

Game and Fish Fund Report



For the
Fiscal Year Ended
June 30, 2017

Game and Fish Fund

Fiscal Year 2017 Annual Report

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Letter from the Commissioner

I am pleased to submit the annual Game and Fish Fund Report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017 as required by Minnesota Statute 97A.055 Subdivision 4. This report contains an overview of the Game and Fish Fund (GFF) and a summary of fiscal year activities including revenues, expenditures, and outcomes. As a result of license fee increases passed in the 2017 Legislative Session, the outlook of the GFF has improved although some budget concerns remain.

- In total, the GFF includes 15 accounts including 3 direct-appropriated accounts (GFF Operating Account, Heritage Enhancement Account, and Peace Officer Training Account), 11 statutory accounts, and an account for lifetime license fees.
- Total GFF FY 2017 uses slightly exceeded annual sources (\$114.6 million versus \$112.4 million) as is typical in the second year of a biennium. At the end of FY 2017, the overall fund balance was \$40.6 million. Seventy-five percent of this balance resides in the GFF Operating and the Lifetime License Accounts.
- FY 2017 expenditures in the Game and Fish Fund Operating Account were slightly above annual sources (\$93.8 million versus \$91.4 million) reducing the fund balance in this account to \$17.7 million.
- Federal Pittman-Robertson revenues are projected to decline from a peak in the FY 2016-17 biennium. We received \$41.1 million in FY 2016-17, which is up \$11.1 million and \$18.8 million compared to FY 2014-15 and FY 2012-13 respectively.
- The operating account has a structural deficit that will reduce the projected fund balance in that account to \$13.9 million by FY 2019. The license fee increases enacted in the 2017 legislative session reduced the structural deficit from over \$3 million to roughly \$1 million annually. The license fee increases are effective March 2018. The projected fund balance is positive—\$11.1 million at the end of FY 2021.
- The Game and Fish Fund November Forecast (released on December 5) updated projections through FY 2021 and are not included in this report.

Looking ahead, we face many challenges. This includes preventing and managing wildlife disease outbreaks such as Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). The unpredictability of disease creates both programmatic and budgetary challenges as we seek to minimize their impact on the outdoor experience and animal populations statewide. We aim to find budgetary solutions for our disease management work that minimize impacts to the GFF.

Additionally, we remain vigilant in preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS). Our AIS work has a variety of funding sources including the GFF (surcharge on non-resident fishing licenses). Overall, AIS prevention is underfunded resulting in reduced grants to our local partners and reduced outcomes. We continue to seek increased funding to help ensure that our waters provide healthy habitats and enjoyable recreational opportunities well into the future.

I also want to reiterate my commitment to dedicating increased amounts of hunting license fees to deer management and deer health accounts, including legislative authorities in the 2018 session. I look forward to working with the 2018 Legislature to enact this change.

The long-term health of the GFF remains a top priority for us. Sourced primarily by license fees and federal dollars, the GFF supports work that creates some of the nation's most sought-after outdoor experiences. We are concerned about the structural deficit and the likely fiscal impacts of aging population. We will therefore continue to explore options including increased revenues through license fees and stamps to ensure ongoing fiscal vitality and sustainability.

In closing, our continued work together will help ensure that Minnesota's hunting and fishing legacy continues indefinitely.

Sincerely,



Tom Landwehr
Commissioner DNR

Game and Fish Fund

Fiscal Year 2017 Annual Report

Creation and Purpose of the Fund

The legislature created the Game and Fish Fund in the state treasury (M.S. 97A.055). Funds are credited to the game and fish fund for all money received under the game and fish laws and all income from state lands acquired by purchase or gift for game or fish purposes.

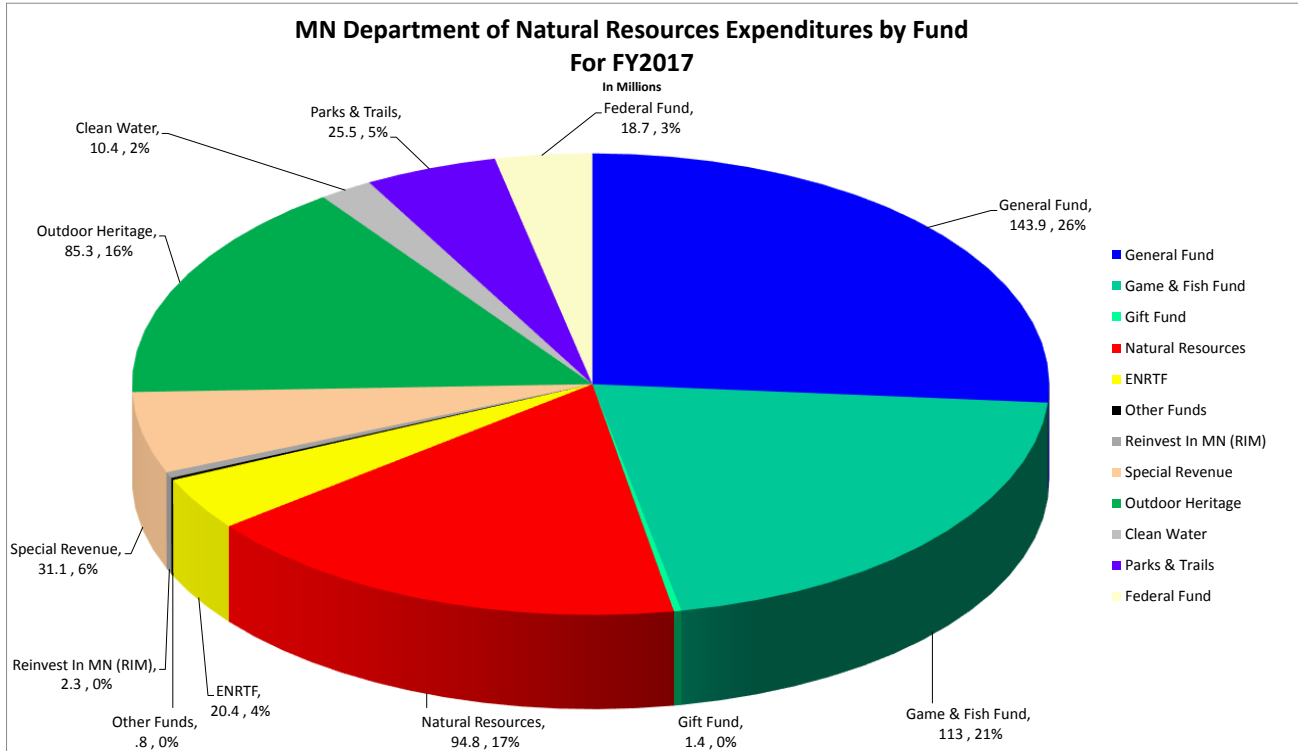
Game and Fish Annual Report Requirements

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is required under Minnesota Statutes 97A.055 Subdivision 4 to submit by December 15 each year to the legislative committees having jurisdiction over appropriations and the environment and natural resources reports on revenues and expenditures made from the accounts within the game and fish fund. The report must include the commissioner's recommendations, if any, for changes in the laws relating to the stamps and surcharge for programs under the Game and Fish Fund. The DNR is also required to submit a report that is a summary and comments of citizen oversight committee reviews.

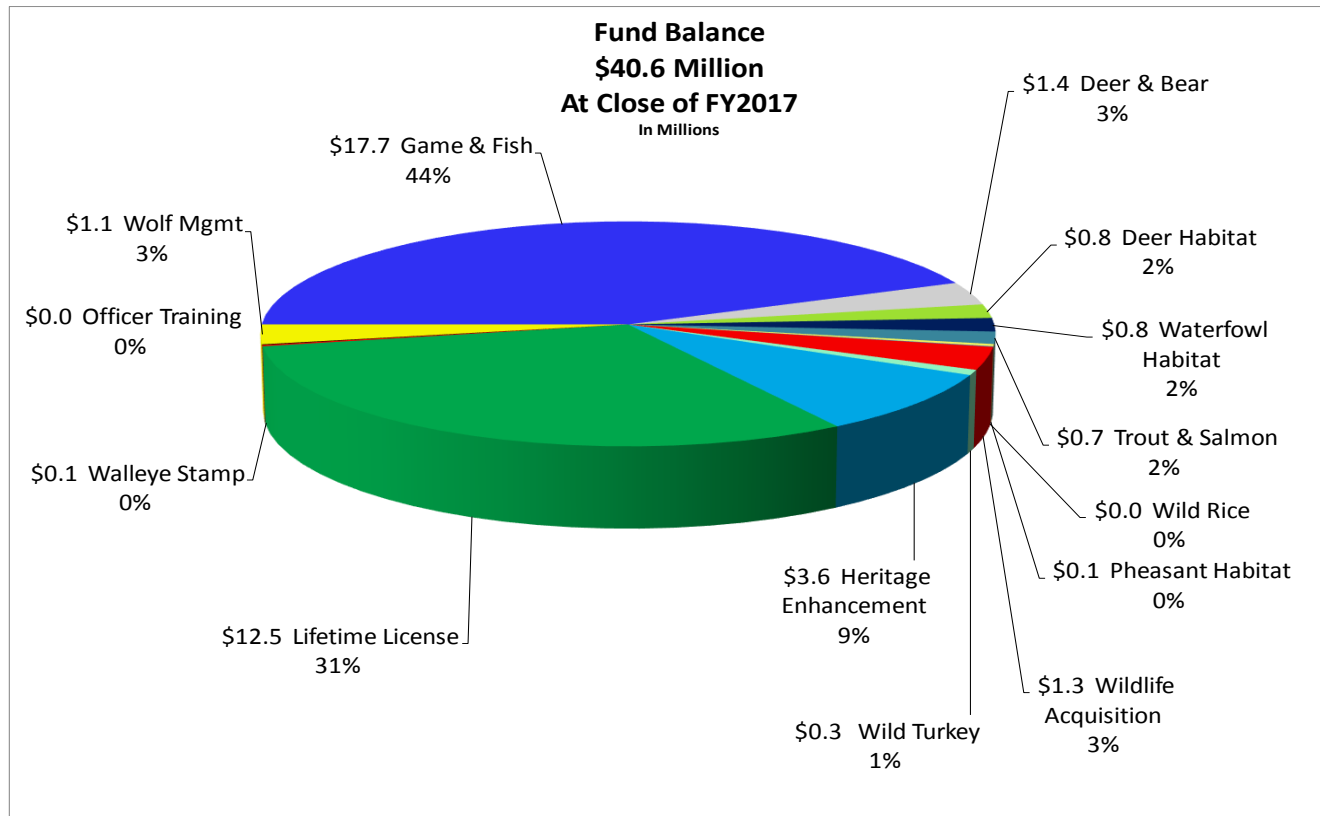
The DNR views the production of the annual Game and Fish fund Report as much more than an exercise in meeting the statutory requirements. In preparing and distributing the report, the DNR has the opportunity to communicate with individuals, stakeholder groups, the Game and Fish Oversight committees, legislators, and DNR staff. The annual report requires the DNR to be accountable to these audiences on its financial management and game and fish program outcomes. The report fosters discussion on the planning for future operations, setting priorities, articulating outcomes, and reviews of assumptions used in the financial forecast for management of the state's game and fish natural resources.

Game and Fish Fund Within the DNR's Funding Structure

For fiscal year 2017 (FY2017) the Game and Fish Fund comprised 21 percent (\$113 million) of the total DNR expenditures (\$547.6M). Dollars include both operating expenditures and pass-thru costs.



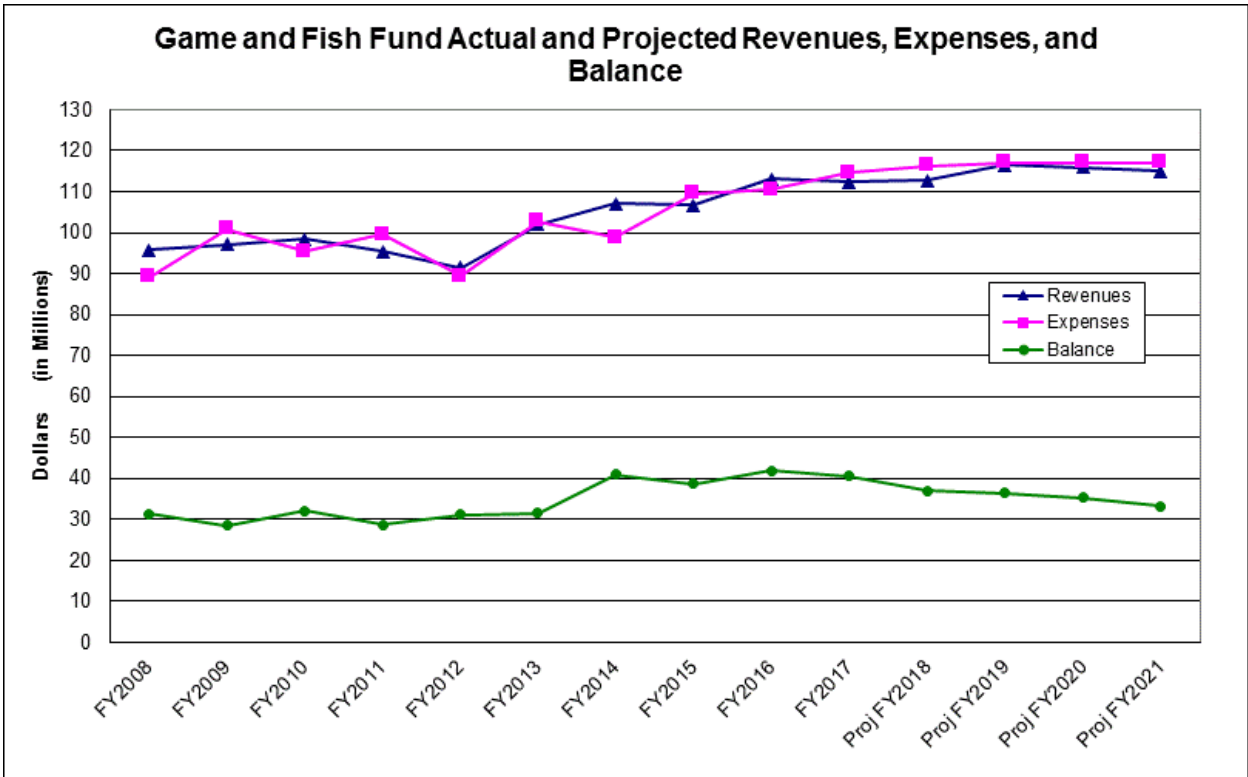
Game and Fish Fund Balance



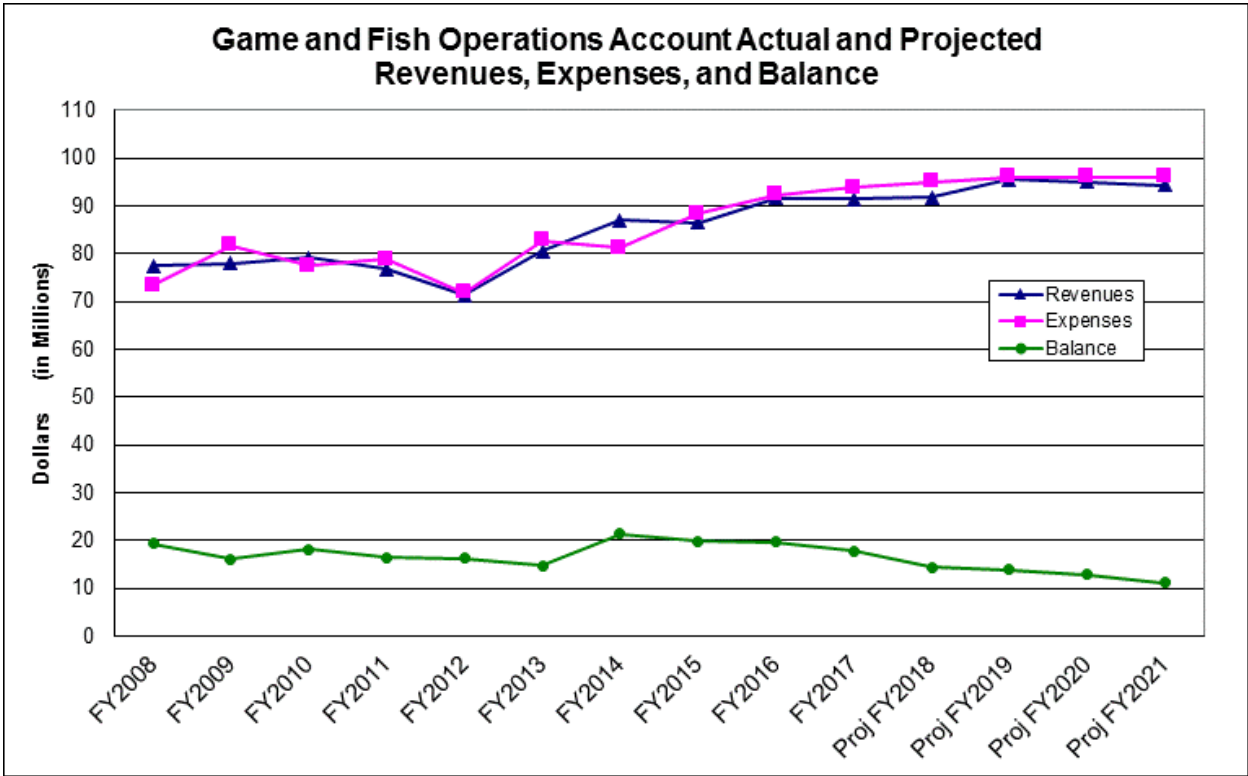
Fund Analysis

The Game and Fish Fund balance at the end of fiscal year (FY) 2017 was \$40.6 million including a \$17.7 million balance in the Game and Fish Operating Account. The remainder of the fund balance is from the dedicated accounts of which a large part is from the Lifetime Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund at \$12.5 million.

- Game and Fish Operations Account (Fund 2200)
 - License fees are projected to increase, but a projected reduction in Federal revenues from the Wildlife Restoration Act will offset the increase in license fees.
 - Due to a projected structural imbalance (annual appropriations exceed annual projected revenues) the balance is projected to decline over time to \$11 Million in FY2021.
- Lifetime License Trust Fund (Fund 2210) will continue to grow and become a larger part of the total fund balance, until activation costs exceed license sales.
- Heritage Enhancement account (fund 2209) balance is projected to decline over time.



- * Transfers-in and transfers-out are included in revenues and expenses, respectively.
- * Projected expenses are based on current direct appropriations amounts and estimates for statutory appropriations.
- * Projected revenues are based on current statutory fee rates.



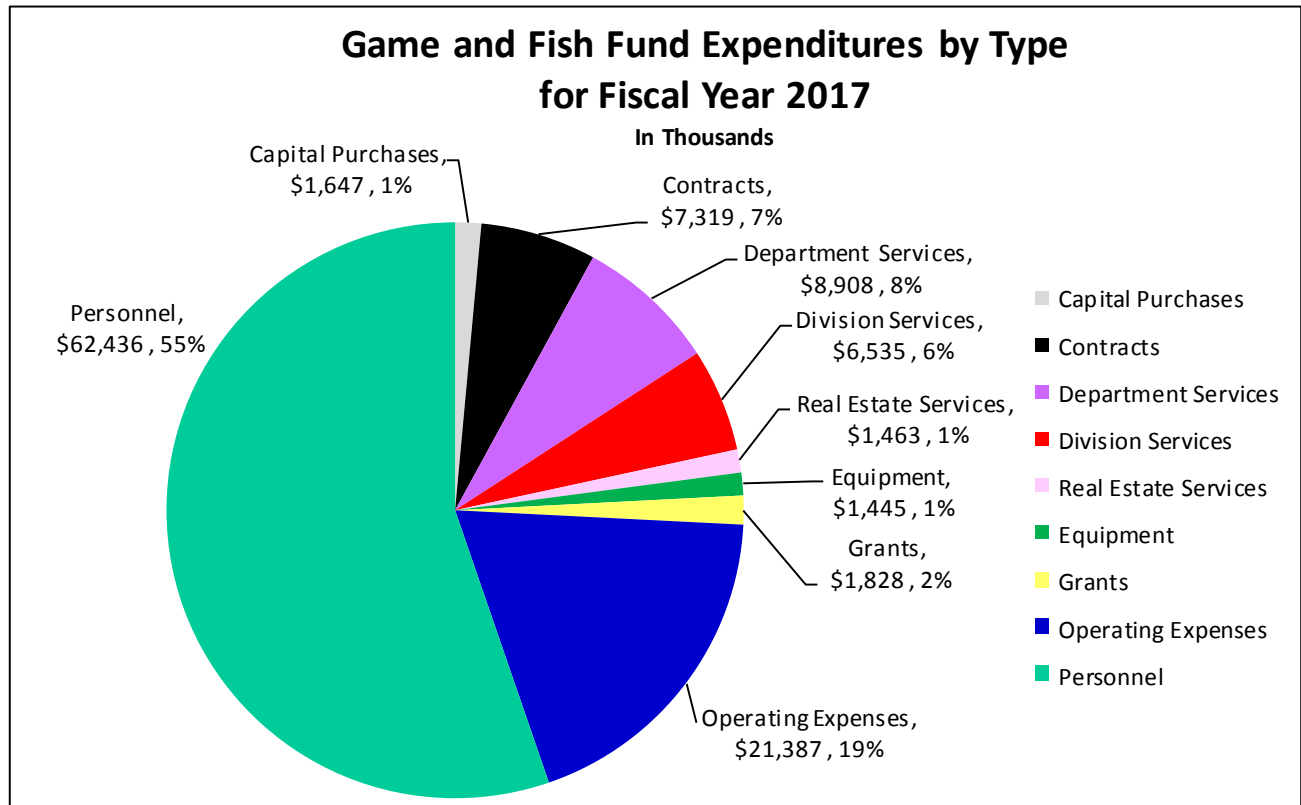
Game and Fish Fund Revenues

The DNR deposits an array of receipts into the Game and Fish fund. The majority of the funds relate directly to the sale of hunting and fishing licenses. Other revenue includes:

- **Sport Fish Restoration Act (Dingell-Johnson or DJ)** – Reimbursement from the federal government for 75 percent of allowable expenses up to federal apportionment amount.
- **Wildlife Restoration Act (Pittman-Robertson or PR)** - Reimbursement from the federal government for 75 percent of allowable expenses up to federal apportionment amount.
- **Lottery in Lieu of Sales Tax** – Allocation of Lottery In Lieu of Sales Tax receipts.
- **License Issuing and Application Fees** – Electronic Licensing System (ELS) license issuing fees and fees for hunting applications.
- **Sale and Lease of Natural Resources** – Lease of lands, easements, timber sales, mineral revenues, wild rice licenses, sale of fish eggs, etc.
- **All Other Receipts** – Refunds from prior periods, reimbursement of excess agency direct charges, credit rebates, cash over/short, fines & restitution, hunter education, firearm safety training, aeration permits, credit card fees, and miscellaneous revenue.
- **Transfers of Police State Aid** – Distribution from MMB of insurance premium taxes to cover part of the enforcement officer's pension costs.

Receipts and Transfers-in						
Fiscal Years						
(In Thousands)						
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Hunting Licenses	\$20,264	\$20,473	\$22,301	\$20,736	\$21,383	\$21,674
Fishing Licenses	20,670	23,343	28,085	27,614	26,651	26,912
Sports Licenses (Hunting and Fishing)	4,524	5,494	6,022	5,822	5,605	5,471
Hunting and Angling Stamps	2,179	2,155	2,178	2,200	2,211	2,205
Small Game Surcharge	1,752	1,669	1,629	1,613	1,580	1,545
Lifetime Licenses	1,149	1,373	576	671	762	1,038
Commercial Licenses	355	354	346	355	347	344
Federal Grant Fisheries (Dingell-Johnson)	11,996	14,957	12,515	12,547	14,532	11,897
Federal Grant Wildlife (Pittman-Robertson)	9,813	12,549	14,278	15,717	19,506	21,623
Lottery In-lieu-of-sales Tax	12,193	13,304	12,434	12,841	13,909	13,211
License Issuing and Application Fees	3,488	3,557	3,659	3,476	3,429	3,453
Sale and Lease of Natural Resources	1,050	1,114	1,154	1,245	1,162	841
Investment Income	144	151	156	164	191	298
All Other Receipts	938	711	811	745	744	943
Transfer-in: Police State Aid	859	847	919	937	1,046	951
Total Receipts and Transfers-in	\$91,376	\$102,050	\$107,064	\$106,683	\$113,058	\$112,406

Game and Fish Fund Expenditures



Notes:

- Department Services includes costs for Leadership (Commissioner's Office and Regional Operations), Shared Services (Human Resources, Management Resources, Facilities, Office of Management & Budget Services, and Office of Communications and Outreach), Mailroom, and MNIT services (computer and technology support).
- Division Services includes the division's administrative support costs.
- The purchase of a Helicopter (Enforcement) (\$2.57M) is included in the FY 2016 Enforcement expenditures below.

Expenditures and Transfers-out Fiscal Years (In Thousands)						
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Fish and Wildlife	\$54,941	\$63,980	\$63,126	\$71,711	\$70,358	\$74,743
License Center	4,244	4,292	4,198	4,241	4,249	4,387
Ecological & Water Resources	4,281	4,300	3,876	3,931	3,907	4,790
Enforcement	20,477	21,093	21,156	22,586	25,758	23,998
Parks and Trails	1,080	3,463	1,869	2,642	1,877	2,410
Forestry	1,216	1,348	1,135	1,277	1,121	1,238
Lands and Minerals	1,072	1,576	635	350	333	355
Operations Support	746	72	-	-	-	-
Statewide Indirect	625	1,021	1,189	1,151	1,303	1,047
Transfers-out	657	1,675	1,691	1,618	1,572	1,646
Agency Total Expenditures	\$89,339	\$102,820	\$98,876	\$109,508	\$110,478	\$114,614

Game and Fish Fund Expenditures by Division and Fund

Fiscal Year 2017 Expenditures by Division and Fund		
Division	Fund	Expenditures
Fish and Wildlife	Game & Fish Operations	\$ 59,236,766
	Deer & Bear Management	\$ 1,509,056
	Deer Habitat Management	\$ 1,197,145
	Waterfowl Habitat Improvement	\$ 527,637
	Trout & Salmon Management	\$ 1,235,786
	Pheasant Habitat Improvement	\$ 494,271
	Wild Rice Management	\$ 40,000
	Wildlife Acquisition	\$ 1,271,809
	Wild Turkey Management	\$ 228,856
	Heritage Enhancement	\$ 8,752,109
	Walleye Stamp	\$ 87,873
	Wolf Management	\$ 161,809
Total for Fish and Wildlife		\$ 74,743,117
License Center, Fish and Wildlife	Game & Fish Operations	\$ 4,386,555
	Deer & Bear Management	\$ -
Total for License Center		\$ 4,386,555
Ecological & Water Resources	Game & Fish Operations	\$ 2,434,755
	Heritage Enhancement	\$ 2,355,007
Total for Ecological and Water Resources		\$ 4,789,762
Enforcement	Game & Fish Operations	\$ 22,272,998
	Heritage Enhancement	\$ 1,581,129
	Peace Officer Training	\$ 143,430
Total for Enforcement		\$ 23,997,557
Parks and Trails	Game & Fish Operations	\$ 2,410,423
Total for Parks and Trails		\$ 2,410,423
Forestry	Heritage Enhancement	\$ 1,237,936
Total for Forestry		\$ 1,237,936
Lands and Minerals	Game & Fish Operations	\$ 355,028
Total for Lands and Minerals		\$ 355,028
Statewide Indirect Costs		\$ 1,046,856
Total Expenditures		\$ 112,967,233

Accounts in the Game and Fish Fund

For fiscal year 2017, the Game and Fish Fund is made up of accounts dedicated for a specific purpose. These accounts include:

Account Name	Sources and Uses of the Account Funding
Game and Fish Fund (2200)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revenues include licenses and permits issued, all income from state lands acquired by purchase or gift for game or fish purposes, fines and forfeited bail, sales of contraband, wild animals, and other property under the control of the division, fees from advanced education courses for hunters and trappers, reimbursements of expenditures by the account, contributions to the account, and Federal aid reimbursements. (M.S. 97A.055) • Funds pay for game and fish activities and related activities. Funds use are restricted by the federal aid in Wildlife Restoration Act and the federal aid in Fish Restoration Act. (M.S. 97A.057)
Deer and Bear Management Account (2201)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revenues include \$1 from deer, bear, and super-sports license fees. • Funds pay deer and bear management programs, including the computerized licensing system. (M.S. 97A.075, Subd. 1c)
Emergency Deer Feeding and Wild Cervidae Health Management Account (2201)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revenues includes \$.50 from deer and super-sports license fees. • Funds pay for emergency deer feeding and wild cervidae health management. (M.S. 97A.075, Subd. 1d)
Deer Habitat Improvement Account (2202)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revenues include \$2 from deer and super-sports license fees. • Funds pay for deer habitat improvement or deer management programs. (M.S. 97A.075, subd. 1b)
Waterfowl Habitat Improvement Account (2203)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revenues include ninety percent of the revenue from the Minnesota migratory waterfowl stamps. • Funds pay for development of wetlands and lakes in the state and designated waterfowl management lakes for maximum migratory waterfowl production including habitat evaluation, the construction of dikes, water control structures and impoundments, nest cover, rough fish barriers, acquisition of sites and facilities necessary for development and management of existing migratory waterfowl habitat and the designation of waters. (M.S. 97A.075, Subd. 2)
Trout and Salmon Management Account (2204)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revenues include ninety percent of the revenue from trout and salmon stamps. • Funds pay for the development, restoration, maintenance, improvement, protection, and preservation of habitat for trout and salmon in trout streams and lakes, including, but not limited to, evaluating habitat; stabilizing eroding stream banks; adding fish cover; modifying stream channels; managing vegetation to protect, shade, or reduce runoff on stream banks; and purchasing equipment to accomplish these tasks, rearing trout and salmon, including utility and service costs associated with coldwater hatchery buildings and systems; stocking trout and salmon in streams and lakes and Lake Superior; and monitoring and evaluating stocked trout and salmon, acquisition of easements and fee title along trout waters, identifying easement and fee title areas along trout waters; and research, and special management projects on trout streams, trout lakes, and Lake Superior and portions of its tributaries. (M.S. 97A.075, Subd. 3)

Account Name	Sources and Uses of the Account Funding
Pheasant Habitat Improvement Account (2205)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revenues include ninety percent of the revenue from pheasant stamps. • Funds pay for the development, restoration, and maintenance of suitable habitat for ring-necked pheasants on public and private land including the establishment of nesting cover, winter cover, and reliable food sources, reimbursement of landowners for setting aside lands for pheasant habitat, reimbursement of expenditures to provide pheasant habitat on public and private land, the promotion of pheasant habitat development and maintenance, including promotion and evaluation of government farm program benefits for pheasant habitat, and the acquisition of lands suitable for pheasant habitat management and public hunting. (M.S. 97A.075, Subd. 4)
Wild Rice Management Account (2206)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revenues from the sale of wild rice licenses. • Funds shall be used for management of designated public waters to improve natural wild rice production. (M.S. 84.0911)
Wildlife Acquisition Account (2207)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revenues from the small game surcharge. • Funds are used for acquisition and development of wildlife lands, and maintenance of the lands, in accordance with appropriations made by the legislature. (M.S. 97A.071)
Wild Turkey Management Account (2208)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revenues include \$4.50 from each turkey license sold, except youth licenses. • Funds pay for the development, restoration, and maintenance of suitable habitat for wild turkeys on public and private land including forest stand improvement and establishment of nesting cover, winter roost area, and reliable food sources, acquisitions of, or easements on, critical wild turkey habitat, reimbursement of expenditures to provide wild turkey habitat on public and private land, trapping and transplantation of wild turkeys, and the promotion of turkey habitat development and maintenance, population surveys and monitoring, and research. (M.S. 97A.075, Subd. 5)
Heritage Enhancement Account (2209)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revenues include lottery payments in lieu of sales tax on lottery tickets. • Funds are only for activities that improve, enhance, or protect fish and wildlife resources, including conservation, restoration, and enhancement of land, water, and other natural resources of the state. (M.S. 297A.94)
Lifetime Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund Account (2210)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revenues are from Lifetime license sales. • Funds use – transfer from the Lifetime Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund to the Game and Fish Fund an amount equal to the amount that would otherwise have been collected from annual license fees for each lifetime license. (M.S. 97A.4742)
Walleye Stamp Account (2211)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revenues are from walleye stamps sales. • Funds may pay only for stocking walleyes purchased from the private sector in waters of the state. (M.S. 97A.075, Subd. 6)
Peace Officer Training Account (2212)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revenue from the portion of the surcharges assessed to criminal and traffic offenders. • Funds may only be spent for peace officer training for employees of the Department of Natural Resources who are licensed to enforce game and fish laws. (M.S. 97A.052)
Wolf Management and Monitoring Account (2213)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revenues include \$.50 from each deer and super-sports license. • Funds are only for wolf management, research, damage control, enforcement, and education. (M.S. 97A.075, Subd. 7b)

Functions

Fish and Wildlife

The Fish and Wildlife division (FAW) supports DNR's three-part mission to support interrelated values of economic development, recreational use, and natural resources protection. The division serves DNR's mission by managing fish and wildlife populations, conserving aquatic and upland habitats, responding to fish and wildlife disease and habitat challenges, and providing economic benefits at local and statewide levels.

