



Department of Natural Resources Fact Sheet



2010-2011 BIENNIAL BUDGET FACT SHEET Clean Water Fund – Clean Water Legacy \$2,108,000 FY 2010 / \$4,216,000 FY 2011

It is needed because

Passage of the 2008 Clean Water, Land, and Legacy amendment established a Clean Water Fund to protect, enhance, and restore the quality of Minnesota's lakes, rivers, and streams and to protect groundwater from degradation.

Minnesota is known for its water resources, with nearly 12,000 lakes and 69,000 miles of rivers and streams. Water is also the most challenging resource issue facing Minnesota over the next 50 years. Water is a key economic driver for the state's growth and development, and a lack of adequate information regarding the quality of Minnesota's lakes, rivers, and streams jeopardizes the Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) ability to protect the state's water quality and manage effectively for its multiple uses – for recreation enjoyment, fish and wildlife habitat, and economic vitality.

In 2006, the Clean Water Legacy (CWL) Act was enacted to protect and restore the quality of the state's surface waters, as well as to achieve and maintain federal water quality requirements by identifying impaired waters, developing Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for pollutants that are causing impairments, and developing and implementing plans to restore impaired waters and prevent waters from becoming impaired.

The proposal is for \$2.108 million in FY2010 and \$4.216 million in FY2011 for the Clean Water Legacy (CWL) initiative. Funding will support CWL activities including TMDL study development and planning, water quality assessment and monitoring, and restoration and protection of shorelands. This proposal is critical to supporting healthy fish and wildlife, high-quality recreation, and economically viable communities.

Major program elements

The major program elements of this proposal include:

- ◆ TMDL planning and development: \$721,000 in FY2010 and \$1,313,000 in FY2011. Technical assistance for TMDL planning, development of watershed data to support TMDL planning, and impaired waters restoration planning and implementation;
- ◆ Water quality assessment and monitoring: \$1,327,000 in FY2010 and \$2,373,000 in FY2011. Development of biological indicators for water quality, fish tissue mercury monitoring, stream flow monitoring, watershed delineation, and lake and stream assessments; and
- ◆ Restoration and protection through shoreland stewardship: \$60,000 in FY2010 and \$530,000 in FY2011. Development of management tools for restoration and protection of shorelands.

Priority-setting

The Minnesota DNR, along with the Pollution Control Agency, Department of Agriculture, Board of Water and Soil Resources, Public Facilities Authority, and Metropolitan Council have developed a statewide watershed approach to prioritize and integrate monitoring and assessment, TMDL, restoration and protection activities.

Project locations

Project locations are statewide.

Key measures and outcomes

- ◆ Protect critical shorelands of streams and lakes:
 - Expand web-based technical assistance tools for shoreline protection and restoration to include modules on nutrient and forest management;
 - Increase outreach and education to targeted audiences for better resource management;

- ◆ Protect and restore critical in-water habitat of lakes and streams:
 - Complete 100 full lake and/or stream surveys in targeted watersheds to identify and assess impaired waters and provide data for TMDL studies, a portion designated for shallow lakes;
 - Maintain 26 and install 8 new automated streamflow gages to provide full coverage for the 81 major watersheds;
 - Assess fish tissue mercury concentrations at 80 additional sites per year;
 - Expand field crews in lake Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI) work to meet MPCA goal of assessing 100 lakes per year;
 - Fisheries technical assistance and coordination for non-point source restoration and protection focused on high priority recreational fisheries;
- ◆ Improve understanding of watersheds to multiple drivers of change:
 - As part of GIS-based watershed tools, complete watershed delineations and identify critical locations for restoration efforts;
 - Delineate watershed areas for priority stream gages and 1,000 shallow lakes;
 - Update watershed data for 10 counties and/or watershed districts;
- ◆ Support local and regional conservation-based community planning:
 - One statewide coordinator and 8 regional specialists (4 in hydrology and 4 in watershed ecology) to serve on TMDL teams and coordinate DNR information and expertise; and
 - Contribute fisheries technical expertise towards development of TMDL plans in 8 watersheds per year.

Contacts

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Financial implications

DNR received a one-time General Fund appropriation of \$4.5 million for CWL activities in the FY 2008-09 biennium. There is currently no funding for CWL activities in DNR's base budget.

This request includes:

- ◆ \$721,000 in FY2010 and \$1,313,000 in FY2011 for TMDL planning and development;
- ◆ \$1,327,000 in FY2010 and \$2,373,000 in FY2011 for water quality assessment and monitoring; and
- ◆ \$60,000 in FY2010 and \$530,000 in FY2011 for restoration and protection through shoreland stewardship.