



# Department of Natural Resources Fact Sheet



## 2016-2017 BIENNIAL BUDGET FACT SHEET

### Rare Resources Preservation

\$477,000 FY16/\$477,000 FY17

[Heritage Enhancement Account and Natural Resources Fund]

#### It Is Needed Because

Nongame Wildlife, Minnesota Biological Survey (MBS), Scientific Natural Area (SNA), Conservation Management and Rare Resources (CMRR), and endangered mussel recovery programs are among the foundation of conservation and enhancement of Minnesota's natural resources. These programs provide resource and land managers, permit programs and environmental review processes, with up to date and technically accurate information to inform their decisions.

The Nongame Wildlife Fund can no longer support activities at current levels due to declining donations. The Division of Ecological and Water Resources appropriation from the Nongame Wildlife Fund must be reduced, which also reduces the matching funds provided by license plate donations.

#### Major Program Elements

- Retain Minnesota Biological Survey (MBS) animal survey staff despite Nongame Fund reductions.
- Continue to plan and implement priority habitat conservation efforts through the work of regional ecologists in Conservation Management and Rare Resources (CMRR).
- Pay land easement stewardship costs not covered by project money supporting the Scientific Natural Area (SNA) program.
- Begin full-scale restoration of Minnesota's mussel fauna to recover rare species and contribute resilience to ongoing efforts to restore clean water to the state's streams.

#### Key Measures and Outcomes

- MBS's information about plant and animal distribution, native plant communities and functional landscapes will be maintained. MBS

information will be managed effectively and results communicated to decision-makers efficiently.

- Maintain technical assistance for forest and wildlife management. MBS information is used in all State Forest Management Plans, Analysis for Forest Certification requirements, and for priority conservation planning and recovery efforts.
- Biologists and ecologists will monitor species populations, including those in the DNR's Conservation Agenda.
- Increased endangered mussel recovery efforts will leverage substantial federal matching funds.

These measures will help ensure Minnesota's waters, natural lands, and diverse fish and wildlife habitats are conserved and enhanced. These measures also help to provide an outdoor recreation system that is diverse and of high quality.

#### Fiscal Impacts

- Increase the appropriation to the Division from the Heritage Enhancement Account by \$750,000/yr. to support 3 FTE within MBS for nongame wildlife and information delivery, 1 FTE within CMRR for habitat conservation, 2.5 FTE for recovery and restoration of endangered mussels, and provide land easement stewardship support for the SNA program.
- Reduce the appropriation to the Division from the Nongame Wildlife Fund by \$273,000.

#### For Further Information, Please Contact:

Luke Skinner, Division Director  
Ecological and Water Resources  
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
500 Lafayette Rd, St. Paul, MN 55155  
651-259-5106

[Luke.Skinner@state.mn.us](mailto:Luke.Skinner@state.mn.us)