



Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Game and Fish Fund Report



For the
Fiscal Year Ended
June 30, 2015

Game and Fish Fund

Fiscal Year 2015 Annual Report

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Game and Fish Fund

Fiscal Year 2015 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.

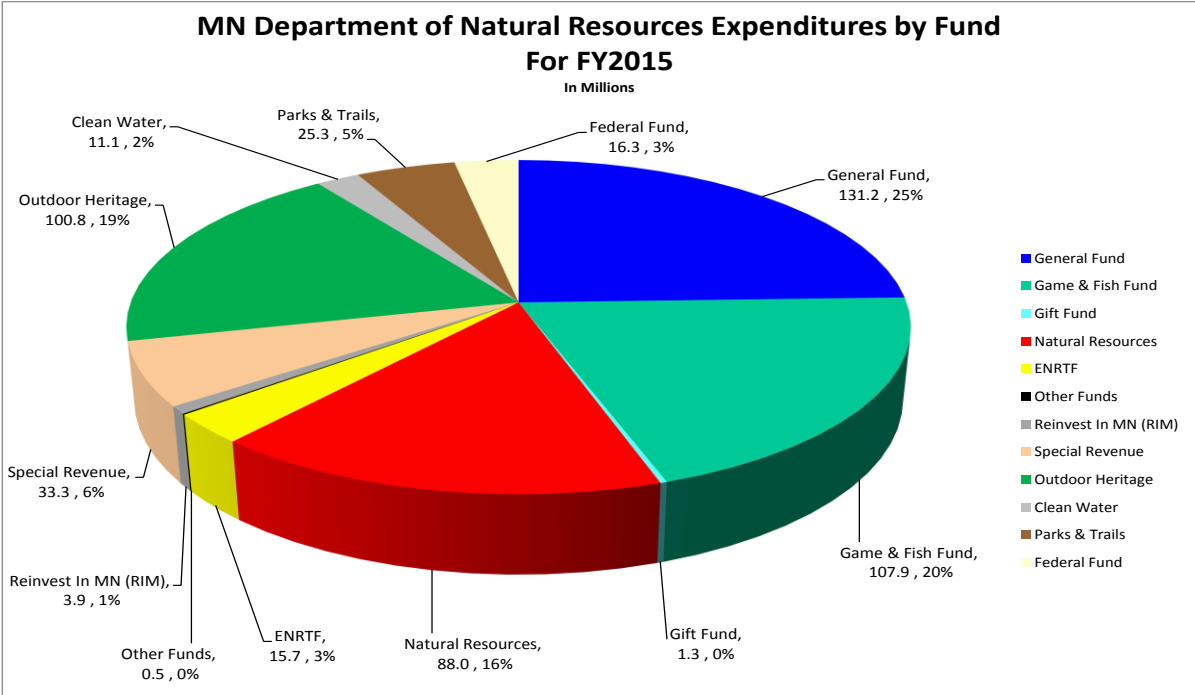
Game and Fish Annual Report Requirements

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 2015 (FY2015) the Game and Fish Fund comprised 20 percent (\$107.9 million) of the total DNR expenditures. Dollars include both operating expenditures and pass-thru costs.



Accounts in the Game and Fish Fund

For fiscal year 2015, 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 division, contributions to the division, 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)

Account Name	Sources and Uses of the Account Funding
Wolf Management and Monitoring Account (2213)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revenues include Wolf application and license sales and \$.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)

Game and Fish Fund Revenues, Expenditures, and Fund Balance

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:

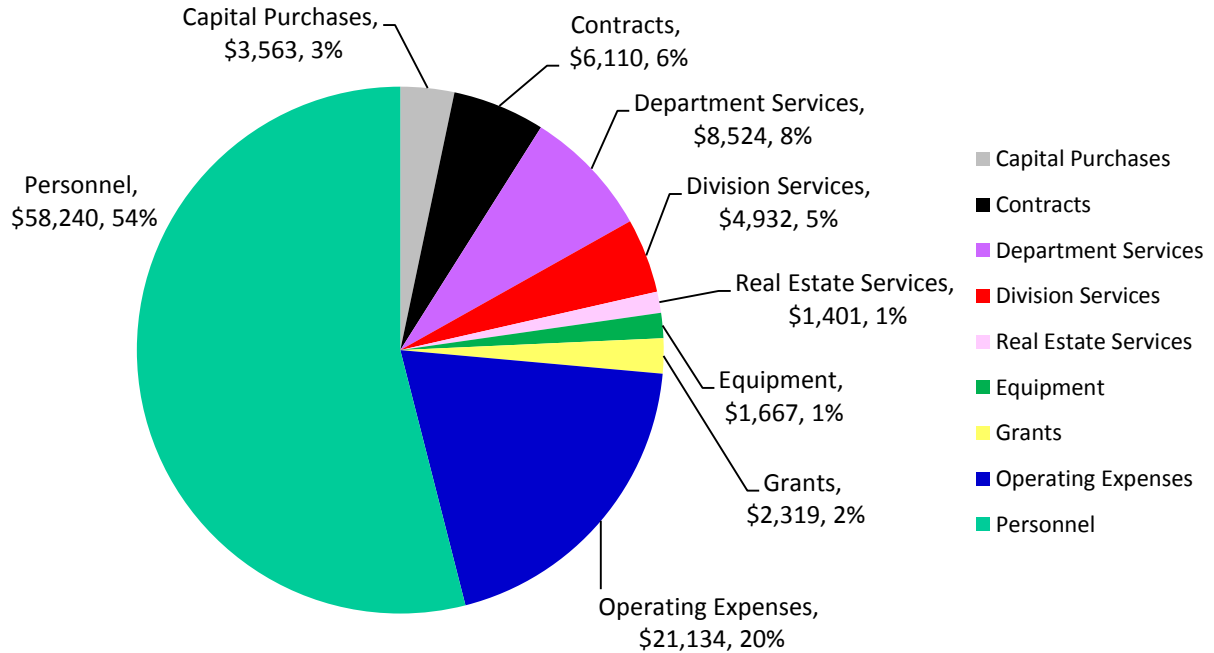
- **Sport Fish Restoration Act (Dingell-Johnson or DJ)** – Reimbursement from the federal government for 75 percent of allowable expenses up to federal apportionment amount.
- **Wildlife Restoration Act (Pittman Robertson or PR)** - Reimbursement from the federal government for 75 percent of allowable 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)					
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Hunting Licenses	\$20,894	\$20,819	\$20,264	\$20,473	\$22,301	\$20,736
Fishing Licenses	22,483	20,967	20,670	23,343	28,085	27,614
Sports Licenses (Hunting and Fishing)	4,748	4,564	4,524	5,494	6,022	5,822
Hunting and Angling Stamps	2,407	2,278	2,179	2,155	2,178	2,200
Small Game Surcharge	1,826	1,787	1,752	1,669	1,629	1,613
Lifetime Licenses	598	901	1,149	1,373	576	671
Commercial Licenses	373	367	355	354	346	355
Federal Grant Fisheries (Dingell-Johnson)	15,001	12,387	11,996	14,957	12,515	12,547
Federal Grant Wildlife (Pittman-Robertson)	11,212	14,737	9,813	12,549	14,278	15,717
Lottery In-lieu-of-sales Tax	11,746	10,916	12,193	13,304	12,434	12,841
License Issuing and Application Fees	3,295	3,142	3,488	3,557	3,659	3,476
Sale and Lease of Natural Resources	1,765	711	1,050	1,114	1,154	1,245
Investment Income	262	155	144	151	156	164
All Other Receipts	980	766	938	711	811	745
Transfer-in: Police State Aid	885	816	859	847	919	937
Total Receipts and Transfers-in	<u>\$98,475</u>	<u>\$95,315</u>	<u>\$91,376</u>	<u>\$102,050</u>	<u>\$107,064</u>	<u>\$106,683</u>

