camping facilities and opportunities; and \$2,217,000 for state park emergency maintenance projects; and \$744,000 for operation of the Red River recreation area.

\$10,262,000 for *metro area regional parks and trails maintenance and operation*, including funding for a portion of the Bassett's Creek trail; funding for engineering documents to restore a road and build an adjacent trail along White Bear Lake; funding a boardwalk trail for handicapped access in St. Louis Park's Westwood Hills nature center; and a Chanhassen grant for a trail along highway 101.

\$8,848,000 are for *snowmobile grants-in-aid*.

\$520,000 for a *safe harbor program* on Lake Superior.

\$1,704,000 are for *state trail operations*.

\$1,368,000 for *trail grants to local units of government* for at-least 20 year trails.

\$11,050,000 from the *heritage enhancement account (lottery-in-lieu dollars)* for purposes specified in statute from a 2000 law, including major items on pages 14-15 of the bill.

\$1,100,000 from the heritage enhancement account for the *walleye stocking* program.

Pages 16-17 of the bill fund a variety of *specific wildlife accounts* in statute for the respective wildlife program.

\$5,375,000 from the heritage enhancement account for a variety of *major wildlife projects* on pages 17-19 of the bill.

\$234,000 is for *nongame wildlife* program management.

\$1,193,000 for game and fish, critical habitat and wetland *programs under statute*.

\$200,000 for *water monitoring* activities for quality assessment.

\$970,000 for the *wildlife conservation* and restoration program.

\$2,812,000 from the *heritage enhancement account* for a variety of projects on page 20.

\$2,164,000 for grants to counties for *boat and water safety*.

\$630,000 for grants to local law enforcement agencies for *snowmobile activities*.

\$260,000 for protected class *employee recruitment* and retention.

\$1,678,000 from the *heritage enhancement account* for a variety of projects on pages 20-21 of the bill.

\$712,600 to assist local units and groups in the *metro area* to acquire and develop *natural areas and greenways*.

\$3,896,000 for the operations of the *Minnesota Conservation Corps* youth program.

\$912,000 for equal *grants* to the state Zoo, Como Zoo and the Duluth Zoo.

6 **Board of water and soil resources (BOWSR).** Appropriations total \$62,641,000 for the biennium. Riders include (found on pages 23-25):

\$20,724,000 for the Minnesota River basin conservation reserve enhancement program (*CREP*) to acquire easements and implementation costs.

\$1,989,000 from the *heritage enhancement account* for projects on pages 24-25.

7 **Science museum.** Appropriations total \$2,328,000 for the biennium.

8 **Minnesota resources.** Appropriations total \$49,722,000 for the biennium, including \$34,577,000 from the Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund, and \$15,155,000 from the Future Resources Fund. (Pages 25-42) Includes for 56 new projects:

\$1,215,000 for administration costs;

\$18,020,000 for fish and wildlife habitat projects;

\$23,887,000 for park and recreation projects;

\$2,245,000 for water resources projects;

\$1,177,000 for land use and natural resource information;

\$650,000 for agriculture and natural resource industries;

\$1,925,000 for environmental education opportunities.

(Pages 39-42) Provisions contain regular biennial requirements for projects receiving funding. Requires any *vegetation planted to be native* to Minnesota. Extends the availability of appropriations from several previous projects to 6/30/02, and two to 6/30/04.

13 **Advisory committees.** Allows the continuation of four natural resources advisory committees.

14 **Contracts.** Authorizes DNR to contract with the Historical Society as needed.

15 **Minnesota conservation corps.** Changes existing statutory language relating to MCC, including eliminating the "Corps to Career" program.

21 **All-terrain vehicle safety program.** Allows a DNR fee of \$15 for persons taking ATV safety and training course.

