

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill contains the fiscal year 2017 appropriations from the outdoor heritage fund based on the recommendations of the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC).

Section

1 Outdoor heritage appropriation. Technical.

2 Outdoor heritage.

Subd. 1. Total appropriation. Provides a total appropriation of \$107,777,000 from the outdoor heritage fund in fiscal year 2017.

Subd. 2. Prairies. Provides a total appropriation of \$31,000,000 for various prairie projects.

Subd. 3. Forests. Provides a total appropriation of \$16,309,000 for various forest projects.

Subd. 4. Wetlands. Provides a total appropriation of \$31,055,000 for various wetland projects.

Subd. 5. Habitats. Provides a total appropriation of \$29,138,000 for various habitat projects.

Subd. 6. Administration. Provides a total appropriation of \$275,000 for administration, including contract management services from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and other expenses.

Subd. 7. Availability of appropriation. States that money appropriated may not be spent on activities unless they are directly related to and necessary for a specific

Section

appropriation and are specified in the accomplishment plan and may not be spent on indirect costs or other institutional overhead charges that are not directly related to a specific appropriation. Provides for the availability of funding depending on the use of the funds and whether or not federal funds are also used.

Subd. 8. Payment conditions and capital equipment expenditures. Requires all agreements to be administered on a reimbursement basis unless otherwise provided. Allows reasonable amounts to be advanced in some circumstances if approved as part of an accomplishment plan. Requires capital expenditures that exceed \$10,000 to be itemized and approved as part of an accomplishment plan.

Subd. 9. Mapping. Requires recipients of an appropriation to submit geographic information on lands acquired in fee that are open to the public for hunting and fishing to the DNR for mapping.

Subd. 10. RIM buffers for wildlife and water restorations. Allows previous appropriations for the RIM buffers for wildlife and water program to be used to restore land with easements acquired with those appropriations.

Subd. 11. Appropriations contingent upon audit. States that the appropriations in this section are not available until the Legislative Auditor completes the next financial audit of the outdoor heritage fund and publishes the list of noncompliant recipients. Noncompliant recipients are not allowed to receive funds until they are removed from the list (the list is required as part of a law passed last session).

- 3 **Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.** Amends § 97A.056, subd. 2. Gives the authority to appoint council staff and contract with consultants to the Legislative Coordinating Commission (LCC). Under current law, the council may do so “upon coordination with” the LCC.
- 4 **Restoration and enhancements evaluations.** Amends § 97A.056, subd. 10. Expands the evaluation requirements currently applicable to lands restored with money from the outdoor heritage fund so that they also apply to lands enhanced with money from the outdoor heritage fund.
- 5 **Local approval of land acquisitions.** Amends § 97A.056, subd. 22. Requires a recipient of money from the outdoor heritage fund acquiring land in fee to get county approval prior to acquiring the land using the same process required of the DNR when acquiring wildlife management areas (WMAs) or scientific and natural areas (SNAs).
- 6 **Prairies.** Amends Laws First Special Session 2015, ch. 2, art. 1, § 2, subd. 2. Technical.
- 7 **Forests.** Amends Laws First Special Session 2015, ch. 2, art. 1, § 2, subd. 3. Amends a previous appropriation from the outdoor heritage fund to allow the DNR to acquire lands in Hubbard County as part of its Protecting Pinelands Sands Aquifer Forestlands project. The section has a retroactive effective date.
- 8 **Habitats.** Amends Laws First Special Session 2015, ch. 2, art. 1, § 2, subd. 5. Extends the availability of a previous appropriation for the conservation partners legacy grant program by one year (to 2019).