

**Outdoor Heritage Fund – ML2023 DRAFT Recommendation Bill Language**

**Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council – Approved 12/XX/2022**

*Notes:*

*Budgets reflect reductions in IDP (Initial Development Plan) and LAC (Land Acquisition Costs) that are now accounted for in Subd. (d) Core Functions in Partner-led OHF Land Acquisitions totaling \$668,000. This is \$6,300 less than the original proposal request of \$674,300.*

*As of 1pm, 12/8/22, LSOHC staff have not received the updated budget numbers from MMB’s November budget forecast. Updates to the budget and allocation amounts will be discussed at the 12/12/22 Council meeting.*

**ARTICLE 1**

**OUTDOOR HERITAGE FUND**

**Section 1. APPROPRIATIONS**

The sums shown in the columns marked “Appropriations” are appropriated to the agencies and for the purposes specified in this act. The appropriations are from the outdoor heritage fund for the fiscal year indicated for each purpose. The “first year” is fiscal year 2024. The “second year” is fiscal year 2025. The “biennium” is fiscal years 2024 and 2025. The appropriations in this article are onetime appropriations.

<b>Appropriations Available for the Year Ending June 30</b>	
<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>

**Section 2. OUTDOOR HERITAGE FUND**

<b>Subd. 1. Total Appropriation</b>	<b>\$143,804,000</b>	<b>\$655,000</b>
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This appropriation is from the outdoor heritage fund. The amounts that may be spent for each purpose are specified in the following subdivisions.

<b>Subd. 2. Prairies</b>	<b>\$28,049,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>
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**(a) Minnesota Prairie Recovery Program, Phase XIII**

\$3,391,000 the first year is to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with The Nature Conservancy to acquire land in fee and restore and enhance native prairie, grasslands, wetlands, and savanna. Subject to evaluation criteria in Minnesota Rules 6136.0900, priority must be given to acquisition of lands that are eligible for the native prairie bank under Minnesota Statutes, section 84.96 or lands adjacent to protected native prairie. Annual income statements and balance sheets for income and expenses from land acquired with this appropriation must be submitted to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council no later than 180 days following the close of The Nature Conservancy’s fiscal year. A list of proposed land acquisitions, restorations, and enhancements must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan and must be consistent with the priorities identified in the *Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan*.

**(b) Martin County DNR WMA Acquisition, Phase VII**

\$1,876,000 the first year is to the commissioner of natural resources for agreements to acquire land in fee and restore and enhance strategic prairie grassland, wetland, and other wildlife habitat within Martin and Watonwan Counties for wildlife management area purposes under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05, subdivision 8 as follows: \$1,453,000 to Fox Lake Conservation League, Inc., \$377,000 to Ducks Unlimited, and \$45,000 to the Conservation Fund. A list of proposed acquisitions must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

**(c) RIM Grasslands Reserve, Phase V**

\$2,416,000 the first year is to the Board of Water and Soil Resources to acquire permanent conservation easements and to restore and enhance grassland habitat under Minnesota Statutes, section 103F.501 to 103F.531. Of this amount, up to \$46,000 is for establishing a monitoring and enforcement fund as approved in the accomplishment plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of permanent conservation easements must be provided as part of the final report.

**(d) Prairie Chicken Habitat Partnership of the Southern Red River Valley, Phase IX**

\$3,864,000 the first year is to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Pheasants Forever, in cooperation with the Minnesota Prairie Chicken Society, to acquire land in fee, and restore and enhance lands within the southern Red River Valley for wildlife management purposes under Minnesota Statutes 86A.05, subdivision 8 or to be designated and managed as waterfowl production areas in Minnesota, in cooperation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Subject to evaluation criteria in Minnesota Rules 6136.0900, priority must be given to acquisitions of lands that are eligible for the native prairie bank under Minnesota Statutes, section 84.96 or lands adjacent to protected native prairie. A list of proposed land acquisitions must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

**(e) Working Lands for Habitat**

\$2,382,000 the first year is to the Board of Water and Soil Resources to acquire permanent conservation easements that allow long-term grazing while also protecting wildlife habitat and water quality under Minnesota Statutes, section 103F.501 to 103F.531. Grazing plans must be developed prior to grazing. Of this amount, up to \$46,000 is for establishing a monitoring and enforcement fund as approved in the accomplishment plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of permanent conservation easements must be provided as part of the final report.

