

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 2624

DATE: February 15, 2010

Version: First engrossment

Authors: Wagenius and others

Subject: LCCMR funding recommendations

Analyst: Janelle Taylor

This publication can be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please call 651-296-6753 (voice); or the Minnesota State Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529 (TTY) for assistance. Summaries are also available on our website at: www.house.mn/hrd.

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 the instruction of 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.