Fishing, hunting, trapping and wildlife watching annually provide people with:

- An estimated 34.3 million days of fish and wildlife related outdoor recreation, including 21.7 million fishing days, 5.6 million hunting days, and 7 million wildlife watching (away from home) days, and direct annual expenditures in Minnesota of \$3.8 billion.¹

The division fulfills its mission through the following strategies:

1. FAW monitors and manages for healthy and productive fish and wildlife populations that support high quality and abundant fishing, hunting, trapping, and wildlife recreation viewing opportunities. Recreational opportunities and species sustainability are grounded in well-managed fishing, hunting, and trapping seasons based on scientific population surveys.
2. FAW protects, enhances and restores habitats that are crucial for healthy and productive aquatic and terrestrial fish and wildlife populations. This is achieved by conserving and managing habitat on state lands. Typical practices include creating waterfowl impoundments, conducting prescribed burns, restoring and enhancing wetlands, managing timber harvest, conducting wildlife lake assessments, improving fish spawning areas, restoring aquatic plants, removing dams, restoring channels, and reclaiming lakes.
3. FAW provides for technical assistance, public participation, planning, and coordination which support citizens who are knowledgeable about the social and ecological value of healthy environments. This enables citizens to become supportive of the conservation of natural resources and ecological systems. DNR provides effective citizen partnerships to manage fish and wildlife resources.
4. FAW delivers outreach, recruitment, and retention efforts that results in increased multicultural, urban, youth, and new adult participation and appreciation of the state's outdoor heritage as well as retention of current fish and wildlife recreation participants. This work includes implementing mentored hunts, managing the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP), providing skills-based training through youth and women's programs, working directly with the Southeast Asian and other ethnic communities, investing in youth education through the MinnAqua program, and enhancing skills through the Becoming An Outdoors Woman/Family program (BOW), and Fishing In the Neighborhood (FIN).

License Center

The License Center serves citizens seeking licenses, registration and titling. This includes distribution of licenses, stamps and permits required for hunters, anglers and commercial game and fish interests. An Electronic Licensing System (ELS) is used by nearly 1,550 sales agents, 170 deputy registrars, and DNR license center staff to process these transactions. In fiscal year 2017, sales agents, handled approximately 88 percent of all transactions with another 11 percent via online and mobile. The remaining 1 percent, including issuance of commercial and lifetime licenses, were sold at the License Center in the DNR's St. Paul central office².

Nearly 2.5 million licenses, permits, stamps, and license validation transactions were processed through ELS, generating \$71.1 million in revenue for the year.

¹ 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

² Combined sales agents and deputy registrar transactions total 18 percent of online and mobile transactions.

Ecological and Water Resources

The Ecological and Water Resources division (EWR) promotes and delivers integrated land and water conservation to ensure healthy surface water, groundwater, and contributing landscapes.

Game and Fish operating fund dollars support traditional game and fish activities. Appropriations to EWR have remained relatively constant over the past several years. The division uses these funds on a variety of programs that are designed to conserve and/or enhance aquatic and upland habitats that are critical for fish and wildlife populations. In fiscal year 2017, Game and Fish operating funds were directed at nine programs: lake habitat assessment, river habitat assessment and restoration, grassland habitat monitoring, environmental review, natural resource damage assessment and cost recovery, tracking wetland change, wildlife education, planning and coordination, and information management. For many of the programs listed, the work described was also supported by other funding sources.

The division fulfills its mission through the following strategies:

1. EWR surveys, monitors and assesses aquatic, wetland, and upland habitats and ecosystems that are critical for healthy and productive fish and wildlife populations so that information is available on the current status of those habitats/ecosystems, how they are changing over time, and to guide how land management or implementation projects are designed.
2. EWR protects, enhances and restores river systems that are crucial for healthy and productive aquatic and terrestrial fish and wildlife populations. This is achieved by working with multiple partners to design and/or implement practices to create healthier river systems and associated fish and wildlife communities. Typical practices include removing dams, restoring channels, modifying culverts that restrict fish passage, and stabilizing banks.
3. EWR provides survey, monitoring, and technical assistance to improve prairie, wetland, and forest habitat management on public and private lands.
4. EWR conducts environmental review of projects to ensure that fish and wildlife needs are being appropriately addressed, works with Fish and Wildlife (FAW) to authorize lake aeration activities that prevent winterkill and help sustain fishing opportunities, and works with Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) when natural resources have been damaged by spills to assign responsibility and recover damages.
5. EWR administers the falconry and wildlife rehabilitation programs that permit approximately 90 falconers and 50 wildlife rehabbers. Falconer and wildlife rehabilitator exams are administered, inspections conducted, and information and education are provided.
6. EWR provides technical assistance, public participation, planning, and coordination that support citizens who are knowledgeable about the social and ecological value of healthy environments. This enables citizens to become supportive of the conservation of natural resources and ecological systems.
7. EWR delivers outreach and education to support better public understanding of the importance of habitat protection, the value of healthy aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, and to increase the expertise of natural resource specialists and planners so that more effective projects are designed and implemented.
8. EWR invests in information management so that its vast data resources are available, integrated, and organized to help inform good natural resource decision making.

Many of these functions are also supported by funding other than Game and Fish funding or Heritage Enhancement funding.

Enforcement

The Enforcement division (ENF) is the primary conservation law enforcement agency in Minnesota, protecting natural resources and public safety. The role has grown from traditional game and fish enforcement to broader natural resource protection responsibilities that impact quality of life and economic sustainability.

The Enforcement division fulfills its mission through the following strategies:

1. Fishing Regulation - Includes angler license checks, enforcement of regulations including experimental and special regulation waters, shelter house regulation, inspection of commercial activities, protection of spawning fish populations, and public information/education service.
2. Hunting Regulation - Includes hunting license checks, enforcement of recreational and commercial regulations relating to big game, small game, migratory waterfowl & trapping, assistance to wildlife with survey and census of animal populations, response to priority species such as lynx captures and moose mortality, and public information and education services.
3. Hunter Training Programs – includes Youth/Adult Firearm Safety (FAS), Advanced Hunter Education, Bow Hunter Education, turkey and bear clinics, and Becoming an Outdoor Woman. These programs promote safe firearm handling, basic law information, game identification, hunter ethics, and hunter/landowner relations.
4. Invasive Species – protect habitat and property values by slowing the spread of harmful invasive species by enforcing regulations addressing the transportation of water-related equipment.

Parks and Trails

Minnesota is ranked third in the nation for the number of registered boats (817,560 in 2016) which has been stable for the past seven years. The total annual economic impact of recreational boating in Minnesota is \$5.5 billion.

The vision of the Parks and Trails division (PAT) is to *“create unforgettable park, trail and water recreation experiences that inspire people to pass along the love for the outdoors to the next generation.”* Game and Fish Funds help to ensure that Minnesotans have access to public waterways for activities like boating, canoeing, kayaking, and angling.

DNR’s water recreation programs are funded by multiple sources. PAT utilizes Game and Fish Funds for public water access and fishing pier acquisition, development, rehabilitation, and maintenance. These programs improve the quality of boating and fishing access throughout the state. At the time FY17 budgets were established, the Water Recreation fund was projected to go into deficit in FY2018, so PAT cut back on investments in new facilities and other expenditures. The FY17 focus for the boating access program was to maintain and improve existing sites with high customer demand and/or poor existing conditions by implementing current best management practices. Similarly, the FY17 focus of the fishing pier and shore fishing program was to replace and repair aging/damaged facilities before adding new facilities. New facilities are considered in situations where it expands upon the provision of angling opportunities to diverse populations, but no new fishing piers were added in FY17.

In fiscal year 2017, PAT utilized \$2.4 million in Game and Fish Funds to develop and maintain the state’s water recreation system.

Forestry

The 4.2 million acres of state forest lands, including acquired, consolidated conservation (con-con) and school trust lands, administered by the DNR Division of Forestry (DoF) create great economic, social, and environmental benefits for all Minnesotans. Investments in forest management and invasive species control and educational efforts are needed to ensure diverse, healthy, and reliable forests for today and tomorrow. Minnesota’s forests provide two-thirds of our state’s clean drinking water; a third of the wood used by our state’s forest industry; a multitude of bird-watching, skiing, camping, snowmobiling, and hunting opportunities; clean air; and storage of 1.6 million metric tons of atmospheric carbon. Our forest management, which includes tree planting, harvesting, controlling invasive species, and stand improvement activities, results in a healthy, diverse, and sustainable forest system. Our forest management benefits wildlife habitat.

We use Game and Fish funds to implement the Ecological Classification System (ECS) and Terrestrial Invasive Species (TIS) programs. Each of these programs directly benefits wildlife habitat. The ECS program inventories current vegetation (flowers, grasses, shrubs, and trees), soil types, and the site’s position in the landscape to determine which forest cover is best suited for the site. Foresters, and other

resource managers, use ECS to select the right management activity for the site to ensure a healthy, vigorously growing forest. A healthy forest makes great wildlife habitat.

The TIS program educates people who use our forests about the threat of invasive species, removes invasive species from state lands, and trains other resource managers about TIS. Forests that have been overrun by TIS have less species diversity and thus have a lower value to wildlife. Invasive species include emerald ash borer, gypsy moth, garlic mustard, buckthorn, oriental bittersweet, tansy, and many others.

Lands and Minerals

The Lands and Minerals division (LAM) provides professional real estate and mineral services to the State that promote conservation excellence, provide world-class recreational opportunities, and support the State's economy. LAM manages all state-owned mineral rights and provides real estate services for the DNR's various land-managing divisions. Monies from the Game and Fish Fund directly supports the Land Record System (LRS), which is the application maintained by LAM, which inventories all DNR-managed land and mineral assets. The LRS replaced DNR's previous database tool, the AS400, in 2013. The LRS improves performance in the management of the real estate portfolio. Currently the program is used by over 600 DNR professionals statewide. The records are vital to the acquisition and ongoing management of fish and wildlife resources, parks and trails, forestry, scientific and natural areas – virtually every DNR program.

Real Estate

Real Estate Services are operated as a centralized service within the DNR. Services are provided by the Lands and Minerals division to land-managing divisions through service level agreements and professional service rates. Game and Fish funds are used by land-managing divisions to pay for Real Estate Services for activities related to the purpose of the fund. Total charges to the Game and Fish Fund for real estate services in fiscal year 2017 were \$1,463,122. See expenditure chart on page 7.

In fiscal year 2017, LAM performed the following work under Service Level Agreements (SLAs) with the Divisions of Ecological and Waters Resources, Fish and Wildlife, Forestry, and Parks and Trails:

- Real estate leases
- Land records and data reporting
- Assemblage of information for and reporting for PILT
- Review and processing of payment of taxes and assessments
- Review of tax forfeited land exchange proposals (Class B land exchanges)
- Review of proposals to place lands in tribal trust status
- Tax forfeited land sale reviews
- Review and processing of miscellaneous notices
- Lands related legislation, including the omnibus lands bill
- Public inquires related to lands issues
- Staffing for strategic land asset management
- Management, fiscal and support staffing for the above-listed areas.

In addition to the SLA work, LAM also provided the following types of transactions or services as professional services to the divisions:

- Acquisitions of land
- Appraisals
- Surveys, and related legal description reviews
- Land exchanges involving DNR managed land
- Sale of DNR lands
- Transfers of custodial control
- Transfers of administrative control
- Lands and Minerals' attorney work
- Grant appraisal review and associated advice for the grant programs
- Management, fiscal, and support staffing for the above-listed areas.

Operations Support

Operations Support provides;

- Leadership and direction for the department and management of regulatory and government relations activities.
- Leadership and assistance for Regional Offices for interdisciplinary delivery of DNR services at the local level including:
 - Coordination of natural resources management programs in the regions
 - Technical assistance and outreach
 - Emergency preparedness and disaster response (non-fire emergency)
- Leadership and management of integral business services to the DNR as set forth in Minnesota Statute such as: accounting; contracting and budgeting; data practices; planning and performance management; fleet; facilities and asset management; publication of regulations and other information; state employment; labor relations and state retirement; safety; human rights and accessibility.
- Leadership and management for developing and maintaining the IT infrastructure at DNR to support daily activities.

Department Services, which includes Leadership (Commissioner's Office and Regional Operations), Shared Services (Human Resources, Management Resources, Facilities, Office of Budget & Management, and Office of Communications and Outreach), Mailroom, and MNIT services (Computer and Technology support), are charged to each division through internal allocation processes. In fiscal year 2017, \$8.9 million was spent out of the Game and Fish Fund on department services. These costs are shown in the chart on page 7.



Game and Fish Operations Account

Fund 2200

Game and Fish Fund
Fiscal Year 2017 Annual Report

Creation and Purpose of the Account

The Legislature created the Game and Fish Fund in the state treasury. (M.S. 97A.055). Funds are credited to the game and fish fund for all money received under the game and fish laws and all income from state lands acquired by purchase or gift for game or fish purposes, except for certain dedicated revenues.

Sources and Uses of the Funds

The major sources of revenue for the Game and Fish Operations Account are hunting and fishing licenses, license issuing fees, application fees, federal reimbursements for hunting (Wildlife Restoration Act [Pittman-Robertson]) and fishing (Sport Fish Restoration Act [Dingell-Johnson]) activities, sale of natural resources (timber sales, mining, etc.), fines, forfeits, & restitution, occupational permits, non-occupational permits, Police State Aid, and interest income.

Money accruing to the state from fees charged for hunting and angling licenses shall not be used for any purpose other than game and fish activities and related activities under the administration of the commissioner.

Description of Revenues

- **Fishing Licenses** – Includes fishing and spearing licenses, and fishing contests.
- **Hunting Licenses** – Including deer, bear, elk, small game, furbearing, and trapping licenses.
- **Sports Licenses** – Includes sports and super-sports licenses – allows certain types of hunting and fishing with one license.
- **Sport Fish Restoration Act (Dingell-Johnson or DJ)** – Federal reimbursement for 75% of allowable fishing related expenses up to federal apportionment amount.
- **Wildlife Restoration Act (Pittman-Robertson or PR)** - Federal reimbursement for 75% of allowable wildlife expenses up to federal apportionment amount.
- **License Issuing and Application Fees** – ELS license issuing fees and fees for hunting applications.
- **Hunting Surcharge** – Surcharge on non-resident hunting licenses and surcharge on bonus deer licenses.
- **Fishing Surcharge** – Surcharge on non-resident fishing licenses
- **Sale and Lease of Natural Resources** – Lease of lands, easements, timber sales, mineral revenues, sale of fish eggs, etc.
- **Fines, Forfeits, and Restitution** – Receipts due to law enforcement actions.
- **Occupational Permits** – Commercial hunting and fishing licenses.
- **Non-occupational** – Hunter education, safety training and aeration permits.
- **Investment Income** – Monthly interest paid on balance in fund.
- **Other** – Refunds from prior periods, reimbursement of excess agency direct charges, cash over/short, credit card fees, credit rebates, and miscellaneous revenue.
- **Transfers of Police State Aid** – Distribution from MMB of insurance premium taxes to cover part of the enforcement officer's pension costs.

Financial Review	
FY2017 Beginning fund balance	\$19,636,851
Prior year adjustment	\$464,535
Receipts	
Fishing Licenses	\$25,813,004
Hunting Licenses	\$18,703,233
Sports and Super-Sports Licenses	\$5,471,226
Sport Fish Restoration Act (Dingell-Johnson)	\$11,896,870
Wildlife Restoration Act (Pittman-Robertson)	\$21,622,719
License Issuing Fees	\$3,265,341
Fishing Surcharge	\$1,098,589
Hunting Surcharge	\$172,634
Sales of Natural Resources	\$830,676
Fines, Forfeits, and Restitution	\$597,720
Application Fees	\$131,333
Occupational Permits	\$344,060
Non-occupational Fees	\$201,210
Investment Income (Interest)	\$292,392
Other	\$29,611
Transfers-in (Police State Aid & Transfers from Federal Funds)	<u>\$951,123</u>
Total Revenues and Transfers-in	91,421,741
Expenditures	
Fish and Wildlife	\$59,236,766
Fish and Wildlife Licensing	\$4,386,555
Ecological & Water Resources	\$2,434,755
Enforcement	\$22,272,868
Enforcement - Aviation Services	\$130
Parks and Trails	\$2,410,423
Lands & Minerals	\$355,028
Statewide Indirect Costs	\$1,046,856
Transfers-out (FMIA, Invasive Species, Venison Donation, and Walk-in-Access)	<u>\$1,646,479</u>
Total Expenditures and Transfers-out	\$93,789,860
FY2017 Ending fund balance	<u>\$17,733,267</u>
Net change for FY2017	(\$1,903,584)

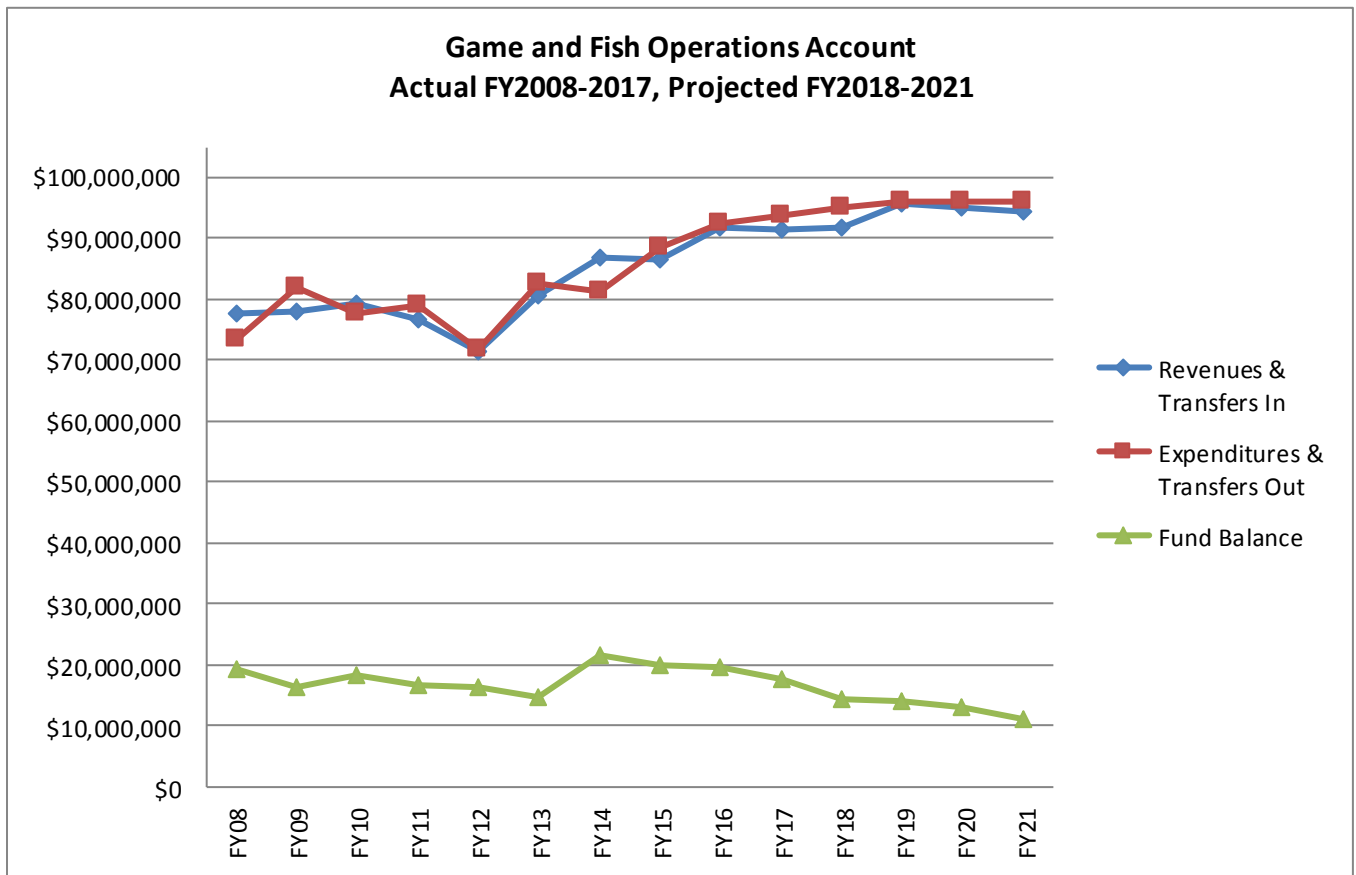
Account Analysis

The Game and Fish Fund Operations Account balance is expected to decline over time due to appropriations exceeding projected revenues. The fund is managed at a higher level in years following fee increases. Over time inflation costs increase and available balances are expected to decline. Current projections have the account solvent through the projected budget horizon of FY2021.

Some additional trends are;

- Fish license revenues are expected to increase due to an increase in license fees.
- Deer hunting license revenues are expected to increase due to fee increases and more liberal hunting regulations in future years as the deer populations increase to goal levels.
- Sport Fish Restoration Act revenues are expected to stay level in future years.
- Wildlife Restoration Act revenues are expected to decline and then plateau at some lower level over time. Federal apportionments increased greatly in fiscal years 2014 through 2017 due to increased firearm and ammunition sales.

Financial Summary FY2008 to FY2021



Expenditure projections are based on spending authorized in law for the current biennium and carried out through 2021.



Deer and Bear Management Account Fund 2201

*Game and Fish Fund
Fiscal Year 2017 Annual Report*

Purpose of the Account

This account is for deer and bear management.

Sources and Uses of the Funds

\$1 from each annual deer, bear, and super-sports license and \$1 annually from the Lifetime Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund, established in section M.S. 97A.4742, for each license issued under section M.S. 97A.473, subdivision 4, shall be credited to the deer and bear management account. (M.S. 97A.075, Subd. 1c)

By statute, money in the account may only be used for:

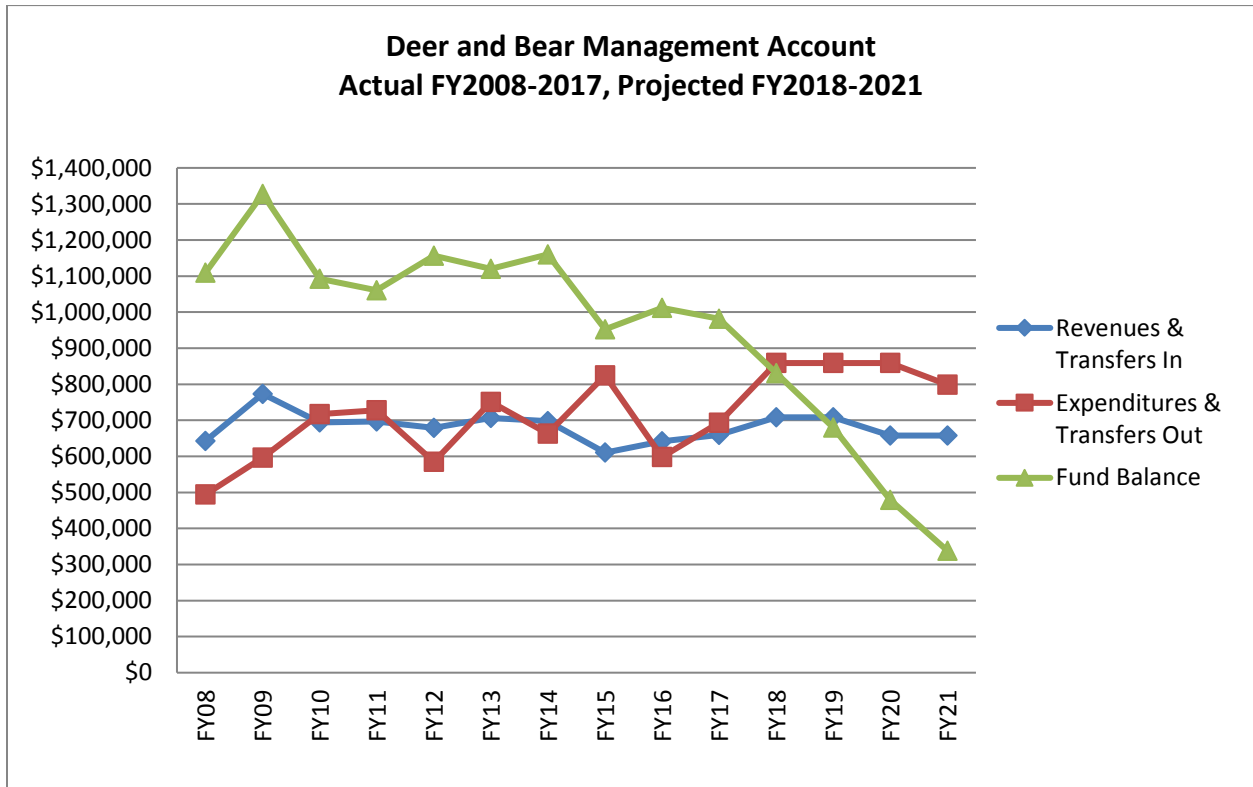
Deer and bear management programs, including a computerized licensing system.

Financial Review	
FY2017 Beginning fund balance	\$1,011,558
Prior year adjustment	\$3,713
Receipts	
Hunting License	\$603,069
License Issuing Fees	<u>\$56,326</u>
Total receipts and transfers in	\$659,395
Expenditures	
Fish and Wildlife	\$693,330
License Center	<u>\$0</u>
Total expenditures	\$693,330
FY2017 Ending fund balance	<u>\$981,335</u>
Net change for FY2017	(\$30,222)

Account Analysis

Revenues have started to rebound and are expected to continue to increase in future years as deer populations are increasing toward goal levels, regulations are becoming more liberal, and more bonus deer permits are becoming available. The division of Fish and Wildlife plans to spend down the current balance over time while maintaining sufficient funds to meet cash flow needs.

Financial Summary FY2008 to FY2021



Emergency Deer Feeding and Wild Cervidae Health Management Account Fund 2201

*Game and Fish Fund
Fiscal Year 2017 Annual Report*

Purpose of the Account

This account is for emergency deer feeding and wild cervidae health management.

Sources and Uses of the Funds

Fifty cents from each deer and super-sports license is credited to the emergency deer feeding and wild cervidae health management account. (M.S. 97A.075, Subd. 1d)

By statute, money in the account may only be used for:

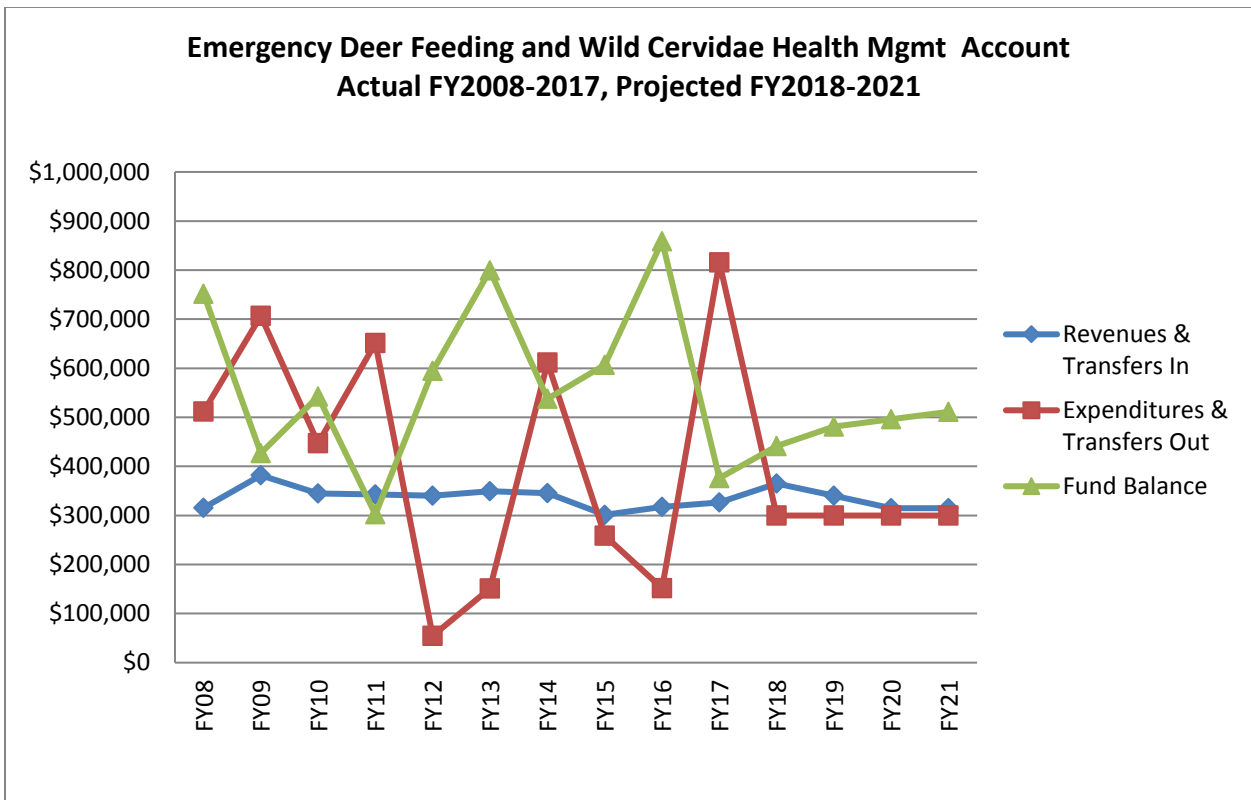
Emergency deer feeding and wild cervidae health management. Funds are available until expended. When the unencumbered balance in the appropriation for emergency deer feeding and wild cervidae health management exceeds \$2,500,000 at the end of a fiscal year, the unencumbered balance in excess of \$2,500,000 is canceled and available for deer and bear management programs and computerized licensing.

Financial Review	
FY2017 Beginning fund balance	\$858,909
Prior year adjustment	\$6,612
Receipts	
Hunting License	<u>\$326,290</u>
Total receipts and transfers in	\$326,290
Expenditures	
Fish and Wildlife	<u>\$815,725</u>
Total expenditures	\$815,725
FY2017 Ending fund balance	<u>\$376,086</u>
Net change for FY2017	(\$482,823)

Account Analysis

Revenues have started to rebound and are expected to continue to increase in future years as deer populations increase to goal levels, regulations become more liberal, and more bonus deer permits are sold. The DNR generally works to maintain a reserve balance of \$1 million to ensure the ability to meet the needs of an emergency cervid disease outbreak. However, during FY17 positive occurrences of CWD presence in the deer herd were discovered, and managing the disease is expected to rapidly decrease account balances. In an effort to take pressure off the cervid health account, the department is seeking alternative funding sources for potential disease transfer from captive cervid facilities to wild animals.

Financial Summary FY2008 to FY2021



Deer Habitat Improvement Account Fund 2202

*Game and Fish Fund
Fiscal Year 2017 Annual Report*

Purpose of the Account

This account is for habitat improvement and deer management programs.

Sources and Uses of the Funds

\$2 from each annual deer and super-sports license and \$2 annually from the Lifetime Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund, established in section M.S. 97A.4742, for each license issued under section M.S. 97A.473, subdivision 4, shall be credited to the deer management account. (M.S. 97A.075, Subd. 1b)

By statute, money in the account may only be used for:

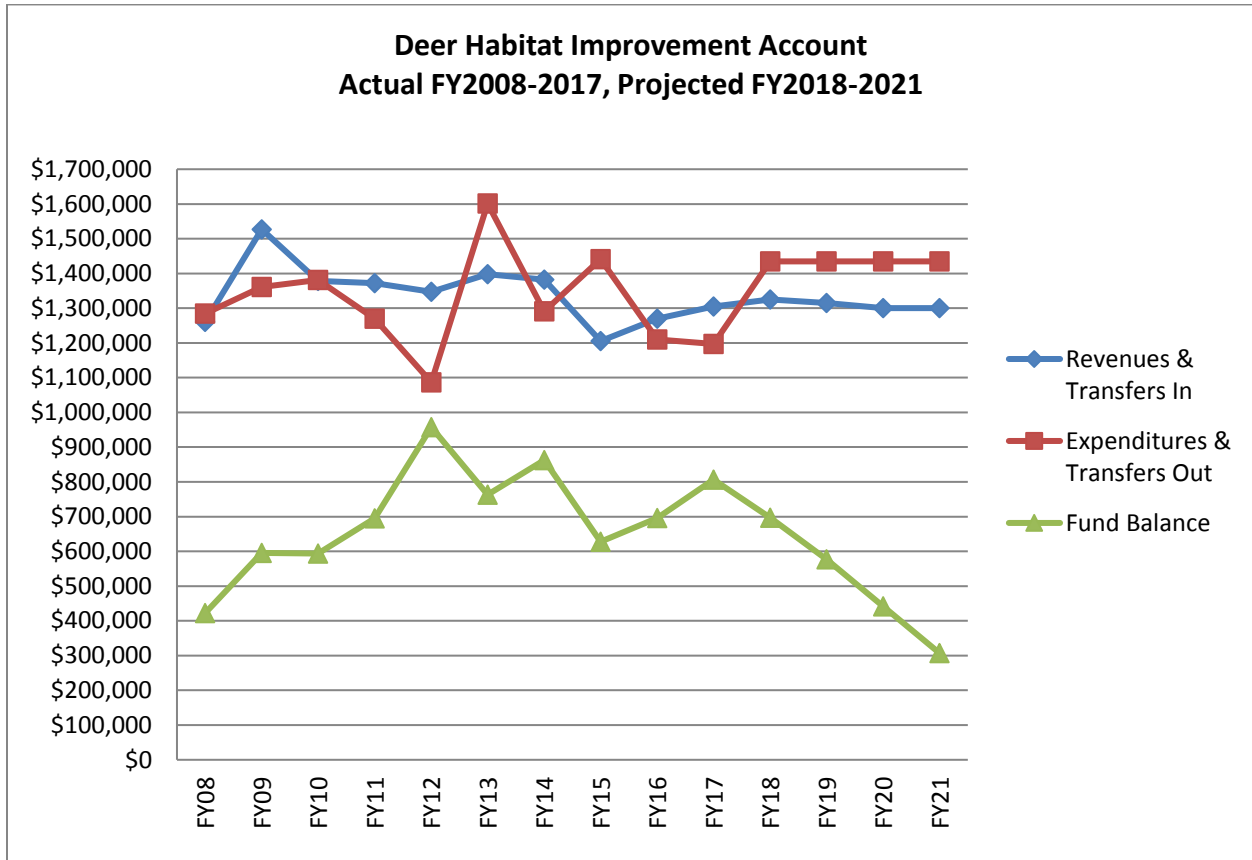
Deer habitat improvement or deer management programs.

