

# Natural Resources

# Projects Summary

(\$ in thousands)

Project Title	Priority Ranking	Funding Source	Project Requests for State Funds		
			2016	2018	2020
Asset Preservation	1	GO	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000
Building and Facilities Development	2	GO	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant Assistance Program	3	GO	\$ 15,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
Dam Safety /Repair/Reconstruction /Removal	4	GO	\$ 10,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
State Land Reforestation and Stand Improvement	5	GO	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000
Marsh Lake Restoration Project	6	GO	\$ 1,900	\$ 0	\$ 0
Native Prairie Bank Acquisition and Development	7	GO	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000
Itasca State Park Renovation	8	GO	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 0
WMA/AMA Acquisition and Development Pheasant Summit	9	GO	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
State Park Campground Renovations	10	GO	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,000
Park, State Recreation Area and Trail Development	11	GO	\$ 14,000	\$ 14,000	\$ 14,000
Fish Hatchery Enhancement	12	GO	\$ 5,500	\$ 0	\$ 0
Scientific and Natural Area Acquisition and Development	13	GO	\$ 5,800	\$ 5,800	\$ 5,800
Groundwater Monitoring	14	GO	\$ 5,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
State Forest Acquisition	15	GO	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
Stream Restoration	16	GO	\$ 5,900	\$ 6,500	\$ 3,500
Minnesota Forests for the Future	17	GO	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Reinvest in Minnesota Critical Habitat Match Program	18	GO	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
Community Tree Invasive Pest Program	19	GO	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500
Prairie Restoration in State Parks and Along State Trails	20	GO	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500
Parks and Trails Local and Regional Grant Program	21	GO	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
School Trust Fund Land Acquisition	22	GO	\$ 20,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 0
<b>Total Project Requests</b>			<b>\$ 237,100</b>	<b>\$ 268,300</b>	<b>\$ 195,300</b>
<b>General Obligation Bonds (GO) Total</b>			<b>\$ 237,100</b>	<b>\$ 268,300</b>	<b>\$ 195,300</b>

































































## Other Considerations

The assigned agency project priorities are based on DNR program goals and it is expected that funding would be distributed across all of the requests.

Implementation of the *Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan* is a priority for this appropriation which would target fee acquisition of the highest quality native prairie along with key upland and wetland buffers and associated grasslands to be restored and improved for public access, rare resource protection, and wildlife habitat.

## Impact on Agency Operating Budgets

There will be minimal impact on operating budgets.

## Description of Previous Appropriations

Previous Appropriations for SNA acquisition and development (in dollars): Outdoor Heritage and Trust Fund appropriations include funds for non-bondable activities.

L2015, 1st SS, Ch. 2 Outdoor Heritage, \$1,762,000

L2015, Ch. 76 Trust Fund, \$4,000,000

L2014, Ch. 256 Outdoor Heritage, \$1,430,800

L2014, Ch. 226 Trust Fund, \$2,540,000

L2013, Ch. 137 Outdoor Heritage, \$ 390,665

L2013, Ch. 52 Trust Fund, \$1,500,000

L2012, Ch. 262 Outdoor Heritage, \$ 276,940

L2011, 1SS, Ch. 2, Trust Fund, \$1,640,000

L2011, 1SS, Ch. 6, Outdoor Heritage, \$ 931,470

L2010, Ch. 361 Outdoor Heritage, \$1,408,000

L2010, Ch. 362 Trust Fund, \$1,096,400

## Project Contact Person

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**Stream Restoration**

**AT A GLANCE**

**2016 Request Amount:** \$5,900

**Priority Ranking:** 16

**Project Summary:** This request is for \$5.9 million in state funds for design, land acquisition, and construction of stream protection and restoration projects. These projects are designed to protect and restore river systems using natural channel design principles.

**Project Description**

State funding of \$5.9 million is requested for design, land acquisition, and construction of stream protection and restoration projects. Priority restoration projects include Mission Creek, Miller Creek, Drywood Creek, and the North Branch of the Whitewater River. Dam modification projects include Grindstone, Adrian, Tischer Creek, and the Phelps Mill dam.

**Project Rationale**

The landscape and rivers of Minnesota have been altered by population growth and associated activities (e.g., timber and food production). By following principles of natural channel design in planning and implementing river restorations, projects are achieved with the intent of sustainability – to match the natural system’s changes.

**Other Considerations**

The assigned agency project priorities are based on DNR program goals and it is expected that funding would be distributed across all of the requests.

**Impact on Agency Operating Budgets**

There will be minimal impact on operating budgets.

**Description of Previous Appropriations**

L2013, Ch. 137	Outdoor Heritage	\$1,700,000
L2012, Ch. 264	Outdoor Heritage	1,320,000

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## Minnesota Forests for the Future

**AT A GLANCE****2016 Request Amount:** \$5,000**Priority Ranking:** 17

**Project Summary:** This request is for \$5 million is for acquisition of large-scale conservation easements and fee title acquisition on private forest lands, primarily in northern Minnesota and to pursue conservation easement opportunities with willing industry or land-holding companies that own larger, contiguous blocks of forest land interspersed with state forest land and other public forests.