**(f) Accelerating the Wildlife Management Area Program, Phase XV**

\$4,577,000 the first year is to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Pheasants Forever to acquire in fee and restore and enhance lands for wildlife management area purposes under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05, subdivision 8. Subject to evaluation criteria in Minnesota Rules 6136.0900, priority must be given to acquisition of lands that are eligible for the native prairie bank under Minnesota Statutes, section 84.96 or lands adjacent to protected native prairie. A list of proposed land acquisitions must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

**(g) Accelerating the USFWS Habitat Conservation Easement Program, Phase IV**

\$4,464,000 the first year is to the commissioner of natural resources for agreements to restore and enhance wetland and prairie habitat on United States Fish and Wildlife Service habitat easements as follows: \$3,000,000 to Ducks Unlimited, Inc. and \$1,464,000 to Pheasants Forever. A list of proposed land restorations and enhancements must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

**(h) DNR Grassland Enhancement, Phase XV**

\$2,641,000 the first year is to the commissioner of natural resources to accelerate the restoration and enhancement of prairies, grasslands, and savannas in wildlife management areas, in scientific and natural areas, in aquatic management areas, on lands in the native prairie bank, in bluff prairies on state forest land in southeastern Minnesota, and in waterfowl production areas and refuge lands of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. A list of proposed land restorations and enhancements must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

**(i) Enhanced Public Land – Grasslands, Phase VI**

\$2,438,000 the first year is to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Pheasants Forever to enhance and restore grassland and wetland habitat on public lands. A list of proposed land restorations and enhancements must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

**Subd. 3. Forests**

**\$5,773,000**

**\$0**

**(a) Hardwood Hills Habitat Conservation Program**

\$1,666,000 the first year is to the commissioner of natural resources for agreements to acquire permanent conservation easements and restore and enhance forest habitats within the hardwood hills ecological section of west-central Minnesota as follows: \$130,000 to St. John’s University and \$1,536,000 to the Minnesota Land Trust, of which \$168,000 to the Minnesota Land Trust is to establish a monitoring and enforcement fund as approved in the accomplishment plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of proposed permanent conservation easements, restorations, and enhancements must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

**(b) Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape Protection Program ACUB, Phase XI**

\$1,877,000 the first year is to the Board of Water and Soil Resources, in cooperation with the Morrison County Soil and Water Conservation District, to acquire permanent conservation easements and restore and enhance forest wildlife habitat within the boundaries of the Minnesota National Guard Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape and Army Compatible Use Buffer. Up to \$98,000 to the Board of Water and Soil Resources is to establish a monitoring and enforcement fund as approved in the accomplishment plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of permanent conservation easements must be provided as part of the final report.

**(c) Protection and Enhancement of Public Land Forest Habitats Through Strategic Acquisition of Private Land Inholdings**

\$914,000 the first year is to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the Ruffed Grouse Society to protect and enhance forest habitats through the strategic acquisition of private forest land inholdings to provide better public forest management, reduce fragmentation, and provide public access. A list of proposed acquisitions and enhancements must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

**(d) DNR Forest Habitat Enhancement, Phase III**

\$1,316,000 the first year is to the commissioner of natural resources to restore and enhance forest wildlife habitats on public lands throughout Minnesota. A list of proposed land restorations and enhancements must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

**Subd. 4. Wetlands**

**\$29,424,000**

**\$0**

**(a) RIM Wetlands – Restoring the Most Productive Habitat in Minnesota, Phase XII**

\$3,625,000 the first year is to the Board of Water and Soil Resources to acquire permanent conservation easements and to restore wetlands and native grassland habitat under Minnesota Statutes, section 103F.515. Of this amount, up to \$65,000 is for establishing a monitoring and enforcement fund as approved in the accomplishment plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of permanent conservation easements must be provided as part of the final report.