Financial Review	
FY2017 Beginning fund balance	\$696,221
Prior year adjustment	\$2,689
Receipts	
Hunting License	\$1,305,159
Refunds of Prior Year Expenditure	<u>\$0</u>
Total receipts and transfers in	\$1,305,159
Expenditures	
Fish and Wildlife	<u>\$1,197,145</u>
Total expenditures	\$1,197,145
FY2017 Ending fund balance	<u>\$806,923</u>
Net change for FY2017	\$110,702

Account Analysis

Revenues have started to rebound and are expected to continue to increase in future years as deer populations are increasing toward goal levels, regulations are becoming more liberal, and more bonus deer permits are becoming available. The division of Fish and Wildlife plans to spend down the current balance over time while maintaining sufficient funds to meet cash flow needs.

Financial Summary FY2008 to FY2021



Waterfowl Habitat Improvement Account Fund 2203

*Game and Fish Fund
Fiscal Year 2017 Annual Report*

Purpose of the Account

This account is for the improvement of waterfowl habitat.

Sources and Uses of the Funds

Ninety percent of the revenue from the Minnesota migratory waterfowl stamps must be credited to the waterfowl habitat improvement account and is appropriated to the DNR (M.S. 97A.075, Subd. 2). Currently, the Waterfowl stamp is \$7.50 (M.S. 97A.475, Subd. 5)

By statute, money in the account may only be used for:

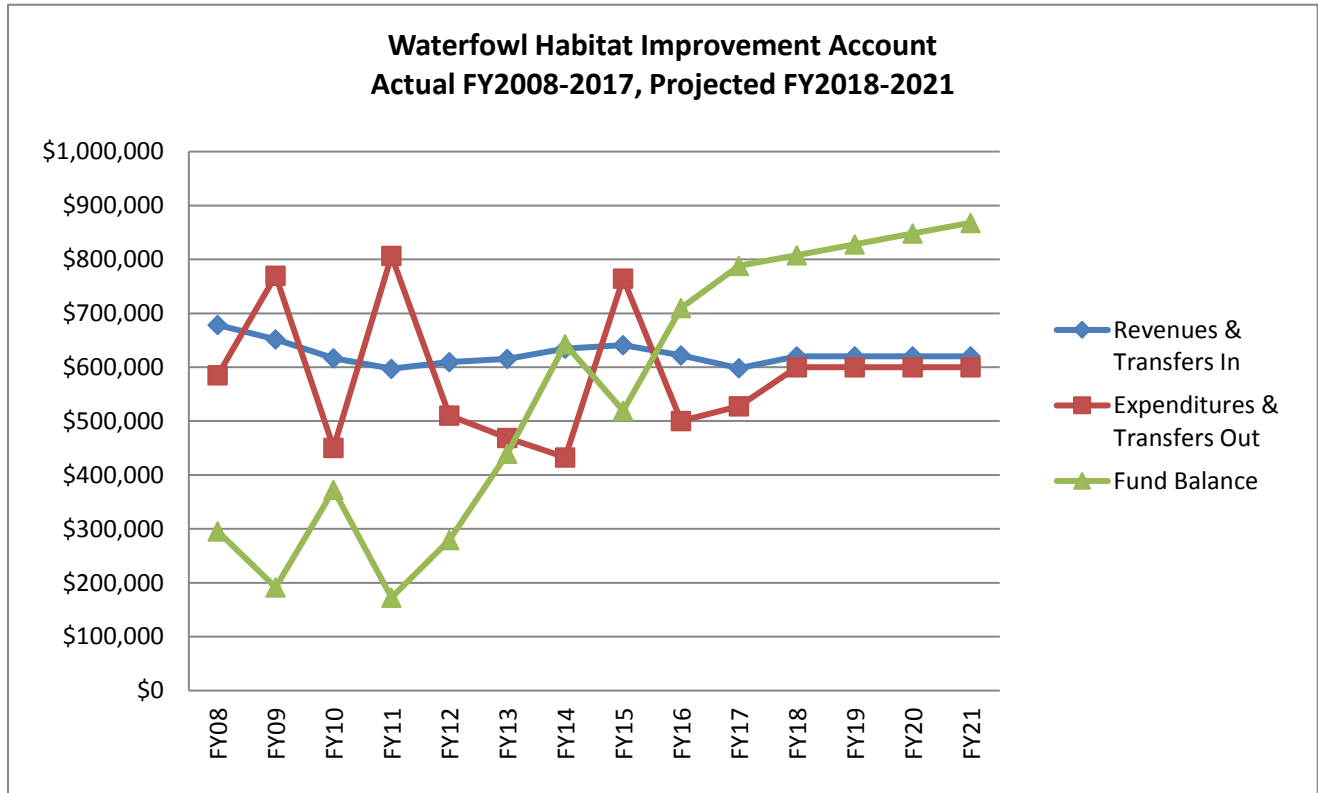
1. Development of wetlands and lakes in the state and designated waterfowl management lakes for maximum migratory waterfowl production including habitat evaluation, the construction of dikes, water control structures and impoundments, nest cover, rough fish barriers, acquisition of sites and facilities necessary for development and management of existing migratory waterfowl habitat and the designation of waters under section M.S. 97A.101. In addition to the expenditure items listed above, this category includes costs for related coordination and operational support.
2. Management of migratory waterfowl; examples of migratory waterfowl management expenditures include public information, census and surveys, special hunt management, and related coordination and operational support.
3. Development, restoration, maintenance, or preservation of migratory waterfowl habitat; examples of expenditures in this category include wetland maintenance, wetland restoration, food plot development, planting nesting cover, prescribed burns, and related coordination and operational support.
4. Acquisition of and access to structure sites.
5. Promotion of waterfowl habitat development and maintenance, including promotion and evaluation of government farm program benefits for waterfowl habitat.
6. Money in the account may not be used for costs unless they are directly related to a specific parcel of land or body of water under, (1), (3), (4), or (5), or to specific management activities under (2).

Financial Review	
FY2017 Beginning fund balance	\$710,058
Prior year adjustment	\$7,374
Receipts	
Waterfowl Stamp	\$598,176
Refunds of Prior Year Expd	<u>\$0</u>
Total receipts and transfers in	\$598,176
Expenditures	
Fish & Wildlife	<u>\$527,637</u>
Total expenditures	\$527,637
FY2017 Ending fund balance	\$787,972
Net change for FY2017	\$77,914

Account Analysis

Waterfowl stamp sales have been fairly stable over the past nine years with minor annual variations. Staff will increase spending on needed expenditures in FY18 to reduce the fund balance. Fish and Wildlife expects future spending to keep pace with revenues.

Financial Summary FY2008 to FY2021



Trout and Salmon Account

Fund 2204

Game and Fish Fund
Fiscal Year 2017 Annual Report

Purpose of the Account

This account is for the improvement of trout and salmon streams and lakes.

Sources and Uses of the Funds

Ninety percent of the revenue from trout and salmon stamps must be credited to the trout and salmon management account. (M.S. 97A.075, Subd. 3) Currently, the Trout and Salmon stamp is \$10. (M.S. 97A.475, Subd. 10)

By statute, money in the account may only be used for:

1. The development, restoration, maintenance, improvement, protection, and preservation of habitat for trout and salmon in trout streams and lakes, including, but not limited to, evaluating habitat; stabilizing eroding stream banks; adding fish cover; modifying stream channels; managing vegetation to protect, shade, or reduce runoff on stream banks; and purchasing equipment to accomplish these tasks;
2. Rearing trout and salmon, including utility and service costs associated with coldwater hatchery buildings and systems; stocking trout and salmon in streams and lakes and Lake Superior; and monitoring and evaluating stocked trout and salmon;
3. Acquisition of easements and fee title along trout waters;
4. Identifying easement and fee title areas along trout waters; and
5. Research and special management projects on trout streams, trout lakes, and Lake Superior and portions of its tributaries.

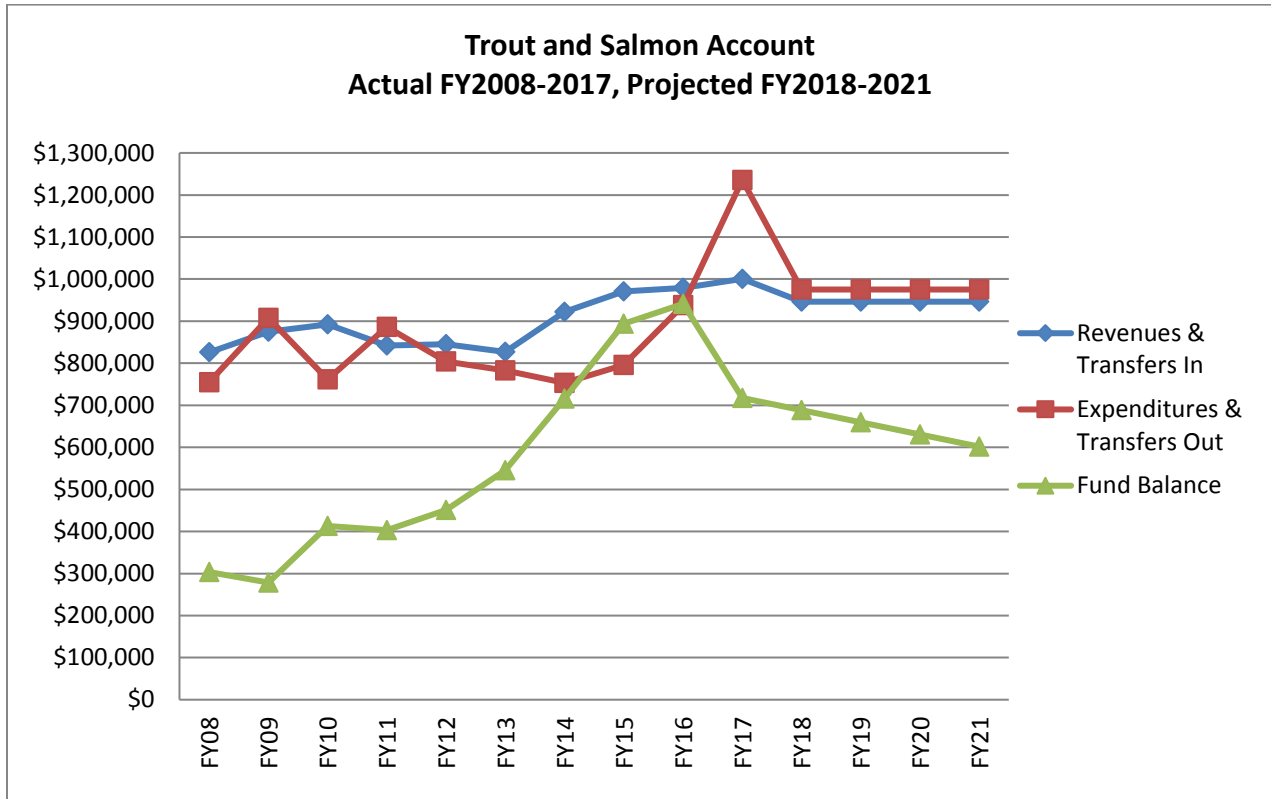
Money in the account may not be used for costs unless they are directly related to a specific parcel of land or body of water, to specific fish rearing activities under (2), or for costs associated with supplies and equipment to implement trout and salmon management activities.

Financial Review	
FY2017 Beginning fund balance	\$941,233
Prior year adjustment	\$11,309
Receipts	
Trout Stamp	<u>\$1,000,603</u>
Total receipts and transfers in	\$1,000,603
Expenditures	
Fish & Wildlife	<u>\$1,235,786</u>
Total expenditures	\$1,235,786
FY2017 Ending fund balance	<u>\$717,359</u>
Net change for FY2017	(\$223,874)

Account Analysis

Trout and Salmon stamp sales have set records for three consecutive years from FY 15-17. As a result, we have adjusted our expectations for future revenue to \$1,000,000 per year. The Trout Stamp Account had been accruing a surplus from FY12-FY16 because of revenue outpacing expectations. Expenditures were increased significantly in FY17 to begin reducing the account balance. We plan to continue spending above revenue until FY21 to gradually draw down the balance closer to the \$400,000 reserve that we would like to maintain for this account. This reserve provides a cushion for the season where expenditures exceed revenues during the license year.

Financial Summary FY2008 to FY2021



Pheasant Habitat Improvement Account Fund 2205

*Game and Fish Fund
Fiscal Year 2017 Annual Report*

Purpose of the Account

This account is for pheasant habitat improvement.

Sources and Uses of the Funds

Ninety percent of the revenue from pheasant stamps must be credited to the pheasant habitat improvement account. (M.S. 97A.075, Subd. 4) Current stamp price \$7.50. (M.S. 97A.475, Subd. 5)

By statute, money in the account may only be used for:

1. The development, restoration, and maintenance of suitable habitat for ringnecked pheasants on public and private land including the establishment of nesting cover, winter cover, and reliable food sources;
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 development and maintenance, including promotion and evaluation of government farm program benefits for pheasant habitat; and
5. The acquisition of lands suitable for pheasant habitat management and public hunting.

Money in the account may not be used for:

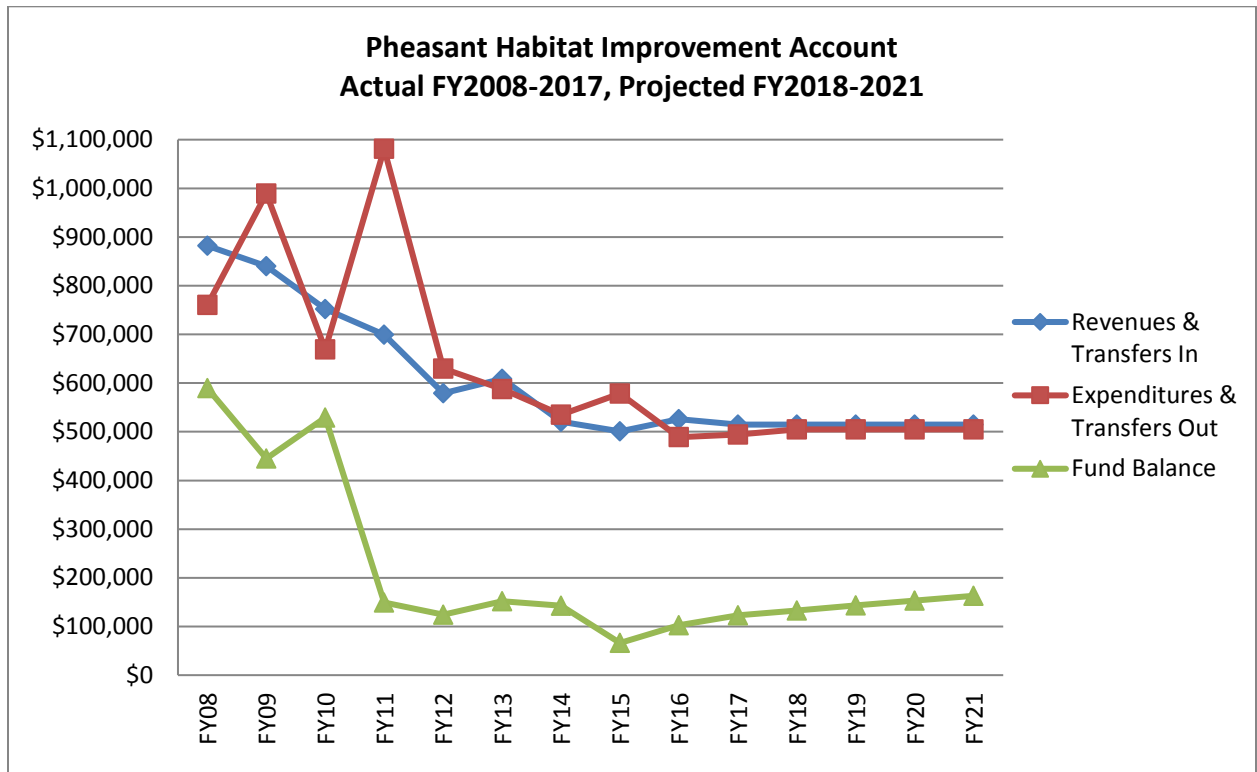
1. Costs that are not directly related to a specific parcel of land.; or
2. Any personnel costs, except that prior to July 1, 2019, personnel may be hired to provide technical and promotional assistance for private landowners to implement conservation provisions of state and federal programs.

Financial Review	
FY2017 Beginning fund balance	\$102,877
Prior year adjustment	\$6
Receipts	
Pheasant Stamp	\$514,499
Refunds from Prior Period	<u>\$0.00</u>
Total receipts and transfers in	\$514,499
Expenditures	
Fish and Wildlife	<u>\$494,271</u>
Total expenditures	\$494,271
FY2017 Ending fund balance	\$123,111
Net change for FY2017	\$20,234

Account Analysis

Pheasant stamps sales have been trending downward. Fish and Wildlife plans to reduce spending in this account in order to create a larger balance to buffer the volatile nature of the account.

Financial Summary FY2008 to FY2021



Wild Rice Management Account Fund 2206

*Game and Fish Fund
Fiscal Year 2017 Annual Report*

Purpose of the Account

This account is for wild rice management.

Sources and Uses of the Funds

Wild Rice license sales. (M.S. 84.0911)

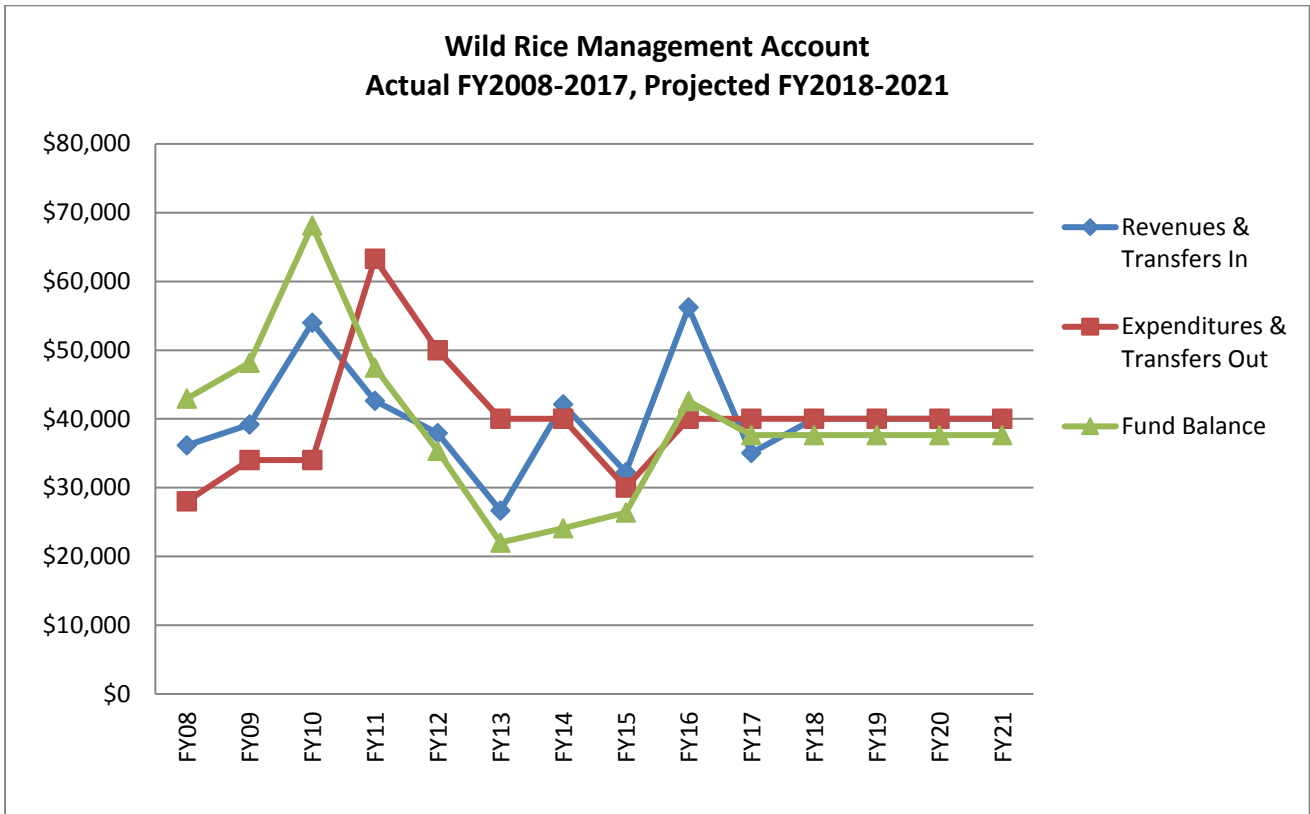
By statute, money in the account may only be used for management of designated public waters to improve natural wild rice production.

Financial Review	
FY2017 Beginning fund balance	\$42,588
Prior year adjustment	\$0
Receipts	
Wild Rice License	<u>\$35,045</u>
Total receipts and transfers in	\$35,045
Expenditures	
Fish and Wildlife	<u>\$40,000</u>
Total expenditures	\$40,000
FY2017 Ending fund balance	<u>\$37,633</u>
Net change for FY2017	(\$4,955)

Account Analysis

Wild Rice license revenues fluctuate year to year depending on the wild rice crop available for harvest. Fish and Wildlife try to match the expenditures with the average revenues. Annual expenditures in recent years have been \$40,000/year to fund wild rice lake management through a cooperative agreement with Ducks Unlimited.

Financial Summary FY2008 to FY2021



Wildlife Acquisition Account Fund 2207

*Game and Fish Fund
Fiscal Year 2017 Annual Report*

Purpose of the Account

This account is for land acquisition for the benefit of wildlife.

Sources and Uses of the Funds

Revenue from the small game surcharge and \$6.50 annually from the Lifetime Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund, established in section M.S. 97A.4742, for each license issued under sections M.S. 97A.473, subdivisions 3 and 5, and M.S. 97A.474, subdivision 3. (M.S. 97A.071)

By statute, money in the account may only be used for;

Subd. 2a Use of wildlife acquisition account money.

1. At least 50 percent must be used for land costs; and
2. The remainder may only be used for other land acquisition costs, development, and maintenance of wildlife lands, and activities under subdivision 3.

Subd. 3 Waterfowl breeding grounds in Canada.

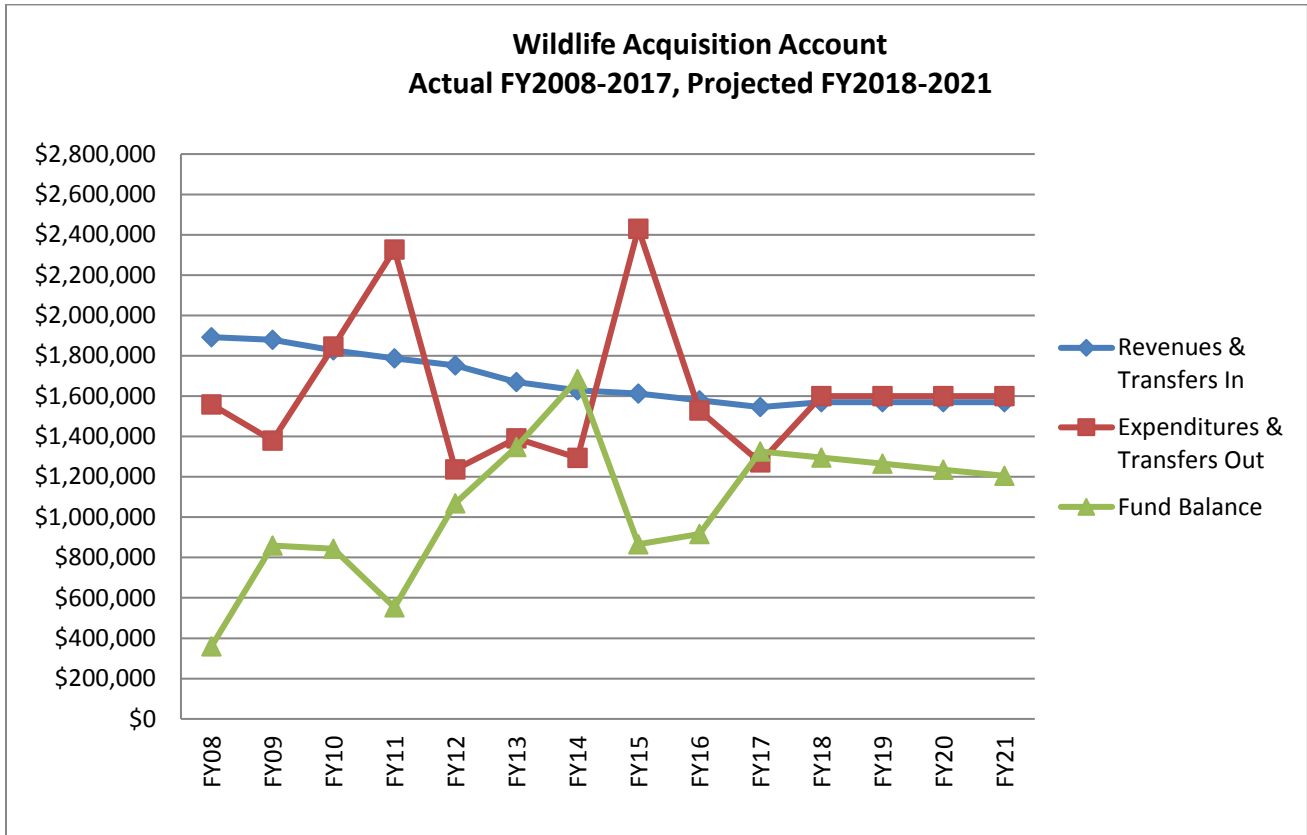
The wildlife acquisition account may be used for developing, preserving, restoring, and maintaining waterfowl breeding grounds in Canada under agreement or contract with any nonprofit organization dedicated to the construction, maintenance, and repair of projects that are acceptable to the governmental agency having jurisdiction over the land and water affected by the projects. The commissioner may execute agreements and contracts if the commissioner determines that the use of the funds will benefit the migration of waterfowl into the state.

Financial Review	
FY2017 Beginning fund balance	\$917,070
Prior year adjustment	\$135,047
Receipts	
Wildlife Acquisition Surcharge	\$1,545,013
Sale of Buildings	<u>\$602</u>
Total receipts and transfers in	\$1,545,614
Expenditures	
Fish and Wildlife	<u>\$1,271,809</u>
Total expenditures	\$1,271,809
FY2017 Ending fund balance	\$1,325,922
Net change for FY2017	\$408,852

Account Analysis

Revenues from the small game surcharge have been declining in recent years. Expenditures vary from year to year due to timing of land acquisitions. Fish and Wildlife plans to increase spending for large acquisition opportunities.

Financial Summary FY2008 to FY2021



Wild Turkey Management Account Fund 2208

*Game and Fish Fund
Fiscal Year 2017 Annual Report*

Purpose of the Account

This account is for turkey habitat management.

Sources and Uses of the Funds

\$4.50 from each turkey license sold, except youth licenses under section M.S. 97A.475, subdivision 2, clause (4), and subdivision 3, clause (7), must be credited to the wild turkey management account. (M.S. 97A.075, Subd. 5)

By statute, money in the account may only be used for;

1. The development, restoration, and maintenance of suitable habitat for wild turkeys on public and private land including forest stand improvement and establishment of nesting cover, winter roost area, and reliable food sources;
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 transplanted of wild turkeys; and
5. The promotion of turkey habitat development and maintenance, population surveys and monitoring, and research.

Money in the account may not be used for:

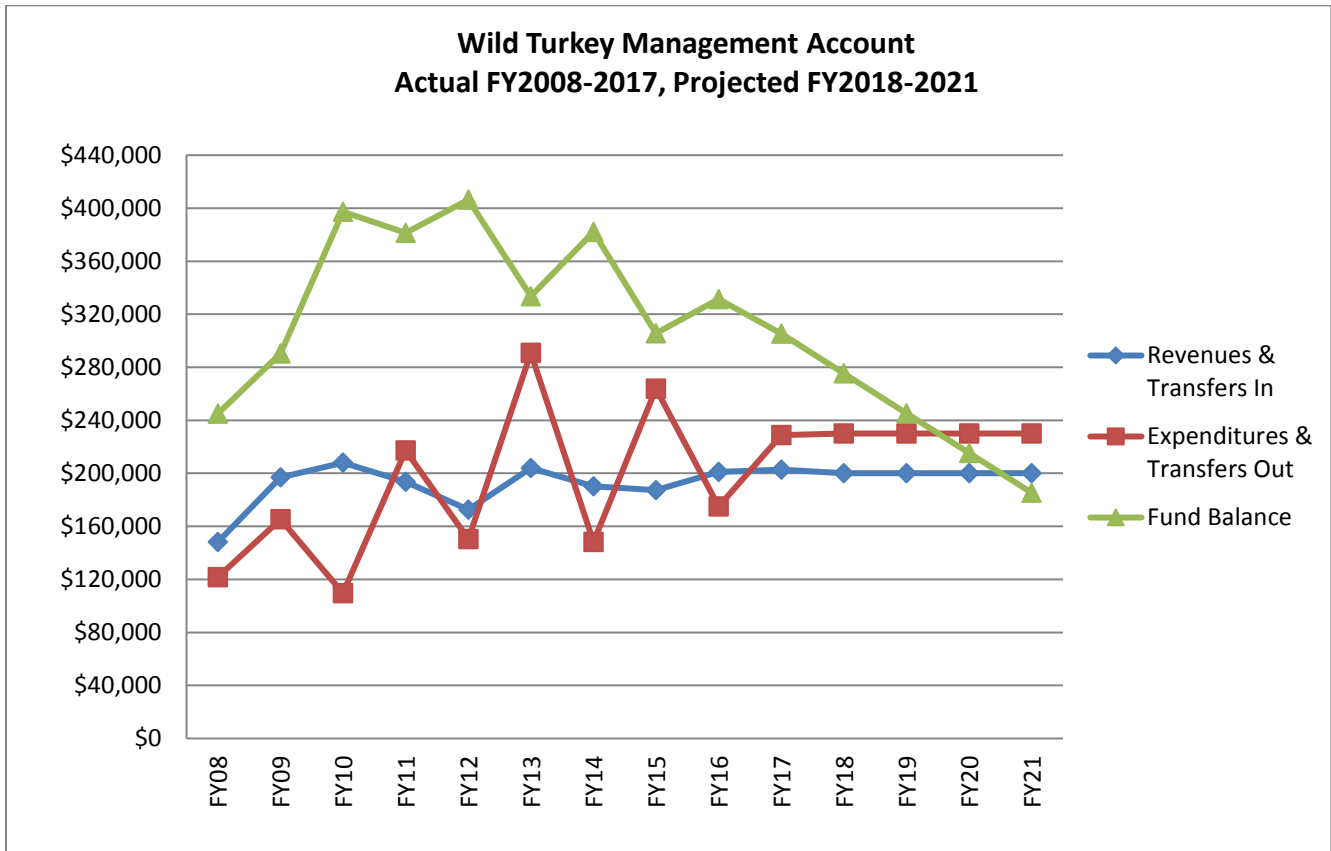
1. Costs that are not directly related to a specific parcel of land under paragraph (a), clauses (1) to (3), a specific trap and transplant project under paragraph (a), clause (4), or to specific promotional or evaluative activities under paragraph (a), clause (5); or
2. Any permanent personnel costs.

Financial Review	
FY2017 Beginning fund balance	\$331,460
Prior year adjustment	\$45
Receipts	
Hunting Licenses	<u>\$202,667</u>
Total receipts and transfers in	\$202,667
Expenditures	
Fish and Wildlife	<u>\$228,856</u>
Total expenditures	\$228,856
FY2017 Ending fund balance	<u>\$305,316</u>
Net change for FY2017	(\$26,144)

Account Analysis

Revenues credited to the Wild Turkey Management Account from turkey license sales have been level for almost a decade after steady growth from inception until about 2009. The Division of Fish and Wildlife is spending down the fund balance over time while maintaining sufficient funds to meet cash flow needs.

Financial Summary FY2008 to FY2021



Heritage Enhancement Account Fund 2209

*Game and Fish Fund
Fiscal Year 2017 Annual Report*

Creation and Purpose of the Account

The legislature created the Heritage Enhancement Account in the Game and Fish Fund in 2000. This account is for enhancement and protection of fish and wildlife resources.