Game and Fish Fund Expenditures

Game and Fish Fund Expenditures by Type for Fiscal Year 2015

In Thousands



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), and MNIT services (computer and technology support).
- Division Services includes the division's administrative support costs.

Expenditures and Transfers-out Fiscal Years (In Thousands)

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Fish and Wildlife	\$60,184	\$62,982	\$54,941	\$63,980	\$63,126	\$71,711
License Center	4,140	4,586	4,244	4,292	4,198	4,241
Ecological & Water Resources	3,224	3,679	4,281	4,300	3,876	3,931
Enforcement	19,924	20,306	20,477	21,093	21,156	22,586
Parks and Trails	1,632	2,694	1,080	3,463	1,869	2,642
Forestry	1,380	1,502	1,216	1,348	1,135	1,277
Lands and Minerals	1,681	1,377	1,072	1,576	635	350
Operations Support	803	960	746	72	-	-
Statewide Indirect	717	793	625	1,021	1,189	1,151
Transfers-out	1,800	691	657	1,675	1,691	1,618
Agency Total Expenditures	\$95,485	\$99,570	\$89,339	\$102,820	\$98,876	\$109,508

Game and Fish Fund Expenditures by Division and Fund

Fiscal Year 2015 Expenditures by Division and Fund

Division	Fund	Expenditures
Fish and Wildlife	Game & Fish Operations	\$ 54,937,277
	Deer & Bear Management	\$ 1,035,411
	Deer Habitat Management	\$ 1,441,265
	Waterfowl Habitat Improvement	\$ 764,555
	Trout & Salmon Management	\$ 795,355
	Pheasant Habitat Improvement	\$ 578,719
	Wild Rice Management	\$ 30,000
	Wildlife Acquisition	\$ 2,430,283
	Wild Turkey Management	\$ 263,904
	Heritage Enhancement	\$ 9,050,598
	Walleye Stamp	\$ 126,946
	Wolf Management	\$ 256,797
Total for Fish and Wildlife		\$ 71,711,111
License Center, Fish and Wildlife	Game & Fish Operations	\$ 4,193,113
	Deer & Bear Management	\$ 48,200
Total for License Center		\$ 4,241,313
Ecological & Water Resources	Game & Fish Operations	\$ 2,375,471
	Heritage Enhancement	\$ 1,555,780
Total for Ecological and Water Resources		\$ 3,931,251
Enforcement	Game & Fish Operations	\$ 21,045,359
	Heritage Enhancement	\$ 1,476,005
	Peace Officer Training	\$ 64,905
Total for Enforcement		\$ 22,586,269
Parks and Trails	Game & Fish Operations	\$ 2,641,779
Total for Parks and Trails		\$ 2,641,779
Forestry	Heritage Enhancement	\$ 1,277,246
Total for Forestry		\$ 1,277,246
Lands and Minerals	Game & Fish Operations	\$ 349,722
Total for Lands and Minerals		\$ 349,722
Statewide Indirect Costs		\$ 1,151,458
Total Expenditures		\$ 107,890,149

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.

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, and youth 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 about 1,600 sales agents, 188 deputy registrars, and DNR license center staff to process these transactions. In fiscal year 2015, sales agents handled approximately 99 percent of all transactions (of which 6 percent are 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 office.

Approximately 2.4 million licenses, permits, stamps, and license validation transactions were processed through ELS, generating more than \$64,600,000 in revenue for the year.

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 and 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 2015, 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 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 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.
6. 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.
7. EWR invests in information management so that its vast data resources are available, integrated, and organized to help inform good natural resource decision making.

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.

Park and Trails

The vision of the Parks and Trails division (PAT) is to create unforgettable outdoor recreation experiences in parks, on trails, and on water. These experiences serve to inspire people to connect to the outdoors and pass that love along to current and future generations. The Game and Fish funds ensure that Minnesotans have access to public waterways for activities like boating, canoeing, kayaking, and angling. The funds support boating access, state water trails, safe harbors on Lake Superior, and fishing piers. In fiscal year 2015, the Game and Fish Fund provided \$2.6 million or 19% of the total funds expended on the water recreation programs.

