

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 2882
Version: As introduced

DATE: April 7, 2010

Authors: Hansen

Subject: Outdoor Heritage Fund Appropriations

Analyst: Janelle Taylor

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Overview

This bill includes appropriations from the outdoor heritage fund as recommended by 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 \$58,939,000 from the outdoor heritage fund in fiscal year 2011.

Subd. 2. Prairies. Provides a total appropriation of \$18,093,000 for the following prairie projects:

\$5,833,000 to the DNR to accelerate restoration and enhancement of native prairie vegetation on public lands;

\$1,651,000 for an agreement with the Redwood Area Communities Foundation to acquire and restore land in certain counties in southwestern Minnesota to be added to the outdoor recreation system;

\$3,015,000 for an agreement with Pheasants Forever to acquire and restore land for wildlife management areas (WMAs);

\$2,041,000 for an agreement with the Nature Conservancy to acquire land or permanent easements within the Northern Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge;

\$1,900,000 for an agreement with Anoka county to acquire land at the confluence of the Rum River and Cedar Creek; and

\$3,653,000 for an agreement with the Nature Conservancy for a pilot project to

acquire interests in land and restore and enhance prairie and prairie/wetland habitat.

Subd. 3. Forests. Provides a total appropriation of \$5,603,000 for the following forest projects:

\$816,000 for an agreement with the Minnesota Land Trust to acquire permanent easements protecting critical shoreline habitats in certain northern Minnesota counties;

\$594,000 for an agreement with Cass County to acquire land to assist with access to public lands to provide restoration and enhancement;

\$843,000 for interests in land within the boundaries of the Minnesota National Guard Army compatible use buffer program;

\$1,791,000 to the DNR to accelerate state forest acquisition, restoration, and enhancement;

\$1,559,000 for an agreement with Pheasants Forever to acquire interests and land and restore and enhance habitat for sharp-tailed grouse in certain northern Minnesota counties.

Subd. 4. Wetlands. Provides a total appropriation of \$16,905,000 for the following wetland projects:

\$6,505,000 to the DNR and for an agreement with Ducks Unlimited to restore and enhance shallow lake and wetland habitats;

\$3,505,000 for an agreement with Pheasants Forever to acquire and restore wetland and related upland habitats in cooperation with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Ducks Unlimited, Inc.; and

\$6,895,000 to the Board of Water and Soil Resources for permanent easements and restoration of wetlands and associated uplands through the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve program and Wetlands Reserve Program.

Subd. 5. Habitat. Provides a total appropriation of \$17,563,000 for the following habitat projects:

\$2,397,000 to the DNR for various agreements to protect, restore, and enhance natural systems of the Minnesota, St. Croix, and Mississippi rivers and their major tributaries;

\$3,416,000 to the DNR to accelerate Aquatic Management Area (AMA) acquisition and restore and enhance stream and lake habitat;

\$1,269,000 for an agreement with Trout Unlimited to restore, enhance, and protect cold water river and stream habitats;

\$2,097,000 for an agreement with Dakota County for acquisition of permanent easements and enhancement and restoration of aquatic and associated upland habitat;

\$1,218,000 to the DNR for various agreements to protect, restore, and enhance natural

systems of Valley Creek in Washington County;

\$747,000 for an agreement with Great River Greening to restore and enhance habitat on public property in the Anoka Sand Plain;

\$1,000,000 to the DNR to acquire land in the Root River watershed;

\$1,033,000 for an agreement with Washington County to acquire easements to protect habitat associated with the St. Croix River Valley; and

\$4,386,000 for a competitive grant program to be administered by the DNR. The grants are available to local, regional, state, and national organizations for enhancement, restoration, or protection of forests, wetlands, prairies, and habitat for fish, game, or wildlife. The grants may be awarded in an amount up to \$400,000 and require a nonstate cash match of ten percent.

Subd. 6. Administration and other. Provides a total appropriation of \$775,000 for administration, including \$175,000 for contract management services from the DNR and \$600,000 for the Legislative Coordinating Commission for the administrative expenses of the LSOHC and expense reimbursement of council members.

Provides an exemption from the open meeting requirements for the council for travel to and from site visits.

Subd. 7. Availability of appropriation. States that appropriations are available until June 30, 2013, unless otherwise specified. States that appropriations for projects receiving federal funds are extended to equal the availability of federal funding.

Subd. 8. Accomplishment plans. States that it is a condition of accepting an appropriation under this section that the recipient submits an accomplishment plan and periodic accomplishment reports to the LSOHC.

Subd. 9. Project requirements. Establishes certain requirements for projects (similar to requirements placed on LCCMR projects), including vegetation and seed requirements, requiring easements to be permanent and have a long-term stewardship plan, requiring restorations to have an ecological restoration and management plans, and requiring all restorations to be on lands permanently protected.

Subds. 10. to 14. Provide additional criteria and requirements for the appropriations and similar to standard subdivisions used by the LCCMR as part of their recommendations.