Sources and Uses of the Funds

Revenue in the Heritage Enhancement Account comes from the in-lieu-of-sales tax on the sale of lottery tickets. Of total in-lieu-of-sales tax receipts, 72.43 percent are currently deposited to accounts spent for environmental and natural resource purposes, 50 percent of which is directed to the Heritage Enhancement Account for spending on activities that improve, enhance or protect fish and wildlife resources, including conservation, restoration, and the enhancement of land, water and other natural resources. (M.S. 297A.94)

Financial Review	
FY2017 Beginning fund balance	\$4,145,399
Prior year adjustment	\$171,633
Receipts	
Heritage Enhancement - Lottery-In-Lieu	\$13,211,369
Credit Agreement Rebate	\$2,162
Refund of Prior Period Expenditures	\$5,976
Agency Indirect Cost Reimbursement	\$0
Total Revenues and Transfers-in	\$13,219,508
Expenditures	
Fish and Wildlife	\$8,108,518
Fish and Wildlife – Prairie Wetlands	\$400,336
Fish and Wildlife - Fishing Outreach	\$90,346
Fish and Wildlife - Shooting Sports Facilities	\$152,909
Ecological & Water Resources	\$2,355,007
Enforcement	\$1,581,129
Forestry	\$1,237,936
Total Expenditures and Transfers-out	\$13,926,181
FY2017 Ending fund balance	\$3,610,359
Net change for FY2017	(\$535,040)

Description of Revenues

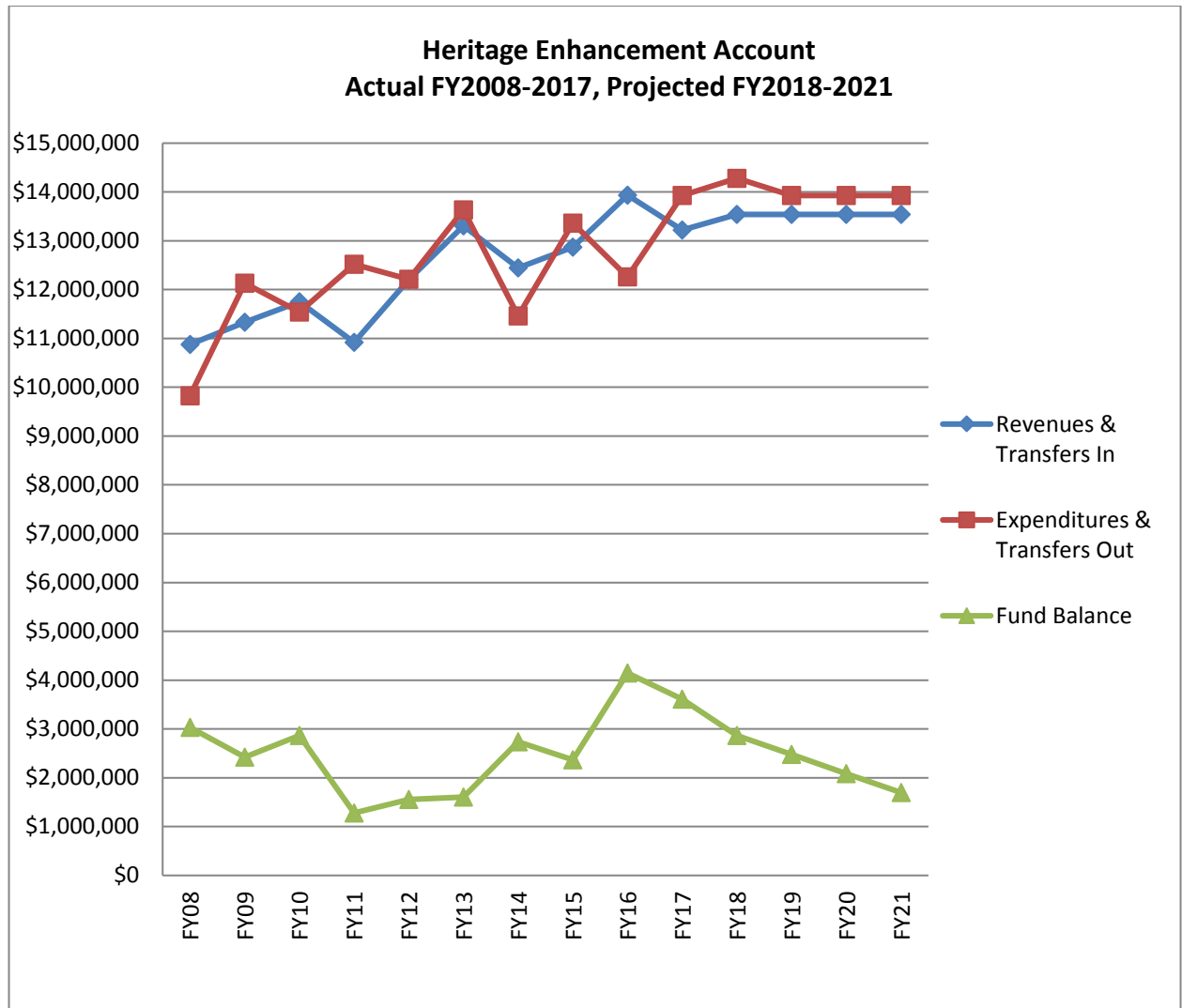
- 1) **Heritage Enhancement - Lottery-In-Lieu** – Receipts collected in lieu of sales tax on lottery sales – 50% of 72.43% of In lieu of lottery sales tax revenue must be deposited in to the Heritage Enhancement Account in the Game and Fish Fund.
- 2) **Credit Agreement Rebates** – Rebate received from purchasing card transactions.

- 3) **Refund of Prior Period Expenditures** – Return of prior year payments to vendors.
- 4) **Agency Indirect Cost Reimbursement (Regional Indirect Cost Plan)** – Reimbursement for unused funds that were paid to the Regional Cost Plans (expense account 42040).

Account Analysis

Lottery revenues are projected to remain flat through fiscal year 2021. Current appropriations (expenditures) are more than expected average revenues, so the fund balance is projected to decrease through fiscal year 2021.

Financial Summary FY2008 to FY2021



Expenditure projections are based on spending authorized in law for the current biennium and carried out through 2021.

Lifetime Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund

Fund 2210

*Game and Fish Fund
Fiscal Year 2017 Annual Report*

Creation and Purpose of the Account

The Lifetime Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund account was established as a fund in the state treasury by the legislator in 2000. (M.S. 97A.4742)

Sources and Uses of the Funds

Purpose - law

All money received from the issuance of lifetime angling, spearing, angling and spearing, small game hunting, deer hunting, sporting, and sporting with spearing option licenses and earnings on the fund shall be credited to the Lifetime Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund.

Money in the Lifetime Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund shall be invested by the State Investment Board to secure the maximum return consistent with the maintenance of the perpetuity of the fund. The income received and accruing from investments of the fund shall be deposited in the Lifetime Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund. Each year the commissioner of management and budget shall transfer from the Lifetime Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund to the Game and Fish Fund an amount equal to the amount that would otherwise have been collected from annual license fees for each lifetime license.

Financial Review	
FY2017 Beginning fund balance	\$11,455,115
Prior year adjustment	\$0
Receipts	
Fishing Licenses	\$443,178
Hunting Licenses	\$578,069
Sportsman Licenses	\$691,212
G-F Lifetime License Activations	(\$674,487)
ITC Interest Earnings	<u>\$5,703</u>
Total Revenues and Transfers-in	\$1,043,675
Expenditures	
	\$0
Total Expenditures and Transfers-out	\$0
FY2017 Ending fund balance	<u>\$12,498,789</u>
Net change for FY2017	\$1,043,675

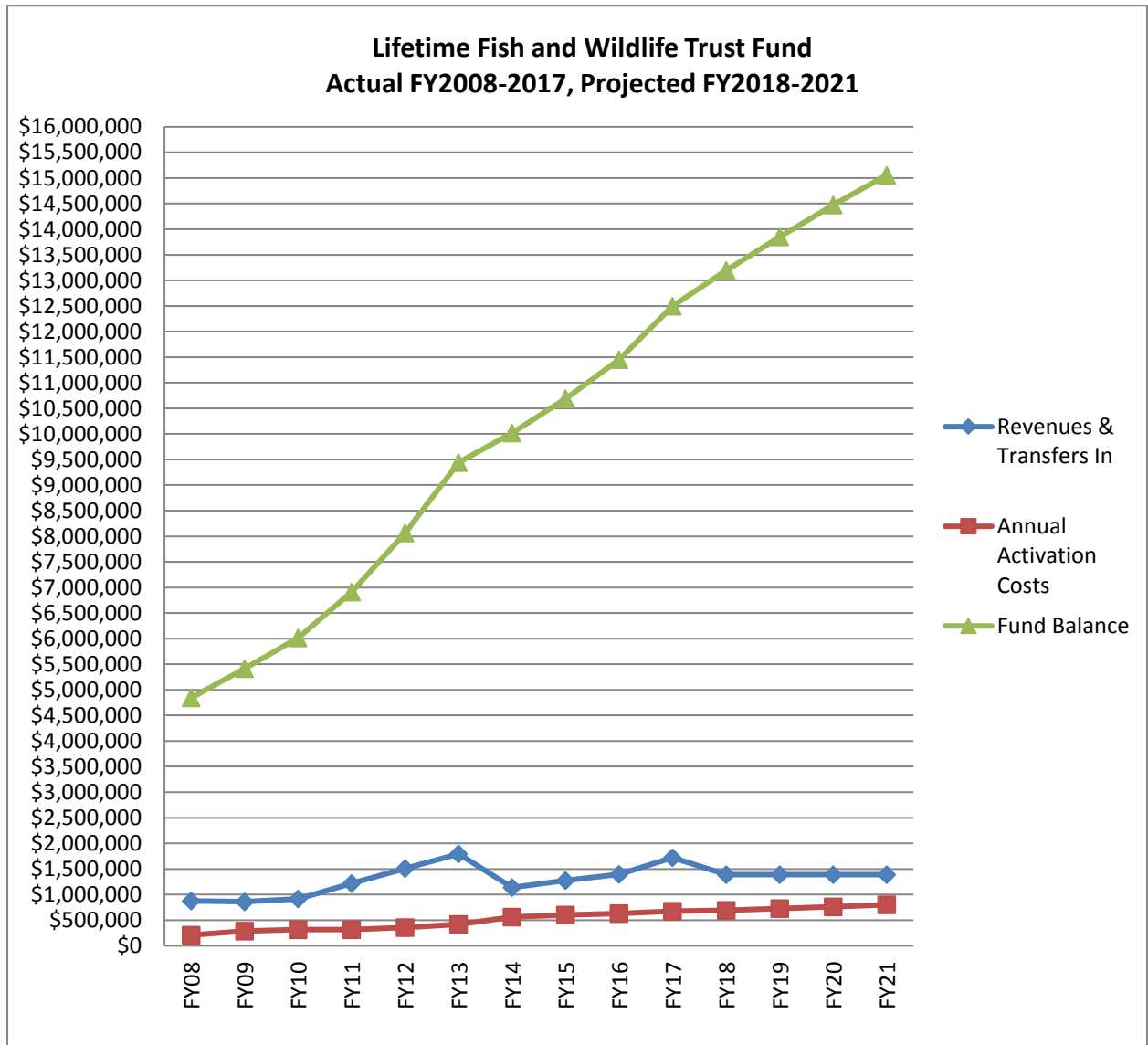
Description of Revenues

- 1) **Sales of Lifetime Licenses** – Hunting, fishing, small game, and sports.
- 2) **G&F Lifetime License Activations** – Deposit correction for total amount of activations for the license year (number of activations multiplied by current license prices). Funds are transferred from the Lifetime Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund to the fund and revenue accounts related to those licenses.
- 3) **ITC Interest Earnings** – Interest earning on balance not invested with State Board of Investments (SBI). Per accounting rules SBI investment income is not reflected in the fund statement.

Account Analysis

Lifetime license sales increased in fiscal years 2012 and 2013 before the price increases took effect. Sales then declined after the price increases. After a low year in fiscal year 2014, sales are now starting to increase. The Lifetime License Activation cost is listed as negative revenue. The amount of the Lifetime license activation transfers-out will increase each year due to the increased number of Lifetime license activations as the number of Lifetime license holders increase each year. The fund balance will continue to increase until the amount of the activation transfers-out exceeds the amount of new licenses sold. The net sales (license sales less activation transfers-out) are projected to trend downward starting in fiscal year 2019.

Financial Summary FY2008 to FY2021



Walleye Stamp Account

Fund 2211

Game and Fish Fund
Fiscal Year 2017 Annual Report

Purpose of the Account

This account is for stocking walleyes purchased from the private sector in waters of the state.

Sources and Uses of the Funds

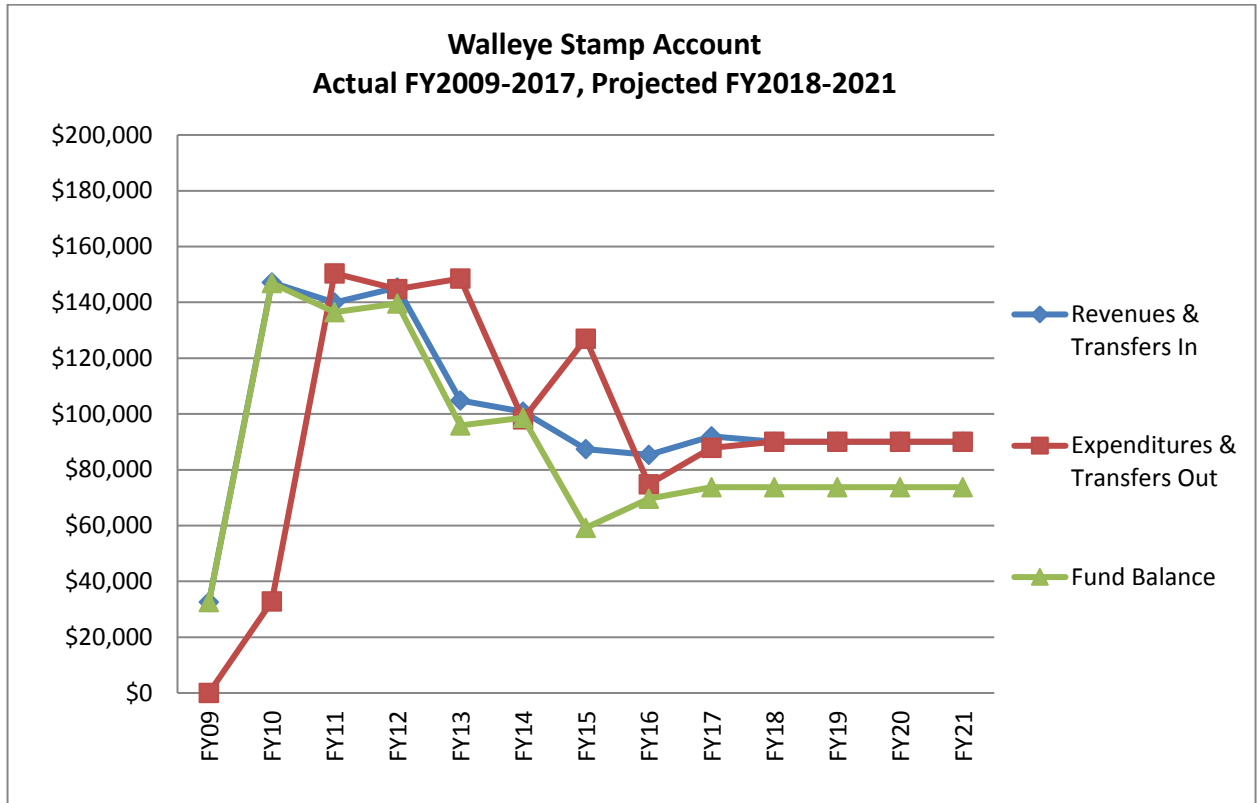
Revenue from walleye stamps must be credited to the walleye stamp account and is appropriated to the commissioner only for stocking walleyes purchased from the private sector in waters of the state. (M.S. 97A.075, Subd. 6)

Financial Review	
FY2017 Beginning fund balance	\$69,673
Prior year adjustment	\$0
Receipts	
Walleye Stamp	<u>\$91,963</u>
Total receipts and transfers in	\$91,963
Expenditures	
Fish and Wildlife	<u>\$87,873</u>
Total expenditures	\$87,873
FY2017 Ending fund balance	<u>\$73,764</u>
Net change for FY2017	\$4,090

Account Analysis

There has been a decline in the optional walleye stamp sales since fiscal year 2012, although fiscal year 2017 saw a slight increase in sales. Expenditures will be managed to prevent the balance from going negative.

Financial Summary FY2009 to FY2021



Peace Officer Training Account Fund 2212

*Game and Fish Fund
Fiscal Year 2017 Annual Report*

Purpose of the Account

The Peace Officer Training Account is created in the Game and Fish Fund in the state treasury. Money in the Peace Officer Training Account may only be spent by the commissioner for peace officer training for employees of the Department of Natural Resources who are licensed under sections M.S. 626.84 to 626.863 to enforce game and fish laws. (M.S. 97A.052)

Sources and Uses of the Funds

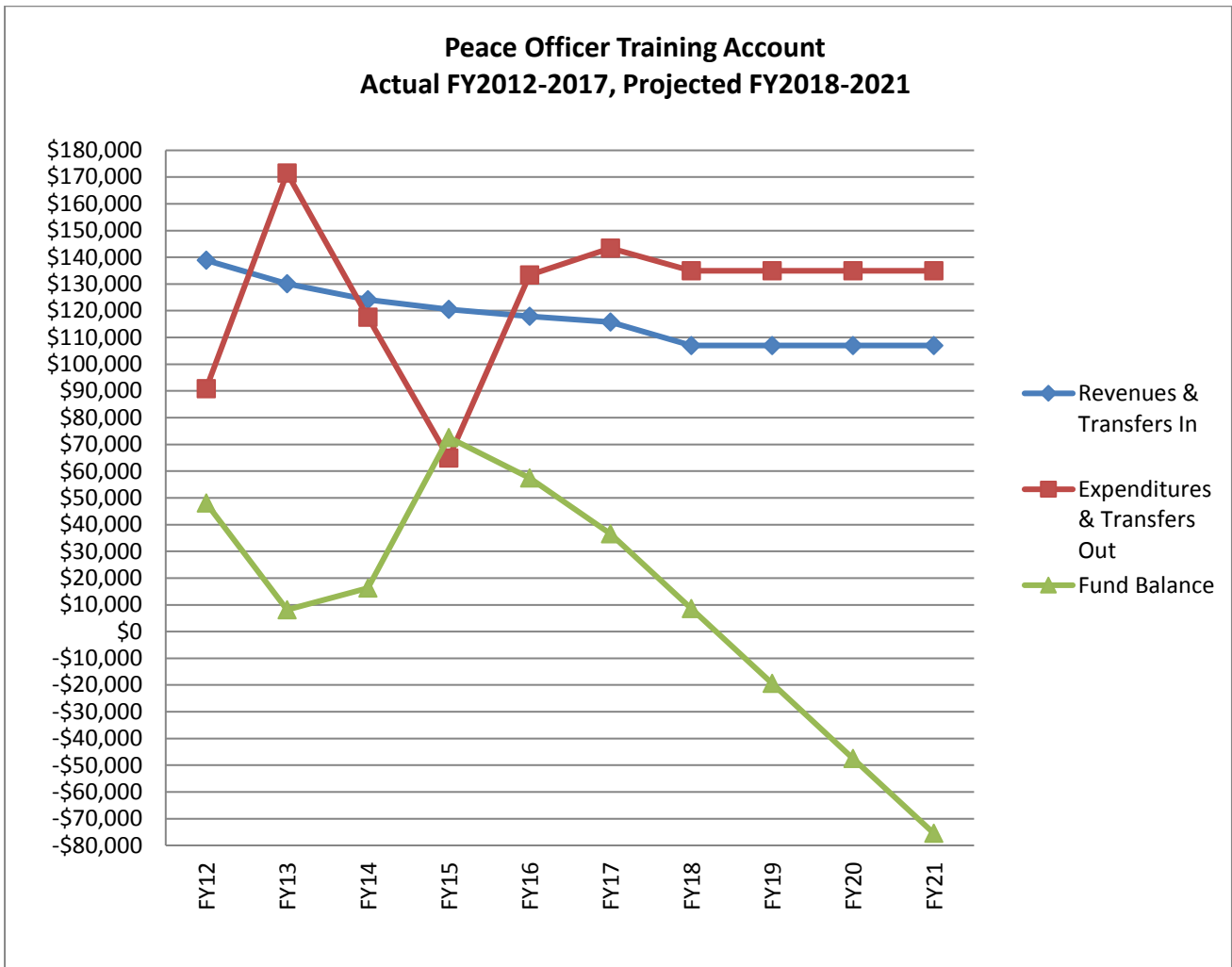
1% of the revenue from surcharges assessed to criminal and traffic offenders are deposited in the account. Money in the peace officer training account may only be spent by for peace officer training for enforcement officers of the Department of Natural Resources.

Financial Review	
FY2017 Beginning fund balance	\$57,458
Prior year adjustment	\$6,748
Receipts	
General K/T Surcharge	\$115,736
Credit Agreement Rebate	<u>\$66</u>
Total receipts and transfers in	\$115,801
Expenditures	
Enforcement	<u>\$143,430</u>
Total expenditures	\$143,430
FY2017 Ending fund balance	<u>\$36,577</u>
Net change for FY2017	(\$20,881)

Account Analysis

Revenues have been in decline since the inception of the account. This account is appropriated by the legislature. Currently the annual appropriation is \$135,000 per year. Revenues in fiscal year 2017 were only \$115,801 and are expected to be lower in future years. Enforcement will manage their expenses to prevent the account from going negative.

Financial Summary FY2012 to FY2021



Expenditure projections are based on spending authorized in law for the current biennium and carried out through FY2021. The department will manage levels of spending to ensure the account does not go negative as shown above.

Wolf Management and Monitoring Account Fund 2213

*Game and Fish Fund
Fiscal Year 2017 Annual Report*

Purpose of the Account

The Wolf Management and Monitoring Account was created during the 2012 Legislative session in the Game and Fish Fund. Revenue from wolf licenses must be credited to the Wolf Management and Monitoring Account and is appropriated to the commissioner only for wolf management, research, damage control, enforcement, and education.

Sources and Uses of the Funds

Wolf license application fees and licenses sales and \$.50 from each deer and super-sports license sold are credited to this account. (M.S. 97A.075, Subd. 1e and 7b) Wolf hunting and trapping seasons and associated license sales ceased when the grey wolf reverted from state to federal jurisdiction on December 19th, 2014, due to a federal court ruling related to the recovery status of the Great Lakes region wolf population.

Funds are only used for wolf; management, research, damage control, enforcement, and education. (M.S. 97A.075, Subd. 7b)

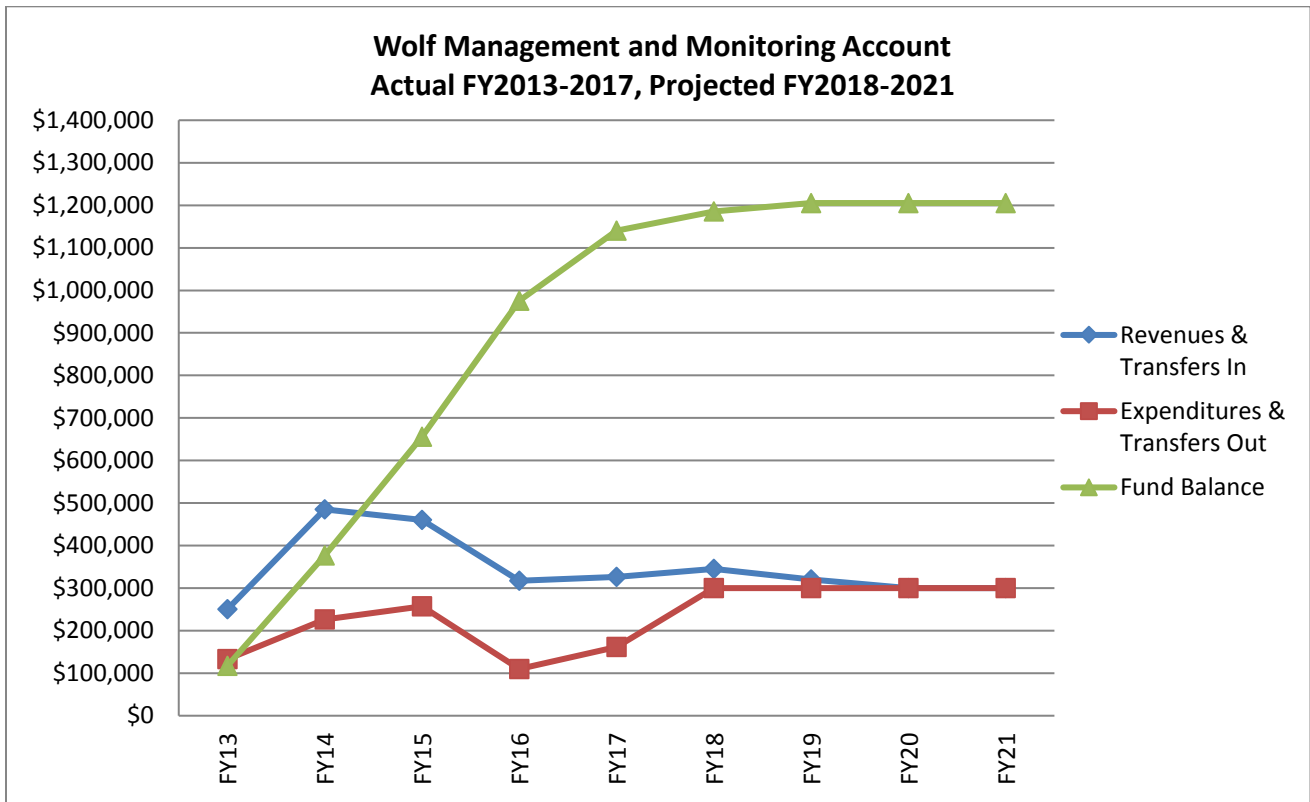
Note: The amendment to subdivision 1 by Laws 2017, chapter 93, article 2, section 70 (removal of \$.50 from deer licenses), is effective July 1 of the year following the year the wolf is delisted under the federal Endangered Species Act. Laws 2017, chapter 93, article 2, section 70, the effective date.

Financial Review	
FY2017 Beginning fund balance	\$975,638
Prior year adjustment	\$248
Receipts	
Wolf Hunting and Trapping Licenses	\$0
Wolf Allocation	<u>\$326,290</u>
Total receipts and transfers in	\$326,290
Expenditures	
Fish and Wildlife	<u>\$161,809</u>
Total expenditures	\$161,809
FY2017 Ending fund balance	<u>\$1,140,367</u>
Net change for FY2017	\$164,728

Account Analysis

Wolf account revenues declined with the loss of wolf license application fees and license sales. The account's current source of revenue is \$.50 from each deer license. The fund balance is projected to increase in FY2018 and FY2019, and then stay level in following years. Wolves are a federally managed animal. While listed, the state has committed to match \$110,000 USDA federal wolf damage control program with prior Governor Administration support. This was a short-term solution to be revisited each year.

Financial Summary FY2013 to FY2021



Outcomes/Accomplishments

Fish Management

1. Population Management

Population management includes the assessment and documentation of biological, chemical, physical, social, and economic factors affecting and resulting from existing aquatic populations, communities, and ecosystems. Assessments are used to inform management plans and actions designed to enhance or conserve healthy and sustainable aquatic populations, communities, and ecosystems. Management actions include stocking, setting regulations, habitat protection and enhancement, etc. Management actions are regularly evaluated to assess their effectiveness.

Accomplishments:

- Conducted 339 standard and 504 targeted lake surveys, as well as 11 large lake, 7 winter fish house, and 64 winter dissolved oxygen surveys. There were also 148 stream surveys completed. Surveys provide the foundation for the development of lake and stream management plans. Given mild winter conditions and early ice-outs, substantially fewer dissolved oxygen surveys were needed.
- Reviewed and updated 513 lake and stream management plans that provide interpretations of survey results, report on the outcomes of ongoing management actions, identify habitat protection and restoration needs, and provide strategic approaches to fish community management in an effort to sustain and improve lake health and fishing quality. Lake surveys and lake management plans are available at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind/index.html>
- Conducted 24 angler creel surveys (19 standard lake creels, 4 standard large river creels, and 1 remote-camera angler creel). Creel surveys provide data on angling pressure, species targeted, and fishing quality to inform management decisions using critical user-based information.
- Collectively reviewed and issued 1,196 commercial fishing licenses for commercial fish harvest, aquaculture, minnow dealers, turtle sellers, and Lake Superior fishing guides. Commercial fishing continues to maintain its place in Minnesota, helping to keep some fish communities in balance and contributing to the state's economy.
- Reviewed and issued 372 fishing tournament permits.
- Released an updated Lake Survey Manual that taps into efficiencies of using targeted surveys, improved protocols, and updated analyses.
- The Fisheries pathology laboratory tested 14,160 specimens for Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS), 7,002 specimens for state and private aquaculture facilities, and participated in the investigations of 11 fish kills. Reviewed more than 350 live fish transportation permits to help prevent the spread of pathogens. The Fisheries Pathology Laboratory provides assessment services to maintain healthy fish at the state's hatcheries and prevent disease transfer among water bodies. The lab and the Section's Fish Health Consultant were heavily involved in the identification of Koi Herpes Virus (KHV) that caused substantial kills of common carp in the Waterville area near the end of the fiscal year.
- Completed an extensive evaluation of northern pike populations across the state that resulted in landmark recommendations on changes to statewide northern pike regulations that were ultimately passed by the Minnesota State Legislature and signed by the Governor. The new pike regulations will go into effect in FY18. The Section's capacity to complete this comprehensive species review is a testament to decades of scientifically sound and thorough data collection of area staff.

- In FY2017, a culmination of surveys indicated that lake trout populations in the Minnesota waters of Lake Superior had reached the benchmarks to consider the lake trout recovery effort a success. After the sea lamprey nearly decimated the Lake Superior lake trout, this population recovery is a historic milestone. The agency continues to be an active participant in regional efforts to control sea lampreys – a management action that will need our continued support.

2. Habitat Management

Habitat management includes Aquatic Plant Management permitting, and assessment and monitoring of biological, chemical, physical, social, and economic factors affecting and resulting from habitat that influences aquatic populations, communities, and ecosystems. Assessments are used to inform management plans and actions designed to enhance or conserve healthy ecosystems. Biological monitoring is used to evaluate ecosystem condition, and easement monitoring is conducted to document compliance with conservation easement agreements. Aquatic Plant Management permitting is used to balance resource protection with reasonable recreational use, following guidelines in administrative rules. Management actions include protecting existing critical habitat through land purchases or easements, designing and implementing habitat restoration and enhancement projects, and working with partners to influence watershed planning. Management actions are regularly evaluated to assess their effectiveness.

Accomplishments:

- Secured five trout stream easements totaling 2.5 miles and 40.5 acres that will provide enhanced access to trout fisheries.
- Purchased six fee-title tracts and one conservation easement totaling 2.6 miles of shoreline and 355.5 acres for Aquatic Management Areas that provide additional recreational access and protection of aquatic resources.
- Reviewed and issued 4,682 aquatic plant management permits. The permit process ensures that removal of native aquatic vegetation enhances recreational opportunities while not negatively impacting fishery resources.
- Developed habitat on three coldwater streams, benefitting 30 miles of stream. These projects include placing structures such as wood or rock into a stream, and bank stabilization or channel modification to restore or enhance habitat for various trout species. Enhanced trout habitat contributes to more healthy and abundant fish populations.
- Maintained habitat on 33 coldwater streams, benefitting 290 miles of stream. These project are intended to sustain existing high quality trout habitat by removing beaver dams and maintaining healthy stream bank vegetation through plantings, protection, and removal of invasive plants.
- Developed habitat on two warmwater streams, one creating upstream access to 3,147 acres of lake habitat and the other enhancing habitat on 9 acres of the Mississippi River.
- The shoreland habitat grant program was ended in FY2016 because local SWCDs and Watershed Districts have developed the capacity of run their own programs. For FY2017 funds previously used for that purpose were used for Fisheries stream and lake habitat projects and AMA maintenance (21 projects including shoreline restoration, access road repair, trash removal, parking lots), boundary surveys (27 completed) and enhancement projects (31 AMAs and 528 acres, using a mix of LSOHF and G&F).
- Worked to update the designated trout list, continuing a proposal began in FY2016 to add two lakes and portions of 19 streams totaling 54 miles, and adding additional short segments of 29 currently designated trout streams to the list. These segments were missed when the streams were originally designated. The proposal also includes removing one lake and 41 streams from the

designated trout list. Corrections to the names of 190 designated streams was made in in rule to eliminate potential confusion as to which stream is designated.

3. Culture and Stocking

Production and stocking involves the collection of spawning fish, taking of eggs and milt, rearing, and stocking of fish to create or enhance fisheries populations. Stocking priorities are guided by Fisheries lake and river management plans.

