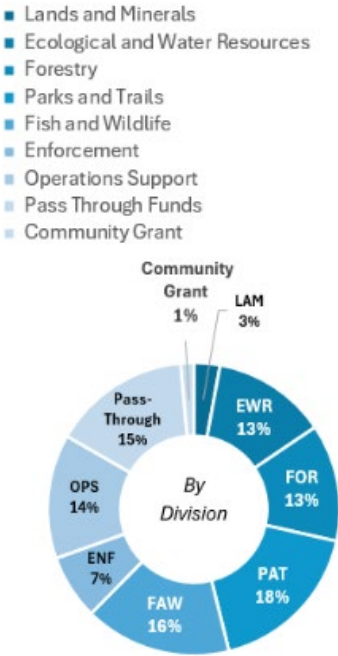


Department of Natural Resources Budget Overview FY26-27

Expenditures by Division

Our mission is to work with Minnesotans to conserve and manage natural resources, provide outdoor recreation opportunities and provide for commercial uses of resources that creates a sustainable quality of life.

Every dollar in our budget contributes to this mission. Our biennial budget is \$1.8 billion. Spending is divided across our seven divisions and dollars that are passed through to non-state entities. Our largest division is Parks and Trails, which accounts for 18% of our total spending, while Lands and Minerals, our smallest division, constitutes 3%.



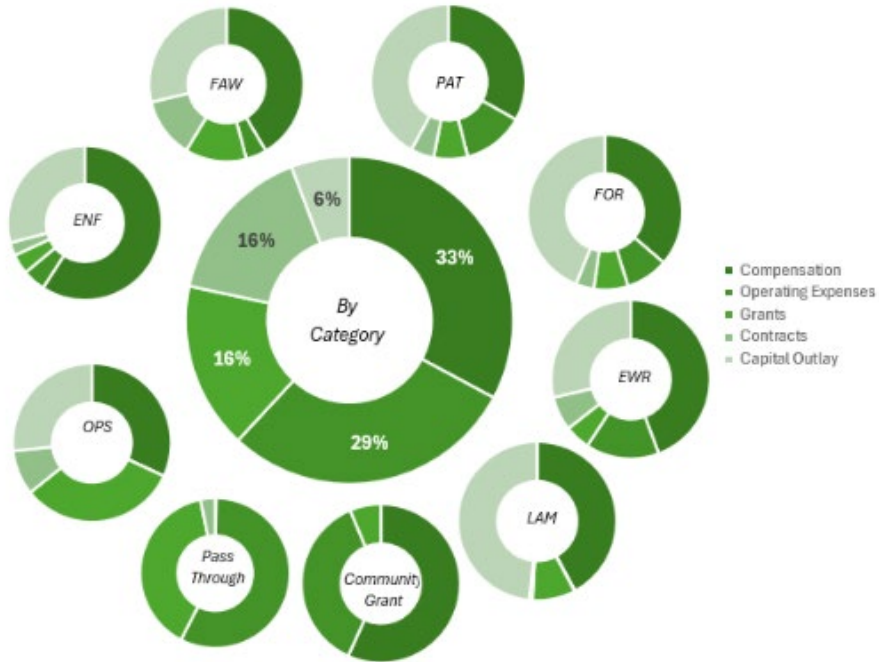
Expenditures by Spending Category

The largest portion of our budget is spent on compensation. We employed approximately 3,350 people across the state in FY25, which translates into approximately 2,800 full-time equivalents (FTE).

Program	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25
LAM	89	82	83	82	83	83	80	88	91	93
EWR	414	413	409	395	388	385	368	380	390	414
FOR	463	462	467	462	458	473	466	439	465	509
PAT	571	560	571	578	529	511	552	578	595	612
FAW	629	615	584	582	566	540	535	558	592	610
ENF	243	238	233	245	250	247	242	250	253	258
OPS	385	291	290	296	309	296	292	293	312	342
Total	2,794	2,661	2,637	2,640	2,583	2,535	2,535	2,586	2,698	2,838