**Project Description**

Thousands of acres of forest lands owned and managed by timber and mining companies are under threat to be sold, leased, subdivided and developed. The risk in Minnesota's north woods and elsewhere in the state is real. These changes will make the forest less valuable for wildlife, less accessible to the public for hunting and trail uses, less accessible to DNR for state land management access, and more difficult to manage for timber production.

The Forests for the Future program allows landowners to sell a permanent easement to the state that prevents development, provides public access, and allows the owner to continue to manage the forest sustainably for timber and other products while protecting ecological features of the land. The State will hold the easement and regularly monitor to ensure the state's interests are being protected.

**Project Rationale**

This request for \$5 million in state funds is to protect up to 30,000 acres of private forest land with permanent conservation easements and/or fee title. Project prioritization and selection will incorporate several criteria including: possibilities for forest consolidation; contributions of the property to local and regional timber-based economies; ecological features of the property; size and location of potential projects; project cost; potential for match funding; whether site provides management access to state forest lands; opportunities for public access and recreation including hunting and fishing, and partner and community support.

**Other Considerations**

The assigned agency project priorities are based on DNR program goals and it is expected that funding would be distributed across all of the requests.

**Impact on Agency Operating Budgets**

There will be minimal impact on operating budgets.

**Description of Previous Appropriations**

L2011, 1SS, Ch. 6	Outdoor Heritage	\$5,409,000
L2010, Ch. 189	Bond	500,000

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**Reinvest in Minnesota Critical Habitat Match Program****AT A GLANCE****2016 Request Amount:** \$3,000**Priority Ranking:** 18

**Project Summary:** This request is for \$3 million in state funds is to leverage an equal amount of private donations to acquire and improve critical habitat for fish, wildlife, and native plants throughout the state through the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Critical Habitat Match Program. Acquisition and improvement of land for wildlife management areas, scientific and natural areas, aquatic management areas, state parks, and state forests.

**Project Description**

This request of \$3 million will acquire fee title land that meets the definition of critical habitat, and will leverage an additional \$3 million in matching funds or donated land value. It is estimated 1,200 acres of habitat will be protected with this funding.

**Project Rationale**

The primary state match funding is \$3.5 million in annual proceeds from the Critical Habitat License Plate Program (M.S. 168.1296, subd. 5) that are credited to the RIM Matching Account (M.S. 84.943). Demand for this program continues to exceed state funding.

**Other Considerations**

The assigned agency project priorities are based on DNR program goals and it is expected that funding would be distributed across all of the requests.

**Impact on Agency Operating Budgets**

There will be minimal impact on operating budgets.

**Description of Previous Appropriations**

M.L. 2014, Ch. 294, \$2,000,000

M.L. 2010, Ch. 189, \$3,000,000

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**Community Tree Invasive Pest Program**

**AT A GLANCE**

<b>2016 Request Amount:</b>	\$500
<b>Priority Ranking:</b>	19
<b>Project Summary:</b>	This request is for \$500,000 for community grants to remove and replace dead or dying shade trees located on public property that are lost to emerald ash borer or other exotic, invasive forest pests or diseases.

**Project Description**

This request for \$500,000 in state funds is to provide grants to communities to minimize loss or damage of forest resources by shade tree pests, protect shade trees from shade tree pests, and establish or maintain cooperation between state, federal and local units of government in the preparation of plans for forest protection, management, and planting or replacement of trees damaged or lost to forest pests. Grant funds will be used for removal and disposal or utilization of public trees lost to forest pests or disease, and purchasing and planting of trees on publicly owned land.

By the end of the project, grant recipients must demonstrate their commitment to ongoing care by providing the following documents: updated Community Forestry or Shade Tree Ordinance, annual maintenance plan for public trees, community forestry public education plan, and management plan or forest health management plan.

Projects will be evaluated according to how well they: demonstrate commitment to long-term monitoring and management of the project, increase the diversity of tree species, develop and sustain local community forestry programs, and benefit the entire urban forest resource and provide multiple benefits to the community.

**Project Rationale**

Minnesota community forests are facing imminent threats from exotic invasive pests such as emerald ash borer (EAB) and gypsy moth. Financial burdens will exceed those incurred due to Dutch elm disease and oak wilt. This program will use past successes of the Minnesota Shade Tree Program and Minnesota ReLeaf Grant Program, to increase the capacity of local forestry programs to prepare for these pests, utilize the removed trees, and restore the many benefits of healthy, diverse urban forests in an orderly manner.

**Other Considerations**

The assigned agency project priorities are based on DNR program goals and it is expected that funding would be distributed across all of the requests.

In the Constitution of the State of Minnesota, article XI, section 5, one of the purposes for “public debt and works of internal improvements” is item (f), “to promote forestation...”