Accomplishments:

- Similarly to FY2016, fishing and fishing-related expenditures from the angling public contributed an estimated \$2.4 billion to the Minnesota economy, a portion of which can be accredited to the stocking of more than 240 million fish in 977 public waters of the state.
- Four species and one hybrid strain of trout were stocked into 137 lakes and 46 streams, including (numbers are approximate) 925,000 rainbow trout, 415,000 brown trout, 21,000 brook trout, 44,000 lake trout, and 86,000 splake (lake trout – brook trout hybrids).
- Thirteen species of cool and warm water fish were stocked (fry and fingerlings combined) into 699 lakes and 8 rivers, including (numbers are approximate) nearly 2.4 million walleye, 800,000 northern pike, 17,000 bluegill, and 22,000 muskellunge.
- The Fishing in the Neighborhood (FiN) program also stocked approximately 3,500 bluegills, 70,000 walleye fry, 1,300 walleye fingerlings and adults, 1,300 largemouth bass, and 20,000 channel catfish into lakes within the 7-county metropolitan area to increase angling opportunities and public awareness of how citizens can become better stewards of the urban environment.
- Purchased a total of 40,000 pounds of walleye, of which 4,161 pounds of walleyes from private aquaculture facilities, using walleye stamp funds, which were stocked into seven lakes in the Hinckley area.
- Completed a more than 10-year assessment of walleye stocking strategies as part of the Accelerated Walleye Program and developed recommendations to improve walleye stocking efficiencies and effectiveness.

4. Education, Outreach, and Rulemaking

Education and outreach involves facilitating and participating in initiatives to communicate the economic, social, and biological benefits of conserving, enhancing, and providing access to aquatic resources. It also involves facilitating efforts to inform and involve stakeholders in Fisheries Section management activities and actions.

Rulemaking is a tool used by the Fisheries Section to assure aquatic resources are not over-exploited, manage populations to provide sustainable and optimal population dynamics, and prevent the movement and expansion of undesirable aquatic populations.

- Completed the legislative process for substantive northern pike management regulations state-wide.
- Mille Lacs Lake public information and engagement: Facilitated seven in-person meetings of the Mille Lacs Fisheries Advisory Committee to engage stakeholders and obtain feedback on various management strategies and informed Mille Lacs Lake Fisheries Advisory Committee via email and conference call prior to news releases being published.
- Notified the public of special regulations through news releases, web page updates, and brochures distributed to resorts and businesses around the lake.
- Completed expedited permanent rules on Border Waters Fish Culling Rule.
- Completed expedited emergency rules regarding Mille Lacs and Upper Red lakes.

- Collaborated with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the Minnesota Department of Health to develop a fact sheet on harmful algal blooms for recreational users, provided data for fish consumption guide determinations, and provided expertise on long-term trends in fish contaminants.
- Provided educational tours and hands-on learning experiences to more than 2,200 people at fish hatcheries around the state.
- Partnered with Sea Grant and the University of Minnesota to deliver an Aquaculture Workshop focused on aquatic food production in Minnesota.
- Collaborated with Division of Ecological & Water Resources to complete a public input process with minnow dealers operating in infested waters, finalized a report entitled “Minnow Harvest in Waters Listed as Infested with AIS,” and implemented several of the report’s recommendations.

5. Planning and Coordination

Planning and coordination involves developing internal and external planning documents that guide Fisheries Section activities and provide a framework for communicating and assessing management actions. Examples include division strategic plans, specific fish species management plans, and lake management plans. Plans are developed in coordination and collaboration with stakeholders including general anglers, commercial anglers, tribal units of government, other state agencies, federal agencies, and environmental non-profit groups.

Accomplishments:

- Section of Fisheries staff completed 490 lake and 23 stream management plans.
- Completed two comprehensive lake vegetation management plans on public waters and contributed habitat management expertise on more than 100 additional plans.
- Updated Fish Kill Investigation Manual to clarify fish and water sampling protocols, checklists for an investigation, and contacts for various state agencies.
- Developed interagency guidance for response to fish kill events with the MPCA and MDA to clarify communications, outline responsibilities, and identify available resources within each agency.
- Completed final edits and released the Lake Superior Management Plan.
- Engaged a stakeholder input group to develop a comprehensive fisheries management plan for Lake Vermillion.
- Release of updated Lake Survey Manual resulting from a 5-year committee evaluation of current and recommendations for future sampling and population monitoring practices.

Fish Management Expenditures for FY2017								
(\$ in thousands)								
Fund	Population Mgmt	Habitat Mgmt	Culture & Stocking	Educ & Outreach	Planning & Coord	Division Services	Dept Services	Fund Total
2200	11,223.0	3,057.4	3,937.8	1,555.8	4,643.1	2,504.1	2,881.9	29,803.1
2204	269.6	264.5	701.6		0.1			1,235.8
2209	457.0	359.6	2,650.7	2.1	343.0	0.3	354.0	4,166.8
2211			87.9					87.9
Total	11,949.7	3,681.5	7,378.1	1,557.9	4,986.2	2,504.4	3,235.9	35,293.6

** Decrease in Dept Services from prior years is a result of redefining the category to align with Agency definition. Difference spread to other categories.*

Wildlife Management

1. Wildlife – Population Management

Activities to manage and monitor populations of small game, furbearers, migratory game birds including waterfowl, resident game birds, and big game in order to provide hunting and wildlife observing recreation, and to monitor and manage disease outbreaks as outlined in the DNR's mission.

A. Big Game Activities

To administer the big game seasons and regulations process so that seasons are supported by enforceable rules and that populations are maintained at appropriate levels supported by the public, as well as monitoring and managing big game health and disease.

Accomplishments:

- Managed the 2017 deer, elk, and bear hunts to provide hunting opportunities and biological benefit.
- Continued implementation of the Moose Management and Research Plan to better understand, mitigate and prevent the decline of the moose population.
 - Preliminary results continue to show that, of radio-collared moose that have died, ~62% died due to health-related conditions. The remainder were otherwise healthy animals that were largely killed by wolves. Annual survival rate for adult collared moose have been 91% (June 2017), 85% (2016), 86% (2015), 88% (2014) and 81% (2013).
 - The DNR's internal moose advisory committee based on knowledge gained from ongoing research and collaboration with other tribal and federal partners is charged with making moose management recommendations.
 - Our calf helicopter surveys during late March 2017 (just prior to the new calving season) documented a 0.36 calf:cow ratio (e.g. survival of calves to 1 year of age). That is low but comparable to the 12-year average since 2015 (0.35). Results from ongoing moose research continue to suggest a complex system with much annual variation in monitored factors.
 - In northeastern Minnesota's moose range, all or some of permit areas 122, 127, 176, 178, 180, and 181 were realigned to form permit areas 130, 131, 132 and 133 to enhance management of both deer and moose.
- Coordinated with wildlife health program on targeted surveillance for chronic wasting disease (CWD) as well as research-focused and opportunistic sampling of deer, elk, and moose to effectively monitor for early detection of diseases to improve population management.
- Completed the administrative rules for big game and revised the hunting synopsis to provide and communicate about big game hunting opportunities.
- Continued an evaluation of hunter and landowner surveys regarding deer population management for 60 permits areas in the state to better understand social aspects of deer populations to apply to population and hunt management.
- Continued implementation of the 2016-2019 intermediate Strategic Elk Management Plan to guide elk population management and recreational opportunity through 2019. Implemented management strategies to stabilize current populations per 2016 legislative statute and intermediate Strategic Elk Management Plan.
- Begin implementing and responding to recommendations contained in the Office of the Legislative Auditor's audit of the Deer Management Program.
- Began a broad public engagement process as part of the development of Minnesota's first statewide deer management plan. Over 500 people attended one of thirteen public meetings, an additional 1,400 comments were submitted online and email/mail. A nineteen member public

Deer Management Plan Advisory Committee has met monthly starting in December 2016 to December 2017 to provide feedback to DNR throughout the development of the deer plan.

B. Wild Turkey Activities

To administer the spring and fall turkey seasons and regulations process so that seasons are supported by enforceable rules so that populations are sustainable while providing quality hunting opportunities.

Accomplishments:

- Managed spring and fall turkey seasons, including the completion of the 2016 Harvest Report.
- Supported habitat projects that benefit wild turkeys, including enhancing nesting cover, winter food development, and forest stand improvement.

C. Waterfowl Activities

To collect and analyze results of waterfowl population survey data and prepare reports and publications so that information is available to assure that waterfowl population resources are available for hunting consistent with biological principles, state goals, and clearly written regulations.

Accomplishments:

- Breeding ground population surveys conducted for ducks, Canada geese, and sandhill cranes to inform wildlife enthusiasts and hunting season framework for the coming year.
- Waterfowl surveys were completed several times on several key fall migration areas in northern Minnesota. Provided reports on waterfowl habitat conditions, populations, and general hunting success to interested individuals by posting weekly reports on the DNR website to inform waterfowl hunters and enthusiasts of potential recreational opportunities.
- Co-sponsored annual Waterfowl Symposium with the Minnesota Waterfowl Association (MWA), and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in Bloomington to share management information between agencies and attendees to improve waterfowl management.
- New research being initiated to evaluate habitat management techniques.

D. Wildlife Registration Activities

Manage the state's wildlife registration systems so that accurate and timely information is available to make sound season management decisions.

Accomplishments:

- Continued to register deer, bear, and turkeys through the ELS system to inform management decisions and report to the public.
- Registered the take of fisher, marten and bobcat for population modeling and to inform the public.
- Continued working with Licensing to renew the ELS contract to continue to provide local license buying and hunter registration services.
- Participated in the review of the current ELS system and made recommendations for changes. Explored new vendors and "in-house" ELS development.

E. Other Activities

To administer other wildlife hunting seasons and regulations processes so that seasons are supported by enforceable rules and so that populations are maintained at appropriate levels supported by the public as well as monitoring and managing wildlife health.

Accomplishments:

- Worked closely with stakeholders to create a new sharp-tailed grouse zone with limited hunting opportunities in the east-central portion of the state. This area may benefit the population, which has been declining for many years due to habitat loss.
- Set a season for long-tailed and short-tailed weasels to maintain harvest opportunities while accommodating a change in the species' status from "unprotected" to "protected" under *Minnesota Statutes* 97A.015, subd. 45.
- Continued to collect detailed information on non-target trapping incidents involving domestic animals and worked with stakeholders to develop public information aimed at minimizing the occurrence of these incidents.
- Maintained special regulations that allow opportunities for limited hunting, trapping, wild ricing or bird watching on 16 state game refuges. In total, there are 48 state game refuges with similar opportunities.
- Simplified regulations allowing conservation officers and DNR managers to more easily identify and contact hunters who are willing to take nuisance bears.

2. Wildlife – Habitat Management

Activities to establish, improve and maintain wildlife habitat on the 1.3 million acre network of state Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs), on the states shallow lake resources, as well as on other public and private land through resource assessment, technical guidance and through active management of grasslands, forests, brushlands, and wetlands to protect habitats and to provide food, water and shelter for native, migrant and other featured wildlife species.

A. Grassland Habitat Management Activity

Management of wildlife habitats in the Prairie and Aspen Parklands ecological provinces of Minnesota includes restoring and enhancing prairie and other grasslands on WMAs, as well as other DNR and non-DNR public lands, controlling invasive species, managing food plots and cooperative farming agreements, and developing winter cover plantings. These activities collectively provide the best wildlife habitat for a range of game and non-game species, as well as pollinators. Habitat loss and fragmentation, declines in species diversity, degradation of soil and water resources, and invasive species are immediate threats to our grassland system.

Accomplishments:

- Finished planned revisions of Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan.
- Revised initial version pheasant habitat complexes.
- 6,333 acres of Noxious Weed Control on 592 WMAs as required by law.
- 1,768 acres of food development on 261 plots to provide winter food resources for wildlife.
- 27,124 acres in 707 Cooperative Farming Agreements to provide winter food and cover, and to enhance habitat for wildlife.
- 20,065 acres in 268 prescribed burns to enhance the quality of grassland habitats for wildlife.
- 36 acres of woody cover development on 11 WMAs to provide winter cover for wildlife.
- 3,506 acres of Prairie/Grassland Establishment on 121 WMAs to provide habitat for grassland wildlife.
- 5,980 acres of Woody vegetation Removal on 24 WMAs to enhance the quality of grassland habitats for wildlife.
- 10,030 acres of conservation grazing on 32 WMAs to enhance the quality of grassland habitats for wildlife.
- 1,108 acres of other grassland management activities on 65 sites to enhance the quality of grassland habitats for wildlife.

B. Forest Habitat Management Activity

Management of wildlife habitats in forested areas of Minnesota includes forest and open brushland management activities on WMAs, state forests, and other public lands. This activity is needed to mitigate habitat loss, fragmentation, and degradation that are identified as the primary challenges facing forest wildlife. Almost one third of the state's 292 species in greatest conservation need inhabit forests. See the Technical Guidance Program section for additional details on forest planning efforts. Program expenses contributed to the following outcomes.

Accomplishments:

- 12,359 acres in 46 brushland prescribed burns to enhance the quality of brushland habitats for wildlife.
- 446 acres of brushland management on 13 Sites to enhance the quality of brushland habitats for wildlife.
- 335 acres in 23 Forest prescribed burns to enhance the quality of forest habitats for wildlife.
- 573 acres of forest opening management on 232 opening to enhance forest habitat for wildlife that thrive on small forest openings.
- 45,051 acres of Forest Stand Improvements on 2,288 sites to enhance forest habitat for wildlife.

C. Wetland Habitat Management Activity

Management of wetland wildlife habitats involves the restoration of drained wetlands, maintenance of existing wetlands by replacing water control structures, managing water levels, maintaining dikes and structures, and the improvement of aquatic habitats by seeding desirable aquatic plants, installing fish barriers, reduction of undesirable fish populations and installing nesting structures. This activity is needed to combat obvious wetland loss and the poor quality of remaining wetlands. Only 20 percent of prairie wetlands are considered to be in good habitat condition due to invading plant species, undesirable fish, and excessive water levels. Increased private land drainage is exacerbating the problems. Additionally, there are more than 700 DNR water management structures and over one-third of them are over 30 years old. Future work should focus more resources on active management of wetlands and addressing the backlog of work to maintain or replace water management structures.

Accomplishments:

- 136,234 acres of Wetland Habitat Maintenance on 457 basins to enhance wetland habitat for wildlife.
- 1,524 Nest Structures Maintained on 303 basins to provide nesting habitat for wetland wildlife.
- 272 acres of Wetland Restored on 62 basins to provide new habitat for wetland dependent wildlife.
- 18,711 acres of Wetlands impacted by Wetland Water Control work on 46 basins to enable wetland habitat enhancement for wildlife through water level manipulation.
- 12,305 acres of Wetland Enhancements on 114 basins to enhance wetland habitat for wildlife.
- 59,543 acres on 184 wild rice lakes were actively managed to improve conditions for wild rice for the benefit of wetland wildlife that utilize wild rice stands. This includes work done through funding provided to Ducks Unlimited and by Area Wildlife staff. Additional wild rice work was done as part of the Wetland Habitat Maintenance and Wetland Enhancement work shown in the previous bullets.

D. Private Land Habitat Management Activity

Private land habitat management is accomplished primarily through assistance provided by private lands specialists within the Wildlife Habitat Program. Each of the habitat teams (forest, wetland, and prairie) has a private land specialist that emphasizes their team's focus, however the prairie private land specialist was vacant for the majority of FY2017. Primary emphasis is habitat management through coordinating with agencies and organizations which influence private lands programs; implementing strategic habitat

improvement projects on private lands; and providing technical assistance to private landowners, so the DNR's contribution can be leveraged, efficient and effective. The accomplishments listed below are results where DNR contributed directly to those efforts. Coordinated efforts are tracked in hours in the Technical Guidance section. An additional \$250,000 was provided to the Farm Bill Assistance Partnership, which is a joint effort between DNR, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, Pheasants Forever (PF), Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD), the Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service that places staff in the local USDA Service Center to actively engage landowners in conservation programs that benefit wildlife.

Accomplishments:

- 1,621 acres of food plots to provide winter food for wildlife.
- 705 acres of grassland development to create new grassland habitat for wildlife.
- 1,500 acres of forest management to enhance forest habitat for wildlife.
- 2,368 acres of prescribed burning to enhance habitat for wildlife.
- 113 acres of wetland development to enhance habitat for wildlife.

E. Habitat Assessment Activity

Resource assessment includes efforts to inventory, assess and map aquatic and terrestrial wildlife habitat and to create and maintain digital databases for information management. Expenditures included: digital information management, mapping, wildlife resource assessment and wildlife lake assessments.

Accomplishments:

- 76,234 acres of wildlife lake assessments on 60 lakes to identify needs for shallow lake enhancement for wildlife.
- Assessment and monitoring of plant species and structural diversity on prairie restorations and conservation grazing sites.
- Assessment of habitat use of sharp-tailed grouse.
- Development of forest wildlife habitat metrics.
- Assessing the value of permanently managed wildlife openings for American woodcock.

F. Land Acquisitions Activity

Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) are part of Minnesota's outdoor recreation system and are established to protect those lands and waters that have a high potential for wildlife production, public hunting, trapping, fishing, wildlife watching and other compatible recreational uses.

Accomplishments:

- Acquired a total of 6,380 acres by gift or purchase in FY2017 to add to WMAs to provide wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities, summarized as follows:
 - 4,090 acres in the prairie zone – species benefited include ring-necked pheasant.
 - 725 acres in the northern forest zone - species benefited include sharp-tailed grouse.
 - 717 acres in the metro/deciduous transition zone – species benefited include waterfowl.
 - 848 acres in the southeast forest zone - species benefited include wild turkey.

G. Technical Guidance Activity

Although Minnesota's WMA system is one of the largest and best in the nation, most wildlife habitat exists on private and public land administered by other agencies or DNR Divisions. Providing technical guidance on effective wildlife population and habitat management principles and techniques to these other land administrators is essential for improvements to wildlife related resources throughout the state. This is especially significant for forest wildlife species. Also, maintaining wildlife populations within social carrying capacity (the level at which human communities will tolerate wildlife populations) and assisting

landowners at dealing with nuisance wildlife and with damage caused by wildlife is critical to maintain public support for wildlife and wildlife habitat.

Accomplishments:

- Wildlife lake technical guidance: 7,391 hours to provide information on enhancing wildlife lake habitat.
- Forest wildlife technical guidance: 16,080 hours to improve forest wildlife habitat on non-WMA land.
- Interagency technical guidance including urban management for wildlife values: 9,598 hours.
- Private land technical guidance: 1,891 hours to improve wildlife habitat on private land.
- Nuisance animal technical guidance: 4,515 hours to assist landowners/managers with wildlife damage.

H. Facility Management Activity

Management responsibility for over 1.3 million acres in more than 1,440 units of state WMAs and on other Non-WMA public lands open to public outdoor recreation requires the development and maintenance of infrastructure such as roads and trails, access roads, parking lots, fences and gates, hunter blinds, wildlife observation structures, and the management of boundaries and information signs. Land and user protection involves sealing open wells and cisterns, and cleaning up dumps and building sites on acquired lands.

Accomplishments:

- 926 miles of access management on 297 units to improve access to WMAs.
- 200 miles of access management on 28 units to improve access to other non-WMA public lands.
- 2,186 facilities managed on 789 units to guide users on the proper uses and to protect wildlife habitat resources on WMAs.
- 400 miles of boundary managed on 191 units to inform users of locations of WMA boundaries.
- 114 miles of boundary managed on 12 units to inform users of locations of boundaries on other non-WMA public lands.
- 59 sites on 49 WMAs managed for site/building cleanup/well sealing to enhance habitats on WMAs and to protect wildlife resource and users from contamination or other potential hazards.

3. Wildlife – Education, Outreach, and Rulemaking (Rulemaking noted in population management section above)

All efforts that provide routine general information to individuals or groups about seasons, DNR policy or general wildlife and recreation information. Also includes publications and printing costs intended for the public including the Hunting & Trapping Regulations handbook, brochures, news releases, etc. Rulemaking includes official rule making processes and development of official rule documents associated with wildlife and wildlife related recreation.

Accomplishments:

- Provided electronic information and technology access to persons with disabilities in compliance with state and federal statutes. This included electronic versions of the Hunting and Trapping and Waterfowl Regulations handbooks
- Updated online tools to share information on deer permit areas, populations and license requirements.
- Continued commitment to using plain language in high-profile public documents, such as hunting regulations
- Participated in state and county fairs to reach non-traditional constituents that may have interest in our programs and policies, but would not normally seek out information.
- Developed brochures, news releases, and synopsis of regulations and seasons to inform the public.

- Represented the DNR at wildlife and hunting-oriented events to give us opportunities to engage our traditional clientele one-on-one about our activities.

4. Wildlife – Planning and Coordination

Planning and coordination includes coordination efforts with conservation groups, area Wildlife managers, other DNR disciplines, other government agencies, and other land and water management organizations regarding the improvement of wildlife habitat, or techniques and policies to reduce wildlife damage.

Accomplishments:

- Many of our planning and coordination efforts are reported elsewhere in this document.
 - Consistent with Top Finding #1 from the FY2015 BOC report, after the conclusion of the Office of the Legislative Auditor’s completed their review of the DNR’s deer management program, continued work on drafting Minnesota’s first statewide deer management plan. See section 1. A. Big Game Activities above for additional information.
 - Finished the revisions to the multi-discipline, multi-cooperator Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan. See reference in section 2. A. Grassland Habitat Management Activity above.
 - Forest habitat planning continues to be a huge interagency effort and an opportunity for Wildlife staff to influence forest management to benefit wildlife. See section 2. G. Technical Guidance Activity for accomplishments.
 - Wildlife lake technical guidance continues to be an opportunity for Wildlife staff to influence lake management within and outside the agency to benefit shallow lake dependent wildlife. See section 2.G. Technical Guidance Activity for accomplishments.
 - Continued implementation of the Elk Plan as reported in section 1. A. Big Game Activities above.
 - Continued implementation of the Moose Management and Research Plan as reported in section 1. A. Big Game Activities above.
- Consistent with Top Finding #3 from the FY2015 BOC report, DNR Wildlife continued development of Major Unit planning effort. During FY2017, completed public engagement and draft preparation of management plan updates for two WMA major unites: Whitewater and Thief Lake. Finalization of plans is expected during FY2018.

Wildlife Management Expenditures for FY2017							
(\$ in thousands)							
Fund	Population Mgmt	Habitat Mgmt	Educ & Outreach	Planning & Coord	Division Services	Dept Services	Fund Total
2200	8,555.4	11,014.3	1,325.1	2,161.3	1,345.8	2,881.9	27,283.8
2201	847.0	662.0					1,509.1
2202	172.2	941.8		0.4	82.7		1,197.1
2203	116.7	410.9					527.6
2205		493.8		0.5			494.3
2206		40.0					40.0
2207		1,271.8					1,271.8
2208		228.9					228.9
2209	489.2	3,110.3	26.2	19.5	0.4	354.0	3,999.7
2213	158.1				3.7		161.8
Total	10,338.6	18,173.8	1,351.3	2,181.7	1,432.7	3,235.9	36,714.1

** Decrease in Dept Services from prior years is a result of redefining the category to align with Agency definition. Difference spread to other categories.*

Fish and Wildlife – Outreach

1. Outreach - Marketing

Marketing efforts are aimed to retain existing license holders, reduce lapse rates over the life cycle of a customer, and increase hunting, fishing and trapping license sales overall. Outreach also recognizes the importance of creating sustainable efforts as multiple touch points are needed for best recall and action from a customer. Through analyzing license sales data, strategies are created to encourage license purchase and discourage lapsing. This includes collaborating with external partners to market and promote hunting and fishing in Minnesota. Based on research of participation decline, the target market of the hunting and fishing license promotions are new, existing, and lapsed license holders in the age cohort of 25-44 years old.

A. Direct email promotion of license seasons

Worked to retain and reduce lapse rates of license buyers by encouraging a license purchase at the beginning or during of a season.

Accomplishments:

- Seasonal direct emails (no cost) were sent through our Electronic Licenses System vendor to past licensed hunters and anglers encouraging them to purchase a license for the new license year or get out and enjoy fishing recreation. Emails for this FY include seasonal themes: a fishing email in May, Grouse hunting prior to season opener, deer hunting, winter/spring trout fishing, and spring wild turkey hunting.
- The division applied and received a grant from the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation to pilot test an email and postcard campaign for increasing lifetime license sales. This analysis focuses on quantifying the benefits of these promotional campaigns, in terms of increased lifetime fishing license sales among each group of anglers (residents and non-residents age 18- 63). This information will be utilized to determine whether the increased sales resulting from these efforts outweighs their costs. Ultimately, this can lead to more informed decision-making regarding where to focus recruitment efforts for lifetime anglers. The analysis suggests that targeting resident anglers between the ages of 51-63 may be the most effective way to increase the sales of lifetime licenses. Efforts produced a lift in this age group of 20-35 additional sales per 10,000 customers contacted.
 - Additionally, a review of the promotional materials given to lifetime license buyers was analyzed and a new window decal for use on vehicles or boats was created to give to purchasers. This decreased Game and Fish Fund cost from previous less visible items to an item that costs less and increases marketability and visibility of lifetime license holders.

B. Promotion of license seasons- non-direct

Advertising to raise awareness of hunting and fishing seasons through out-of-home media promotions within Minnesota. *

Accomplishments:

- A professional marketing firm is contracted to create, implement (placement) and evaluate promotional efforts through media outlets within Minnesota. Using an outside vendor creates better efficiency, speed to media, and better media pricing for best return on investment.
- For alignment with other email efforts and partnership with tourism, the reach of the marketing budget targeted promotions for spring turkey (small game), fishing, and grouse.
- Media was implemented through Google Search ads, YouTube ads, Google Display Network ads, radio ads and gas station advertising (pumps, squeegees, window decals).

- Click rates and cost per reach are evaluated each season to formulate best return on investment and adaptive media planning.

C. *Formal Agreements with Explore MN Tourism*

Collaborated with external partners to promote hunting and fishing to target audiences outside Minnesota's borders. MN DNR continues to formally partner with Explore Minnesota Tourism for creating impactful hunting and fishing content written by outdoor writers on the abundant hunting and fishing resources and opportunities across the state of Minnesota. From grouse and turkey to bass and trout fishing, Minnesota has vast public access and nationally renowned opportunity which is shared through a story writing format that highlights the experience and the resources. These stories are used in national print magazines like Pheasants Forever, Ruffed Grouse Society, Grays Sporting Journal, and also used as advertorials through online media and targeted emails reaching across the states of WI, ND, and IA (states with most non-resident MN sales).

Accomplishments:

- A cooperative agreement with explore MN tourism continues promotional efforts through out-of-home media outlets outside of Minnesota's borders. Target states include primarily WI, IA, and ND where the majority of non-resident license purchasers are from.
- Again utilized tourism outlets for promoting grouse, spring turkey and upland bird hunting as well as general and trout fishing in the state of Minnesota.
- Fishing partnership efforts included promotional efforts on an Explore Minnesota tourism fishing/hunting web landing page; full color flyers used as handouts at events, visitor centers and inserts in newspaper and print publications, native (content story articles) advertising in out-of-state regional markets; targeted emails to fishing audiences; and online advertising banners on fishing web sites.
- Hunting partnership included promotional efforts on Explore Minnesota tourism hunting/fishing web landing pages; advertisement in national print magazines; targeted emails to hunting audiences; and online target audience advertising banners on hunting sites.

D. *Goodwill (no cost) partnerships for license hunters/anglers*

Partner with external efforts that cross customer bases with hunting and fishing to gain benefits for license holders and cross promote hunting and fishing in new venues. These efforts do not cost the agency.

Accomplishments:

- Formal partnerships continue for licensed hunters and anglers with Twins baseball, WILD hockey, Saint Paul Saints baseball, and a one-time effort with the new Minnesota United Football (Soccer) team for discount tickets, and at some events, a hat giveaway.

2. Outreach – Hunter/Shooter Recruitment and Retention

A. *National Archery in the Schools Program*

National Archery in the Schools Program is a two-week program designed to introduce elementary, middle, and high school students to recreational archery as a lifelong activity. The activity supports the Awareness, Interest, and Trial stages of the Conceptual Adoption model of hunter/shooter recruitment and retention. Research by Responsive Management indicates that 33% of students participating in NASP leave the program with a greater interest in hunting. In addition to the basic NASP Program, 3-D Archery was introduced in each DNR Region of the State. The Explore Bowhunting was launched in Minnesota with assistance from the Archery Trade Association. The Archery in the Parks program, an original

Gateway funded program, was also enhanced with new equipment to ease the demand on the traveling Archery Trailers.

Accomplishments:

- 18 new schools enrolled in NASP program
- 6,283 new students introduced to archery
- 36 new teachers trained as NASP Basic Archery Instructors
- 209,783 students and 433 schools conducting NASP programs as of June 30th, 2017.
- 5 New Explore Bowhunting programs started with assistance from the Archery Trade Association
- 10 New Explore Bowhunting Instructors trained

B. Mentored hunts for youth and families and “Learn to Hunts” for “new to hunting” adults

Providing special mentored or “Learn to Hunt” programs are a Best Practice in hunter recruitment and retention. These activities support Awareness, Interest, and Trial stages of the Conceptual Adoption Model of hunter recruitment and retention. Pre/Post evaluations of adults participating in our “Learn to Hunt” programs show that 100% of the adults leave the programs with greater skills and knowledge and are better prepared to become hunters if they so choose.

Accomplishments:

- Worked closely with Backcountry Hunters and Anglers to plan and deliver an Adult Learn to Deer Hunt program for 10 new and 6 second year students.
- Provided new to hunting adult participants with a comprehensive introduction to hunting and participated in a mentored hunt to demonstrate their acquired skills and knowledge. We conducted pre/post student evaluations.
- Conducted 19 mentored youth and adult deer hunts that reached 409 youth and 409 non-hunting parent/guardian participants.
- Conducted 6 youth mentored waterfowl hunts that reached 38 youth and 38 non-hunting parent/guardian participants.
- Conducted 30 youth and adult mentored turkey hunts that reached 75 youth, 31 adults, 32 families and 3 physically challenged youth with 75 non-hunting parent/guardian participants.
- Conducted 14 youth, adult and family mentored upland bird hunts that reached 146 youth, adults and family participants and 75 non-hunting parents/guardians.

C. Trap Shooting Range Development and Rehabilitation

As provided by 2014 and 2015 Minnesota Session Laws, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is providing cost-share grants to local recreational shooting clubs for up to 50 percent of the costs of developing or rehabilitating trap shooting sports facilities for public use.

Accomplishments:

- \$799,857 provided in grant funding to develop, expand, enhance and/or rehabilitate 18 trap shooting facilities (\$175,542) and 15 Non-Trap Ranges, Rifle, Pistol or Skeet (\$624,315) in Minnesota.

Session Laws:

- Session Laws of 2014, Chapter 312, Article 12, Section 6, Subdivision 5
- Session Laws of 2014, Chapter 312, Article 13, Section 41
- Session Laws of 2015, Special Session 1, Chapter 4, Article 3, Section 3, Subdivision 6

D. Governor's Deer and Pheasant Openers

- Provided an outdoors educational and hands-on skills day for 100 students in the Brainerd area for the Governor's Deer Opener.
- Provided an outdoors educational and hands-on skills day for 100 students in Montevideo for the Governor's Pheasant Opener.

3. Outreach – Becoming an Outdoor Woman/Becoming an Outdoor Family

A. BOW Weekend Workshops

BOW Weekend workshops are held twice yearly. The goal of these workshops is to introduce non-traditional audience of women to outdoor skills in hunting, fishing and non-consumptive sports in a supportive and non-intimidating environment. This program supports the Awareness, Interest and Trial stages of the Conceptual Adoption model of angler/hunter recruitment and retention.

Accomplishments:

- Two workshops were held in cooperation with Environmental Learning Centers.
- Winter workshop was held at Audubon ELC with 74 women – full program.
- Fall Workshop was held at Eagle Bluff ELC with 66 women – full program.
- DNR's Carrol Henderson was asked to be the speaker at Fall Workshop on Loon Research and on the use of Lead vs non-lead ammo. Program was well received.
- USFWS was invited to talk on the Monarch project at Winter Workshop.
- BOW coordinated with volunteers to serve as program instructors, and assistants.
- Post evaluations indicate 100% of the women were motivated to continue their new found sport in hunting, fishing and/or non-consumptive sports.
- Post evaluations indicate 100% of the women at both workshops said they would take another BOW workshop based on their experience at the workshop they attended.

B. Beyond BOW Programs

The goal of the Beyond BOW class is to provide the non-traditional audience of women additional opportunities to learn outdoor skills related to hunting, fishing and non-consumptive sports. BOW strives to adopt the best practices methods for recruitment and retention when adding new classes, utilizing a scope and sequence methodology. BOW works cooperatively with outside agencies and sports groups, internal DNR staff, and volunteers to provide programming to women. Programs range from one day program, series events to mentored weekend events. These activities support Awareness, Interest, Trial, and Continuation with Support stages of the Conceptual Adoption Model of angler/hunter recruitment and retention.

Accomplishments:

- In fiscal year 2017 BOW offered 66 Beyond BOW women classes reaching 616 participants. Many of these classes are conducted with internal and external partners.
- NEW Fishing cooperation was made with the Minnesota Steel Headers Association. One program was designed to teach women how to fish for steelhead and trout. Due to demand two programs for 20 women were offered.
- NEW fishing cooperation was made with Land of Lakes Bowfishing Association. The group offered a seminar in March then two fishing trips, one in Alexandria area and one in St. Peter. This program introduced 20 women to the sport of bowfishing with 9 women being able to try on the water fishing experience.