**(b) Shallow Lake and Wetland Protection and Restoration Program, Phase XII**

\$6,200,000 the first year is to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Ducks Unlimited to acquire land in fee for wildlife management purposes under Minnesota Statutes 86A.05, subdivision 8 and to restore and enhance prairie lands, wetlands and land buffering shallow lakes. A list of proposed acquisitions must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

**(c) Wetland Habitat Protection and Restoration Program - Phase VIII**

\$2,649,000 the first year is to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Minnesota Land Trust to acquire permanent conservation easements and restore and enhance prairie, wetland, and other habitat on permanently protected conservation easements within high-priority wetland habitat complexes in the prairie and forest/prairie transition, and forest regions. Of this amount, up to \$168,000 is to establish a monitoring and enforcement fund, as approved in the accomplishment plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of proposed conservation easement acquisitions and restorations and enhancements must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

**(d) Accelerating the Waterfowl Production Area Acquisition Program, Phase XIV**

\$4,600,000 the first year is to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Pheasants Forever, in cooperation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, to acquire land in fee and restore and enhance wetlands and grasslands to be designated and managed as waterfowl production areas in Minnesota. A list of proposed land acquisitions must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

**(e) Wetland Enhancement in the Big Woods**

\$545,000 the first year is to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Scott-Le Sueur Waterfowlers to restore and enhance wetlands within Scott and Rice County, Minnesota. A list of proposed restorations and enhancements must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

**(f) Living Shallow Lakes and Wetlands Enhancement and Restoration Initiative, Phase IX**

\$5,833,000 the first year is to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Ducks Unlimited to restore and enhance shallow lakes and wetlands on public lands and wetlands under permanent conservation easement for wildlife management. A list of proposed shallow lake enhancements and wetland restorations must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

**(g) Voyageurs National Park Wetland Restoration Project, Phase III**

\$1,014,000 the first year is to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the National Park Service to restore and enhance wetland and lacustrine habitat in Voyageurs National Park. A list of proposed restorations and enhancements must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

**(h) Accelerated Shallow Lakes and Wetland Enhancement, Phase XV**

\$3,250,000 the first year is to the commissioner of natural resources to enhance and restore shallow lakes and wetland habitat statewide. A list of proposed shallow lake and wetland restorations and enhancements must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

**(i) Bone Lake South Wetland Acquisition**

\$1,708,000 the first year is to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District to acquire in fee and restore and enhance lands for wildlife and water quality purposes within the Bone Lake watershed. A list of proposed acquisitions must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

**Subd. 5. Habitats**

**\$78,727,000**

**\$0**

**(a) Hennepin County Habitat Conservation Program, Phase III**

\$4,088,000 the first year is to the commissioner of natural resources for agreements to acquire permanent conservation easements and to restore and enhance wildlife habitat in Hennepin County, Minnesota as follows: \$1,469,000 to Hennepin County and \$2,619,000 to the Minnesota Land Trust, of

which \$168,000 to the Minnesota Land Trust is to establish a monitoring and enforcement fund as approved in the accomplishment plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of proposed permanent conservation easements, restorations, and enhancements must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

**(b) Anoka Sand Plain Habitat Conservation, Phase VIII**

\$2,875,000 the first year is to the commissioner of natural resources for agreements to acquire permanent conservation easements and to restore and enhance wildlife habitat on public lands and easements in the Anoka Sand Plain ecoregion and intersecting minor watersheds as follows: \$694,000 to the Anoka Conservation District, \$727,000 to Great River Greening, \$152,000 to the National Wild Turkey Federation, \$242,000 to Sherburne County, and \$1,060,000 to the Minnesota Land Trust, of which \$120,000 to the Minnesota Land Trust is to establish a monitoring and enforcement fund as approved in the accomplishment plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of proposed permanent conservation easements, restorations, and enhancements must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

