

DEPARTMENT: Natural Resources – Division of Fish and Wildlife

STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office Memorandum

DATE: April 17, 2013

TO: Erika Rivers
Assistant Commissioner for
Department of Natural ResourcesFROM: Edward K. Boggess, Director
Division of Fish and Wildlife
Department of Natural Resources

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SUBJECT: Use of Outdoor Heritage Funds for the Federal Wildlife and Sport fish Restoration Program

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The purpose of this memorandum is to document the rationale for including eligible Outdoor Heritage Funding (OHF) expenditures in the DNR's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration (WSFR--aka Pittman-Robertson-Dingle-Johnson [PR-DJ]) program.

The WSFR program is managed by the DNR' Division of Fish and Wildlife (FAW). The Division of FAW expends funds toward eligible activities under WSFR and requests a 75 percent reimbursement of eligible expenditures.

Minnesota Statutes 97A.055 directs reimbursements from WSFR and program income from game and fish lands be deposited into the Game and Fish fund.

The Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF) was first appropriated for restoration, enhancement, and protection of habitat in FY2010. The Division of FAW has received OHF through legislative appropriations for programs and projects contained in approved accomplishment plans under M.S. 97A.056. Outdoor Heritage Fund expenditures may include activities consistent with grant activities in the WSFR program.

Minnesota Statutes 97A.056, which directs the use of the OHF, states that all money earned by the OHF must be credited to the fund. However, neither WSFR program regulations, Federal OMB Circular, nor state law define reimbursements as program income or money earned.

The Division of FAW will use OHF expenditures for submission to the WSFR program and federal reimbursement for eligible WSFR activities will be deposited in the Game and Fish Fund.

EKB/PJS/jls

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