- NEW for FY2017 was a Learn to Hunt White tailed Deer series held with 10 women. This program was a pilot program in FY16. There were three class sessions followed by a mentored hunt in October at Itasca State Park. The program had excellent pre/post evaluation summaries. A 17 point buck was harvested.
- Cooperatively work with volunteers to offer classes for women. New in calendar year 2017 was a “Learn to Sport Fish” weekend with Pro Angler Nancy Koop in Glenwood focused on walleye fishing.
- Cooperatively worked with Three Rivers Park District classes for women.
- Cooperatively work with MN State Park Naturalists to offer 30 “Women in the Parks” Series classes for the fourth year. Parks include Afton, Fort Snelling, and Whitewater State Parks.
- Cooperatively work with North Country Chapter of Safari Club International, A-1 Archery and Chilakoot Bow hunters to offer archery series & bow hunting series for women. This series consisted of 3 classes and two mentored weekend hunts. Pre/post evaluation showed growth in knowledge of bow hunting.

C. Becoming an Outdoor Family Weekends & Events

The BOW program expanded to offer family programming in 2006. Since then the number of classes have increased with external partners. The goal of the family program is to offer families an opportunity to learn outdoors sports related to hunting, fishing and non-consumptive sports, as a family unit. Programs range from one day programs to weekend events. These activities support Awareness, Interest, and Trial stages of the Conceptual Adoption Model of angler/hunter recruitment and retention.

Accomplishments:

- BOW hosted two family weekend workshops in FY2017 cooperatively with Eagle Bluff ELC geared toward those with children ages 6 and older, 46 participants were reached.
- BOW worked cooperatively with Three Rivers Park to offer 46 classes for families in FY2017.

4. Outreach – Southeast Asian Outreach

A. Outreach to SE Asian Organizations and populations

The MN DNR Southeast Asian program works with community organizations statewide to disseminate information and facilitate outdoor recreation amongst various Southeast Asian Populations including the Hmong, Karen, Chinese Lao, and others.

Accomplishments:

- Firearm Safety Trainings: total of three classes with 155 students participated, successfully passed the test and have been out hunting with a parent.
- Hunting workshops: ten small workshops with 106 participants for small game and big game. Topics included license, daily limit, trespass, legal guns, tree stand and hunting public lands, such as WMAs, state forest and federal land.
- Daily phone calls and office visits: handle approximately 1,000-1,200 interactions including topics such as hunting and fishing information, trespass laws, maps, firearm safety problems, citation or violation ticket, gun information, season dates, party hunting, legal shooting hours, and tree stands on public lands.
- Hmong Radio and TV programs: one fishing and three for small and big game that included rules and regulation changes, safety issues, trespass issues, daily limit, season dates, and blaze orange requirements.

The 2016 Legislature extended the appropriation of \$23,945, originally appropriated from the 2014 Legislature, for hunter and angler recruitment and retention activities for Asian youth fishing recruitment efforts and outreach in the metropolitan area. These funds have been used for the following activities:

- Stocking white bass fingerlings in Phalen Lake Chain in summer 2016 and 2017
- Components and installation of a new fishing pier for Lake Rebecca in Hastings in June 2017
- Surface aspirator for Como Lake in winter of 2016-17
- Grants to Karen Organization of Minnesota and Midwest Hmong Outdoors to host, promote, recruit participants and conduct three family fishing events in July of 2017 for 50 to 100 people at each event to highlight these new fishing opportunities.

5. Outreach – Angling Recruitment, Retention and Aquatic Education

A. MinnAqua Program

MinnAqua is Minnesota’s fishing and aquatic education program. We partner with community organizations, schools, and angling groups that want to teach adults or youth how to fish and protect aquatic habitat. MinnAqua coordinates fishing skills instruction and support for beginning anglers so they develop the confidence and knowledge necessary for a lifetime of fishing and water stewardship.

The MinnAqua *Fishing: Get in the Habitat!* curriculum includes 39 lessons that help teachers and other leaders introduce youth to fishing, aquatic ecosystems, and water conservation. Lessons can be viewed at mn.gov/minnaqua/leadersguide/lg_online.

Due to attrition, budget concerns, and restructuring of the Outreach section, MinnAqua staff was reduced in August 2016 from four education specialists to two specialists statewide. We are moving away from public programs taught by MinnAqua specialists toward building capacity through partnerships with organizations that will deliver their own fishing and aquatic education programs. For example, resources previously used by Fish and Wildlife Outreach to hire and manage MinnAqua interns were shifted to support Naturalist Corps-MinnAqua interns that teach *I Can Fish!* programs in nine state parks.

Accomplishments:

- In calendar year 2016, 63,051 participants reached through MinnAqua, area office liaisons, partners, and Fishing in the Neighborhood (FiN) aquatic/fishing education programs.
- 211 new educators trained, including Fisheries staff, Volunteers, formal and informal Educators.
- In partnership with Minnesota State Parks and Trails, MinnAqua trained 15 summer interns to teach *I Can Fish!* programs in or near state parks. Evaluations completed by program participants and an end-of-season assessment completed by interns were very positive and strongly support continuing this partnership in 2018.
- Nearly 1,000 new and previously recruited youth and adult mentors attended Big Brothers Big Sisters Outdoors Buddy program events that introduced a variety of aquatic education and angling skills and included summer and ice fishing experiences. Estimated 85% returning participants with 15% new recruited youth and adult mentors.
- Coordinated youth education for the 2017 Governor’s Fishing Opener with each of 75 participating students receiving ten hours of instruction (750 student-contact hours)
- Developed and produced new aquatic education materials and tools including:
 - Intern training materials specific to needs of State Parks-MinnAqua interns teaching *I Can Fish!* programs
 - *Fishes of Minnesota* vinyl banners (18) for use during *I Can Fish!* programs in state parks, Fisheries outreach at fairs, and regional education events.

- Updated popular *Fishes of Minnesota* poster and printed 40,000 copies for statewide distribution
- Updated *Pier Notes Beginner's Guide to Fishing* to meet accessibility and branding standards
- Development and purchase of educational materials for fisheries offices and other outreach locations
- Conducted evaluations to help MinnAqua and partners improve programs and better meet the needs of audiences:
 - Evaluated the impact of participating in the Beginners Youth: Adult: Mentor Fly-Fishing Weekend by assessing change in knowledge and attitudes indicated by responses on the pre-learning and post-learning assessments.
 - Evaluated State Parks-MinnAqua intern program through a post-season survey that asked interns to rate their teaching competence and confidence. The survey also collected intern feedback about the quality of the professional experience and training received.
 - To make it easier to measure, interpret, and report program outputs and outcomes, Fish and Wildlife Outreach is planning major revisions and updates of the program-tracking database.
- Calendar year 2016 Minnesota State Parks offered 168 *I Can Fish!* programs for 4,850 participants. The additional equipment will allow for greater number of participants in future programming.
- Annual Beginners Youth: Adult: Mentor Fly-Fishing Weekend participants [40] were given fly combos to use and take home for continued opportunity. These combos are normally purchased for this event.
- Governor's Fishing Opener
 - Provide a fishing skills outdoor educational experience for 90 students in the St. Cloud area including a classroom training prior to the skills day.

6. Outreach – Communications

The program provides comprehensive communications services and assistance for the Fish and Wildlife Division. FAW communications strives to create opportunities for our audiences to understand why, how and where Fish and Wildlife Division activities and actions benefit the resources it manages. Objectives are to deliver accurate, timely, relevant, and easily understood information about hunting, fishing and trapping seasons; habitat and species conservation; habitat acquisition; fish and wildlife research; and hunting and angling recruitment and retention.

Statistics are included about DNR news releases, website views and social media. News releases in this report are issued to media members statewide and the public, all of whom must sign up to receive them. They are also posted on the DNR website. In total, there are about 25,000 recipients of DNR statewide news releases.

Communication staff manage four social media accounts: two each on Twitter and Facebook. Use of multiple communications modes recognizes the varied nature of how audiences receive information as well as differing levels of interest and knowledge about division activities and the recreational opportunities they present.

A. 182 Annual news releases

- Fisheries: 44
- License Center: 5
- Outreach: 38
- Wildlife: 96

B. 190 Radio interviews conducted sharing outdoor opportunities and education.

C. Social media

- Minnesota Fishing (Facebook) – 7,094 Likes
- Minnesota Fishing (Twitter) – 2,269 Followers
- Minnesota Wildlife (Facebook) – 5,409 Likes
- Minnesota Wildlife (Twitter) – 1,497 Followers

D. Internal Communication Guidance, Assistance and Tools

The information program staff provide communication services, issues management and public/media relations support, advice and guidance. Our work is intended to allow division and department staff and leadership to optimally utilize traditional, emerging and new communication methods, mediums and channels. This fosters public and stakeholder awareness and understanding of how division and section programs and activities create a science-based approach to management of fisheries, wildlife and habitat that results in sound natural resource conservation and unmatched outdoor recreation opportunities.

7. Outreach – Recruitment, Retention and Reactivation (R3)

Minnesota is part of the national effort tagged as R3 – recruitment, retention and reactivation. This effort is focused around research findings, study results and understand how to build education and skills programs that meet objectives to bring new and lapsed users into the field and onto the water. The focus is to move beyond ‘one and done’ programs and reach out to new audiences.

A. Capacity-building grants

Accomplishments:

- Monitor the 12 R3 Grant Program Round One projects:
 - \$200,000 to 12 projects throughout Minnesota *
- Establishment and awarding of Round Two and Three of R3 grant:
 - Awarded \$279,000 to 23 projects throughout Minnesota *
 - \$50,000 grant awarded to Karen Organization of Minnesota to hire a staff person to coordinate hunting and fishing outreach programs to the Karen Community during 2017 and 2018. **
 - \$5,000 grant has been awarded to St. Paul Urban Ministry to provide fishing outreach programs to Hmong youth in 2017 and 2018. **

B. Commissioner’s Council initiative to effectively deliver R3 programs.

Accomplishments:

- Held a Minnesota R3 Summit on August 26-27, 2016 with 140 attendees.*
- Distributed the R3 Toolkit, which has been recognized nationally.
- Partnership with ExploreMinnesota.com to promote and support an inclusive web listing of MN DNR and partner hunting and fishing events across the country.

Outreach Expenditures for FY2017
(\$ in thousands)

Fund	Fishing R3 & Aquatic Ed	Hunting R3 & Wildlife Ed	Marketing	Communica-tions	Grants	Division Services	Dept Services	Fund Total
2200	629.1	96.2	129.6	210.2	903.0	3.5	178.3	2,149.8
2209	21.7	226.1	70.7	1.3	242.9	0.9	21.9	585.6
Total	650.8	322.3	200.3	211.5	1,145.9	4.4	200.2	2,735.4

**Note: The section received \$400,000 for hunter and angler recruitment and retention activities and grants that are noted as separate accomplishments throughout the report. This was a one-time appropriation (Laws 2014, chapter 312, article 12, section 6, subdivision 5 that was amended in 2015 1st Special Session chapter 4, article 3, section 11 and amended again in 2016 chapter 189, article 3, section 40).*

*** The section also received \$60,000 for outreach efforts to the Southeast Asian community in Minnesota, including outreach efforts to refugees from Burma, to encourage participation in outdoor education opportunities and activities (Laws 2016, chapter 189, article 3, section 3, subdivision 8).*

Fish & Wildlife – License Center

1. Electronic Licensing System

A third-party vendor handles the day-to-day operation with additional support provided by the DNR License Center. Monthly payments to the contract vendor cover costs of terminal use, paper used to print licenses and permits, a 24-hour technical support phone line, and use of the vendor’s host computer. Nearly 2.5 million licenses, permits, stamps, passes, and license validation transactions were processed through ELS, generating \$71.1 million in revenue for the year.

A. Hunting/Angling license sales

Accomplishments:

- Provided 1,911,047 licenses serving 1,277,876 hunting and angling enthusiasts.
- Distributed over 1,500,000 copies of hunting and angling regulation brochures to support end users with their recreational experience.
- Processed 500,000 lottery applications worksheets for interested parties and sent winner notices to parties selected so they can proceed with necessary requirements.
- Publicized special hunts as announced and coordinate sale of permits. Wildlife management determines the need for special hunts. A special hunt may extend a particular season, add a new harvest season or increase the harvest of a species in a geographic location.

Fiscal Year License Sales										
Type	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Angling	1,124,998	1,187,850	1,175,172	1,198,760	1,086,392	1,094,095	1,158,156	1,181,336	1,143,699	1,144,788
Deer	647,130	626,931	618,362	608,093	619,081	622,274	621,627	596,693	610,566	608,341
Small Game	292,389	289,463	279,329	302,915	283,913	282,800	259,289	260,797	255,727	249,852
Sports	181,793	185,501	179,755	156,374	169,875	158,905	161,165	158,518	152,469	148,423
Note: Totals for Sports licenses were included in the Small Game, Angling and Deer in previous Game and Fish Report totals.										

Fiscal Year Stamp Sales										
Type	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Trout	91,952	96,953	96,928	96,409	91,364	92,396	99,591	107,992	109,328	111,812
Walleye	NA	5,165	28,388	29,664	27,477	21,064	19,467	17,395	17,052	18,485
Pheasant	130,432	107,394	110,621	104,646	84,335	90,043	75,440	72,730	76,517	75,055
Waterfowl	100,142	95,185	90,873	89,021	89,369	91,037	92,195	93,325	90,454	87,111
Turkey	29,312	32,793	8,971	3,384	2,272	1,953	1,786	1,681	1,685	1,585

B. Lifetime Licenses

Lifetime license are available for certain hunting and fishing activities and must initially be applied for through the DNR License Center. This license type may be purchased as a gift. Applicable stamps, tags or additional harvest permits are purchased separately.

Lifetime Sales by Fiscal Year										
Lifetime Licenses	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Fiscal Year Totals	2,181	2,136	2,271	3,086	3,882	4,291	2,207	2,532	2,768	3,442

C. Harvest Transactions

The License Center has an Interactive Voice Response (IVR) and an Internet harvest option for animal registrations.

Harvest Transactions by Fiscal Year										
Transaction Type	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Interactive Voice Response (IVR)	N/A	N/A	1,398	46,735	46,264	51,308	55,118	46,760	56,452	57,874
Internet	N/A	N/A	1,664	64,816	67,837	69,976	76,963	68,803	80,581	87,607
Agent	274,844	238,264	210,917	111,533	92,992	78,713	52,441	38,787	37,869	44,881
Totals	274,844	238,264	213,979	223,084	207,093	199,997	184,522	154,350	174,902	190,362

2. License Center – Commercial Licenses

The License Center issues commercial licenses for businesses such as minnow dealers, game farms, and shooting preserves. There are currently 40+ commercial license types available.

3. Information Center/License Agent Management

The DNR Information Center serves as a call center accepting department wide calls and averaging 40,000+ calls per year. These calls may include licensing related or other department inquiries.

4. License Certification Data

License Certification data is used as an indice for federal aid apportionments. These figures are reported to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

**License Certification Data for Federal Aid Apportionment
(as reported to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)**

License Year	Number of Certified Paid Hunters (1)	Total Hunting Licenses, Tags Permits & Stamps (2)	Number of Certified Paid Anglers (1)	Total Fishing Licenses, Tags, Permits & Stamps (2)
2000	580,338	1,247,482	1,565,708	1,446,898
2001	585,104	1,594,619	1,492,913	1,417,094
**2002	562,602	-	1,487,076	-
2003	573,424	1,413,759	1,461,112	1,341,921
2004	571,581	1,397,641	1,467,677	1,381,787
2005	571,547	1,377,389	1,458,013	1,363,272
2006	578,244	1,456,775	1,478,193	1,411,415
2007	579,060	1,419,876	1,492,087	1,275,308
2008	581,828	1,471,568	1,481,758	1,269,926
2009	576,723	1,424,718	1,518,357	1,390,489
2010	579,910	1,553,789	1,492,460	1,607,859
2011	578,371	1,525,137	1,418,995	1,552,339
2012	592,125	1,571,600	1,487,547	1,649,088
2013	572,203	1,486,362	1,423,502	1,589,856
2014	564,694	1,413,430	1,437,227	1,610,356
2015	568,057	1,421,004	1,447,089	1,623,871
*2016	563,125	NA	1,448,156	NA

(1) Data submitted to USFWS "Part I - Certification"

(2) Data submitted to USFWS "Part II - Summary of Hunting and Sport Fishing Licenses Issued"

*2016 Total is an estimate. Final numbers will not be calculated/certified until 2018.

** Due to a change in reporting requirements, figures for LY2002 were not certified.

Compiled by MN Federal Assistance Coordinator

**License Center Expenditures for FY2017
(*\$ in thousands*)**

Fund	Transaction Costs	Operating Costs	Division Services	Dept Services	Fund Total
2200	3,170.1	878.9	212.3	125.2	4,386.6
Total	3,170.1	878.9	212.3	125.2	4,386.6

Division of Ecological and Water Resources

1. Conservation Assistance and Regulation

The Conservation Assistance and Regulation section is composed of four units: Environmental Review, Water Permits, Dam Safety and Inspections, and Land Use Programs. Its main functions are community assistance, and project review and permitting. Environmental review is important, because it ensures that projects adequately address fish and wildlife needs. Review and permitting of lake aeration authorizes activities that prevent winterkill and help sustain fishing opportunities. The section also works with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) when spills have damaged natural resources, to assign responsibility and recover damages.

A. Environmental Review

Accomplishments:

- Reviewed more than 471 public and private projects, including 89 communications towers, 36 residential developments, 27 pipelines, 76 transportation projects, and 42 utilities projects.
- Worked with the Department of Commerce to establish site permit language for wind projects that requires turbine feathering below the manufacturer's recommended cut-in speed from April through October for the life of the project. This requirement is estimated to reduce bat fatalities from operation wind turbines by as much as 30 percent.

B. Spill and Kill Events

Accomplishments:

- Responded to 643 reports of spills and fish/wildlife kill incidents.

C. Lake Aeration

Accomplishments:

- Issued 441 aeration permits; approximately 134,000 surface water acres were aerated. Of the permits issued, 238 were to prevent winterkill.
- Provided technical assistance to the public concerning aeration system types and regulatory requirements.

2. Ecosystem Management and Protection Services

The Ecosystem Management and Protection Section is composed of four units: Conservation Management and Rare Resources, Nongame Wildlife and Education, Invasive Species, and Scientific and Natural Areas. Its main functions are habitat management and restoration, conservation planning and policy, ecological education, outreach and recreation, and ecosystem services evaluation. This work helps to improve the management of prairie, wetland and forest habitat on public and private lands. Outreach and education also leads to better public understanding of the importance of habitat protection and the value of healthy aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems.

A. Native Prairie Stewardship

Accomplishments:

- Provided conservation planning and technical assistance. Implemented prairie enhancement projects involving 132 landowners.
- Monitored 22 sites and completed 11 Baseline Property Reports.
- Completed 29 prairie management projects on private lands, including woody encroachment removal on 258 acres (11 sites), invasive treatment (non-woody) on 11 acres (9 sites); prescribed burn on 322 acres (9 sites).

B. Monitor Wetland Changes

Accomplishments:

- Acquired the third (final) year of aerial photographs for the fourth sample cycle (2015-2017) of the wetland status and trends program.
- Completed analysis of changes in wetlands over time for the first two years of the fourth sample cycle (2015-2017).
- Completed and submitted for publication a report on Minnesota wetland acreage trends from 2006 through 2014.

C. Nongame Wildlife: Project WILD, a wildlife education effort

Accomplishments:

- Conducted 18 workshops attended by 504 educators and youth leaders--double the number of last year.
- Ramsey County Library Project WILD programs reached more than 2,000 people in FY17.
- Nine Institutions requested Minnesota college pre-service teacher training support for both graduate and undergraduate programs.
- Provided education learning trunks about loons, bats, wolves, bears, animal tracks, and snakes to elementary teachers and day camp counselors. These learning trunks are important for teachers who do not have funds for travel to distant learning sites. They are provided to teachers on request.
- Created a bird literacy kit for the Roseville Public Library for use in their outdoor learning garden.
- The Project WILD Coordinator edited revised K-12 and Aquatic Wild guides and reformatted the DNR's Snake Rattle n' Roll rattlesnake learning kits.
- Conducted 26 community presentations for Minnesota Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, and school groups.
- Judged wildlife projects and conservation awards for 4-H at the Washington County and Chisago County fairs.

D. Nongame Wildlife: Regional Plant Ecologists and Nongame Specialists Accomplishments:

- Conducted forest stand reviews and assisted with forest planning.
- Contributed to DNR's third-party forest certification, through participation in external and internal audits, developing responses to corrective action requests, high conservation value forest monitoring, and representative sample areas.
- Conducted calcareous fen peatland surveys that contribute to the protection and management of these rare wetland systems.
- Contributed to the development of cover crop implementation as a conservation measure.

3. Inventory, Monitoring and Analysis

The Inventory, Monitoring and Analysis Section is composed of four units: the Minnesota Biological Survey, Lakes and Rivers, Water Monitoring and Surveys, and Hydrogeology and Groundwater. Its main functions are to integrate biodiversity data collection and monitoring, water and climate data collection and monitoring, and watershed systems analysis. This trend information is essential to manage for healthy fish and wildlife populations.

A. Minnesota Biological Survey – Game & Fish Fund, Grassland Monitoring: Patch-Burn-Grazing Project

Accomplishments:

- Minnesota Biological Survey (MBS) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) biologists have been collaborating on a new project to monitor the effects of cattle grazing on wet meadow plant communities embedded in prairie pothole complexes. A study plan was developed by MBS and USFWS for the project with input from the U.S. Geological Survey, University of Minnesota, and The Nature Conservancy (TNC). Volunteer crews assisted USFWS and MBS staff in locating and laying out monitoring plots.
- MBS completed an interim report for Caribou Wildlife Management Area that includes analysis of data from 2012 and 2015. The report was submitted to TNC as fulfillment of terms for a permit, posted to an internal DNR grazing listserve, and sent to the Natural Resource Conservation Service and other agency staff who work on grazing in prairies.
- MBS and USFWS partners collaborated at Hastad Waterfowl Protection Area on an inventory and classification of several hundred wetland basins, from which a subset was selected for monitoring plots. Thirty monitoring sites with a total of 150 vegetation transects were laid out and sampled.
- At Hole in the Mountain Wildlife Management Area, MBS plant ecologists surveyed and classified prairie wetland vegetation to select monitoring plot locations. Plots were placed in areas subject to cattle grazing and in similar areas that are fenced to exclude cattle grazing. Thirty vegetation sites with a total of 150 vegetation transects were sampled. MBS collaborates with DNR Wildlife Managers to establish connections between management questions and monitoring objectives.
- MBS plant ecologists collaborated with TNC ecologists to sample 36 vegetation transects in prairie wetland basins within the Chippewa Prairie Patch-Burn-Graze project area.
- Processed plant specimens and managed and summarized monitoring data as part of the above work.

B. Minnesota Biological Survey – Heritage Enhancement fund, Field Survey, Information Systems, Outreach/Technical Guidance

Accomplishments:

- Continued to provide field survey and technical guidance in the implementation of the *Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan: a habitat plan for native prairie, grassland, and wetlands in the Prairie Region of Western Minnesota*.
- Provided guidance and led field surveys of previously undocumented native prairies, wetlands and forests in and near Prairie Plan core areas. This work also includes re-sampling of historic vegetation plots.
- Carried out field surveys for amphibians, birds, bats and other small mammals.
- Continued to store specimen collection data in several related databases such as the relevé (vegetation plot) database and the standardized state list of plants (MN TAXA database).
- Continued participation in a DNR team analyzing calcareous fen floristic indicator values, as part of a reexamination of calcareous fen designation criteria.
- Continued baseline vegetation, botanical, bird and small mammal surveys in St. Louis, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods and Beltrami counties.
- Routinely provided quantitative plant species presence and abundance information (from relevés) to external users per request. Recipients include NatureServe, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Environment Protection Agency (EPA), National Park Service (NPS), and US Forest Service (USFS).

- Continued work on a book covering the natural history, native plant communities and selected sites of biodiversity significance of the Red River Valley and Aspen Parklands in northwest Minnesota.
- Continued to deliver internal and external technical guidance related to Minnesota Biological Survey (MBS) survey results, native plant communities, rare plant identification and relocation, ecological management, climate change adaptation and site protection (e.g. review of potential Scientific and Natural Areas).
- Worked with regional plant ecologists and nongame specialists to provide ecological expertise and field survey and monitoring results to DNR's third-party forest certification and sustainable forest management.

C. *Lakes & Rivers (assess and survey lakes and rivers, work with partners on river restoration projects, develop online product to enhance river management)*

Accomplishments:

- Conducted aquatic plant identification and survey method workshops for 120 Natural Resource Agency staff including DNR, tribal agencies, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and Three Rivers Park District staff (Clean Water Legacy funds help support this work).
- Conducted quantitative, lake-wide vegetation surveys on 50 lakes (about 98,000 acres in Aitkin, Becker, Benton, Cass, Clearwater, Crow Wing, Douglas, Hennepin, Hubbard, Itasca, Kandiyohi, Lincoln, Meeker, Morrison, Ottertail, Pine, St. Louis and Stearns Counties (Clean Water Legacy funds help support this work).
 - Survey goals varied between lakes and included:
 - delineation of emergent and floating-leaf plant stands
 - Shoreland habitat assessments
 - nearshore plot surveys
 - lakewide quantitative surveys
- Continued long-term monitoring of aquatic plant communities in Minnesota's Sentinel Lakes, in cooperation with the Section of Fisheries.
- Monitored various lakes to track how aquatic plants are responding to invasive species infestations; including Vineland Bay of Mille Lacs (zebra mussels) and new FY17 hydroacoustic studies to assess annual variation in curly-leaf pondweed and starry stonewort abundance (Clean Water Legacy funds help support this work).
- Initiated studies to evaluate the habitat requirements and population responses of rare aquatic plants that may be impacted by aquatic plant management control efforts.
- Continued collaboration with researchers at New York Botanical Garden to better describe the distribution, diversity and ecological roles of macroalgae in Minnesota lakes.
- Continued long-term monitoring work on zooplankton communities in Minnesota's nine large walleye lakes, 14 of the 25 Sentinel lakes, and various other special requests in collaboration with the Section of Fisheries. A total of 508 zooplankton samples were analyzed to help Fisheries managers better understand the trophic dynamics and any potential impacts aquatic invasive species may have on the fisheries in these lakes (Invasive Species Program funds helped support work on large walleye lakes).
- Provided technical assistance to Region 4 Fisheries LCCMR project (establish baseline data on various parameters of the river prior to invasive carp arrival/establishment) by analyzing 41 Minnesota River samples for rotifers and crustacean zooplankton.
- Identified benthic invertebrates from eight stream samples from Baudette Fisheries and provided summary and analysis for baseline assessment of this community which serves as food base in flowing waters.

- Monitored Minnesota’s nine large walleye lakes, Minnesota River samples and various other lakes requested by the Section of Fisheries for the presence and abundance of zebra mussel veligers; goal is to provide early detection in uninfested waters and a population measure for infested waters for fisheries and other resource managers. A total of 327 samples were processed (Invasive Species Program funds helped support work).
- Analyzed benthic invertebrate data from 10 Sentinel Lakes and provided a final report on establishing baseline conditions to guide future food web assessments and fish community responses.
- Continued long-term monitoring of fish habitat associations throughout the state, including Little Rock Creek, Little Fork, Grindstone, Redwood, Yellow Medicine, High Island, Sand Hill and Ramsey Creek.
- Continued long-term sampling of channel morphology on the Whitewater River watershed and in Lawndale Creek.
- Continued work with partners on five major stream protection and restoration projects, including the Orinoco dam removal and restoration, Sand Hill River and Whitewater River restorations.
- Continued development of the GIS-based Watershed Health Assessment Framework (WHAF), which is available online. Development is focused on the relationship between health scores and biological (e.g., fish survey - IBI) outcomes, to provide insight on the factors influencing health, particularly on a basin or regional scale (Clean Water Legacy funds help support this work).
- Continued development of a Decision Support System to complement WHAF that will help resource managers identify and understand resource issues at multiple scales, and identify strategies that optimize outcomes for the whole system (five components). Continued work to establish a new geomorphic-based approach to infrastructure design at road/river intersections. This effort has involved:
 - Collaboration with agency engineers to develop, test, demonstrate, and disseminate the approach, first within the DNR and then to local communities and engineers across the state.
 - Creation of a ‘how to manual’ with an associated tool for engineers designing culverts.
 - Assistance with webpage creation for the Minnesota Permit Application Reporting System.
 - Field demonstrations (construction of five road/river intersection designs).
 - Monitoring completed projects to document successes, learn from failures and facilitate appropriate design adjustments.

4. Strategic Information Services

The Strategic Information Services section is composed of three units: Division Services (Business and Administrative), Information Technology, and Planning and Communication. Its main functions are business and financial support, information technology support, and planning and communication support. Information technology staff collect, verify and analyze data to:

- Support decisions the Department must make during environmental reviews.
- Evaluate attributes of working forests as part of forest certification.
- Assess natural resources values of public lands for strategic land asset management.
- Populate the Watershed Health Assessment Framework maps with information.
- Provide professional data management for other efforts.

A. Information Technology

Accomplishments:

- Managed information for aquatic invertebrates, vegetation plots, and rare species locations and provided database administration and system support for aquatic invertebrates, rare and

endangered species, colonial water birds, vegetation, plant community and stream habitat databases.

- The data are published and shared as Geographic Information System layers and are combined and organized in web-based reports. Vegetation plot reports can be downloaded and Minnesota County Biological Survey (MCBS) site reports and source feature observation reports are available.

Ecological and Water Resources Expenditures for FY2017 (<i>\$ in thousands</i>)						
Fund	Conservation Assistance & Regulation	Ecosystem Mgmt & Protection	Inventory, Monitoring & Analysis	Strategic Information Services	Dept. Services	Fund Total
2200	418.2	93.3	1,114.7	537.1	271.4	2,434.8
2209	53.0	1,205.9	782.1	202.9	111.2	2,355.0
Total	471.2	1,299.2	1,896.8	740.0	382.6	4,789.8

Note: Division Services expenses of \$523,310 are included in Strategic Information Services

Division of Enforcement

The Division continues to implement its 2015–2025 Strategic Plan and has increased efficiency and effectiveness of outreach, safety education and law enforcement through the following initiatives:

- Launched records management system (RMS) in April 2015 and issued field tablets to all officers. This has resulted in over 30,000 documented contacts being entered annually and has increased officer safety through GPS tracking capabilities. Officers now have violation and incident information at their finger-tips and managers have real-time data on enforcement and education outcomes.
- Restructured Division to direct more resources on field operations by reducing specialty positions and is holding open other specialty positions to keep field vacancies as low as possible with remaining staff.
- Increased outreach efforts by hiring a Safety Education Outreach Coordinator.
- Trained and certified 8 new officers through the Academy and Field Training Process, including 4 conservation officer (CO) prep candidates which increased the diversity and natural resource background of new officers.
- Initiated the hiring process for Conservation Officer Academy 18, scheduled to begin in May 2018. The division greatly expanded outreach and recruitment efforts for this hiring process, utilizing various social media as well as community and professional organizations.

1. Fish and Game Regulation

Through outreach, safety education and law enforcement services, we strive to attain sustainable resource use through gaining voluntary compliance with regulations.

Accomplishments:

- The division worked closely with the Fish and Wildlife Division (FAW) in coordinating their enforcement efforts so FAW’s mission of natural resources protection and other management goals can be achieved.

- Worked total of 176,317 law enforcement hours in game and fish activities. This resulted in increased levels of service delivery and compliance with natural resources laws.
- The number of law enforcement hours spent on game and fish enforcement increased slightly by 2.7% in game enforcement hours, and by 11% in fish enforcement hours from fiscal year 2016 to 2017.
- Continued to conduct license checks and harvest inspections of recreational and commercial activity, protected spawning and closed season populations, and performed outreach and public education.
- Numerous high profile poaching cases were completed with effective media efforts resulting in increased public and legislative interest increasing penalties for egregious poaching.
- Conducted special investigations on habitual and large-scale poaching.
- Increased use of media to attain voluntary compliance with regulations by explaining importance/value in following regulations.

2. Invasive Species Enforcement and Education

The division continues to emphasize Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) as priority work and a core responsibility.

Accomplishments:

- Increased public understanding of invasive species laws, roadside compliance checks and use of zebra mussel detecting dogs.
- Compliance with invasive species regulations at Enforcement Check Stations has increased from 82% in calendar year 2016 to 84% in 2017. Overall compliance at check stations has sharply increased from 63% in 2012.
- During 2017, DNR Conservation Officers provided 16,618 hours of AIS enforcement and education.
- Conducted numerous media interviews on the importance of AIS regulation compliance.
- The division canine teams provided educational demonstrations at the MN State Fair, Aquatic Invader's Summit, Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference, and several other public events to bring awareness to AIS issues.

3. Safety Training Education and Outreach

The Enforcement Division enhances outdoor recreation experiences by providing high-quality safety education and outdoor ethics programs, building partnerships with communities, and creating positive public interactions.

A. Safety Education

Accomplishments:

- Provided educational programs and law enforcement services designed to introduce new and existing users to recreational opportunities and to limit or prevent personal injury accidents and fatalities while encouraging the safe and responsible use of Minnesota's resources.
- Trained 22,521 students in the firearm safety/hunter education program; 706 in the adult hunter education program; 5,027 in the all-terrain vehicle (ATV) program; 6,882 in the snowmobile safety program; and 6,350 in the boating safety program.
- Numerous safety education and training activities available to the public, increased Minnesotan's awareness of Enforcement Division's education programs and recreational safety issues.