Minnesota is ranked third in the nation for the number of registered boats (810,000 in 2014) which has been stable for the past five years. The total annual economic impact of recreational boating in Minnesota is \$5.5 billion.

Parks and Trails utilize Game and Fish funds in three program areas: acquisition, development, and fishing piers. These programs improve the quality of boating and shoreland fishing access throughout the state. Currently the focus is on expanding and improving existing boating access sites, with a lower focus on adding new facilities. A small portion of the funds are used for the maintenance and operation of 365 fishing piers and shore fishing areas distributed throughout the state.

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 majority 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. Everything we do 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 trees 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, and many others.

Lands and Minerals

Lands Record System

The Lands and Minerals division (LAM) manages all state-owned mineral rights and provides real estate services for the DNR managed lands. Game and Fish funds are used to support the Lands Record System (LRS). The department completed the re-engineering of the LRS, which began in fiscal year 2008, and rolled it out in 2013. In 2015 the program transitioned from being a project to becoming a department program.

The land records information system 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.

The new system employs work flow management, document management, and geographic information systems technology to put detailed and up-to-date land information in the hands of natural resources managers, land management strategy decision-makers, and the public.

Real Estate Services

LAM provides the other DNR divisions with real estate services which are charged through Service Level Agreements (SLAs) and professional services rates. The funds are not directly appropriated to LAM for this function and the costs appear in the expenditures of the other divisions. In fiscal year 2015, \$1.4 million was spent out of the Game and Fish Fund on real estate services through the SLA or professional services agreements. These costs are shown in the chart on page 5.

In fiscal year 2015, LAM entered into Service Level Agreements with the Divisions of Ecological and Waters Resources, Fish and Wildlife, Forestry, and Parks and Trails and provided real estate expertise on the following types of transactions or services:

- 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.

And;

LAM also provided the department professional real estate expertise on the following types of transactions or services:

- 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;

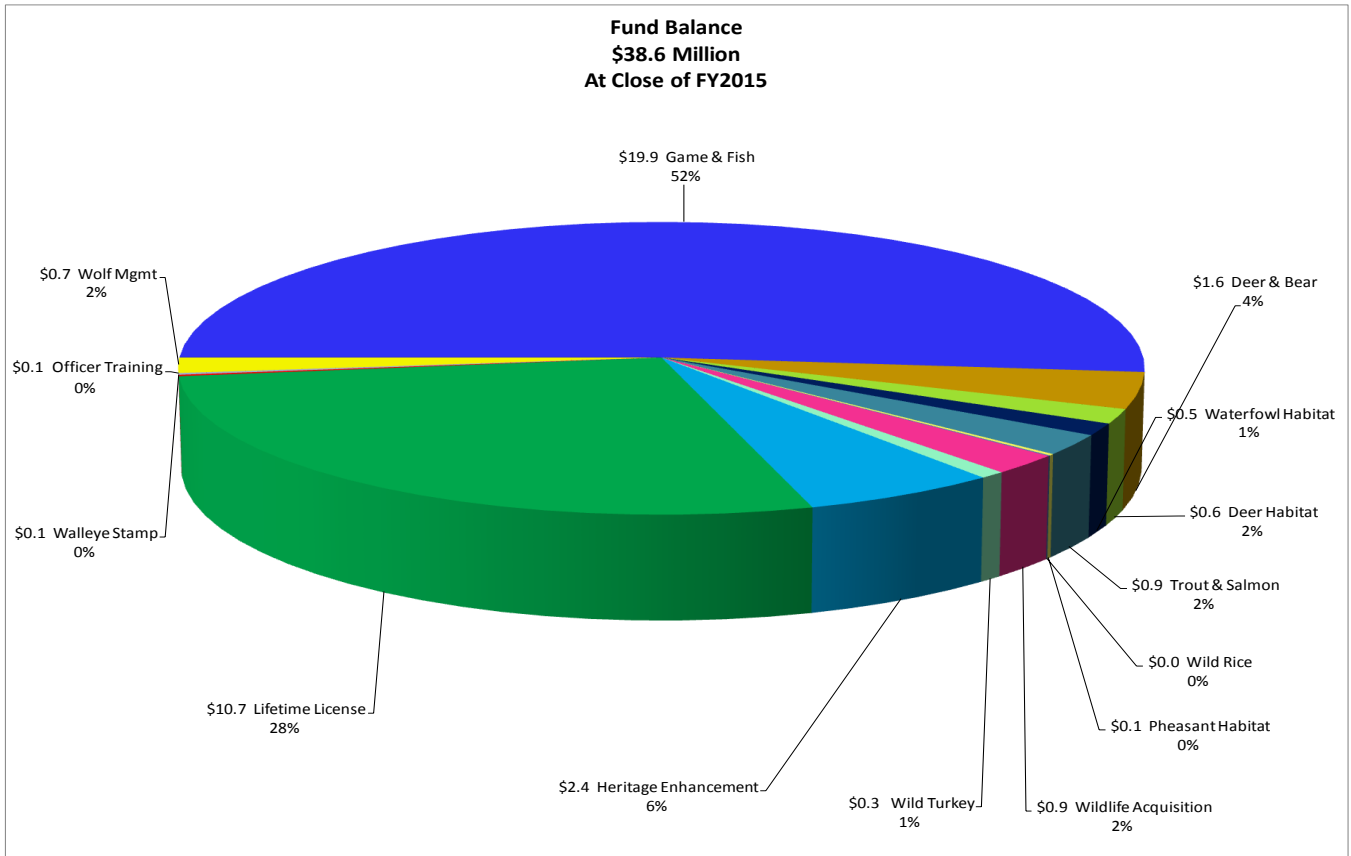
- Leadership and direction for the department and management of regulatory and government relations activities.
- Leadership and assistance for Regional Offices for interdisciplinary delivery of DNR services at the local level including:
 - Coordination of natural resources management programs in the 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), and MNIT services (Computer and Technology support), are charge to each division through internal allocation processes. In fiscal year 2015, \$8.5 million was spent out of the Game and Fish Fund on department services. These costs are shown in the chart on page 5.

