

House Research Act Summary

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SESSION: 2008 Regular Session

TOPIC: LCCMR/Trust Fund Appropriations

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Overview

This act includes the annual environment and natural resources trust fund appropriations based upon the recommendations from the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR).

- 1 **Minnesota resources appropriations.** Technical.
- 2 **Minnesota resources.**

Subd. 1. Total appropriation. Provides a total appropriation of \$22,866,000 in fiscal year 2009 from the environmental and natural resources trust fund and of \$86,000 in fiscal year 2008 from the Great Lakes protection account.

Subd. 2. Definitions. Technical.

Subd. 3. Land and habitat. Provides a total appropriation for land and habitat projects of \$15,817,000 in fiscal year 2009. Includes funding for:

- (a) the Metro Conservation Corridors (MeCC);
- (b) acquisition and restoration of the Vermillion River Corridor in Dakota County;
- (c) the Minnesota Habitat Conservation Partnership;

- (d) community outreach, ordinance reviews, and an acquisition plan for the Avon Hills landscape in Stearns County;
- (e) planning, acquisition, and easements in the Minnesota River Valley;
- (f) acquisition of scientific and natural areas in the southern two-thirds of the state;
- (g) the consolidation of state lands to reduce forest fragmentation;
- (h) acquisition of land for designated state trail alignments and in-holdings for state parks;
- (i) land acquisition within the Metropolitan Regional Park System;
- (j) land acquisition for a proposed regional park on the Bertram Chain of Lakes in Wright County;
- (k) matching grants to local units of government and others to enhance fish, wildlife, and native plant habitat, provide research, and protect and enhance the state's natural environment;
- (l) the design of trail systems in Lyon, Brown, Redwood, and Renville Counties;
- (m) the acceleration of the assessment, biological survey, management and acquisition of prairie lands;
- (n) the Martin County SWCD to collect and propagate local ecotype native plant materials from prairie remnants;
- (o) an agreement with the Minnesota Recreation and Park Association to provide best practice information for native prairie management;
- (p) the acceleration of research on the effects of climate change on prairie and forest species; and
- (q) research on methods to manage diverse working prairies for wildlife and renewable bioenergy production.

Subd. 4. Water resources. Provides a total appropriation for water resources projects of \$86,000 from the Great Lake protection account in fiscal year 2008, and \$3,430,000 from the environment and natural resources trust fund in fiscal year 2009. Includes funding for:

- (a) spatial modeling of water demand in the state using different energy production scenarios;
- (b) acceleration of research on new methods to control the invasive common carp;
- (c) to purchase supplies and equipment to accelerate the testing of public water

- supplies for pesticides and their degradates;
- (d) an assessment of riparian buffers in the Whitewater River Watershed;
- (e) the identification of sensitive shoreline for high priority lakes in Cass County;
- (f) a native shoreland buffer incentive program;
- (g) stream restoration projects;
- (h) groundwater monitoring and the acceleration of the county geological atlas program; and
- (i) the Large Lakes Observatory for research on Lake Superior.

Subd. 5. Natural Resource Information. Provides a total appropriation for natural resources information projects of \$2,365,000 from the environment and natural resources trust fund in fiscal year 2009. Includes funding for:

- (a) updating the National Wetlands Inventory;
- (b) soil surveys;
- (c) updated climate change related rainfall frequencies;
- (d) a statewide survey and publications on the state's breeding birds;
- (e) a survey of restorable wetlands;
- (f) a GIS-based database cataloging symptoms and conditions of injured wildlife;
- (g) enhanced management and long-term stewardship of conservation easements by BWSR; and
- (h) an inventory of the DNR's conservation easements and preparation of a management plan.

Subd. 6. Environmental education. Provides a total appropriation for environmental education projects of \$1,099,000 from the environment and natural resources trust fund in fiscal year 2009. Includes funding for:

- (a) a documentary on the waters of Minnesota; and
- (b) for grants to high schools, colleges, and universities to identify and reduce their carbon footprints.

Subd. 7. Emerging issues account. Sets aside \$155,000 for emerging issues.

Subds. 8 to 16 include standard and other requirements of receiving funding,

extend previous appropriations, and require the LCCMR to consider requesting proposals for biological and other methods of controlling invasive species.

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Royalties, copyrights, patents, and sale of products and assets. Amends § 116P.10. Requires net income from the sale of products or assets developed or acquired with environment and natural resources trust funds to be repaid in an amount equal to the percentage of the project's total funding provided by the trust fund. Allows the LCCMR to include in its annual recommendations, the relinquishment of the income if a plan is approved for reinvestment in the project or when the amount of the original grant/loan plus interest has been repaid to the fund.