**(c) Accelerating Habitat Conservation in Southwest Minnesota, Phase II**

\$2,700,000 the first year is to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Minnesota Land Trust to acquire permanent conservation easements and to restore and enhance high-quality wildlife habitat in southwest Minnesota. Of this amount, up to \$144,000 is to establish a monitoring and enforcement fund as approved in the accomplishment plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of proposed conservation easement acquisitions, restorations, and enhancements must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

**(d) Buffalo-Red River Watershed District Stream Habitat Program, Phase III**

\$3,296,000 the first year is to acquire permanent conservation easements and restore and enhance aquatic and upland habitat associated with the Red River and Buffalo River watersheds. Of this amount, \$1,797,000 is to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the Buffalo-Red River Watershed district and \$1,498,000 is to the Board of Water and Soil Resources, of which up to \$102,000 is for establishing a monitoring and enforcement fund as approved in the accomplishment plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of proposed acquisitions and restorations must be included as part of the required accomplishment plan.

**(e) Southeast Minnesota Protection and Restoration, Phase XI**

\$3,225,000 the first year is to the commissioner of natural resources for agreements to acquire lands in fee and permanent conservation easements and to restore and enhance wildlife habitat on public lands and permanent conservation easements in Southeast Minnesota as follows: \$1,143,000 to the Nature Conservancy, \$788,000 to the Trust for Public Land, and \$1,294,000 to the Minnesota Land Trust, of which \$168,000 is to establish a monitoring and enforcement fund as approved in the accomplishment plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of proposed land acquisitions, restorations, and enhancements must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

**(f) Protecting Minnesota's Lakes of Outstanding Biological Significance, Phase II**

\$3,202,000 the first year is to the commissioner of natural resources for agreements to acquire land in fee and permanent conservation easements and to restore and enhance lakes of outstanding biological significance in northeast and north-central Minnesota. Of this amount, \$1,349,000 is to the Northern Waters Land Trust and \$1,853,000 to the Minnesota Land Trust, of which up to \$168,000 is for establishing a monitoring and enforcement fund as approved in the accomplishment plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of proposed acquisitions must be included as part of the required accomplishment plan.

**(g) Fisheries Habitat Protection on Strategic North Central Minnesota Lakes, Phase IX**

\$3,265,000 the first year is to the commissioner of natural resources for agreements to acquire land in fee and in permanent conservation easements, and to restore and enhance wildlife habitat to sustain healthy fish habitat on cold water lakes in Aitkin, Cass, Crow Wing, and Hubbard Counties as follows: \$1,570,000 to Northern Waters Land Trust; and \$1,695,000 to Minnesota Land Trust, of which up to \$144,000 to Minnesota Land Trust is to establish a monitoring and enforcement fund as approved in the accomplishment plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of acquisitions must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

**(h) DNR Wildlife Management Area and Scientific and Natural Area Acquisition, Phase XV**

\$2,058,000 the first year is to the commissioner of natural resources to acquire in fee and restore and enhance lands for wildlife management purposes under Minnesota Statutes 86A.05, subdivision 8 and to acquire land in fee for scientific and natural area purposes under Minnesota Statutes, sections 86A.05, subdivision 5. Subject to evaluation criteria in Minnesota Rules 6136.0900, priority must be given to acquisition of lands that are eligible for the native prairie bank under Minnesota Statutes, section 84.96 or lands adjacent to protected native prairie. A list of proposed land acquisitions must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

**(i) DNR Trout Stream Conservation Easements, Phase III**

\$918,000 the first year is to the commissioner of natural resources to acquire land in permanent conservation easements to protect trout stream aquatic habitat. Of this amount, up to \$108,000 is for establishing a monitoring and enforcement fund as approved in the accomplishment plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of permanent conservation easements must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

