



Department of Natural Resources Fact Sheet



2012-2013 BIENNIAL BUDGET FACT SHEET

General Fund Reduction

**Expenditures: (\$5,916,000) FY 2012 / (\$5,916,000) FY 2013
(General Fund)**

It is needed because

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) recognizes that changes in our economy, environment, and society demand that we lead in new ways—both to advance conservation results and maintain critical public services while reducing costs. This proposal contains a reduction in general fund appropriations of 10 percent in FY 2012 and FY 2013.

In developing the general fund reduction proposal, DNR identified areas where the agency could walk away from the general fund by transforming its business—becoming more lean and efficient, more innovative and entrepreneurial, working through partnerships, and reducing staffing levels—while increasing its focus on customer service and maintaining investments in essential activities and activities that drive the state's economic engine. This proposal provides the optimal approach for achieving DNR's mission-critical work while being a part of the state's budget solution. Proposed general fund reductions will be distributed across divisions within the department as follows:

Forestry (\$2,950,000)

- *Core Program Support (\$1,000,000)*: Shift to a cost certification strategy for professional forest management services, such as plan development, timber appraisals, and timber sales administration, on state managed lands.
- *Educational Activities (\$325,000)*: Partially shift to a fee for service approach and reduce educational program activities.
- *Minnesota Forest Resources Council (\$125,000)*: Reduce support for the MFRC, which will reduce landscape program work.
- *Forestry Cooperative Management (\$1,500,000)*: Reduce private forest management and urban and community program support, but continue to support stewardship plan approval and registration to meet requirements of tax programs.

Ecological and Water Resources (\$855,000)

- *Terrestrial Invasive Species (\$350,000)*: Reduce terrestrial invasive species management on state land from 2,500 to 1,100 acres.
- *Operations (\$505,000)*:
 - \$215,000 – reduce follow-up inspections for compliance with permits and pesticide regulations and reduce capacity for early coordination and review of development projects;
 - \$100,000 – reduce technical support for water supply planning and permitting;
 - \$85,000 – reduce DNR's capacity to manage information through the elimination of an information technology position;
 - \$48,000 – reduce general fund support for fish mercury assessment which will reduce funding available for special projects;
 - \$45,000 – eliminate division participation in six Wetland Conservation Act Technical Evaluation Panels; and
 - \$12,000 – eliminate aquatic invertebrate analysis for two department projects.

Parks and Trails Management (\$949,000)

- Reduce hours and shorten seasons of operations at five state parks and recreational areas;
- Offer rustic-only camping year round at four parks and rustic-only camping during the spring and fall at an additional 12 parks;
- Reduce hours for lodging visitor services and facility maintenance;
- Reduce routine resource maintenance activities, including noxious weed control, enclosure maintenance, and prescribed burning project planning;
- Reduce ski trail grooming; and
- Reduce interpretive programs.

DNR Grants (\$528,000)

- \$138,000 – reduce Red River Mediation funding from \$264,000 to \$126,000;
 - \$35,000 – reduce funding to eight watershed teams for project development activities by 30 percent;
 - \$75,000 – eliminate support for the River Watch Program, which will need to be funded by local watershed districts or other funding sources;
 - \$28,000 – reduce funding for watershed planning and project development, which will reduce coordination and oversight of project teams;
- \$53,000 – eliminate pass-through grant funding to the Mississippi Headwaters Board for reviewing local land use decisions;
- \$197,000 – eliminate the Forest Resources Grant to the University of Minnesota (UMN), resulting in no contract work with the UMN for IIC activities;
- \$5,000 – eliminate pass-through grant funding to the Leech Lake Band to participate with the Mississippi Headwaters plan;
- \$60,000 – reduce support for the prairie wetland program, which will impact approximately 20 acres of prairie wetlands; and
- \$75,000 – reduce grants for ring dikes, eliminating cost-sharing on three farmstead ring dikes.

Operations Support (\$634,000)

\$634,000 is a reduction to DNR's operations support. This funding will be replaced with funding from dedicated sources to more accurately reflect the work of the department.

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