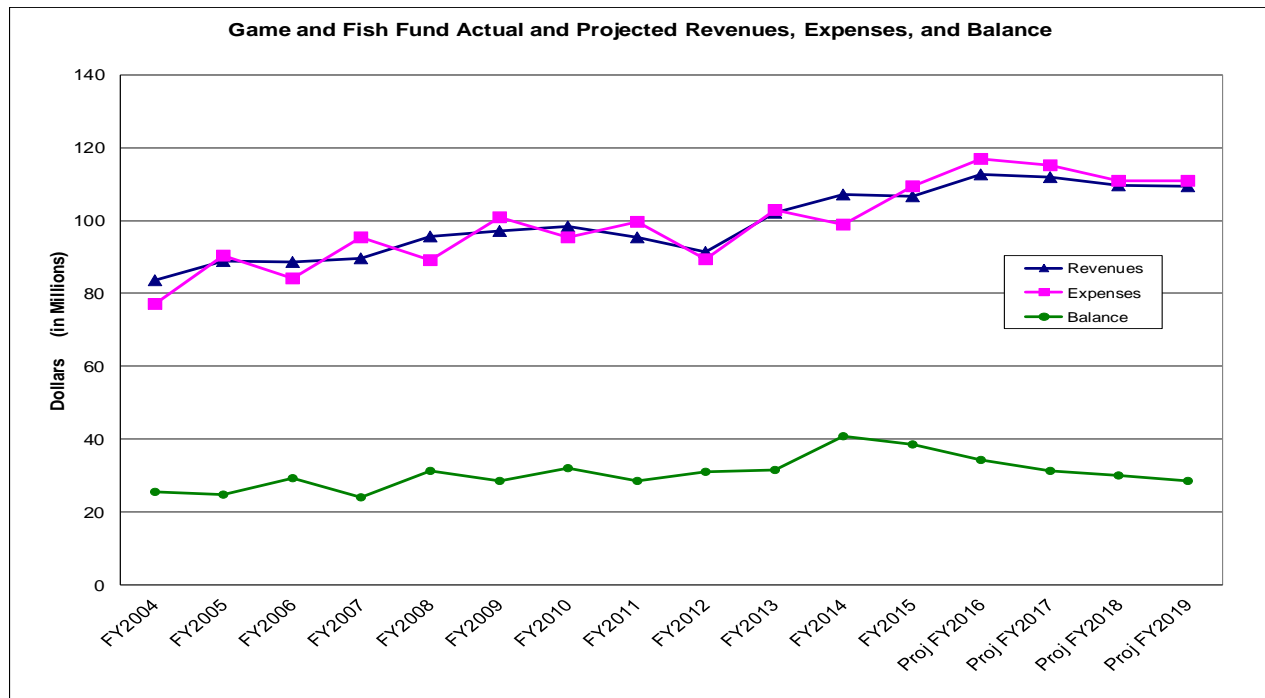
Fund Analysis

As there is a structure deficit (appropriations exceed projected revenues) in the Game and Fish Operations Account, the Game and Fish fund group balance is trending downward. The overall balance in fiscal year 2019 looks strong at \$28.5 million, but most of the balance is from the dedicated accounts. And a large part of the dedicated accounts balance is from the Lifetime Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund at \$14 million. Total License sales are projected to increase slightly through fiscal year 2019. Wildlife Restoration Act federal revenues are projected to peak in fiscal year 2016 and then decline over time. The decline in federal revenues will cause an overall decline in revenue to the fund.

Game and Fish Fund Balance



Game and Fish Fund Trends



* 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 Operations Account

Game and Fish Fund Fiscal Year 2015 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	
FY2015 Beginning fund balance	\$21,453,509
Prior year adjustment	\$380,005
Receipts	
Fishing Licenses	\$26,523,450
Hunting Licenses	\$17,869,330
Sports and Super-Sports Licenses	\$5,821,739
Sport Fish Restoration Act (Dingell-Johnson)	\$12,547,150
Wildlife Restoration Act (Pittman-Robertson)	\$15,716,753
License Issuing Fees	\$3,261,239
Fishing Surcharge	\$1,090,280
Hunting Surcharge	\$127,515
Sales of Natural Resources	\$1,244,948
Fines, Forfeits, and Restitution	\$381,402
Application Fees	\$156,722
Occupational Permits	\$354,843
Non-occupational Fees	\$199,138
Investment Income (Interest)	\$162,505
Other	\$15,681
Transfers-in (Police State Aid)	<u>\$937,411</u>
Total Revenues and Transfers-in	86,410,106
Expenditures	
Fish and Wildlife	\$54,937,277
Fish and Wildlife Licensing	\$4,193,113
Ecological & Water Resources	\$2,375,471
Enforcement	\$21,045,359
Parks and Trails	\$2,641,779
Lands & Minerals	\$349,722
Statewide Indirect Costs	\$1,151,458
Transfers-out (FMIA, Invasive Species, Venison Donation, and Walk-in-Access)	<u>\$1,617,649</u>
Total Expenditures and Transfers-out	\$88,311,828
FY2015 Ending fund balance	<u>\$19,931,793</u>
Net change for FY2015	<u>\$(1,521,716)</u>

Notes:

