



Department of Natural Resources Fact Sheet



2008 SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET Budget Initiatives Governor's Recommendation

The following initiatives for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) are included in the Governor's 2008 Supplemental Budget Recommendation.

Forest Industry Competitiveness. This \$250,000 general fund initiative is to implement several recommendations developed by the Governor's Task Force on the Competitiveness of Minnesota's Primary Forest Products Industry:

- *Forest land parcelization.* \$53,000 in 2009 is a pass-through grant to the Minnesota Forest Resources Council. The funding will build on existing efforts to encourage working forest land conservation and complete the following: an assessment of the trends, drivers, and effects of forest parcelization; an assessment of a broad and integrated set of policy approaches; and recommendations for decision makers on how to retain Minnesota's working forests. (Legislative Action #3 under "Maintenance of Working Forest Land Base," page 8 of the Governor's Task Force Report on the Competitiveness of Minnesota's Primary Forest Products Industry, December 15, 2006.)
- *Interagency Information Cooperative (IIC).* \$197,000 each year is a pass-through grant to the University of Minnesota. The funding will enable the IIC to develop: a common forest inventory format describing key attributes of Minnesota's public forest land base, growth models for managed forest stands for use in forest management planning, a forest wildlife habitat model format for forest management planning, and an information database on Minnesota's family forest ownership. (Recommendation 2. c., page 7 of the

Governor's Task Force Report on the Competitiveness of Minnesota's Primary Forest Products Industry, July 2007.)

- *County Forest Land Inventory.* \$253,000 beginning in 2010 will provide for an inventory of approximately 50,000 acres of county-administered forest lands, which might not otherwise be inventoried. (Legislative Action #7 under "Wood and Fiber Availability and Price," page 7 of the Governor's Task Force Report on the Competitiveness of Minnesota's Primary Forest Products Industry, December 15, 2006.)

Parks Supplemental Operating Funding. This initiative is for an annual increase of \$220,000 from the natural resources fund state park account to operate and maintain the state park system. Funding would be used to operate the reservation and revenue collection program and for accelerated maintenance to meet the unanticipated emergency repairs that are needed in the park system annually.

ATV Trail Operations and Maintenance Funding. This \$300,000 initiative is for from the all-terrain vehicle account in the natural resources fund to fund maintenance, monitoring and rehabilitation on the state's motorized vehicle trails. As a result of forest classification, an additional 660 miles of new trails have been added to the system.

Fish Virus (VHS) Surveillance. This initiative for \$123,000 in 2008 and \$246,000 in 2009 from the game & fish fund is for conducting surveillance and monitoring activities. These monies are necessary to cover the additional cost of sampling, transporting, and testing the fish for disease.

Fish Health Inspection Fee. This \$21,000 game & fish fund initiative allows the DNR to set fees for fish health inspections at private fish hatcheries at a level that would recover the costs of administering those programs. The DNR averaged about \$24,000 in annual expenditures for private fish hatchery health inspections in fiscal years 2005-2006, but recovered an average of only \$3,500/year in fees.

Water Recreation Account (WRA) Transfer.

This initiative provides legislative authority for a one-time transfer of \$594,000 from the water recreation account in the natural resources fund to the invasive species account in the natural resources fund. During the 2007 legislative session, this transfer was accounted for, but no legislative language was passed to authorize it.

Administrative Penalty Order

This \$100,000 general fund initiative gives the DNR authority to charge administrative penalty fees (APO) which will provide for better protection of our water resources and more accountability in dealing with egregious and repeat violations. PCA, Agriculture, BWSR, and Health all have APO authority and support APO's as an effective enforcement tool. Administrative penalties would be revenue to the state's general fund. DNR proposed APO authority in 2001, 2004 and 2005 and it wasn't approved. BWSR received APO authority in 2007.

Water Permit Fee Increase. This \$40,000 general fund initiative provides for fee recovery of agency costs for performing environmental review of water allocation requests prior to issuing water allocation permits. The 2007 legislature provided the DNR authority to recover reasonable costs for processing applications for water appropriation permits that exceed 100 million gallons per year, but did not

specify that environmental review costs could be assessed even if a permit was not issued.

Water Assessment Reports. This initiative eliminates duplicative reporting on ground water quality and availability already published by the EQB on a biennial basis. The cost savings of eliminating the reporting requirement is estimated at \$75,000 in general fund dollars per biennium.

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