



Department of Natural Resources Fact Sheet



2016-2017 BIENNIAL BUDGET FACT SHEET Fish and Wildlife Enhancement and Reinvestment \$5,443,000 FY16/\$5,075,000 FY17 (expenditures) [Game and Fish Fund]

It Is Needed Because

Minnesota's hunting and fishing heritage is exceptional—we lead the nation in fishing participation rates and are in the top ten in hunting participation. High-quality fishing and hunting also attract more than 300,000 non-residents and their families to the state every year. As a result, hunting, fishing, and wildlife watching generate over \$3 billion in retail expenditures in Minnesota each year. Abundant, healthy fish and wildlife populations and habitat are the foundation for these important cultural and economic benefits.

Threats to fish and wildlife populations and habitat are increasingly complex. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) role is to foster healthy habitats and improve the ability of fish and wildlife to respond to change. This initiative addresses indicators of declines in populations of some key species and habitats as described in *Conservation Agenda (2015 – 2025)*, the agency's 10 year strategic plan.

Outdoor recreation fosters natural resource conservation and promotes healthy living; however, across the nation, outdoor recreation is in decline. With support from this initiative, the DNR will maintain high-quality accessible facilities and implement recruitment and retention efforts to minimize loss of current and future recreationists.

This change request helps ensure that Minnesota fully captures the state's increased apportionment of federal excise taxes under the Wildlife Restoration Act (aka Pittman-Robertson), which has doubled in recent years, enabling projects to be completed at a net cost of twenty-five percent. Without this appropriation, we risk losing \$6 million in federal funds for wildlife support efforts.

Major Program Elements

The Division of Fish and Wildlife manages fish and wildlife populations and habitat through monitoring, research, and active management.

- \$1,450,000 (net) will support habitat management, population assessments, and harvest monitoring to enhance fisheries management and maintain high quality angling opportunities.
- \$182,000 (net) will engage partners and support training on best practices in recruitment and retention for key organizations in outdoor recreation
- \$1,049,000 (net) will improve facilities, access, and customer service to enhance fishing, hunting, and wildlife recreation experiences
- \$1,766,000 (net) will accelerate monitoring, research, habitat management, and partnerships to support wildlife populations in prairies, wetlands, and forests throughout Minnesota.

Key Measures and Outcomes

- Healthy fish and wildlife populations and habitat consistent with sustainable and socially accepted population goals for the benefit of current and future generations of Minnesotans.
- Abundant, available and high quality fish and wildlife related recreation opportunities to preserve Minnesota's heritage of hunting and fishing.
- Effective partnerships with citizens to manage fish and wildlife resources and meet the needs of Minnesota's diverse residents.
- Robust participation in fishing, hunting, and fish and wildlife associated recreation to support a robust outdoor recreation economy.

Fiscal Impacts

\$10,518,000 for the Division of Fish and Wildlife, which is offset by \$6,071,000 in federal reimbursement.

- Fisheries – \$1,650 million
- Wildlife – \$8,538 million
- Outreach – \$330 thousand

For Further Information, Please Contact:

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