1. See fund statement for detail.

Account Analysis

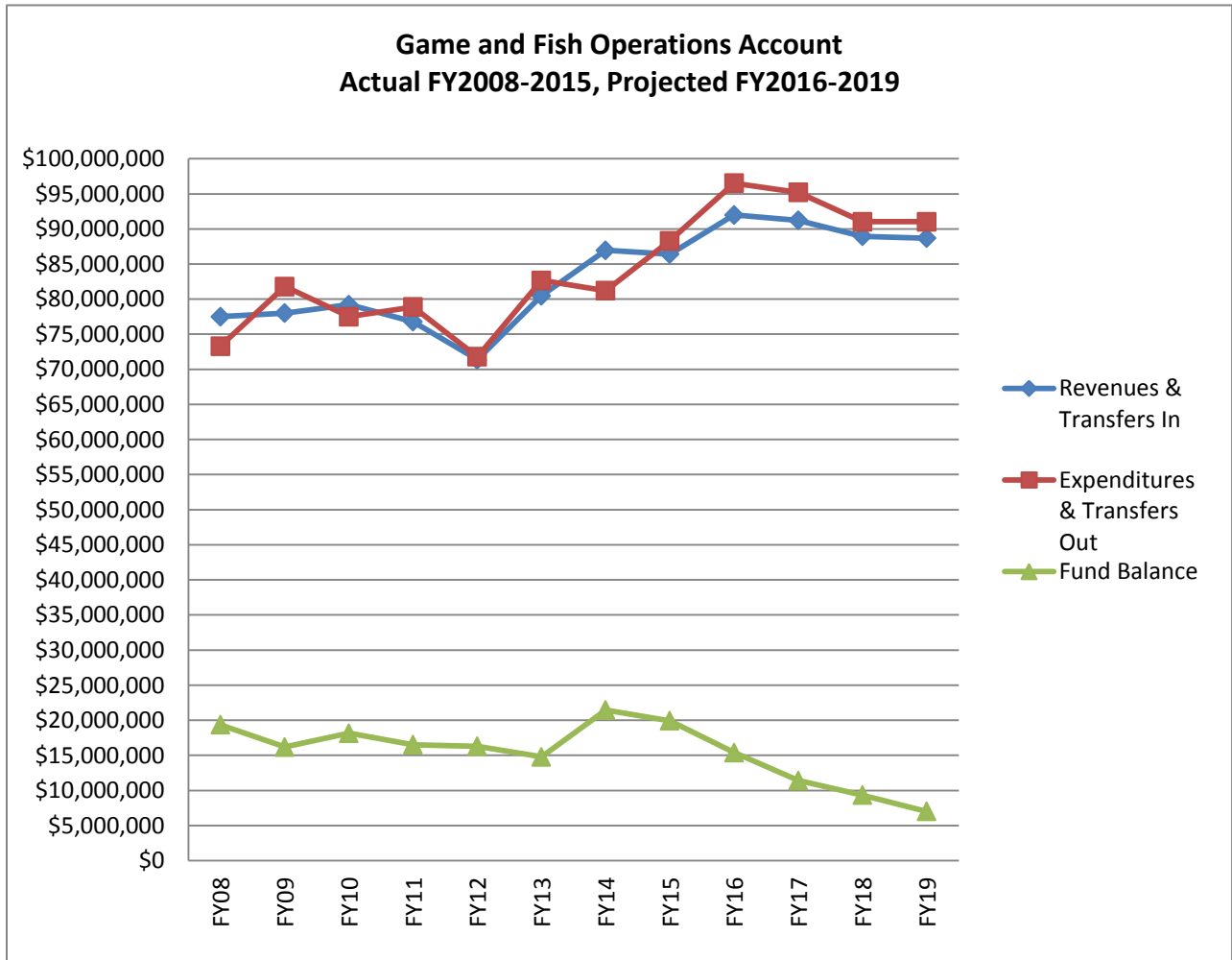
The Game and Fish Fund Operations Account balance is expected to decline over time. Excluding one-time appropriations and short-term increases in the federal revenues from the Wildlife Restoration Act, the fund has a structural deficit (appropriations exceed projected revenues). The fund is managed at 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 2019.

Some additional trends are;

- Fish licenses sales are expected to decrease slightly.
- Deer hunting license revenues are expected to remain low in fiscal year 2016, and then are expected to increase due to 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 peak in fiscal year 2016, and then decline and plateau at some lower level over time. Federal apportionments increased greatly in fiscal years 2014

and 2015 due to increased firearm and ammunition sales. Those sales are declining now and the federal apportionments are expected to decrease to previous levels.

Financial Summary FY2008 to FY2019



Expenditure projections are based on spending authorized in law for the current biennium and carried out through 2019. The department will manage levels of spending to ensure the account does not go negative as shown above.



Deer and Bear Management Account

*Game and Fish Fund
Fiscal Year 2015 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.