- Increased availability of training through on-line and the adult “virtual field day”. This has significantly increased participation by adult female students. Number of students taking the online firearms safety training courses increased slightly and about little over 40% of those online students were females.

B. Media and Outreach

Accomplishments:

- Firearm safety videos have been produced for online use and have been made available as a resource for media outlets statewide. Rotating weekly safety messages are posted on the department’s social media pages, which are encouraged to be use and shared by stakeholder groups. Feature safety messages also posted to the DNR homepage. Officers also work with local media on a regular basis promoting recent events and relevant topics during different seasons.
- Since 2015, the division averages over 550 public outreach events and over 450 media events annually.

Fund	AIS			Academy	Division Services	Dept. Services	Fund Total
	Fish & Game Regulation	Enforcement & Education	Safety Trng & Outreach				
2200	18,181.9	297.1	821.7	0.0	1,652.6	1,319.8	22,273.0
2209	1,296.7	46.3	31.0	0.0	113.3	93.9	1,581.1
2212	0.0	0.0	0.0	143.4	0.0	0.0	143.4
Total	19,478.6	343.3	852.7	143.4	1,765.9	1,413.7	23,997.6

Division of Parks and Trails

The Division of Parks and Trails uses Game and Fish funds to ensure that Minnesotan’s have access to public waterways for activities like boating, canoeing, kayaking, and angling. The Game and Fish funds are primarily used to improve the quality of public water access facilities throughout the state. Minnesota is ranked third in the nation for the number of registered boats (817,560 in 2016) and first in the nation for number of registered boats per capita.

1. Land Acquisition

The goal of the land acquisition program is to acquire lake and river shoreline property that will improve existing boat access or provide access where it is inadequate. Funding limitations in the Water Recreation Account have drastically reduced the number of public water access land acquisition projects in recent years. Therefore, priority is currently given to expansion of existing sites, over acquisition of new sites.

Accomplishments:

- Rat Root River, Koochiching County: New carry-in access, 0.3 acres. This project was originally scheduled for completion in FY2016, but carried over into FY2017.

2. Development

The goals of the development program are to improve public water access sites using universal design principles that meet or exceed the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and to apply best management practices (BMPs) for safety, aquatic invasive species (AIS) and storm water (SW) management. DNR helps develop and rehabilitate sites, then enters into cooperative agreements with project partners, which provide day to day operations and maintenance at sites that are not state-owned.

Accomplishments:

- Big Carnelian Lake (West), Washington County: Contract awarded in FY2017. Project completion expected in CY2017.
- Lake Osakis, Douglas County: Cooperative agreement with City of Osakis in FY2017. Project completion expected spring of 2018.
- Pickeral Lake, Freeborn County: Cooperative agreement with MnDOT (former wayside rest) and Freeborn County. Bid awarded in FY2017. Completion expected in CY2017.
- Lizzie Lake, Otter Tail County: Expansion and upgrade of existing site on acquired lands. Funding awarded in FY2017. Phase 1 – realignment of township road expected in CY2017.
- Eagle Lake, Blue Earth County: Redevelopment and expansion of existing site on county-owned land. DNR provided FY2017 funding for county design and construction. Project completion expected FY2018.
- Mississippi River (Interstate 90), Houston County: Rehabilitation of existing launch ramp. Contract awarded in FY2017. Project completion expected in CY2017.
- Mississippi River (Wildcat Park), Houston County: Rehabilitation of one of the existing launch ramps. Houston County administered site. Contract awarded in FY2017. Project completion expected in CY2017.
- Mille Lacs Lake (Pike Point/Garrison Wayside) Crow Wing County: Contracted with consultant for wave analysis, basin and site design of a potential protected facility. Plan includes additional parking and a special use area for tournaments. No current plans for development.
- Clearwater Lake (Bob's Bay) Wright County: Hazardous materials survey and abatement work of building on expansion property. Building demolition expected to be completed in CY2017.
- Several other projects under \$10,000 in Game and Fish FY2017 funding.
- Archeological survey and reports by the Minnesota Historical Society for cultural resource management for compliance with state and federal laws.

3. Fishing Pier and Shore Fishing facilities

The goal of the fishing pier/shore fishing program is to provide people with safe and convenient places to fish. Funding limitations have necessitated focusing on replacing aging piers, which subsequently limits the number of new facilities that are added to the system. The DNR Parks and Trails Division maintains 79 facilities on state owned lands and has 289 facilities with local government unit partners for a total of 368 facilities. DNR helps develop and rehabilitate sites, then enters into cooperative agreements with project partners, which provide day to day operations and maintenance at sites that are not state-owned.

Accomplishments: (local government unit partner)

- Purchased replacement parts and performed general maintenance and major repairs to fishing piers and developed shore fishing areas.
- Multiple compliance checks on partnership facilities.
- Assistance with critical repairs to the following fishing piers:
 - Lake Bemidji Fishing Pier (Lake Bemidji State Park)
 - Mille Lacs Lake (Father Hennepin State Park)
 - Beebe Lake (Wright County)
 - Serpent Lake (City of Crosby)

- Replaced 12' x 20' platform Fishing Pier on Mill Creek Pond (City of Chatfield)
- Replaced 84' Fishing Pier on Whitewater Lake (City of Hoyt Lakes)
- Replacement/Relocation of 64' Fishing Pier to Independence Pond (City of Luverne). Intended as a community replacement for pier destroyed by flood at Blue Mounds State Park.
- Replaced 64' Fishing Pier on Pillager Lake (Sylvan Township).
- Replaced 104' Fishing Pier on Lake Elmo (Washington County).

DNR Parks and Trails Division						
Public Water Access Expenditures of Game and Fish Funds for FY2017						
<i>(\$ in thousands)</i>						
Fund	Acquisition & Development	Operations & Maintenance	Fishing Piers	Division Services	Dept. Services	Fund Total
2200	1,495.6	374.5	244.8	91.9	203.7	2,410.4
						0.0
Total	1,495.6	374.5	244.8	91.9	203.7	2,410.4

Division of Forestry

1. Ecological Classification System (ECS) Program

The Division of Forestry (DoF) continues to expand the use of the ECS program on state-administered forestlands. ECS is a scientific framework for managing natural resources. ECS tools, native plant community classifications and silvicultural strategies, help resource managers select appropriate treatments to optimize the forest's potential to produce timber, conserve or enhance wildlife habitat, and protect water and soil resources.

A. Mapping Native Plant Community (NPCs)

NPCs are groups of native plants that interact with each other and with their environment in ways not greatly altered by modern human activity or by introduced organisms. NPCs are classified and described by vegetation, water, landforms, soils, and natural disturbance regimes. The NPC classification provides a common language for professional disciplines involved in using, restoring, or conserving natural resources. The hierarchical design enables use at all levels of management – from landscape-scale planning to a 20 acre stand of trees. It provides a link between long-range goals and stand management decisions. The DoF plans to complete the mapping of native plant communities within the next eight years. The minimum annual NPC mapping target is 161,900 acres.

Accomplishments:

- A total of 201,247 acres were classified or mapped to NPC in fiscal year 2017.
 - DNR staff conducted 745 field NPC evaluations, mapping 162,675 acres, on state forestlands and wildlife management areas.
 - Contractors evaluated and mapped another 33,345 acres of state forestlands.
 - DNR staff also visited and classified NPCs on an additional 171 forest stands, totaling 5,227 acres, as they conducted other project work.

B. Develop Silvicultural Strategies (Interpretations)

Silvicultural strategies provide DNR staff with science-based information to prepare a management prescription or plan. Silviculture is the practice of controlling the establishment, growth, composition, health, and quality of forests to meet diverse needs and values. Strategies include how trees react to natural disturbance, how they compete with other trees and vegetation, natural regeneration strategies, shade tolerance, and stand growth stages. The strategies provide resource managers a range of possible management options.

Accomplishments:

- A new web format will be designed in fiscal year 2018. A work plan to complete new silviculture strategies will be implemented in fiscal year 2018.

C. Case Studies

Case studies monitor the short and long-term response of forest vegetation to various silvicultural (management) activities. Through case studies, forest management's effects on tree regeneration, tree recruitment, ground layer biodiversity, and growth of residual trees are assessed.

Accomplishments:

- Eight existing case studies sites were re-visited after forest management had occurred and site conditions were either measured or re-measured. Retrospective case studies sites that were treated ten or more years ago, were revisited to better understand the long-term effects of management. Field observations were collected on sixteen new retrospective case studies.
- DNR submitted three case studies to the University of Minnesota Sustainable Forests Education Cooperative Great Lakes Silviculture Library (<http://silvlib.cfans.umn.edu/>).

D. Training and Related Activities

Training, both formal training sessions and one-on-one meetings with foresters, biologists, and ecologists, is critical to introduce the NPC field guides, and for integrating silvicultural interpretations into daily management decisions.

Accomplishments:

- 36 formal training events were conducted with 699 foresters, biologists, and ecologists.
- 101 contact days between ECS staff and field personnel were logged. Field days were spent reviewing data collection techniques, reviewing NPC classification determinations, and answering field staff's questions and concerns.

2. Invasive Species Control Program

The DoF invasive species program inventories and treats invasive infestations on state lands; educates staff, partners, and stakeholders about invasive species and the damage they can cause; and runs key invasive species outreach programs like the PlayCleanGo program.

A. Invasive Plant Management

Terrestrial invasive plants have the capacity to exclude native plants, impacting the quality and sustainability of native plant communities. The number of invasive species and the number of acres involved are increasing and threaten to overwhelm state resources to manage them. The number of invasive species and acres infested is anticipated to continue to increase.

Accomplishments:

- With supplemental funds from the Division of Ecological and Water Resources (EWR), 23 invasive plant management projects on 985 acres were completed on state forest lands. A special project surveyed 1500 miles of right-of-way (driven on both sides of the roads, so 3000 road miles) within the R. J. Dorer state forest. Also in the Dorer, another project surveyed several management units for Oriental bittersweet and Japanese barberry, two emerging invasive plants that are quickly spreading in the forested areas of south-central Minnesota.
- To explore the possible use of biological control strategies on state forest lands, the DNR visited roughly 30 knapweed infestations larger than five acres. The DNR released 1200 root weevils on 6 sites, with the majority going to the repurposed General Andrews nursery to fulfill two needs; protection of new tree improvement and prairie seed production areas and to establish an insectary for future collection and redistribution of the knapweed root weevil.
- Roughly 25 Forestry and Wildlife staff attended a field workshop hosted by the Division mid-summer. DNR and outside experts covered woody invasive species management strategies including mechanical, chemical and grazing (sheep and goats) methods, as well as the tools available to address variations in age, height and density among the range of buckthorn infestations.
- This is the second year the Division has used a nation-wide invasive species reporting system, EDDmaps - www.eddmaps.org/midwest, to track infestations. Five more iPad tablets were added to the field with a combination of EWR and Fish and Game funds. And lastly a tip sheet was developed for field use. Incorporating invasive plant survey work into other activities such as regeneration checks and summer stand exams, forestry staff surveyed a total of 41,618 acres, mapping roughly 200 infestations covering 2,000 acres. All points were geo-referenced and verified for accurate plant identification.

B. Emerald Ash Borer Management

Emerald ash borer (EAB) has been found in Anoka, Chisago, Dakota, Dodge, Fillmore, Goodhue, Hennepin, Houston, Martin, Olmsted, Ramsey, St. Louis, Scott, Wabasha, Washington and Winona counties, bringing the total of quarantined counties in the state to 16. There are nearly one billion ash trees in Minnesota. Because there is no demonstrated resistance to EAB in native ash, Minnesota is in danger of losing 99 percent of its ash trees, which will have a profound effect on native plants and animals dependent on ash communities, industries that rely on ash fiber and bark, and communities that have park, boulevard, and yard ash trees. Moving infested firewood has been the major means of spreading EAB. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is the lead state agency over EAB survey and regulation in the state.

Accomplishments:

- Just under 600 firewood vendors were approved to supply park visitors with safe wood for use on DNR administered lands.
- An internal review of the DNR firewood program was completed and the process to transition the program to the DNR Division of Parks and Trails was initiated. Parks and Trails will administer a revised vendor database, change legislation to align with the revised program, and manage outreach efforts beginning in January 2018.
- Division of Forestry program staff actively support collaboration by serving as the DNR liaison for all EAB-related management efforts.

C. Outreach and Technical Support

Outreach to field staff, other land managers, and residents is a critical part of effective invasive species management and includes delivering information on species identification, prevention, management, monitoring, and restoration.

Accomplishments:

- Half of the automatic computer pop-up dashboard posts that appear when DNR staff log in are invasive species awareness messages. This is an important outreach device as the staff that see these messages manage over 5 million acres of state administered lands.
- DoF program staff gave 20 presentations on invasive species identification, prevention, management and restoration to a combination of stakeholder groups including land managers, industry representatives, DNR staff, and recreationists.
- The DNR campaign PlayCleanGo: Stop Invasive Species In Your Tracks (PCG) has grown to include 450 partner organizations. We upgraded the campaign website which averages over a million page views a year. A memorandum of understanding was established with the Forest Service to brand and enhance a collection of children’s material and distribute them through the PCG graphic library.
- PCG outreach materials were distributed at the state fair and a pledge drive of fair visitors produced 2,400 promises to use their PCG boot brush, which they got when they signed their promise, the next time they go hiking. PCG exhibit booths also distributed outreach materials at two sport shows. Online ads were continued through Google and Facebook during the camping season, producing roughly eight million impressions a month. Print ads were included in three seasonal recreation guides (MNTrails, Have Fun Biking, and Community of Minnesota Resorters) and three outdoor magazines (Outdoor News, Northern Wilds, and Silent Sports), producing roughly two million impressions a month.

Forestry Expenditures for FY2017				
<i>(\$ in thousands)</i>				
Fund	ECS	Invasive Species	Dept Services	Fund Total
2209	855.0	271.8	111.1	1,237.9
Total	855.0	271.8	111.1	1,237.9

Division of Lands and Minerals

After establishing the Department’s new land record system (LRS) as the definitive database of land inventory in fiscal year 2015, the Division used its allocation from the Game & Fish Fund to refine and improve the utility and functioning of LRS in several ways:

- Continuing development of the “Data Mart”, which allows data from the LRS to integrate seamlessly with GIS software layers and provides improved access to LRS information to DNR staff
- Developing reports based on the Data Mart to measure our performance in transacting with partner organizations
- Making improvements to the Web-based appraisal tracking system.
- Migrating the system to virtualized servers
- Improving workflow, tracking and documentation of elements of specific transactions:
 - Grazing leases
 - Cooperative farming agreements
 - Funding aid and deed restrictions
 - Payment in lieu of taxes
 - Acquisitions, sales, and exchanges
- Developing skills within MNIT@DNR to make desired changes to workflows and documents. Previously, changes to these components required a professional services contract with software vendor Thomson Reuters to perform the work. Now, changes that used to be delivered on a quarterly release schedule may now be delivered for immediate use by MNIT staff.

During the past fiscal year, three upgrades of the LRS application were received and installed. Each of these versions contained application and database improvements from the previous version of the software. Staff continue to work with software vendor Thompson Reuters to identify improvement opportunities.

The number of users of the LRS continues to grow, making user training and support an ongoing priority for LAM and MNIT staff. Training and support is available in several forms. The LRS SharePoint site, accessible to all users via the agency’s intranet, is a one-stop shop for version information, user tips, best practices and screen-by-screen tutorials for process steps. MNIT staff also host periodic online “live Q&A” sessions, open to any LRS user, to share knowledge and field questions. LRS staff continue to publish a periodic newsletter, “LRS Insider”, to share best practice information and update users on improvements to the system.

Lands and Minerals Expenditures for FY2017		
<i>(\$ in thousands)</i>		
Fund	Land Records System	Fund Total
2200	355.0	355.0
Total	355.0	355.0



Appendix A

Fund Statement

**Department of Natural Resources
Game and Fish Fund Statement 2017 Close Forecast**

CONSOLIDATED GAME & FISH FUND

	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Planning Est.	Planning Est.	Planning Est.	Planning Est.
Balance Forward In								
Prior Year Adjustment	31,564,642	40,851,148	38,639,893	41,952,109	40,554,780	36,937,232	36,393,794	35,204,856
Adjusted Balance Forward	<u>1,097,869</u>	<u>614,010</u>	<u>732,518</u>	<u>809,959</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Receipts	32,662,511	41,465,158	39,372,411	42,762,067	40,554,780	36,937,232	36,393,794	35,204,856
Taxes	12,433,635	12,840,896	13,908,607	13,211,369	13,535,000	13,535,000	13,535,000	13,535,000
<i>Federal Grant Fisheries (D-J)</i>	<i>12,515,386</i>	<i>12,547,150</i>	<i>14,531,579</i>	<i>11,896,870</i>	<i>12,000,000</i>	<i>12,000,000</i>	<i>12,000,000</i>	<i>12,000,000</i>
<i>Federal Grant Wildlife (P-R)</i>	<i>14,278,474</i>	<i>15,716,753</i>	<i>19,506,300</i>	<i>21,622,719</i>	<i>18,125,000</i>	<i>17,750,000</i>	<i>17,250,000</i>	<i>16,500,000</i>
<i>Federal Grants</i>	<i>26,793,860</i>	<i>28,263,903</i>	<i>34,037,879</i>	<i>33,519,589</i>	<i>30,125,000</i>	<i>29,750,000</i>	<i>29,250,000</i>	<i>28,500,000</i>
Departmental Services	27,097,592	29,091,744	34,662,986	34,131,541	30,562,650	30,187,650	29,687,650	28,937,650
Departmental Sales	849,329	616,026	747,010	414,814	614,000	614,000	614,000	614,000
Licenses and Fees	64,806,117	62,484,893	61,960,684	62,663,297	66,381,283	70,494,927	70,315,927	70,315,927
Departmental Penalties	438,437	381,114	307,510	597,170	440,600	440,600	440,600	440,600
Investment Income	155,527	164,363	191,475	298,094	165,000	165,000	165,000	165,000
<i>Fines and Surcharges</i>	<i>124,615</i>	<i>120,433</i>	<i>117,814</i>	<i>116,386</i>	<i>107,000</i>	<i>107,000</i>	<i>107,000</i>	<i>107,000</i>
<i>Internal Reimbursement</i>	<i>28,520</i>	<i>75</i>	<i>66,016</i>	<i>66</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Other Revenue</i>	<i>2,975</i>	<i>26,439</i>	<i>28,357</i>	<i>6,478</i>	<i>5,000</i>	<i>5,000</i>	<i>5,000</i>	<i>5,000</i>
<i>Cost Recovery/Reimbursement</i>	<i>8,563</i>	<i>19,139</i>	<i>21,539</i>	<i>16,087</i>	<i>21,000</i>	<i>21,000</i>	<i>21,500</i>	<i>22,000</i>
All Other	<u>164,673</u>	<u>166,087</u>	<u>233,725</u>	<u>139,016</u>	<u>133,000</u>	<u>133,000</u>	<u>133,500</u>	<u>134,000</u>
Total Receipts	106,145,311	105,745,122	112,011,997	111,455,301	111,831,533	115,570,177	114,929,677	114,142,177
Transfer In:	919,134	937,411	946,739	951,123	951,123	951,123	951,123	951,123
Transfer In:	0	0	98,885	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	919,134	937,411	1,045,624	951,123	951,123	951,123	951,123	951,123
TOTAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE	139,726,956	148,147,692	152,430,032	155,168,492	153,337,436	153,458,532	152,274,594	150,298,156
Expenditures	634,884	349,722	332,972	355,028	344,000	344,000	344,000	344,000
Land and Minerals	1,135,118	1,277,246	1,325,000	1,237,936	1,361,000	1,361,000	1,361,000	1,361,000
Forest Management	1,869,119	2,641,779	1,877,160	2,410,423	2,273,000	2,273,000	2,273,000	2,273,000
Parks & Trails	63,125,885	71,711,111	70,358,013	74,743,117	75,241,681	75,141,216	75,141,216	75,081,216
Fish & Wildlife Mgmt	4,198,123	4,241,313	4,248,932	4,386,555	4,589,522	4,589,522	4,589,522	4,589,522
Fish & Wildlife Mgmt, Licensing	3,876,162	3,931,251	3,907,477	4,789,762	5,052,000	5,198,000	5,198,000	5,198,000
Ecological and Water Resources Mgmt	21,156,374	22,586,269	25,757,718	23,997,557	24,646,000	25,224,000	25,224,000	25,224,000
Enforcement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Operations Support	1,188,914	1,151,458	1,302,841	1,046,856	1,300,000	1,300,000	1,300,000	1,300,000
Statewide Indirect Costs	97,184,578	107,890,149	108,906,421	112,967,233	114,771,203	115,430,738	115,430,738	115,370,738
Subtotal Expenditures	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Debt Service	384,459	399,855	343,888	375,256	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000
Fund 2113 FMIA, Forestry certification (18I)	1,111,190	1,090,279	1,075,703	1,098,589	1,049,000	1,049,000	1,049,000	1,049,000
Fund 2112 Invasive Species Account (18M)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fund 2112 Invasive Species Account (18M)	93,161	28,285	46,061	65,139	80,000	85,000	90,000	90,000
Fund 2000 Venison Donations (200)	102,420	99,230	105,850	107,495	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Fund 2000 Walk In Access Program	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fund 2001 MAD Better Government Effort	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fund 1000 SEGIP Reduction to MMB	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fund 100 K/T Surcharge & Balance Transfer (2212)	1,691,230	1,617,649	1,571,502	1,646,479	1,629,000	1,634,000	1,639,000	1,639,000
Total Transfer Out	98,875,808	109,507,799	110,477,923	114,613,712	116,400,203	117,064,738	117,069,738	117,009,738
TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND TRANSFERS OUT	40,851,148	38,639,893	41,952,109	40,554,780	36,937,232	36,393,794	35,204,856	33,288,418
FUND BALANCE	19,660,172	19,015,452	22,709,933	23,147,887	22,824,164	22,758,426	22,546,688	22,356,950
Less Ded. Appr. & Funds (Appropri R296237, 7201, 7204, Funds 2201-2213)	<u>21,190,976</u>	<u>19,624,442</u>	<u>19,242,176</u>	<u>17,406,892</u>	<u>14,113,069</u>	<u>13,635,369</u>	<u>12,658,169</u>	<u>10,931,469</u>
AVAILABLE FUND BALANCE								

**Department of Natural Resources
Game and Fish Fund Statement 2017 Close Forecast**

2200 Game and Fish (Operations)
Legal Citation: M.S. 97A.055, Subd. 1

	FY2014 Actual	FY2015 Actual	FY2016 Actual	FY2017 Actual	FY2018 Planning Est.	FY2019 Planning Est.	FY2020 Planning Est.	FY2021 Planning Est.
Balance Forward In	14,776,166	21,453,509	19,931,793	19,636,851	17,733,267	14,403,444	13,889,744	12,876,544
Prior Year Adjustment	915,886	380,005	332,212	464,535	0	0	0	0
Adjusted Balance Forward	15,692,052	21,833,515	20,264,005	20,101,386	17,733,267	14,403,444	13,889,744	12,876,544
Receipts								
Departmental Earnings (DE)								
636002 Non-Ferrous Metallic Minerals	9,888	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
636005 Peat Royalties	1,080	1,080	1,080	1,080	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
636006 M Leases Nonmag Taconite				630	0	0	0	0
636016 Timber Sales	790,707	563,757	648,454	346,849	550,000	550,000	550,000	550,000
636017 Timber Sales Interest- Penalty	1,629	408	197	119	600	600	600	600
636018 Resource Mgmt. Access Permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
636043 License Credit Card Serv. Charge	(14,779)	(18,495)	(19,982)	(22,646)	(20,000)	(20,000)	(20,000)	(20,000)
636047 Easements on DNR Lands	3,492	7,890	0	102,282	0	0	0	0
636051 Water Cross Lic on DNR Land	306,161	652,881	461,978	348,505	271,250	271,250	271,250	271,250
636052 Leasing of DNR Lands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
636054 Sale of Gravel, Sand, Salt	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
636055 Land Earnings Sale of Crops	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
636056 Sale of Standing Timber	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
636074 Application Fees	197,537	156,722	139,283	131,333	160,000	160,000	160,000	160,000
636075 License Issuing Fee /ELS	3,357,342	3,213,489	3,181,274	3,211,405	3,244,504	3,241,785	3,238,907	3,235,868
636076 Game & Fish Commercial License	44,741	47,751	50,343	53,935	55,496	58,215	61,093	64,132
636078 Fishing Licenses	345,755	354,843	346,661	344,060	349,000	349,000	349,000	349,000
636079 Fishing Licenses from Lifetime License Sales	26,789,015	26,326,378	25,374,414	25,599,537	29,118,340	30,637,456	30,628,480	30,619,005
636078 Fishing Licenses from Lifetime License Sales	141,326	151,992	156,049	168,172	173,038	181,515	190,491	199,966
636079 Hunting Licenses	18,892,766	17,729,825	18,335,082	18,540,240	18,143,473	20,674,607	20,665,907	20,656,724
636079 Hunting Licenses from Lifetime License Sales	129,531	139,505	150,212	162,994	167,709	175,925	184,625	193,808
636081 Sports Licenses	5,709,756	5,450,829	5,184,989	5,001,042	5,900,563	6,016,592	6,005,180	5,993,134
636081 Sports Licenses from Lifetime License Sales	181,862	194,549	202,694	213,807	219,993	230,770	242,182	254,228
636082 Waterfowl Stamp	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
636085 DNR Sale of Fish/Eggs	15,448	18,932	41,268	31,013	23,000	23,000	23,000	23,000
636086 Wild Rice Harvest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
636088 Game & Fish Federal D-J (Fisheries)	12,515,386	12,547,150	14,531,579	11,896,870	12,000,000	12,000,000	12,000,000	12,000,000
636089 Game & Fish Federal P-R (Wildlife)	14,278,474	15,716,753	19,506,300	21,622,719	18,125,000	17,750,000	17,250,000	16,500,000
636090 Game and Fish Misc	16,019	16,703	18,736	27,850	16,400	16,400	16,400	16,400

**Department of Natural Resources
Game and Fish Fund Statement 2017 Close Forecast**

2200 Game and Fish (Operations)
Legal Citation: M.S. 97A.055, Subd. 1

	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Planning Est.	Planning Est.	Planning Est.	Planning Est.
636091 Turkey Stamp	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
636093 Adult Hunter Education	9,010	9,641	4,602	3,686	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
636094 Firearm Safety Training	173,937	159,222	159,773	152,274	160,000	160,000	160,000	160,000
636098 Fines Game & Fish	190,095	196,608	200,250	212,323	190,000	190,000	190,000	190,000
636099 Fine Game & Fish Surcharge	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
636103 Forfeits Game & Fish	146,190	76,997	10,154	242,663	145,000	145,000	145,000	145,000
636104 DNR Restitution	97,274	104,853	96,213	141,415	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
636105 Pelling Fees	243	697	59	20	0	0	0	0
636107 Trespass Civil citations	3,250	2,249	696	650	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
636116 Deposit Clearance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
636119 Late Charges on Leasing DNR Land	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
636122 Aeration System Permit	25,500	30,275	40,250	45,250	29,000	29,000	29,000	29,000
636127 Hunting Surcharge	193,332	127,515	151,911	172,634	180,000	185,000	190,000	190,000
636128 Fishing Surcharge	1,111,190	1,090,279	1,075,703	1,098,589	1,049,000	1,049,000	1,049,000	1,049,000
636129 Fishing Contests Permit	43,920	45,080	44,460	45,295	44,000	49,865	49,865	49,865
636134 Land Crossing Lic on DNR Land	25,223	200	8,699	10,582	5,250	5,250	5,250	5,250
636140 Super Sports R N	130,815	176,360	217,325	256,377	166,917	169,947	169,947	169,947
Subtotal Departmental Earnings	85,865,117	85,292,917	90,320,705	90,163,752	90,583,533	94,416,177	93,921,177	93,171,177
Investment Earnings								
512001 ITC Interest Earnings	153,543	162,505	188,485	292,392	163,000	163,000	163,000	163,000
Other Revenue (OR)								
512428 Restitutions	622	0	0	650	0	0	0	0
512801 Settlements	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
513118 General K/T Surcharge (G9T)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
553090 All Other Reimbursements - External	566	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
553091 Credit Agreement Rebate	6,951	16,023	18,998	13,925	18,000	18,000	18,500	19,000
512253 Sale of Buildings	0	0	4,018	0	0	0	0	0
512606 All Other Reimbursements - Internal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
555002 Agency Indirect Cost Non General Fund (Fed Indirect)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
512832 Refunds of Prior Year Expenditures	2,016	1,223	23,515	231	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
512607 Agency Indirect Cost Reimb (Regional Indirect Cost Plan)	17,329	0	42,241	0	0	0	0	0
512833 Cash Overages	(134)	27	54	(330)	0	0	0	0
Subtotal Other Revenue	27,349	17,273	88,826	14,475	23,000	23,000	23,500	24,000
Transfer In								
Total Receipts	86,046,008	85,472,695	90,598,016	90,470,618	90,769,533	94,602,177	94,107,677	93,358,177
From General Fund (Police State Aid)	919,134	937,411	946,739	951,123	951,123	951,123	951,123	951,123
From Federal Fund 3000	0	0	98,885	0	0	0	0	0
Total Transfers In	919,134	937,411	1,045,624	951,123	951,123	951,123	951,123	951,123
TOTAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE	102,657,194	108,243,620	111,907,645	111,523,127	109,453,923	109,956,744	108,948,544	107,185,844

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2000 Game and Fish (Operations)
Legal Citation: M.S. 97A.055, Subd. 1

	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Planning Est.	Planning Est.	Planning Est.	Planning Est.
Expenditures								
Land and Minerals (R291002)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lands Records Management System (R291017 & R291009)	634,884	349,722	332,972	355,028	344,000	344,000	344,000	344,000
Parks & Trails, Water Access (R294008)	1,869,119	2,641,779	1,877,160	2,410,423	2,273,000	2,273,000	2,273,000	2,273,000
Fish & Wildlife Management (R296002)	49,718,296	53,953,453	56,091,027	58,529,896	58,184,216	59,880,216	59,880,216	59,880,216
Grey Wolf Mgmt (R296040)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shooting Sports Facilities Grants (R296406 & 6411)	0	978,209	567,008	656,903	1,325,480	0	0	0
Bobwhite Quail Restoration Plan (R296116) FY15	0	5,615	0	0	0	0	0	0
Public Grazing Program (R296222) FY15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fish Virus Surveillance (R296048)	0	0	0	49,968	0	0	0	0
Fish & Wildlife Mgmt, Licensing (R296056)	797,432	1,082,956	933,278	1,185,426	1,191,784	1,191,784	1,191,784	1,191,784
License Center / ELS (R296237)	3,400,691	3,110,158	3,279,841	3,201,128	3,339,000	3,339,000	3,339,000	3,339,000
Ecological and Water Resources Mgmt (R292005)	2,296,409	2,375,471	2,226,635	2,434,755	2,533,000	2,596,000	2,596,000	2,596,000
Enforcement (R297006 & R297051)	19,321,178	20,044,815	21,237,506	22,148,960	22,761,000	23,339,000	23,339,000	23,339,000
Safety Training & Hunter Educ Fees (R297201, R297204)	176,040	295,474	283,237	123,909	170,000	170,000	170,000	170,000
Advanced Hunter Ed (R297030)	76,232	60,306	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enforcement Records Mgmt (R297011)	33,260	644,764	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enforcement Aviation Services	0	0	2,567,786	130	0	0	0	0
Ops Support (R298002)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ops Support: Regional Operations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Statewide Indirect Costs (R290228)	<u>1,188,914</u>	<u>1,151,458</u>	<u>1,302,841</u>	<u>1,046,856</u>	<u>1,300,000</u>	<u>1,300,000</u>	<u>1,300,000</u>	<u>1,300,000</u>
	79,512,455	86,694,179	90,699,292	92,143,381	93,421,480	94,433,000	94,433,000	94,433,000
Transfers Out:								
Fund 2113 Forestry certification (18I)	384,459	399,855	343,888	375,256	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000
Fund 2112 Invasive Species (R296230) from NR Fishing Surcharge (R292206)	1,111,190	1,090,279	1,075,703	1,098,589	1,049,000	1,049,000	1,049,000	1,049,000
Fund 2112 Invasive Species Account (18M)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fund 2000 Venison Donation Surcharge	93,161	28,285	46,061	65,139	80,000	85,000	90,000	90,000
Fund 2000 Walk In Access Program	102,420	99,230	105,850	107,495	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Fund 2001 MAD Better Government Effort	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fund 1000 SEGIP Reduction to MMB	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fund 100 K/T Surcharge & Balance Transfer	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Transfers out:	1,691,230	1,617,649	1,571,502	1,646,479	1,629,000	1,634,000	1,639,000	1,639,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND TRANSFERS OUT	81,203,685	88,311,828	92,270,794	93,789,860	95,050,480	96,067,000	96,072,000	96,072,000
FUND BALANCE	<u>21,453,509</u>	<u>19,931,793</u>	<u>19,636,651</u>	<u>17,733,267</u>	<u>14,403,444</u>	<u>13,889,744</u>	<u>12,876,544</u>	<u>11,113,844</u>
Less Dedicated Appropriations: R296222, R296237, R297201, R297204	262,533	307,351	394,675	326,375	290,375	254,375	218,375	182,375
FUND BALANCE Less Dedicated Appropriations	<u>21,190,976</u>	<u>19,624,442</u>	<u>19,241,976</u>	<u>17,406,892</u>	<u>14,113,069</u>	<u>13,635,369</u>	<u>12,658,169</u>	<u>10,931,469</u>

