



Department of Natural Resources Fact Sheet



2012-2013 BIENNIAL BUDGET FACT SHEET

Game and Fish Fund Dedicated Accounts

Expenditures: (\$528,000) FY 2012 / (\$528,000) FY 2013

(Game and Fish Fund – Dedicated Accounts)

It is needed because

The game and fish fund contains a series of dedicated accounts with closely related purposes. Revenues in the dedicated accounts are generated through the sale of hunting and fishing licenses, stamps, and surcharges and deposited in to the game and fish fund. This initiative proposes that appropriations for seven dedicated accounts within the game and fish fund be adjusted and that all dedicated accounts within the fund be appropriated annually to the commissioner for the purposes identified in statute.

The dedicated accounts include Deer/Bear Management and Computerized Licensing (231), Deer Habitat Improvement (232), Waterfowl Habitat Improvement (233), Trout and Salmon Management (234), Pheasant Habitat Improvement (235), Wildlife Acquisition (237), and Wild Turkey Management (238). Direct appropriations for the seven dedicated accounts within the game and fish fund are adjusted every two years based on available balances. With fixed biennial appropriations, either balances in the dedicated accounts are generated and are not available for spending, or conversely, projected negative balances persist. This initiative would create statutory appropriations that will allow account balances to be available for expenditure according to statute language (M.S. 97A.071; M.S. 97A.075). Department expenditures would not be able to exceed the balances in the accounts.

Expenditures from these dedicated accounts are controlled by statute and annually reviewed by citizen oversight committees. The Game and Fish Fund Budgetary Oversight Committee (M.S. 97A.055) supports using the balances in dedicated accounts for intended purposes.

Major program elements

Uses of the dedicated accounts are prescribed in statute. A summary is contained below:

M.S. 97A.071 Wildlife Acquisition Account (237)

- (1) at least 50 percent must be used for land costs;
- (2) other land acquisition costs, development, and maintenance of wildlife lands; and
- (3) Waterfowl breeding grounds in Canada.

M.S. 97A.075 Use of License Revenue

Subd. 1 Deer Management Account (231)

Deer habitat improvement or deer management.
Deer and Bear Management Account (232)
Deer and bear management programs, including a computerized licensing system.

Subd. 2 Minnesota Migratory Waterfowl Stamp (233)

Money in the account may be used only for:
(1) development of wetlands and lakes;
(2) management of migratory waterfowl;
(3) development, restoration, maintenance, or preservation of migratory waterfowl habitat;
(4) acquisition; and
(5) the promotion of waterfowl habitat development and maintenance.

Subd. 3 Trout and Salmon Stamp (234)

Money in the account may be used only for:
(1) the development, restoration, maintenance, improvement, protection, and preservation of habitat for trout and salmon;
(2) rearing trout and salmon;
(3) acquisition of easements and fee title along trout waters;
(4) identifying easement and fee title areas; and
(5) research and special management projects.

Subd. 4 Pheasant Stamp (235)

Money in the account may be used only for:
(1) the development, restoration, and maintenance of suitable habitat for ringnecked pheasants;
(2) reimbursement of landowners for setting aside lands for pheasant habitat;
(3) reimbursement of expenditures to provide pheasant

habitat on public and private land;
(4) the promotion of pheasant habitat; and
(5) the acquisition of lands.

(b) Money in the account may not be used for:
(1) costs unless they are directly related to a specific parcel of land under or to specific promotional or evaluative activities under paragraph; and
(2) any personnel costs.

Subd. 5 Turkey Account (238)

Money in the account may be used only for:
(1) the development, restoration, and maintenance of suitable habitat for wild turkeys;

(2) acquisitions of, or easements on, critical wild turkey habitat;

(3) reimbursement of expenditures to provide wild turkey habitat on public and private land;

(4) trapping and transplantation of wild turkeys; and

(5) the promotion of turkey habitat.

(b) Money in the account may not be used for:
(1) costs unless they are directly related to a specific parcel of land, a specific trap and transplant project under paragraph, or to specific promotional or evaluative activities; and

(2) Any permanent personnel costs.

Priority-setting

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) determines priorities based on needs and allowable uses of the accounts. Activities fund through each account are prioritized independently.

Project locations

Projects and activities are located statewide.

Key measures and outcomes

The key measure is more timely utilization of user fees for authorized activities and purposes as follows:

- Deer management;
- Waterfowl habitat management;
- Trout and salmon habitat management;
- Trout waters acquisitions;
- Pheasant habitat management;
- Wild turkey population surveys, monitoring and research, and habitat acquisition; and
- Walleye stocking.

Financial Implications (if appropriate)

- Deer Habitat Improvement Account: Reduce by \$153,000/year
- Waterfowl Habitat Improvement Account: Reduce by \$100,000/ year
- Trout And Salmon Management Account: Increase of \$45,000/year
- Pheasant Habitat Improvement Account: Reduce by \$145,000/year

- Wildlife Acquisition Account: Reduce by \$60,000/year
- Wild Turkey Management Account: Increase by \$70,000/year
- Walleye Stamp Account: Reduce by \$185,000/year

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