



Department of Natural Resources Fact Sheet



2012-2013 BIENNIAL BUDGET FACT SHEET State Park Working Capital Account Budget-Neutral FY 2012 / FY 2013 (Natural Resources Fund – State Park Working Capital Account)

It is needed because

The 2010 Legislature provided that funds generated through natural resources management on state parks and trails be deposited in the state park working capital account, but capped the statutory appropriation to the commissioner at \$25,000 annually. This initiative proposes that the cap on the appropriation of funds from this account be removed in order to allow the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to access these funds to expand and accelerate natural resource management efforts within state parks and trails.

DNR is responsible for protecting and conserving natural and cultural resources on more than 306,000 acres of state parks and recreation areas throughout Minnesota. This includes over 280 endangered, threatened or special concern species, thousands of acres of prairie, wetlands, old growth forest and other natural communities. Within state parks and recreation areas, there are more than 600 buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places, more than 350 archaeological sites, and 62 historic districts or landmarks. Additional funds are needed to address the accelerating impacts of invasive species, restore rare natural communities such as prairies, and protect or restore resources impacted by visitor use.

Major program elements

State park working capital appropriations fund resource management and interpretive programs within state parks, recreation areas, and trails. This initiative will remove the \$25,000 cap set on annual appropriations from the state park working capital account. The additional working capital funds will allow for increased resource management and interpretive activities.

Priority-setting

Resource management projects are prioritized based on criteria including fund integrity, the quality and

rarity of the resources being protected or restored, whether the project is new or whether it will protect an existing investment, and whether there are opportunities to leverage funds through matching funds or partnerships.

Project locations

Project locations are statewide in state parks, recreation areas, and trails.

Key measures and outcomes

Four key indicators measure progress toward resource management goals: 1) amount of acres restored to natural community; 2) acres of prescribed burning completed; 3) acres of invasive species managed; and 4) acres of resource management on state trails. The Division of Parks and Trails typically restores about 900 acres of land per year, conducts prescribed burns on 6,000 acres per year, manages invasive species on 6,800 acres, and conducts resource management activities on about 480 acres of state trails.

Financial Implications (if appropriate)

Additional funding for resource management would be available with the removal of the cap on appropriations from the state park working capital account. Amount of funding available will vary based on the amount of revenue generated and deposited into the account from activities such as timber salvage.

For further information contact:

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