



# Department of Natural Resources Fact Sheet



## 2012-2013 BIENNIAL BUDGET FACT SHEET

### Clean Water Fund

Expenditures: \$11,522,000 FY 2012 / \$9,092,000 FY 2013

(Clean Water Fund)

#### **It is needed because**

Minnesota is known for its water resources, with nearly 12,000 lakes and 69,000 miles of rivers and streams. Water is the most challenging resource issue facing Minnesota over the next 50 years, and it is a key economic driver for the state's growth and development. A lack of adequate information about the quality of Minnesota's lakes, rivers, streams, and groundwater jeopardizes the Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) ability to ensure enough clean water for recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, safe drinking water, and economic vitality.

Passage of the 2008 Clean Water, Land, and Legacy amendment established a Clean Water Fund (CWF) to protect, enhance, and restore the quality of Minnesota's lakes, rivers, streams, and groundwater. This proposal requests \$11.522 million in FY2012 and \$9.092 million in FY2013 to support clean water activities, including water quality assessment and monitoring, Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study development and planning, nonpoint source restoration and protection, drinking water protection, and development of high resolution elevation data (LiDAR) products to support clean water efforts.

These activities also align closely with priority recommendations presented in the Minnesota Water Sustainability Framework (2011), authorized by the 2009 Legislature to assist the state in identifying what actions are needed to sustain Minnesota's water resources in the future.

#### **Major program elements**

The major program elements of the proposal include:

- Water Quality Assessment and Monitoring: \$3,417,000 in FY2012 and \$3,687,000 in FY2013. Measure stream flow for establishing TMDL pollution loads and other essential purposes; measure mercury in fish tissue; collect fish and

aquatic plants for development of an index of biological integrity for lakes and establish a multi-agency biological monitoring database; digitally delineate watersheds for use in geographic information systems.

- TMDL Study Development and Implementation: \$1,720,000 in FY2012 and \$1,720,000 in FY2013. Work with other agencies and local governments to provide the information needed to effectively identify water pollution problems and implement accurately targeted clean water solutions.
- Nonpoint Source Restoration and Protection \$1,650,000 in FY2012 and \$1,650,000 in FY2013. Collect information, analyze data, and develop tools that help local communities restore and manage landscapes for clean water and long term ecosystem health; deliver tools through outreach, education, and citizen engagement.
- Drinking Water Protection \$2,035,000 in FY2012 and \$2,035,000 in FY2013. Develop water supply plans; monitor and protect aquifers; establish an electronic water permitting system.
- High Resolution Elevation Data (LiDAR) \$2,700,000 in FY2012. Complete data collection and develop digital elevation products to use with developing and implementing clean water restoration and protection plans and other uses.

#### **Priority-setting**

Priorities address components of the following of Clean Water Council's FY 2012-13 funding recommendations: monitoring and assessment; watershed restoration and protection; drinking water protection; nonpoint source implementation activities; education and engagement; and applied research and tool development. Priority project areas are determined through the Watershed Assessment Framework developed by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and endorsed by the Clean Water Council.

### **Project locations**

Project locations are statewide.

### **Key measures and outcomes**

Protect and restore critical in-water habitat of lakes and streams:

- Maintain 32 and install new automated stream flow gages out of 214 stream flow gages statewide to meet interagency needs for assessing the 81 major watersheds;
- Measure fish tissue mercury concentrations at 80 sites per year; and
- Assess 400 additional lakes for Index of Biotic Integrity to meet MPCA goals and develop a multi-agency biological monitoring database;

Support local and regional conservation-based community planning:

- Coordinate DNR clean water activities and information to support TMDL planning statewide;
- Help MPCA identify local pollution problems by providing fisheries and other biological data, stream stability assessments, and expert data interpretation for an understanding of the whole watershed system; and
- Use healthy watershed scoring tool to help state and local land and water managers develop long term solutions for clean water.

Promote healthy watersheds implementation:

- Work with other agencies and organizations to implement targeted BMPs to restore or protect ecological health; and
- Develop and deliver decision support tools and expertise to bring about better long term solutions for land and water management.

Protect drinking water resources:

- Implement new management strategies based on the statewide priority list for groundwater management areas;
- Upgrade models to allow improved understanding and management of groundwater; and
- Establish a web-based electronic permitting system with on-line application process to more effectively and efficiently manage water supplies.

### **Financial implications (if appropriate)**

DNR received a one-time Clean Water Fund appropriation of \$14.5 million for the FY 2010-11 biennium. There is currently no funding for Clean Water Fund activities in DNR's base budget.

This initiative is a one-time appropriation of \$11,522,000 in FY 2012 and \$9,092,000 in FY 2013 in funding from the Clean Water Fund.

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