A bill for an act
relating to the environment; modifying a previous appropriation from the
environment and natural resources trust fund; amending Laws 2018, chapter 214,
article 4, section 2, subdivision 9.

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

Section 1. Laws 2018, chapter 214, article 4, section 2, subdivision 9, is amended to read:

Subd. 9. Land Acquisition, Habitat, and Recreation
(a) Grants for Local Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas

$2,000,000 the second year is from the trust
to the commissioner of natural resources
to solicit, rank, and fund competitive matching
grants for local parks, trail connections, and
natural and scenic areas under Minnesota Statutes, section 85.019. The appropriation is
for local nature-based recreation and
connexions to regional and state natural areas
and recreation facilities and does not include
athletic facilities such as sport fields, courts,
and playgrounds. This appropriation is
available until June 30, 2021, by which time
the project must be completed and final
products delivered.
(b) Develop Mesabi Trail Segment From County Road 88 to Ely

$600,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the St. Louis and Lake Counties Regional Railroad Authority for environmental assessment, permitting, right-of-way easements or other acquisition as needed, engineering, and construction of an approximately three-mile-long bituminous surface section of the Mesabi Trail between Ely and the intersection of Highway 169 and County Road 88. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2022, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

(c) Harmony State Trail Extension Land Acquisition

$235,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the city of Harmony to acquire fee title of about 16 parcels to allow for the approximate six-mile extension of the legislatively authorized state trail from Harmony south to the Iowa state border with a spur to Niagara Cave. The land must be transferred to the state after it has been purchased.

(d) Mississippi Blufflands State Trail - Red Wing Barn Bluff to Colvill Park Segment

$550,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the city of Red Wing to be used with other funds to construct an approximate three-quarter-mile-long hard-surfaced segment of the Mississippi
Blufflands State Trail along Red Wing's Mississippi River riverfront from Barn Bluff Regional Park to Colvill Park. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2021, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

(e) Swedish Immigrant Regional Trail Segment within Interstate State Park

$2,254,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Chisago County Environmental Services to construct an approximate one-half-mile regional county trail segment within Interstate State Park from the end point of the existing trail at the park boundary to city hall including a trail bridge over the ravine and parking and trailhead improvements and to conduct a natural and cultural review to determine the feasibility and route of a future section of the trail through the park. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2021, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

(f) Enhancement Plan for Superior Hiking Trail

$100,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the Superior Hiking Trail Association to evaluate improvements to the 310-mile-long Superior Hiking Trail including routing, safety, water management, maintenance, and other environmental, recreational, and design issues and to develop an interactive trail-management system to capture efficiencies and best management practices.
(g) Protecting Mississippi River Headwaters 
Lands through Local, State, and Federal 
Partnership

$700,000 the second year is from the trust 
fund to the commissioner of natural resources 
for an agreement with the city of Baxter, in 
cooperation with Brainerd Public Schools and 
the Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape Program, 
to acquire about 200 acres of forested land on 
the upper Mississippi River adjacent to 
Mississippi River Overlook Park for multiple 
public benefits, including being an outdoor 
classroom for local schools. To be eligible for 
reimbursement, costs for real estate 
transactions must be specific to this acquisition 
and documented as required in subdivision 15, 
paragraph (k).

(h) Protecting North-Central Minnesota Lakes

$750,000 the second year is from the trust 
fund to the commissioner of natural resources 
for an agreement with the Crow Wing County 
Soil and Water Conservation District to 
increase watershed protection to maintain and 
改善 water quality in lakes and rivers in 
Aitkin and Crow Wing Counties with about 
ten permanent RIM conservation easements 
and 12 forest stewardship plans and by 
implementing six best management practices. 
Of this amount, up to $59,000 may be 
contributed to an easement stewardship 
account established under Minnesota Statutes, 
section 103B.103, as approved in the work 
plan. This appropriation is available until June 
30, 2022, by which time the project must be 
completed and final products delivered.

(i) Easement Program for Native Prairie Bank
5.1 $2,000,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources to provide technical stewardship assistance to private landowners, restore and enhance about 270 acres of native prairie protected by easements in the native prairie bank, and acquire easements for the native prairie bank in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, section 84.96, on about 275 acres, including preparing initial baseline property assessments. Up to $120,000 of this appropriation may be deposited in the natural resources conservation easement stewardship account, created in Minnesota Statutes, section 84.69, proportional to the number of easement acres acquired. A list of proposed easement acquisitions and restoration sites for the native prairie bank are required in the work plan. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2021, by which time the project must be completed and final products delivered.

(j) Minnesota State Trail Development

5.23 $2,500,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources to expand high-priority recreational opportunities on Minnesota's state trails by developing new trail segments and rehabilitating, improving, and enhancing existing state trails. High-priority trail segments to develop and enhance include but are not limited to the Gateway, Gitchi Gami, Paul Bunyan, and Heartland State Trails. A proposed list of trail projects on legislatively authorized state trails is required in the work plan. This appropriation is available until June
30, 2021, by which time the project must be
completed and final products delivered.

(k) Minnesota State Parks and State Trails

$2,500,000 the second year is from the trust
fund to the commissioner of natural resources
to acquire about 163 acres of high-priority in
holdings from willing sellers within the
legislatively authorized boundaries of state
parks and trails in order to protect Minnesota's
natural heritage, enhance outdoor recreational
opportunities, and improve the efficiency of
public land management. Priorities include
but are not limited to Tettegouche, Sibley, and
Minneopa State Parks and the Goodhue
Pioneer State Trail. A list of proposed
acquisitions is required in the work plan. This
appropriation is available until June 30, 2021,
by which time the project must be completed
and final products delivered.

(l) Scientific and Natural Areas Program

$3,250,000 the second year is from the trust
fund to the commissioner of natural resources
for the scientific and natural areas program.
Of this amount, $1,500,000 is for habitat
restoration activities, $500,000 is for scientific
and natural areas public engagement and
outreach, and $1,250,000 is to acquire strategic
high-quality lands that meet criteria for
scientific and natural areas under Minnesota
Statutes, section 86A.05, from willing sellers.
A list of proposed acquisitions and restorations
is required in the work plan. This
appropriation is available until June 30, 2021,
by which time the project must be completed
and final products delivered.
7.1 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective retroactively from July 1, 2019.