

Subject Outdoor Heritage Fund Appropriations

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Overview

This bill contains appropriations totaling approximately \$128,000,000 from the outdoor heritage fund (OHF) as recommended by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC). The LSOHC is a 12-member council made up of four legislators and eight citizens tasked with making annual recommendations to the legislature on how to spend money in the OHF. The OHF is one of four funds established by the “Legacy” amendment which raised the state’s sales tax 3/8 of one percent and dedicated the receipts. The OHF receives 33 percent of those receipts and the money may be spent only “to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands, prairies, forests, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife.”

Summary

Section	Description
1	Outdoor heritage fund appropriation. Technical.
2	Outdoor heritage fund. Subd. 1. Total appropriation. Provides a total appropriation of \$127,505,000 in fiscal year 2020 and \$565,000 in fiscal year 2021 from the outdoor heritage fund. Subd. 2. Prairies. Specifies appropriations totaling \$38,303,000 for various prairie projects. Subd. 3. Forests. Specifies appropriations totaling \$17,032,000 for various forest projects. Subd. 4. Wetlands. Specifies appropriations totaling \$20,753,000 for various wetland projects. Subd. 5. Habitats. Specifies appropriations totaling \$50,497,000 for various other habitat projects and the conservation partners legacy grant program. Subd. 6. Administration. Specifies appropriations totaling \$920,000 in fiscal year 2020 and \$565,000 in fiscal year 2021 for administration, including contract

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	<p>management services from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), administrative expenses of the council, and other expenses.</p> <p>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 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Subd. 9. Mapping. Requires recipients of an appropriation to submit geographic information on lands acquired in fee with the appropriation that are open to the public for hunting and fishing to the DNR for mapping.</p> <p>Subd. 10. Carryforwards. Extends the availability of three previous appropriations.</p>
3	<p>Legislative oversight.</p> <p>Updates an obsolete provision that required house and senate legislative committees to convene a joint hearing to review the activities and effectiveness of the LSOHC by updating the committees required to hold the hearing and requiring the hearing to be done again by June 30, 2020.</p>
4	<p>Prairies.</p> <p>Modifies a previous appropriation for conservation easements on important bird areas to allow restoration and enhancement work as originally intended and provides an expiration date of June 30, 2021, for the appropriation. Provides a retroactive effective date.</p>
5	<p>Prairies.</p> <p>Modifies a previous appropriation for conservation easements in the Anoka Sand Plain to expand the work to all areas of the ecoregion and intersecting watersheds rather than specific counties. Provides a retroactive effective date.</p>



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