**(j) Metro Big Rivers, Phase XIII**

\$9,095,000 the first year is to the commissioner of natural resources for agreements to acquire land in fee and permanent conservation easements and to restore and enhance natural habitat systems associated with the Mississippi, Minnesota, and St. Croix Rivers and their tributaries within the metropolitan area as follows: \$497,000 to Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust, Inc.; \$395,000 to Friends of the Mississippi River; \$750,000 to Great River Greening; \$5,703,000 to Trust for Public Land; and \$1,750,000 to Minnesota Land Trust, of which up to \$144,000 to Minnesota Land Trust is to establish a monitoring and enforcement fund as approved in the accomplishment plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of proposed land acquisitions and permanent conservation easements must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

**(k) St. Croix Watershed Habitat Protection and Restoration, Phase IV**

\$7,033,000 the first year is to the commissioner of natural resources for agreements to acquire land in fee and acquire permanent conservation easements and to restore and enhance natural habitat systems in the St. Croix River Watershed as follows: \$5,428,000 to the Trust for Public Land; \$105,000 to Wild Rivers Conservancy; and \$1,500,000 to the Minnesota Land Trust, of which up to \$120,000 to Minnesota Land Trust is to establish a monitoring and enforcement fund as approved in the accomplishment plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of proposed land acquisitions and permanent conservation easements must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

**(l) Shell Rock River Watershed Habitat Restoration Program, Phase XII**

\$1,933,000 in the first year is to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the Shell Rock River Watershed District to acquire land in fee, restore, and enhance habitat in the Shell Rock River watershed. A list of proposed acquisitions, restorations, and enhancements must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

**(m) Integrating Habitat and Clean Water, Phase II**

\$2,875,000 the first year is to the Board of Water and Soil Resources to acquire permanent conservation easements and restore and enhance wildlife habitat identified in One Watershed One Plans for stacked benefit to wildlife and clean water. Up to \$78,000 of the total amount is for establishing a monitoring

and enforcement fund as approved in the accomplishment plan and subject to Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 17. A list of proposed acquisitions must be included as part of the required accomplishment plan.

**(n) Cannon River Watershed Habitat Restoration and Protection Program, Phase XII**

\$2,617,000 the first year is to the commissioner of natural resources for agreements to acquire lands in fee and restore and enhance wildlife habitat in the Cannon River Watershed as follows: \$109,000 to Clean River Partners; \$801,000 to Great River Greening; and \$1,707,000 to the Trust for Public Land. A list of proposed land acquisitions, restorations and enhancements must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

**(o) Enhance Metro and North Shore Trout Stream Habitats, Phase II**

\$1,487,000 the first year is to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Trout Unlimited to restore and enhance habitat for trout and other species in and along cold-water rivers, lakes, and streams in the metro and southeast regions of Minnesota. A list of proposed restorations and enhancements must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

**(p) Lake Nokomis Shoreline Enhancements for Turtles and Pollinators, Phase II**

\$665,000 in the first year is to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board to enhance aquatic habitat on Lake Nokomis. A list of proposed enhancements must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan

**(q) Upper Sioux Community Habitat Restoration**

\$850,000 in the first year is to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the Upper Sioux Community to restore and enhance oak savanna, forest, prairie, and other wildlife habitats on tribal lands. A list of proposed restorations and enhancements must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

**(r) Rum River Corridor Fish and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement, Phase II**

\$1,495,000 the first year is to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the Anoka County Soil and Water Conservation District to restore and enhance upland and riverine habitat in the Rum River corridor. A list of proposed enhancements and restorations must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

**(s) Restoring and Enhancing Minnesota's Important Bird Areas in the St. Croix River**

\$910,000 in the first year is to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Audubon Minnesota to restore and enhance wildlife habitat within important bird areas and other priority wildlife areas in the St. Croix River Valley. A list of proposed restorations and enhancements must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

**(t) DNR St. Louis River Restoration Initiative, Phase X**

\$2,283,000 the first year is to the commissioner of natural resources to restore and enhance priority aquatic, riparian, and forest habitats in the St. Louis River estuary. Of this amount, \$127,000 is for an agreement with Minnesota Land Trust. A list of proposed restorations and enhancements must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

**(u) DNR Aquatic Habitat Restoration and Enhancement, Phase XI**

\$3,625,000 the first year is to the commissioner of natural resources to restore and enhance aquatic habitat in degraded streams and aquatic management areas, and to facilitate fish passage. A list of proposed land restorations and enhancements must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

**(v) DNR Roving Crew, Phase II**

\$8,732,000 the first year is to the commissioner of natural resources to restore and enhance fish and wildlife habitat on permanently protected lands throughout Minnesota using the roving crew program of the Department of Natural Resources. A list of restoration and enhancement projects must be provided as part of the required accomplishment plan.

