Overview

This bill includes the annual recommendations from the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) on the use of the environment and natural resources trust fund dollars.

Section

1  Minnesota resources appropriations. Technical.

2  Minnesota resources.

   Subd. 1. Total appropriation. Provides a total appropriation of $418,000 in fiscal year 2010 and $25,611,000 in fiscal year 2011 from the environmental and natural resources trust fund.

   Subd. 2. Trust fund definition. Technical.

   Subd. 3. Natural resource data and information. Provides a total appropriation for natural resource data and information projects of $4,920,000, including funding for:

   (a) the county geologic atlas program;
   (b) continuation of the wetland inventory update;
   (c) the continued development of a statewide survey of the state’s breeding bird distribution and related publications;
   (d) development of an integrated bird conservation plan;
   (e) assessment of the role of insecticides in pollinator health;
   (f) characterization of microbes discovered at Soudan Underground Mine State Park;
(g) quantifying carbon sequestration in the state’s shallow lakes and wetlands;

(h) identification of the interrelationship between drain tiles and ditches and natural watersheds;

(i) development of local food and perennial biofuels markets coupled with incentives;

(j) assessing the implementation of applicable laws for preserving agricultural land and development of an approach and policy tools to preserve such lands; and

(k) identification of critical habitats for moose, the development of best management practices to protect the habitat, and educational outreach.

**Subd. 4. Land, habitat, and recreation.** Provides a total appropriation for land and habitat acquisition and restoration projects of $418,000 in fiscal year 2010 and $9,762,000 in fiscal year 2011, including funding for:

(a) training programs for habitat restoration professionals;

(b) acquisition and restoration of scientific and natural areas;

(c) state park in-holding acquisitions;

(d) acquisition of perpetual easements of unique granite outcrops in the Upper Minnesota River Valley;

(e) a supplemental appropriation for the Minnesota Habitat Conservation Partnership;

(f) a supplemental appropriation for the Metro Conservation Corridors project;

(g) facilitation for conservation easement donations protecting sensitive shoreland parcels in north central Minnesota; and

(h) development of prairie landscape design plans and monitoring protocol.

**Subd. 5. Water resources.** Provides a total appropriation for water resources projects of $3,455,000, including funding for:

(a) research on endocrine disruptor sources;

(b) mapping of current sulfate sources and the assessment of treatment options;

(c) research on phytoestrogens in surface waters and their impacts on fish;

(d) development of a demonstration model to evaluate storage and treatment options in drainage systems;

(e) assessment of septic system discharge of estrogenic and pharmaceutical compounds on lakes;

(f) examination of dioxin concentration in lake sediment and options to improve water quality;
(g) evaluation of the major causes of shallow lake deterioration;

(h) evaluation of shoreline development activities; and

(i) assessment of warming temperatures on cold water aquatic insects and options to minimize stream temperature changes.

**Subd. 6. Aquatic and terrestrial invasive species.** Provides a total appropriation for invasive species projects of $1,470,000, including funding for:

(a) continued development and implementation of biological control methods to control European buckthorn and garlic mustard;

(b) assessment of emerald ash borer impacts;

(c) assessment of the role of forest health management in resisting invasive species infestation; and

(d) evaluation of bioacoustic technology in relation to invasive round goby in Lake Superior.

**Subd. 7. Renewable energy.** Provides a total appropriation of $3,364,000 for renewable energy projects, including funding for:

(a) a demonstration project producing biofuels from algae;

(b) assessment of climate change, fertilization, and irrigation impact yields of grass monoculture and high diversity prairie biofuel crops;

(c) restoring high quality native habitats and expanding opportunities for using postharvest restoration as a bioenergy source;

(d) renewable energy, energy efficiency, and energy conservation practices at certain environmental learning centers; and

(e) a life cycle analysis of low carbon energy technologies available in the state.

**Subd. 8. Environmental education.** Provides a total appropriation of $2,640,000 for environmental education projects, including funding for:

(a) the Minnesota Conservation Corps to train and mentor conservation professionals by providing apprenticeship services to soil and water conservation districts;

(b) curriculum, teacher training, online learning, and grants to investigate the connection between climate change and impacts on natural resources;

(c) teacher training workshops on digital photography as a tool for learning about nature;

(d) an outdoor education and recreation program on the Mississippi River;

(e) restoration and development of an outdoor classroom at Como Regional Park;

(f) establishment and enhancement of outdoor school forest and prairie classroom
networks;

(g) training of teachers to integrate environmental and outdoor education into academic standards;

(h) development of out-of-school programs connecting children to local nature experiences;

(i) providing environmental information and teaching fishing skills to Southeast Asian communities;

(j) development of interactive learning about wolves and their habitat; and

(k) development of online educational materials on the Minnesota River.

Subds. 9 to 16. Are standard subdivisions and other project requirements set forth as part of the LCCMR recommendations. These include: specifying the availability of appropriations; data requirements; specific project requirements, including requiring restoration to use native vegetation and seeds, and requiring easements to be permanent and have a long-term stewardship plan; and providing carry forwards for previous appropriations.