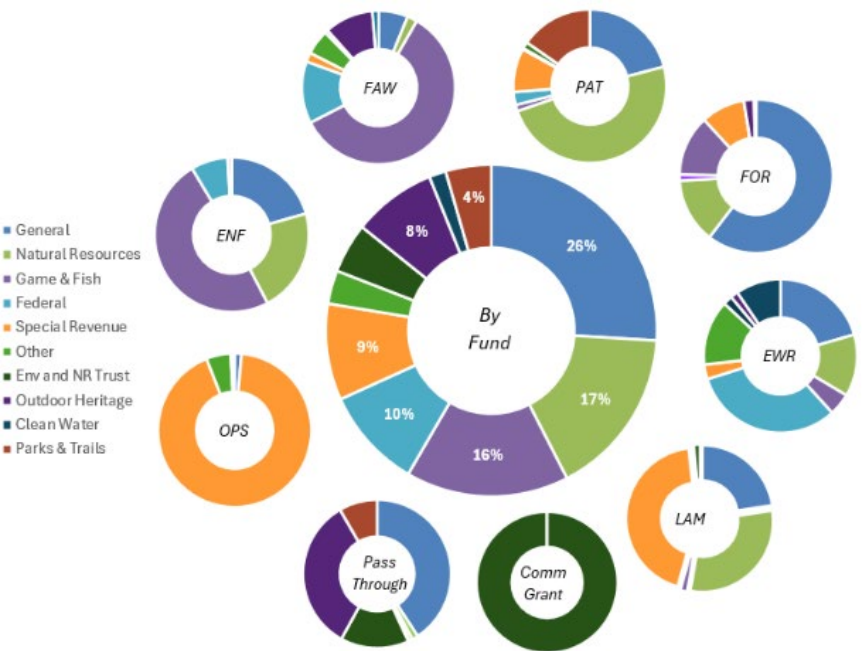
Our next largest spending categories are operating expenses and contracts. Examples of operating expenses include supplies, equipment, rent, vehicles, and mileage. We contract for services when we need skills or services we do not provide or when our internal staffing is insufficient.

Additionally, we send nearly \$309 million out the door to local governments and non-governmental organizations to help fulfill our mission. This accounts for 16% of our budget.



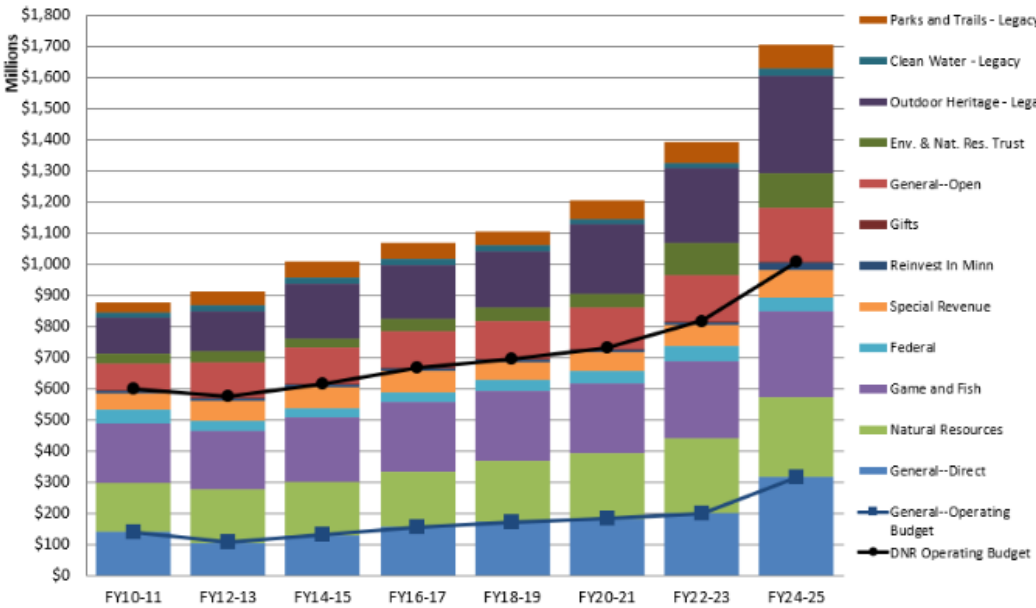
Expenditures by Fund

We manage our budget across more than 50 funds. About 58% of our budget comes from the General Fund, the Game and Fish Fund, and the Natural Resources Fund combined. About 19% of our FY26-27 budget comes from one-time appropriations from Legacy Funds and the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund.