**(w) Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program: Statewide and Metro Habitat, Phase XV**

\$9,500,000 the first year is to the commissioner of natural resources for a program to provide competitive matching grants of up to \$500,000 to local, regional, state, and national organizations for enhancing, restoring, or protecting forests, wetlands, prairies, or habitat for fish, game, or wildlife in Minnesota. Of this amount, at least \$2,500,000 is for grants in the seven-county metropolitan area and cities with a population of 50,000 or greater. Grants must not be made for activities required to fulfill the duties of owners of lands subject to conservation easements. Grants must not be made from the appropriation in this paragraph for projects that have a total project cost exceeding \$1,000,000. Of the total appropriation, \$450,000 may be spent for personnel costs and other direct and necessary administrative costs. Grantees may acquire land or interests in land. Easements must be permanent. Grants may not be used to establish easement stewardship accounts. Land acquired in fee must be open to hunting and fishing during the open season unless otherwise provided by law. The program must require a match of at least ten percent from non-state sources for all grants. The match may be cash or in-kind resources. For grant applications of \$25,000 or less, the commissioner must provide a separate, simplified application process. Subject to Minnesota Statutes, the commissioner of natural resources must, when evaluating projects of equal value, give priority to organizations that have a history of receiving, or a charter to receive, private contributions for local conservation or habitat projects. For grant requests to acquire land in fee or a conservation easement, the commissioner must give priority to projects associated with or within one mile of existing wildlife management areas under Minnesota Statutes, section 86A.05, subdivision 8; scientific and natural areas under Minnesota Statutes, sections 84.033 and 86A.05, subdivision 5; or aquatic management areas under Minnesota Statutes, sections 86A.05, subdivision 14, and 97C.02. All restoration or enhancement projects must be on land permanently protected by a permanent covenant ensuring perpetual maintenance and protection of restored and enhanced habitat, by a conservation easement or public ownership or in public waters as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 103G.005, subdivision 15. Priority must be given to restoration and enhancement projects on public lands. Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 13, applies to grants awarded under this paragraph. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2026. No less than five percent of the amount of each grant must be held back from reimbursement until the grant recipient has completed a grant accomplishment report by the deadline and in the form prescribed by and satisfactory to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council. The commissioner must provide notice of the grant program in the summary of game and fish law prepared under Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.051, subdivision 2.

**Subd. 6. Administration** **\$1,831,000**    **\$655,000**

**(a) Contract Management**

\$336,000 the first year is to the commissioner of natural resources for contract management duties assigned in this section. The commissioner must provide an accomplishment plan in the form specified by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council on expending this appropriation. The accomplishment plan must include a copy of the grant contract template and reimbursement manual. No money may be expended before the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council approves the accomplishment plan. Money appropriated in this paragraph is available until June 30, 2025.

**(b) Legislative Coordinating Commission**

\$634,000 the first year and \$651,000 the second year are to the Legislative Coordinating Commission for administrative expenses of the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council and for compensating and reimbursing expenses of council members. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2025. Minnesota Statutes, section 16A.281, applies to this appropriation.



**(c) Technical Evaluation Panel**

\$190,000 the first year is to the commissioner of natural resources for a technical evaluation panel to conduct up to 25 restoration and enhancement evaluations under Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 10.

**(d) Core Functions in Partner-led OHF Land Acquisitions**

\$668,000 the first year is to the commissioner of natural resources for administering the initial development, restoration, and enhancement of Outdoor Heritage Funded fee title acquisitions. Funds may be used for land acquisition costs incurred by the department as part of conveyance of parcels to the Department of Natural Resources and initial development activities on fee title acquisitions. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2026.