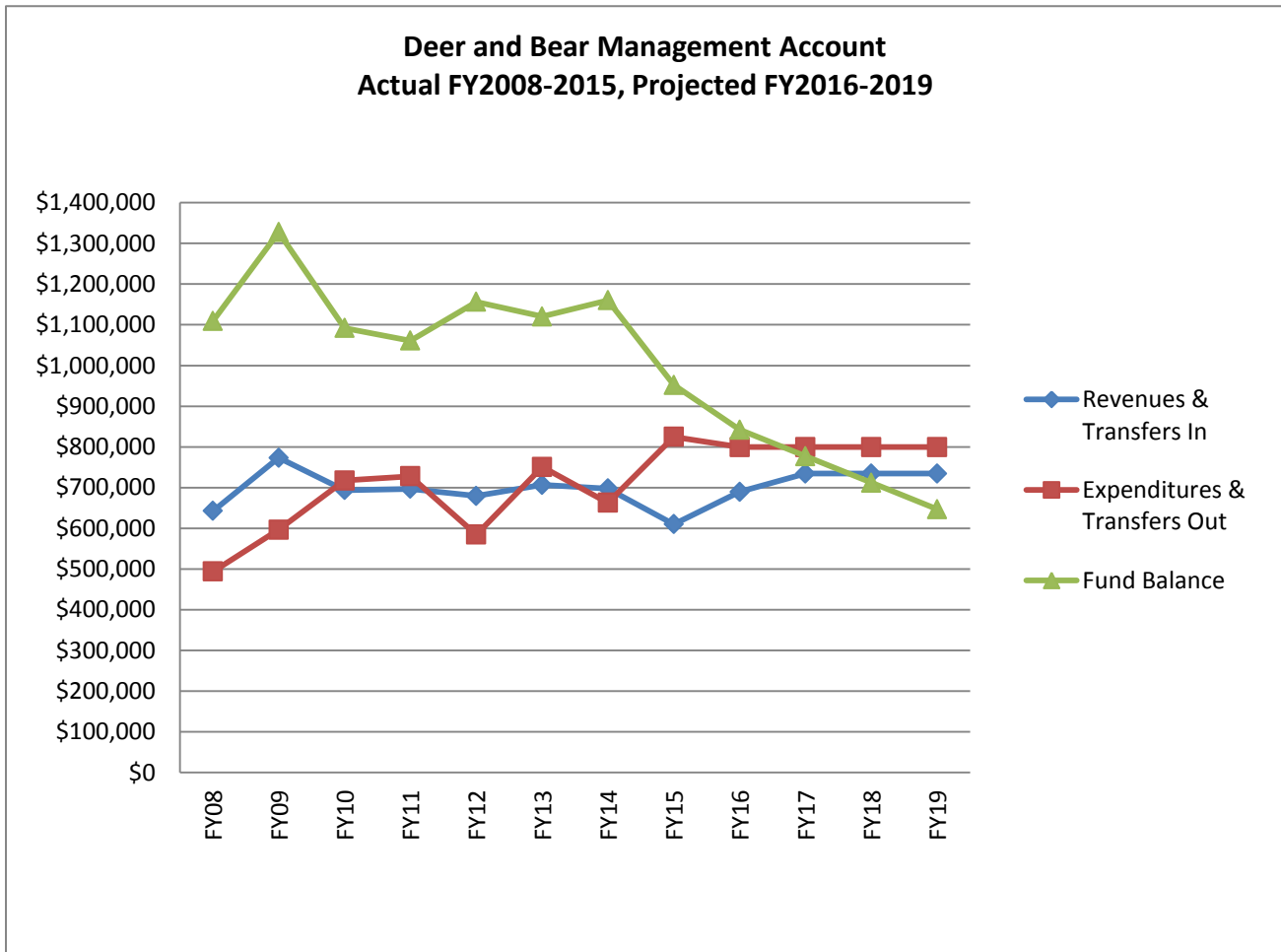
Financial Review	
FY2015 Beginning fund balance	\$1,160,130
Prior year adjustment	\$6,640
Receipts	
Hunting License	\$552,413
License Issuing Fees	\$57,813
Total receipts and transfers in	\$610,226
Expenditures	
Fish and Wildlife	\$776,640
License Center	\$48,200
Total expenditures	\$824,840
FY2015 Ending fund balance	<u>\$952,156</u>
Net change for FY2015	\$(207,974)

Notes

Account Analysis

Revenues credited to the Deer and Bear Management Account were down in fiscal year 2015 due to reduced bonus deer permit sales due to conservative hunting regulations. Revenues are expected to increase in future years as deer populations increase to goal levels, regulations become more liberal, and more bonus deer permits are sold. 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 FY2019



Emergency Deer Feeding and Wild Cervidae Health Management Account

*Game and Fish Fund
Fiscal Year 2015 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

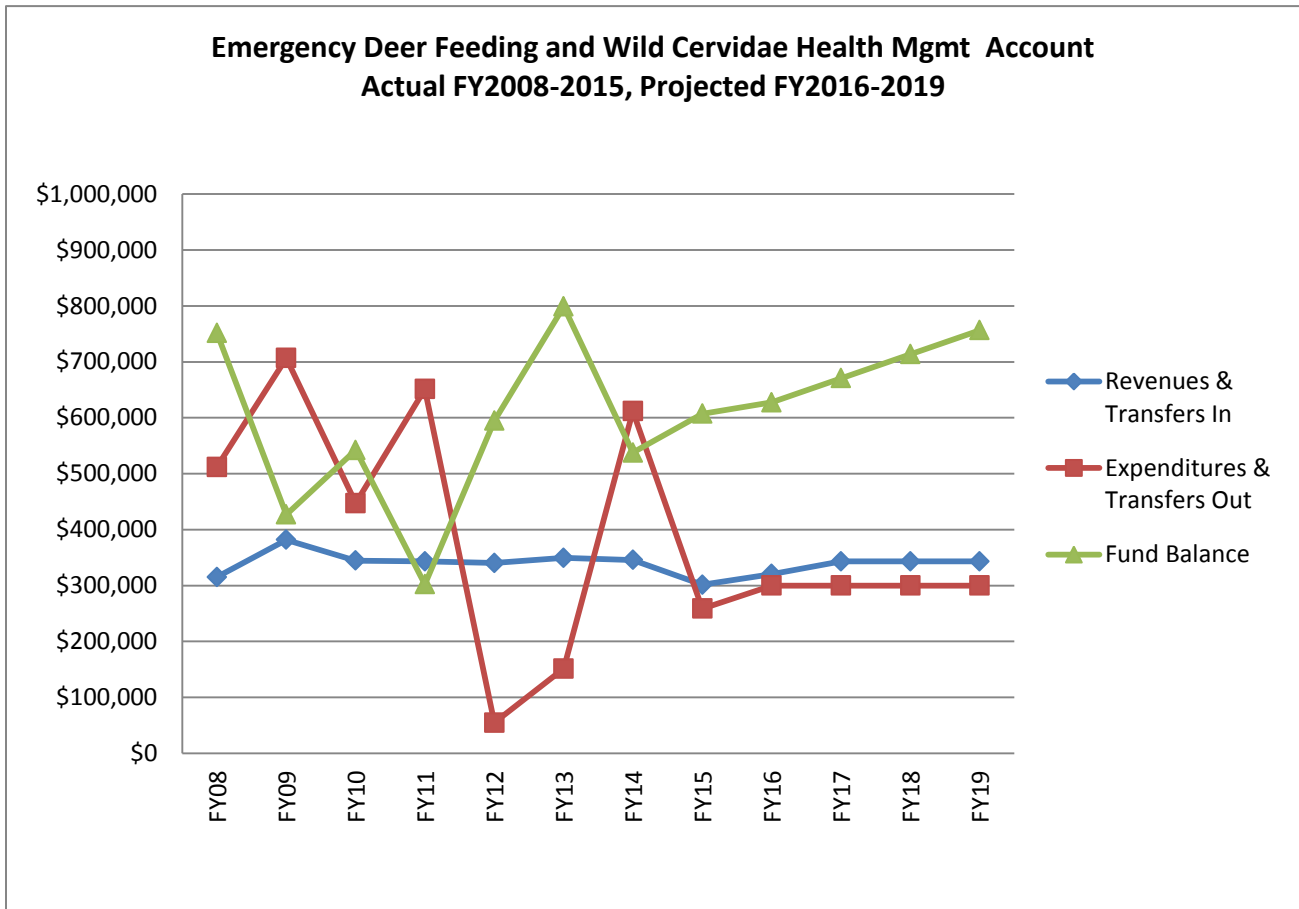
FY2015 Beginning fund balance	\$537,834
Prior year adjustment	\$26,748
Receipts	
Hunting License	<u>\$301,356</u>
Total receipts and transfers in	\$301,356
Expenditures	
Fish and Wildlife	<u>\$258,771</u>
Total expenditures	\$258,771
FY2015 Ending fund balance	<u>\$607,166</u>
Net change for FY2015	\$69,332