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	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Actual	FY 2017 Actual	FY 2018 Planning Est.	FY 2019 Planning Est.	FY 2020 Planning Est.	FY 2021 Planning Est.
2201 Deer and Bear Management Account/Computerized Licensing (231) (Statutory)								
Legal Citation: M.S. 97A.075, Subd. 1 (c)								
FUND 2201 (Appropriation R296023) without Appropriation R296213 (D01) (Statutory)								
Balance Forward In	1,120,502	1,160,130	952,156	1,011,558	981,335	830,597	679,859	479,121
Prior Year Adjustments	4,756	6,640	15,798	3,713	0	0	0	0
Adjusted Balance Forward	1,125,258	1,166,770	967,953	1,015,271	981,335	830,597	679,859	479,121
Receipts								
636079 Hunting License	633,588	547,328	578,322	597,018	643,773	643,468	593,145	592,804
636079 Hunting License from Lifetime License Sales	4,567	5,086	5,422	6,052	6,227	6,532	6,855	7,196
636075 License Issuing Fee	59,256	57,430	57,579	55,853	58,000	58,000	58,000	58,000
636075 License Issuing Fee From Lifetime Licenses	407	383	434	473	0	0	0	0
553091 Credit Agreement Rebate	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
512832 Refunds of Prior Year Expd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Receipts	697,818	610,226	641,757	659,395	708,000	708,000	658,000	658,000
TOTAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE	1,823,076	1,776,996	1,609,710	1,674,666	1,689,335	1,538,597	1,337,859	1,137,121
Expenditures								
Fish & Wildlife Management	662,946	776,640	562,339	693,330	800,000	800,000	800,000	740,000
Wildlife Management	0	48,200	35,813	0	58,738	58,738	58,738	58,738
License Center	662,946	824,840	598,152	693,330	858,738	858,738	858,738	798,738
Total Expenditures	1,325,892	1,649,680	1,196,304	1,386,660	1,697,476	1,717,476	1,717,476	1,597,476
FUND BALANCE without Appropriation R296213 (D01)	1,160,130	952,156	1,011,558	981,335	830,597	679,859	479,121	338,383
APPROPRIATION R296213 (D01) (Statutory)								
Emergency Deer Feeding and Wild Cervidae Health Management Account								
Balance Forward In	798,981	537,834	607,166	858,909	376,086	441,086	481,086	496,086
Prior Year Adjustments	5,000	26,748	85,777	6,612	0	0	0	0
Adjusted Balance Forward	803,981	564,582	692,943	865,522	376,086	441,086	481,086	496,086
Receipts								
636079 Hunting License	343,119	298,813	314,541	323,264	361,887	336,734	311,573	311,402
636079 Hunting License from Lifetime License Sales	2,487	2,543	2,928	3,026	3,113	3,266	3,427	3,598
512832 Refunds of Prior Year Expd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Receipts	345,606	301,356	317,469	326,290	365,000	340,000	315,000	315,000
TOTAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE	1,149,587	865,938	1,010,411	1,191,811	741,086	781,086	796,086	811,086
Expenditures								
Fish & Wildlife Management	611,753	258,771	151,502	815,725	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000
Wildlife Management	537,834	607,166	838,909	376,086	441,086	481,086	496,086	511,086
APPROPRIATION R296213 (D01) BALANCE	1,697,963	1,559,322	1,870,467	1,557,421	1,271,683	1,160,945	975,207	849,469
FUND BALANCE: Including Appropriation R296213 (D01)								

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	FY2014 Actual	FY2015 Actual	FY2016 Actual	FY2017 Actual	FY2018 Planning Est.	FY2019 Planning Est.	FY2020 Planning Est.	FY2021 Planning Est.
2202 Deer Habitat Improvement Account (232) (Statutory)								
Legal Citation: M.S. 97A.075, Subd. 1 (b)								
Balance Forward In	763,254	863,021	627,887	696,221	806,923	696,923	576,923	441,923
Prior Year Adjustments	8,120	707	8,694	2,689	0	0	0	0
Adjusted Balance Forward	771,374	863,728	636,581	698,910	806,923	696,923	576,923	441,923
Receipts								
636079 Hunting License	1,372,476	1,194,742	1,258,156	1,292,425	1,311,898	1,301,256	1,285,576	1,284,859
636079 Hunting License from Lifetime License Sales	9,948	10,682	11,712	12,734	13,102	13,744	14,424	15,141
553901 Credit Agreement Rebate	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
512832 Refunds of Prior Year Expd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Receipts	1,382,424	1,205,424	1,269,868	1,305,159	1,325,000	1,315,000	1,300,000	1,300,000
TOTAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE	2,153,799	2,069,152	1,906,449	2,004,068	2,131,923	2,011,923	1,876,923	1,741,923
Expenditures								
Fish & Wildlife Management								
Wildlife Management (R296024)	1,290,777	1,441,265	1,210,228	1,197,145	1,435,000	1,435,000	1,435,000	1,435,000
FUND BALANCE	863,021	627,887	696,221	806,923	696,923	576,923	441,923	306,923
2203 Waterfowl Habitat Improvement Account (Statutory)								
Legal Citation: M.S. 97A.075, Subd. 2								
Balance Forward In	439,837	642,783	519,260	710,058	787,972	807,972	827,972	847,972
Prior Year Adjustments	1,049	0	69,357	7,374	0	0	0	0
Adjusted Balance Forward	440,886	642,783	588,617	717,433	787,972	807,972	827,972	847,972
Receipts								
5425 Hunting License	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
636082 Waterfowl Stamp	634,611	641,032	621,825	598,176	620,000	620,000	620,000	620,000
553901 Credit Agreement Rebate	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
512832 Refunds of Prior Year Expd	44	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Receipts	634,655	641,032	621,825	598,176	620,000	620,000	620,000	620,000
TOTAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE	1,075,541	1,283,815	1,210,442	1,315,609	1,407,972	1,427,972	1,447,972	1,467,972
Expenditures								
Fish & Wildlife Management								
Wildlife Management (R296025)	432,758	764,555	500,384	527,637	600,000	600,000	600,000	600,000
FUND BALANCE	642,783	519,260	710,058	787,972	807,972	827,972	847,972	867,972

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	FY2014 Actual	FY2015 Actual	FY2016 Actual	FY2017 Actual	FY2018 Planning Est.	FY2019 Planning Est.	FY2020 Planning Est.	FY2021 Planning Est.
2204 Trout and Salmon Management Account (Statutory) Legal Citation: M.S. 97A.075 Subd 3								
Balance Forward In	545,257	716,175	893,624	941,233	717,359	688,359	659,359	630,359
Prior Year Adjustments	2,600	1,751	6,944	11,309	0	0	0	0
Adjusted Balance Forward	547,858	717,926	900,569	952,542	717,359	688,359	659,359	630,359
Receipts								
636083 Trout Stamp	921,649	971,054	978,678	1,000,603	946,000	946,000	946,000	946,000
553091 Credit Agreement Rebate	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
512832 Refunds of Prior Year Expd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Receipts	921,649	971,054	978,678	1,000,603	946,000	946,000	946,000	946,000
TOTAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE	1,469,507	1,688,980	1,879,247	1,953,145	1,663,359	1,634,359	1,605,359	1,576,359
Expenditures								
Fish & Wildlife Management Fish Management (R296003)	753,332	795,355	938,013	1,235,786	975,000	975,000	975,000	975,000
FUND BALANCE	716,175	893,624	941,233	717,359	688,359	659,359	630,359	601,359
2205 Pheasant Habitat Improvement Account (235) (Statutory) Legal Citation: M.S. 97A.075, Subd 4								
Balance Forward In	151,750	142,928	66,113	102,877	123,111	133,111	143,111	153,111
Prior Year Adjustments	5,370	1,134	0	6	0	0	0	0
Adjusted Balance Forward	157,120	144,062	66,113	102,883	123,111	133,111	143,111	153,111
Receipts								
636084 Pheasant Stamp	520,897	500,770	525,608	514,499	515,000	515,000	515,000	515,000
553091 Credit Agreement Rebate	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
512832 Refunds of Prior Year Expd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Receipts	520,897	500,770	525,608	514,499	515,000	515,000	515,000	515,000
TOTAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE	678,017	644,832	591,721	617,382	638,111	648,111	658,111	668,111
Expenditures								
Fish & Wildlife Management Wildlife Management (R296)	535,088	578,719	488,843	494,271	505,000	505,000	505,000	505,000
FUND BALANCE	142,928	66,113	102,877	123,111	133,111	143,111	153,111	163,111

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	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Planning Est.	Planning Est.	Planning Est.	Planning Est.
2206 Wild Rice Management Account (236) Legal Citation: M.S. 84.0911, Subd. 1								
Balance Forward In	22,028	24,122	26,379	42,588	37,633	37,633	37,633	37,633
Prior Year Adjustments	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Adjusted Balance Forward	22,028	24,122	26,379	42,588	37,633	37,633	37,633	37,633
Receipts								
636086 Wild Rice License	42,094	32,257	56,209	35,045	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000
TOTAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE	64,122	56,379	82,588	77,633	77,633	77,633	77,633	77,633
Expenditures								
Fish & Wildlife Management Wildlife Management (R296211)	40,000	30,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000
FUND BALANCE	24,122	26,379	42,588	37,633	37,633	37,633	37,633	37,633

2207 Wildlife Acquisition Account (237) (Statutory) Legal Citation: M.S. 97A.071, Subd. 1								
Balance Forward In	1,348,210	1,683,961	866,218	917,070	1,325,922	1,295,922	1,265,922	1,235,922
Prior Year Adjustments	0	0	0	135,047	0	0	0	0
Adjusted Balance Forward	1,348,210	1,683,961	866,309	1,052,117	1,325,922	1,295,922	1,265,922	1,235,922
Receipts								
636080 Wildlife Acquisition Surcharge	1,586,445	1,567,130	1,533,281	1,495,372	1,518,923	1,516,421	1,513,772	1,510,975
636080 Wildlife Acq Surcharge from Lifetime License Sales	42,965	45,409	46,943	49,641	51,077	53,579	56,228	59,025
512253 Sale of Buildings	0	0	0	602	0	0	0	0
553091 Credit Agreement Rebate	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
512832 Refunds of Prior Year Expd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Receipts	1,629,410	1,612,539	1,580,224	1,545,614	1,570,000	1,570,000	1,570,000	1,570,000
TOTAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE	2,977,620	3,296,501	2,446,534	2,597,731	2,895,922	2,865,922	2,835,922	2,805,922
Expenditures								
Fish & Wildlife Management Wildlife Management (R296030, R296022)	1,293,659	2430,283	1,529,464	1,271,809	1,600,000	1,600,000	1,600,000	1,600,000
FUND BALANCE	1,683,961	866,218	917,070	1,325,922	1,295,922	1,265,922	1,235,922	1,205,922

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	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Actual	FY 2017 Actual	FY 2018 Planning Est.	FY 2019 Planning Est.	FY 2020 Planning Est.	FY 2021 Planning Est.
2208 Wild Turkey Management Account (238) (Statutory)								
Legal Citation: M.S. 97A.075, Subd. 5								
Balance Forward In	333,537	382,023	305,513	331,460	305,316	275,316	245,316	215,316
Prior Year Adjustments	6512	0	0	45	0	0	0	0
Adjusted Balance Forward	340,049	382,023	305,513	331,506	305,316	275,316	245,316	215,316
Receipts								
636079 Hunting Licenses	190,236	187,394	201,011	202,667	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000
636091 Turkey Stamp	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
553091 Credit Agreement Rebate	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
512832 Refunds of Prior Year Expd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Receipts	190,236	187,394	201,011	202,667	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000
Transfer In	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
From Fund 230	530,285	569,417	506,525	534,172	505,316	475,316	445,316	415,316
TOTAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE	148,263	263,904	175,064	228,856	230,000	230,000	230,000	230,000
Expenditures								
Fish & Wildlife Management								
Wildlife Management (R296028)	382,023	305,513	331,460	305,316	275,316	245,316	215,316	185,316
FUND BALANCE								
2209 Heritage Enhancement Account (239)								
Legal Citation: M.S. 297A.94 (e) (1)								
Balance Forward In	1,604,319	2,735,977	2,366,298	4,145,399	3,610,359	2,867,374	2,476,374	2,085,374
Prior Year Adjustments	146,407	120,749	100,772	171,633	0	0	0	0
Adjusted Balance Forward	1,750,726	2,856,726	2,467,074	4,317,032	3,610,359	2,867,374	2,476,374	2,085,374
Receipts								
510152 Heritage Enhancement	12,433,635	12,840,896	13,908,607	13,211,369	13,535,000	13,535,000	13,535,000	13,535,000
553091 Credit Agreement Rebate	1,046	3,116	2,541	2,162	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
512832 Refunds of Prior Year Expd	1,050	25,189	770	5,976	0	0	0	0
512607 Agency Indirect Cost Reimb (Regional Indirect Cost Plan)	11,103	0	23,733	0	0	0	0	0
Total Receipts	12,446,834	12,869,201	13,935,651	13,219,508	13,538,000	13,538,000	13,538,000	13,538,000
TOTAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE	14,197,560	15,725,927	16,402,725	17,536,540	17,148,359	16,405,374	16,014,374	15,623,374
Expenditures								
Forest Management ECS (R293002)	1,135,118	1,277,246	1,121,307	1,237,936	1,325,000	1,361,000	1,361,000	1,361,000
Ecological Classification System Program (R293004)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fish & Wildlife Mgmt. (R296004)	7,224,721	8,268,862	7,336,674	8,108,518	7,883,000	7,986,000	7,986,000	7,986,000
Shooting Sports Facilities (R296042 & R296410)	0	0	679	152,909	13,985	0	0	0
World Class Shooting Range	0	0	0	0	30,000	0	0	0
Lead Shot Study	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Emergency Disease Outbreak Response Planning	0	0	0	0	500,000	0	0	0
Inasca Shoot Fac. Grant (R296403)	0	100,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
Prairie Wetlands (R296039)	89,905	653,736	208,579	400,336	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000
Aquatic Plant Mgmt (R296115) FY15	0	3,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
Let's Go Fishing Grants and (R296407, R296408, R296033) thru FY16	0	25,000	373,375	30,354	0	0	0	0
Southeast Asian Outreach (R296272)	1,579,754	1,555,780	1,680,842	2,355,007	2,109,000	2,192,000	2,192,000	2,192,000
Ecological Services (R292006, R292022)	0	0	0	59,992	0	0	0	0
Invasive Species Grants	1,432,085	1,476,005	1,535,871	1,581,129	1,580,000	1,580,000	1,580,000	1,580,000
Enforcement (R297007, R297010, R297046, R297052)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Operations Support - Southeast Asian Outreach	11,461,583	13,359,629	12,257,326	13,926,181	14,280,985	13,929,000	13,929,000	13,929,000
Total Expenditures	14,197,560	15,725,927	16,402,725	17,536,540	17,148,359	16,405,374	16,014,374	15,623,374
Transfers Out:								
Fund 1000 SEGIP Reduction to MMB	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Transfers out:	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FUND BALANCE	2,735,977	2,366,298	4,145,399	3,610,359	2,867,374	2,476,374	2,085,374	1,694,374

**Department of Natural Resources
Game and Fish Fund Statement 2017 Close Forecast**

	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Planning Est.	Planning Est.	Planning Est.	Planning Est.
2210 Lifetime Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund (23A) Legal Citation: M.S. 97A, 4742 Subd 1								
Balance Forward In	9,439,594	10,017,291	10,690,119	11,455,115	12,498,789	13,191,789	13,850,789	14,473,789
Prior Year Adjustments	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Adjusted Balance Forward	9,439,594	10,017,291	10,690,119	11,455,115	12,498,789	13,191,789	13,850,789	14,473,789
Receipts								
636078 Fishing License (Lifetime)	299,211	308,117	364,524	443,178	325,000	325,000	325,000	325,000
636079 Hunting License (Lifetime)	410,323	474,729	469,826	578,069	490,000	490,000	490,000	490,000
636081 Sportsman License (Lifetime)	426,754	489,003	557,671	691,212	570,000	570,000	570,000	570,000
636123 G-F Lifetime License Activation	(560,576)	(600,879)	(630,015)	(674,487)	(694,000)	(728,000)	(764,000)	(802,000)
512001 ITC Interest Earnings	1,985	1,858	2,990	5,703	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
	577,897	672,828	764,996	1,043,675	693,000	659,000	623,000	585,000
Total Receipts								
	10,017,291	10,690,119	11,455,115	12,498,789	13,191,789	13,850,789	14,473,789	15,058,789
TOTAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE								
Deposit Correction to:								
Fund 2200, 636075, License Issuing Fee (RSRC 5421)	44,741	47,751	50,343	53,935	55,496	58,215	61,093	64,132
Fund 2200, 636078, Fishing Licenses fee (RSRC 5424)	141,326	151,992	156,049	168,172	173,038	181,515	190,491	199,966
Fund 2200, 636079, Hunting Licenses (RSRC 5425)	129,531	139,505	150,212	162,994	167,709	175,925	184,625	193,808
Fund 2200, 636081, Sports Licenses (RSRC 5427)	181,862	194,549	202,694	213,807	219,993	230,770	242,182	254,228
Fund 2200, 636128, Fishing Lic Surchage (RSRC 5475)	250	285	310	400	412	432	453	476
Fund 2200, 636127, Hunting Lic Surchage	5	25	40	70	72	76	79	83
Fund 2201, 636079, Hunting License (RSRC 5425)	7,054	7,629	8,350	9,078	9,340	9,798	10,282	10,794
Fund 2201, 636075, License Issuing Fee (RSRC 5421)	407	383	434	473	487	511	536	562
Fund 2202, 636079, Hunting License (RSRC 5425)	9,948	10,682	11,712	12,734	13,102	13,744	14,424	15,141
Fund 2207, 636080, Wildlife Acq Surchage (RSRC 5426)	42,965	45,409	46,943	49,641	51,077	53,579	56,228	59,025
Fund 2213, 636142, Wolf Account	2,487	2,671	2,928	3,184	3,276	3,436	3,606	3,785
Deposit Correction detail: Game and Fish Fund (Operations)	560,576	600,879	630,015	674,487	694,000	728,000	764,000	802,000
FUND BALANCE	10,017,291	10,690,119	11,455,115	12,498,789	13,191,789	13,850,789	14,473,789	15,058,789
2211 Walleye Stamp Account (23B) (Statutory) Legal Citation: M.S. 97A, 075 Subd 6								
Balance Forward In	95,894	98,682	59,144	69,673	73,764	73,764	73,764	73,764
Prior Year Adjustments	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Adjusted Balance Forward	95,894	98,682	59,144	69,673	73,764	73,764	73,764	73,764
Receipts								
663130 Walleye Stamp	100,842	87,408	85,363	91,963	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000
512001 ITC Interest Earnings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Receipts	100,842	87,408	85,363	91,963	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000
TOTAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE								
Expenditures								
Fish & Wildlife Mgmt, Fish Management (R296005)	196,736	186,090	144,507	161,636	163,764	163,764	163,764	163,764
FUND BALANCE	98,682	59,144	69,673	73,764	73,764	73,764	73,764	73,764

**Department of Natural Resources
Game and Fish Fund Statement 2017 Close Forecast**

	FY2014 Actual	FY2015 Actual	FY2016 Actual	FY2017 Actual	FY2018 Planning Est.	FY2019 Planning Est.	FY2020 Planning Est.	FY2021 Planning Est.
2212 Peace Officer Training Account Legal Citation: M.S. 97A.052								
Balance Forward In	8,119	16,287	72,608	57,458	36,577	8,577	(19,423)	(47,423)
Prior Year Adjustments	<u>1,664</u>	<u>717</u>	<u>313</u>	<u>6,748</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Adjusted Balance Forward	9,783	17,004	72,921	64,206	36,577	8,577	(19,423)	(47,423)
Receipts								
513118 General K/T Surcharge	123,993	120,433	117,814	115,736	107,000	107,000	107,000	107,000
553091 Credit Agreement Rebate	89	75	42	66	0	0	0	0
Total Receipts	<u>124,082</u>	<u>120,509</u>	<u>117,855</u>	<u>115,801</u>	<u>107,000</u>	<u>107,000</u>	<u>107,000</u>	<u>107,000</u>
TOTAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE	133,865	137,513	190,776	180,007	143,577	115,577	87,577	59,577
Expenditures								
Enforcement (R297047)	117,578	64,905	133,318	143,430	135,000	135,000	135,000	135,000
Transfer In	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
From Fund 2200	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FUND BALANCE	<u>16,287</u>	<u>72,608</u>	<u>57,458</u>	<u>36,577</u>	<u>8,577</u>	<u>(19,423)</u>	<u>(47,423)</u>	<u>(75,423)</u>
2213 Wolf Management and Monitoring Account (Statutory) Legal Citation: M.S. 97A.075 Subd 7b								
Balance Forward In	117,193	376,424	655,616	975,638	1,140,367	1,185,367	1,205,367	1,205,367
Prior Year Adjustments	<u>505</u>	<u>75,560</u>	<u>112,554</u>	<u>248</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Adjusted Balance Forward	117,698	451,984	768,170	975,886	1,140,367	1,185,367	1,205,367	1,205,367
Receipts								
636141 Wolf Hunting & Trapping	139,453	159,072	0	0	0	0	0	0
636142 Wolf Allocation	343,119	298,686	314,540	323,204	341,760	316,601	296,433	296,255
636142 Wolf Allocation from Lifetime License Sales	<u>2,487</u>	<u>2,671</u>	<u>2,928</u>	<u>3,086</u>	<u>3,240</u>	<u>3,399</u>	<u>3,567</u>	<u>3,745</u>
Total Receipts	<u>485,059</u>	<u>460,429</u>	<u>317,468</u>	<u>326,290</u>	<u>345,000</u>	<u>320,000</u>	<u>300,000</u>	<u>300,000</u>
TOTAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE	602,757	912,413	1,085,638	1,302,176	1,485,367	1,505,367	1,505,367	1,505,367
Expenditures								
Fish and Wildlife Management (R296223)	226,332	256,797	110,000	161,809	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000
Transfer In	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FUND BALANCE	<u>376,424</u>	<u>655,616</u>	<u>975,638</u>	<u>1,140,367</u>	<u>1,185,367</u>	<u>1,205,367</u>	<u>1,205,367</u>	<u>1,205,367</u>

Appendix B
Game and Fish
Fund Allocations to
Hunting and
Fishing Activity

The Game and Fish Fund Hunting and Fishing Allocation report is based on the methodology developed for the [2008 legislative report](#); “Game and Fish Fund Hunting and Fishing Revenue/Expenditure Allocations”, which was developed to meet Minnesota Session Law 2007, Chapter 57, Article 1, Section 4, Subdivision 7, which required a report by November 15, 2008.

The report shows the actual and projected ratios of fishing revenue to expenditures and hunting revenue to expenditures, thus shows any imbalance in spending to revenues for hunting verses fishing.

Per the report, only the Game and Fish Operations Account is used in the analysis. Revenues are allocated by revenue type, and expenditures are allocated based on accounting codes, actual for completed years, budgeted for future years.

Other than for dedicated stamp or other dedicated accounts, there are no statutory requirements to appropriate or spend fishing related revenue for fish activities or hunting related revenue for wildlife activities.

The desired goal is to have a balance between both fisheries revenue and expenditures and wildlife revenue and expenditures.

There are factors that influence the ending result each year. These factors include:

1. Increase wildlife expenditures,
2. Decrease hunting related revenues,
3. Decrease fisheries expenditures, and
4. Increase fishing related revenues.

It is acknowledged that other factors are outside the control of DNR and may include session law changes, and federal Sport Fish Restoration Act (DJ) or Wildlife Restoration Act (PR) apportionment increases or decreases.

The Game and Fish fund report is a tool used to help track imbalance concerns. The DNR is committed to monitoring the imbalance.

**Game and Fish Fund Allocations to Hunting and Fishing Activity
As of FY 2017 Close Forecast**

EXPENDITURES	FY14			FY15			FY16			FY17			FY18			FY19			FY20			FY21				
	Actual Expenditures			Actual Expenditures			Actual Expenditures			Actual Expenditures			Estimated Expenditures			Estimated Expenditures			Estimated Expenditures			Estimated Expenditures				
	Hunting	Fishing		Hunting	Fishing		Hunting	Fishing		Hunting	Fishing		Hunting	Fishing		Hunting	Fishing		Hunting	Fishing		Hunting	Fishing			
DNR Unit																										
Fisheries	-	29,686,426		0	31,347,195		0	30,310,322		0	31,548,338		0	32,895,208		0	33,819,796		0	33,819,796		0	33,819,796		0	33,819,796
Wildlife	21,723,101	-		25,207,730			27,919,216	0		29,334,907	0		28,475,747	0		27,931,679	0		27,931,679	0		27,931,679	0		27,931,679	0
License Center	2,306,988	1,889,155		2,306,213	1,886,901		2,317,215	1,895,903		2,412,605	1,973,949		2,364,189	1,934,336		2,364,189	1,934,336		2,364,189	1,934,336		2,364,189	1,934,336		2,364,189	1,934,336
Ecological Services	688,923	1,607,486		712,641	1,662,830		1,046,518	1,180,117		1,095,640	1,339,115		1,139,850	1,393,150		1,168,200	1,427,800		1,168,200	1,427,800		1,168,200	1,427,800		1,168,200	1,427,800
Enforcement	8,361,769	10,644,941		9,866,091	11,379,268		12,407,901	11,680,628		10,091,071	12,181,928		10,412,450	12,518,550		10,672,550	12,836,450		10,672,550	12,836,450		10,672,550	12,836,450		10,672,550	12,836,450
Parks and Trails	-	1,869,119		0	2,644,779		1,877,160	0		2,410,423	0		0	2,273,000		0	2,273,000		0	2,273,000		0	2,273,000		0	2,273,000
Forestry	-	-		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0
Lands and Minerals	558,638	76,186		307,755	41,967		293,015	39,957		312,425	42,603		302,720	41,280		302,720	41,280		302,720	41,280		302,720	41,280		302,720	41,280
Operations Support	-	-		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0
Statewide Indirect	508,783	680,131		504,658	646,800		629,936	672,905		488,156	558,700		592,034	707,966		582,108	717,892		579,222	720,778		579,222	720,778		579,222	720,778
Total	\$ 34,750,241	\$ 46,453,444		\$ 38,705,088	\$ 49,606,740		\$ 44,613,801	\$ 47,656,992		\$ 43,734,802	\$ 50,065,058		\$ 43,286,990	\$ 51,763,480		\$ 43,016,446	\$ 53,050,554		\$ 42,805,391	\$ 53,266,609		\$ 42,805,391	\$ 53,266,609		\$ 42,805,391	\$ 53,266,609

Biennial Totals

	FY14-15		FY16-17		FY18-19		FY20-21	
Hunting	\$ 73,455,329	43.3%	\$ 88,348,604	47.5%	\$ 86,303,436	45.2%	\$ 85,610,781	44.6%
Fishing	\$ 96,060,185	56.7%	\$ 97,712,049	52.5%	\$ 104,814,044	54.8%	\$ 106,533,219	55.4%

Expenditure Assumptions:

Dedicated Account dollars not included.
 Projected costs are based on current law.
 License Center costs allocated
 Enforcement and Land & Minerals costs allocated based on historical percentages.
 Ecological and Water Resources allocated on cost coding.
 Statewide Indirect is allocated as a percentage of the other total costs.
 Fishing Surcharge transfers allocated to Fishing Expenditures. Venison, Walk-in-Access, and FMAA transfers allocated to Hunting Expenditures.

REVENUES

	FY14-15		FY16-17		FY18-19		FY20-21	
Hunting	\$ 79,393,542	45.8%	\$ 89,513,764	48.9%	\$ 86,560,870	46.2%	\$ 87,039,937	46.0%
Fishing	\$ 93,981,704	54.2%	\$ 93,551,619	51.1%	\$ 100,713,086	53.8%	\$ 102,328,163	54.0%

Revenue Assumptions:

Total Biennial receipts reported on this report equals "Total Receipts (GFF Statement) + Police State Aid Transfer - Less Dedicated Accounts"
 Sports Licenses-Split according to % of hunting and fishing to total
 Commercial Licenses allocated based on account numbers.
 Leases-Split 5% to Fisheries/ 95% to Wildlife
 Fines Split 60% to Fisheries/40% to Wildlife
 Miscellaneous Split 50% to Fisheries/50% to Wildlife
 Investment Split According to Overall Pre-Investment Revenue Split

PERCENTAGE

	FY14-15		FY16-17		FY18-19		FY20-21	
Hunting	92.5%		98.7%		99.7%		98.4%	
Fishing	102.2%		104.4%		104.1%		104.1%	

Note: Over 100% means expenditures exceed revenues, and less than 100% means revenues exceed expenditures.



Appendix C

Related Accounts

Appendix C

Related Accounts

Game and Fish Fund Fiscal Year 2017 Annual Report

Venison Donation Program

This program operates out of a special revenue fund. The legislature created a \$5 surcharge on all non-resident hunting licenses, a \$1 fee on bonus permits. All individuals (e.g. resident and non-resident licenses) may also donate \$1, \$3, or \$5 when they buy an annual resident archery or firearm deer license. These receipts are appropriated to the commissioner for deer management, including grants for assisting with the cost of processing deer taken by hunters for population management purposes and donated to the venison donation program. The \$5 surcharge and voluntary donation was eliminated from this account by the Legislature during the 2011-2012 sessions. Going forward, the \$1 fee on bonus permits is anticipated to be sufficient to fund the program.

This program allows Minnesota deer hunters to donate deer carcasses to food banks, food shelves and other programs to help people in need. This is a cooperative effort between the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) providing an excellent source of protein to those in need while helping reduce local deer populations where needed.

Accomplishments:

- Twenty-two processors were certified to participate in the program in 2016.
- Venison donations have declined below the record high levels experienced during the mid-2000's when deer populations in much of the state were considered overabundant, and efforts were being made to reduce populations through hunting. Donations to the program in recent years have not increased to levels seen prior to conservative regulations in the fall of 2015 and 2016; however, it is anticipated they will increase as antlerless deer hunting opportunities increase.

Financial Review	
FY2017 Beginning fund balance	\$357,158
Prior year adjustment	\$0
Receipts	
Donations	\$0
Transfer-in from 2200	<u>\$65,139</u>
Total receipts and transfers in	\$65,139
Expenditures	
Fish and Wildlife	\$0
Transfer-out to Dept. of Agriculture	<u>\$50,000</u>
Total expenditures and transfers-out	\$50,000
FY2017 Ending fund balance	\$372,297
Net change for FY2017	\$15,139

Walk-In Access Program

This program operates out of a special revenue account. The Walk-In Access (WIA) program is in its sixth year. The program is currently funded through 2018 under a \$1.67 million grant by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, under number 69-3A75-16-509. The program is further supported by a one-time appropriation of about \$616,000 made from the surcharge portion of the venison donation fund, a \$5 surcharge on all non-resident hunting licenses, and an option for small game hunters and deer hunters to donate \$1, \$3, or \$5 to support the WIA program. WIA provides hunting opportunity by purchasing access on private land that is already enrolled in existing conservation programs or lands with high quality wildlife cover, through a landowner agreement. This program is voluntary for landowners. Most landowners choose to enroll their property for two or three years. Enrolled lands are covered under the Minnesota recreational use laws that limit landowners' liability.

Accomplishments:

- Expanded the program in 2016/2017 from 35 to 46 counties in western and south central Minnesota.
- Increased WIA program enrollments from 22,800 acres in 2015/2016, to 23,400 acres in 2016/2017, despite hurdles.
 - Due to the timing of receiving federal grant money, and the hiring of a new WIA coordinator, the program had a compressed enrollment period in 2016/2017.
 - Lowered federal caps in the Conservation Reserve Program prevented some landowners from reenrolling in CRP and forced them to withdraw from WIA.
- Created, printed, and distributed 25,000 Walk-In Access Hunting Atlases to guide WIA users to WIA enrolled lands for access.
- Maintained and updated the Walk-In Access web site and electronic map products to provide additional opportunities for users to locate WIA lands for access.

Noted increased use of the program by hunters. This is tracked by the sale of a \$3.00 validation required to access WIA land. In 2015/2016, 20,102 validations were sold. This increased to 22,386 validations sold in 2016/2017

Financial Review	
FY2017 Beginning fund balance	\$443,915
Prior year adjustment	\$4,081
Receipts	
Donations	\$20,819
Transfer-in from 2200	<u>\$107,495</u>
Total receipts and transfers in	\$128,314
Expenditures	
Fish and Wildlife	<u>\$196,014</u>
Transfers-out	\$0
Total expenditures and transfers-out	<u>\$196,014</u>
FY2017 Ending fund balance	\$380,296
Net change for FY2017	(\$63,619)

Expenditures from this account in fiscal year 2017 were for landowner lease agreements, agreements with the participating Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) in support of their efforts to recruit landowners to the program, staff salaries, boundary posting expenses, and other program costs.