Expenditures by Fund Since FY10

Our budget has changed over the past eight biennia. Most notably, new revenues generated through the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment has provided us the opportunity to focus on special projects outside of our regular base spending. The top line tracks our operating budget, which has seen an average increase of 8% over time. The bottom line shows our General Fund budget over the same period.



Information by Fund

General Fund

Our General Fund budget is \$457.6 million for the FY26-27 biennium. 60% of this are direct appropriations to fulfill our mission. The other 40% are “open” appropriations, which means they are available to us “as needed.” We use these funds to manage forest fires and make payments to tribes and counties based on treaties and statute. This includes the Payment-in-Lieu of Taxes (PILT) payment we make to counties, which is approximately \$50 million dollars each year.

Direct appropriations from the General Fund play an important role in our budget because they are our most flexible funding source. They allow us to meet the needs in the field, including responding to emergencies and urgent, unexpected needs.

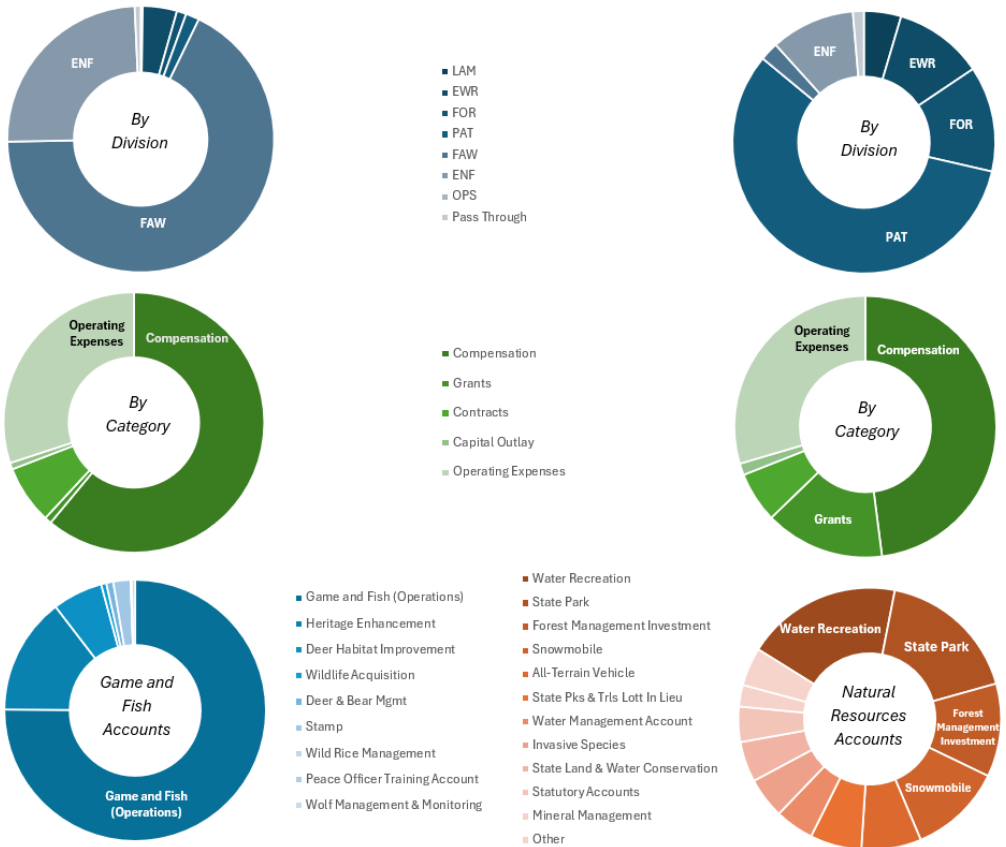
Find more fund-specific information on page 2



Department of Natural Resources Budget Overview FY26-27

Game and Fish Fund

The Game and Fish Fund (GFF) supports management, monitoring, and protection of fish and wildlife resources as well as the enforcement of game and fish laws. Our Fish and Wildlife Division accounts for 68% of our GFF expenditures, over half of which we spend on compensation. The fund is sourced by a variety of revenues that directly relate to the programs they support. Sales of hunting and fishing licenses contributed 54% of GFF total revenue in FY25, while federal dollars for fish and wildlife conservation contribute 40%. GFF spending is 16% of our total budget.