Notes

Account Analysis

Revenues credited to the account were down in fiscal year 2015 due to reduced bonus deer permit sales because of conservative hunting regulations. Revenues are expected 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 plans to keep a balance of at least \$600,000 as a reserve for emergency deer feeding and wild cervid health issues. \$1 million would be a preferred balance to ensure the ability to meet the potential needs of an emergency outbreak of wild cervid disease.

Financial Summary FY2008 to FY2019



Deer Habitat Improvement Account

*Game and Fish Fund
Fiscal Year 2015 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.

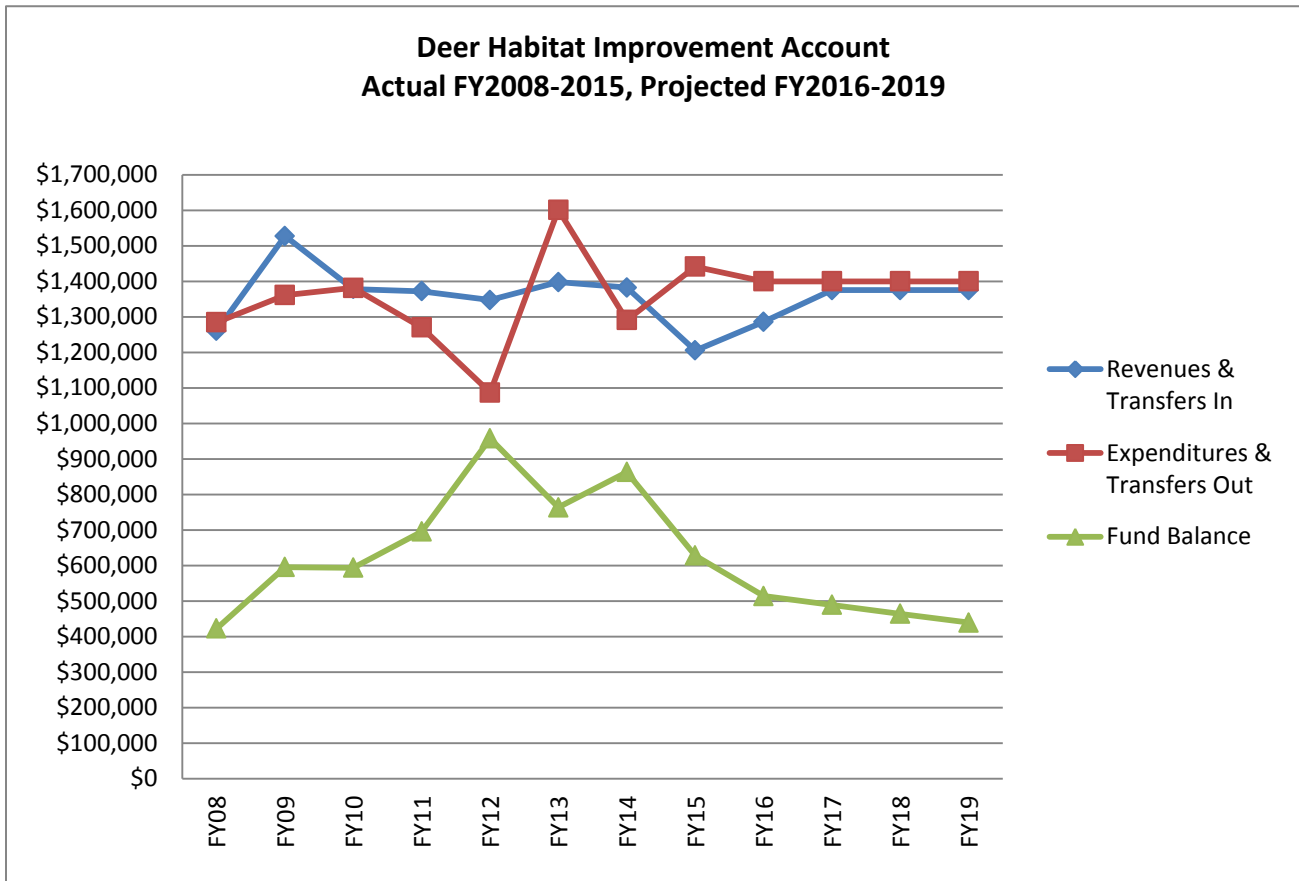
Financial Review	
FY2015 Beginning fund balance	\$863,021
Prior year adjustment	\$707
Receipts	
Hunting License	\$1,205,424
Refunds of Prior Year Expenditure	<u>\$0</u>
Total receipts and transfers in	\$1,205,424
Expenditures	
Fish and Wildlife	<u>\$1,441,265</u>
Total expenditures	\$1,441,265
FY2015 Ending fund balance	<u>\$627,887</u>
Net change for FY2015	<u>\$(235,134)</u>