- 22 **ATV safety certification.** Requires certain elements to obtain ATV safety certificate for ages 12-16.
- 23 **Central Lakes Trail.** Provides new state trail in Ottertail, Grant and Douglas counties, starting in Fergus Falls.
- 24 **Minnesota River Trail.** Provides for trail along the river valley from Big Stone Lake State Park to LeSueur.
- 25 **Park fees.** Requires fee deposit in new state park account in the natural resources fund.
- 26 **Water recreation.** Creates a standing appropriation to DNR from fees and proceeds from activities at state small craft harbors and mooring facilities.
- 27 **Water skipping.** Allows a sanctioned snowmobiler for this purpose, under certain conditions, to practice water skipping legally.
- **Decorative vegetation material.** Changes existing statutes on cutting, harvesting and
342834 processing of decorative vegetation material on public and private land. Allows field citations.
- 35 **Advisory committee sunset.** Sunsets the Minerals Advisory Committee in June 30, 2005.
- 36 **Wildlife stamps.** Permits a continuing design contest for these stamps.
- 37 **Wildlife citizens subcommittees.** Creates them for various fish and wildlife and ecological services activities, and the chairs become a budget oversight committee to assist the DNR.
- 38 **Pictorial stamps.** Authorizes a pictorial turkey or trout and salmon stamp to be sold for \$2.
- 39 **Stamp signature.** Makes waterfowl or pheasant stamp valid with signed name.
- **Technical provisions.**
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- 46 **Senior citizen fishing license.** Requires seniors to pay the full \$17 license.
- **Technical stamp provisions.**
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- 50 **Conservation angling license.** Authorizes them and catch and possession limits are one-half what they are for a standard license, with the fee being one-third less.
- 51 **Technical stamp provision.**
- 52 **Yellow perch limits.** Makes them 15 daily, and 45 in possession.
- 53 **Lake improvement districts.** Allows them to be modified, but if reduced all outstanding debts must be paid first.
- **Water appropriations.** Cleans up permit requirements; *prohibits once-through systems* for
575457 expansion; allows one system established prior to 1/1/01; establishes certain water application fees.
- 58 **Permit duration for underground storage facility.**
- 59 **Elimination of new ISTS technologies procedures.**
- 60 **Extension of payback period for transfer station loan.**
- 61 **Use of SCORE grants extended to allow subsidy for processing.**
- 62 **Elimination of waste tire nuisance abatement reference.**
- 63 **Elimination of waste tire nuisance abatement reference.**
- 64 **Extension of period for interim dry cleaner environmental response fees.**
- 65 **Elimination of reference to completed Petrofund rulemaking.**
- 66 **Eliminates two categories of costs eligible to be reimbursed under the Petrofund program.**
- 67 **Clarifies the types of costs that can be reimbursed from the Petrofund.**

- 68 **Eliminates existing special categories for Petrofund reimbursement.**
- 69 **Provides Petrofund reimbursement at bulk plant that was located on a railroad right of way.**
- 70 **Makes performance audits of Petrofund corrective actions optional for the Petrofund board.**
- 71 **Allows the Petrofund board to sanction a contractor or consultant that fails to reasonably supervise its employees or representatives to assure compliance with Petrofund law and rules.**
- 72 **Adds new references in Petrofund statutes that will be repealed as of June 30, 2005.**
- 73 **Provides for hazardous waste generator licenses and fees.**
- **LCMR and trust fund.** Changes statutes for environmental trust fund expenditures and LCMR oversight:
- 797479 Cleans up old trust fund statutes;
Modernizes federal *LAWCON expenditure* authority; and
Restricts funding recipients in terms of changes in interest in real property acquired.
- 80 **Technical.**
- 81 **Coldwater springs.** Allows the Coldwater Springs property to be acquired by the Metropolitan Airports Commission and convey it to the DNR for park or open space
- 82 **Expands eligible use of MLCAT for response costs at Pig's Eye dump.**
- 83 **Sunsets Forest Resources Council on June 30, 2007.**
- 84 **Advisory committee sunset.** Sunsets the off-road vehicle advisory committee in the Iron Range area on June, 30, 2005.
- 85 **Technical LCMR project.**
- 86 **BWCA land inventory.** Extends the University of Minnesota study and report to 2003.
- 87 **Dam inventory.** Requires the DNR to cooperate with the Army Corps of Engineers to inventory old dams for possible repair.
- 88 **Unrefunded gas tax study.** Determines the percentage of revenue from fuel tax used on state and county forest roads.
- 89 **Reorganization of state water programs and functions.**
- 91 **Review and recommendations of PCA's base budget financing mechanisms.**
- 92 **Abolition of the Office of Environmental Assistance.**
- 93 **Legislative staff implementation for section 108.**
- 94 **Currant lake.** Mandates the DNR cannot abandon the diversion system here.
- 95 **Sunken log moratorium.** Requires the DNR to suspend recovery of sunken logs authorized last year and cancel all existing leases that were issued.
- 97 **Repealers.** Repeals certain statutes and rules relating to:
- federal land and water fund
 - natural resources reimbursement account
 - ISTS (individual sewage treatment systems) new technologies statutes and rule provisions
 - waste tire nuisance abatement
 - motor vehicle salvage cost-sharing program
 - chlorofluorocarbon regulation

MLCAT transfer to solid waste fund

certain Petrofund statutes relating to pre-removal site assessments and conforming with other amendments

indirect air source permitting rule