Natural Resources Fund

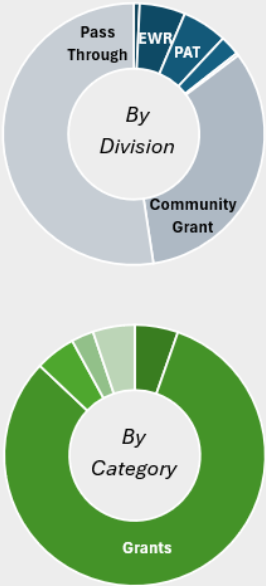
The Natural Resources Fund (NR) supports the development and maintenance of Minnesota’s natural resources and the enforcement of natural resource laws. Our Parks and Trails Division accounts for 58% of our NR fund spending, nearly half of which is spent on compensation. The two largest revenue sources include the state tax revenue and license and registration fees—together these contribute 38% of the fund’s resources in FY25. NR expenditures make up 17% of our total budget.

Natural Resources Fund Revenue					
\$ in 000s					
	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2026 Budget	2027 Budget
Tax Revenues (Lottery & Unrefunded Gasoline)	\$ 38,992	\$ 41,216	\$ 39,579	\$ 42,765	\$ 43,316
State Park Fees	22,736	23,074	22,951	23,900	23,900
Timber and Iron Ore Related Revenues	13,933	10,313	7,060	9,260	9,138
Boat Registrations & Titling	9,991	17,389	18,309	20,950	23,100
Snowmobile Registrations & Trail Passes	8,484	4,210	5,881	8,925	7,025
ORV Registrations & Trail Passes	7,308	7,946	7,385	7,931	8,151
Water Use Fees	5,158	7,421	6,326	7,805	10,583
Other Revenue	26,105	26,258	37,037	29,593	30,715
Total Revenue	\$132,706	\$137,828	\$144,528	\$151,129	\$155,928

These funds are unique, because some of our spending authority comes from direct appropriations that are sourced by revenues we generate. When the direct appropriations exceed revenues, we manage to the receipts to ensure the funds stay healthy. This can limit our ability to maintain services at a base level and makes managing our budget difficult at times.

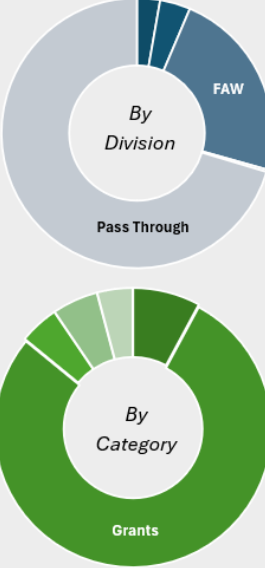
Environment and Natural Resources Trust

The purpose of these dollars is to conserve and enhance Minnesota’s natural resources including air, water, fish, and wildlife. A portion of the \$85.7 million in this fund are governed by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR), which makes funding recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature. Funds are split among the DNR, pass through funds, and a new Community Grant program in FY26 that will focus on areas affected by pollution and environmental degradation.



Outdoor Heritage

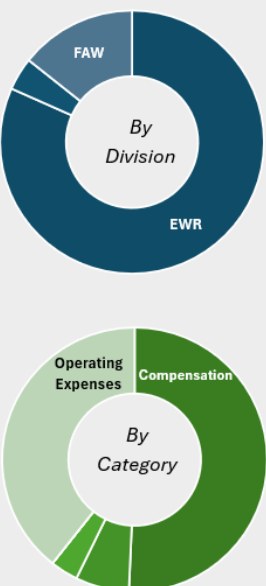
The purpose of these dollars is to restore, protect and enhance land and water for fish, game and wildlife. They are governed by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC), which makes funding recommendations to the Legislature. We received \$143.8 million from this fund in FY26, which accounts for 57% of our Legacy Funds and 8% of our overall biennial budget.



One-Time Appropriations

Clean Water

We use these dollars to protect, enhance, and restore water quality in bodies of water and groundwater. The Clean Water Council makes funding recommendations to the Governor along with an interagency team of state agencies. We received \$29 million from this fund for FY26-27, which accounts for 12% of our Legacy Funds and 2% of our overall biennial budget.



Parks and Trails

We use these legacy dollars to support parks and trails of statewide significance. Our Parks and Trails Division spends roughly two-thirds of these dollars while the rest are grants to non-state entities. We received \$78.6 million from this fund for FY26-27, which accounts for 31% of our Legacy Funds and 4% of our overall budget.

