



Department of Natural Resources Fact Sheet



2016-2017 BIENNIAL BUDGET FACT SHEET

Governor's Buffer Initiative

\$ 400,000 FY16/\$ 400,000 FY17

Clean Water Fund

It Is Needed Because

Riparian buffers aid in filtering out phosphorus, nitrogen, and sediment by slowing runoff, trapping sediment, and allowing vegetation to absorb any pollutants before they enter the water. Current buffer laws and rules do not require vegetated buffers where they are needed to protect water quality and existing compliance mechanisms are insufficient or ineffective.

Major Program Elements

This initiative would protect Minnesota's water resources from erosion and runoff pollution by establishing at least 50 feet of vegetation adjacent to the state's waters or an alternative water quality practice or combination of practices. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will establish and maintain an inventory map of each county that shows the waters that are subject to the buffer requirement. Following the initial phase in period for compliance, the DNR will have responsibilities for issuing enforcement orders and following up on corrective actions.

Key Measures and Outcomes

This proposal will require a 50 foot buffer of perennial vegetation adjacent to the state's perennial waters or alternative practice.

- There will be exceptions for roads, buildings, CRP lands, water access areas, and municipalities in compliance with storm water laws.
- All perennial waters statewide are included
- The DNR will prepare draft maps. These maps will be made available for review and comments. The DNR will provide final maps to Soil and Water Conservation offices as well as post them on the DNR website.

- Soil and Water Districts will implement the buffer requirement.
- The DNR may issue penalty orders for noncompliance of the buffer requirement.

Fiscal Impacts

This initiative requests \$800,000 for the biennium to have the DNR establish and maintain an inventory map of all water requiring a riparian buffer and providing guidance to local units of government for implementation of the new buffer requirements. The DNR will collect and analyze data to develop, publish, modify and disseminate maps and mapping tools to local units of government and make them available to landowners via the internet.

State costs for each major element:

- \$150,000 for program coordination of mapping and enforcement activities
- \$650,000 for the development and dissemination of maps and mapping tools

For Further Information, Please Contact:

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