**(e) Legacy Website**

\$3,000 the first year and \$4,000 the second year are to the Legislative Coordinating Commission for the website required under Minnesota Statutes, section 3.303, subdivision 10.

**Subd. 7. Availability of Appropriation**

(a) Money appropriated in this section 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 approved by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council. Money appropriated in this section must not be spent on indirect costs or other institutional overhead charges that are not directly related to and necessary for a specific appropriation. Money appropriated for fee title acquisition of land may be used to restore, enhance, and provide for public use of the land acquired with the appropriation. Public-use facilities must have a minimal impact on habitat in acquired lands.

(b) Money appropriated in this section is available as follows:

- (1) money appropriated for acquisition of real property is available until June 30, 2027;
- (2) money appropriated for restoration and enhancement of land acquired with an appropriation in this act is available for four years after the acquisition date with a maximum end date of June 30, 2031;
- (3) money appropriated for restoration or enhancement on other land is available until June 30, 2028;
- (4) notwithstanding clauses (1) to (3), money appropriated for a project that receives at least 15 percent of its funding from federal funds, is available until a date sufficient to match the availability of federal funding to a maximum of six years if the federal funding was confirmed and included in the original approved draft accomplishment plan; and
- (5) money appropriated for other projects is available until the end of the fiscal year in which it is appropriated.

**Subd. 8. Payment Conditions and Capital Equipment Expenditures**

All agreements referred to in this section must be administered on a reimbursement basis unless otherwise provided in this section. Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, section 16A.41, expenditures directly related to each appropriation's purpose made on or after July 1, 2023, or the date of accomplishment plan approval, whichever is later, are eligible for reimbursement unless otherwise provided in this section. For the purposes of administering appropriations and legislatively authorized agreements paid out of the outdoor heritage fund an expense must be considered reimbursable by the administering agency when the recipient presents the agency with an invoice, or binding agreement, with the landowner and the recipient attests that the goods have been received or the landowner agreement is binding. Periodic reimbursement must be made upon receiving documentation that the items articulated in the accomplishment plan approved by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council have been achieved, including partial achievements as evidenced by progress reports approved by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council. Reasonable amounts may be advanced to projects to accommodate cash flow needs, support future management of acquired lands, or match a federal share. The advances must be approved as part of the accomplishment plan. Capital equipment expenditures for specific items in excess of \$10,000 must be itemized in and approved as part of the accomplishment plan.

**Subd. 9. Mapping**

Each direct recipient of money appropriated in this section, as well as each recipient of a grant awarded pursuant to this section, must provide geographic information to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council for mapping of any lands acquired in fee with funds appropriated in this section and open to the public taking of fish and game. The commissioner of natural resources shall include the lands acquired in fee with money appropriated in this section on maps showing public recreation opportunities. Maps shall include information on and acknowledgement of the outdoor heritage fund, including a notation of any restrictions.

**Subd. 10. Carryforward**

(a) The availability of the appropriation for Laws 2016, Chapter 172, Article 1, Section 2, subdivision 5, paragraph (j), for Roseau Lake Rehabilitation, is extended to June 30, 2027.

(b) The availability of the appropriation for Laws 2017, Chapter 91, Article 1, Section 2, subdivision 2, paragraph (g), for RIM Buffers for Wildlife and Water, Phase VII, is extended to June 30, 2025.

(c) The availability of the appropriation for Laws 2018, Chapter 208, Article 1, Section 2, subdivision 5, paragraph (i), for Lower Mississippi River Habitat Partnership (Phase IV) - Upper Pool 9 Backwater Enhancement and Floodplain Forest Restoration, is extended to June 30, 2027.

(d) The availability of the appropriation for Laws 2018, chapter 208, section 2, subdivision 5, paragraph (n), for Buffalo River Watershed Stream Habitat Program, is extended to June 30, 2025.

DRAFT