Notes

Account Analysis

Revenues credited to the Deer Habitat Improvement Account were down in fiscal year 2015 due to reduced bonus deer permit sales because of conservative hunting regulations. Revenues are expected to increase in future years as deer populations increase to goal levels, regulations become more liberal, and more bonus deer permits are sold. 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 FY2019



Waterfowl Habitat Improvement Account

*Game and Fish Fund
Fiscal Year 2015 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).

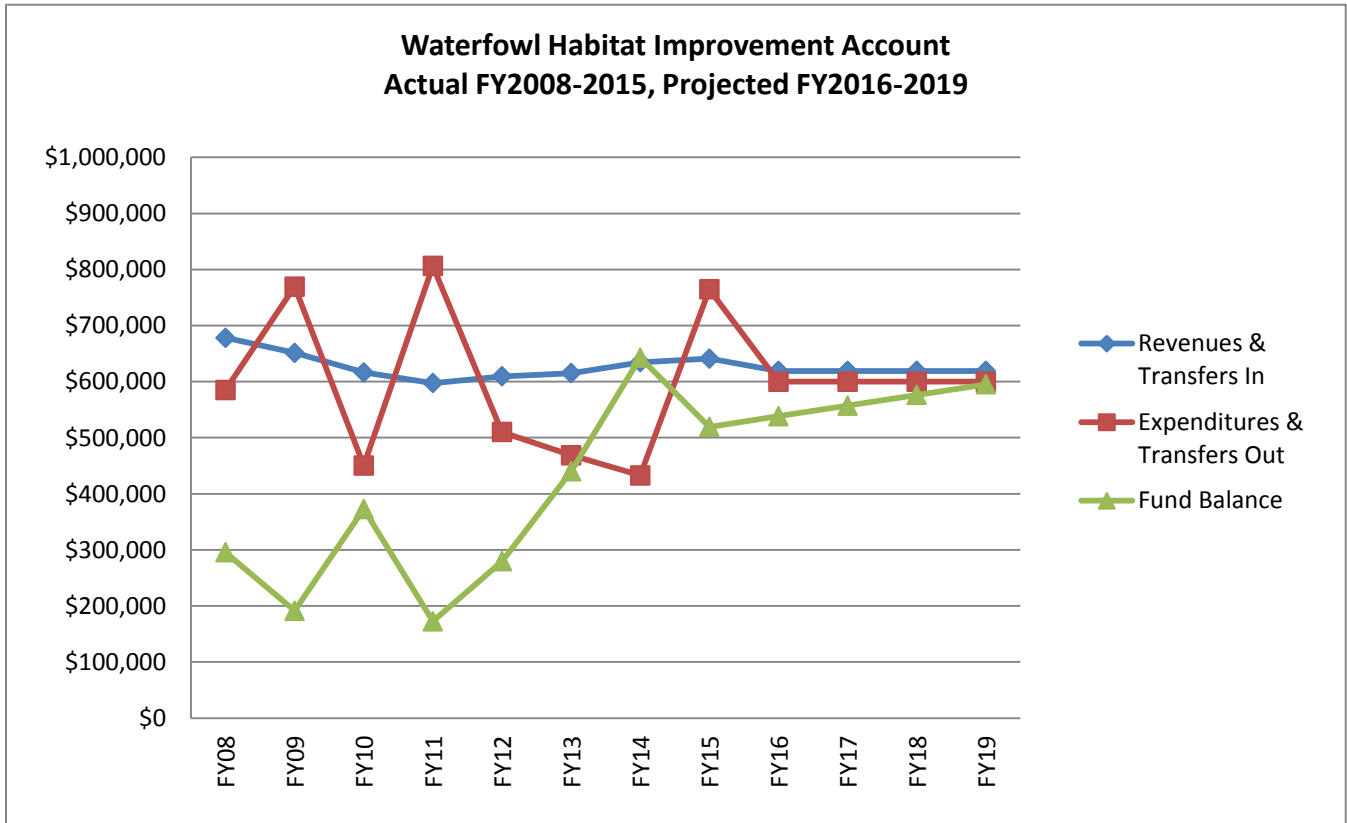
Financial Review	
FY2015 Beginning fund balance	\$642,783
Prior year adjustment	\$0
Receipts	
Waterfowl Stamp	\$641,032
Refunds of Prior Year Expd	\$0
Total receipts and transfers in	\$641,032
Expenditures	
Fish & Wildlife	\$764,555
Total expenditures	\$764,555
FY2015 Ending fund balance	\$519,260
Net change for FY2015	\$(123,523)

Notes

Account Analysis

Waterfowl stamp sales have been fairly stable over the past eight years with minor annual variation. Fish and Wildlife expects spending to keep pace with revenues, and the fund balance to increase slightly over time.

Financial Summary FY2008 to FY2019



Expenditure projections are based on spending authorized in law for the current biennium and carried out through 2019. The department will manage levels of spending to ensure the account does not go negative as shown above.

Trout and Salmon Account

*Game and Fish Fund
Fiscal Year 2015 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.

(b) 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.

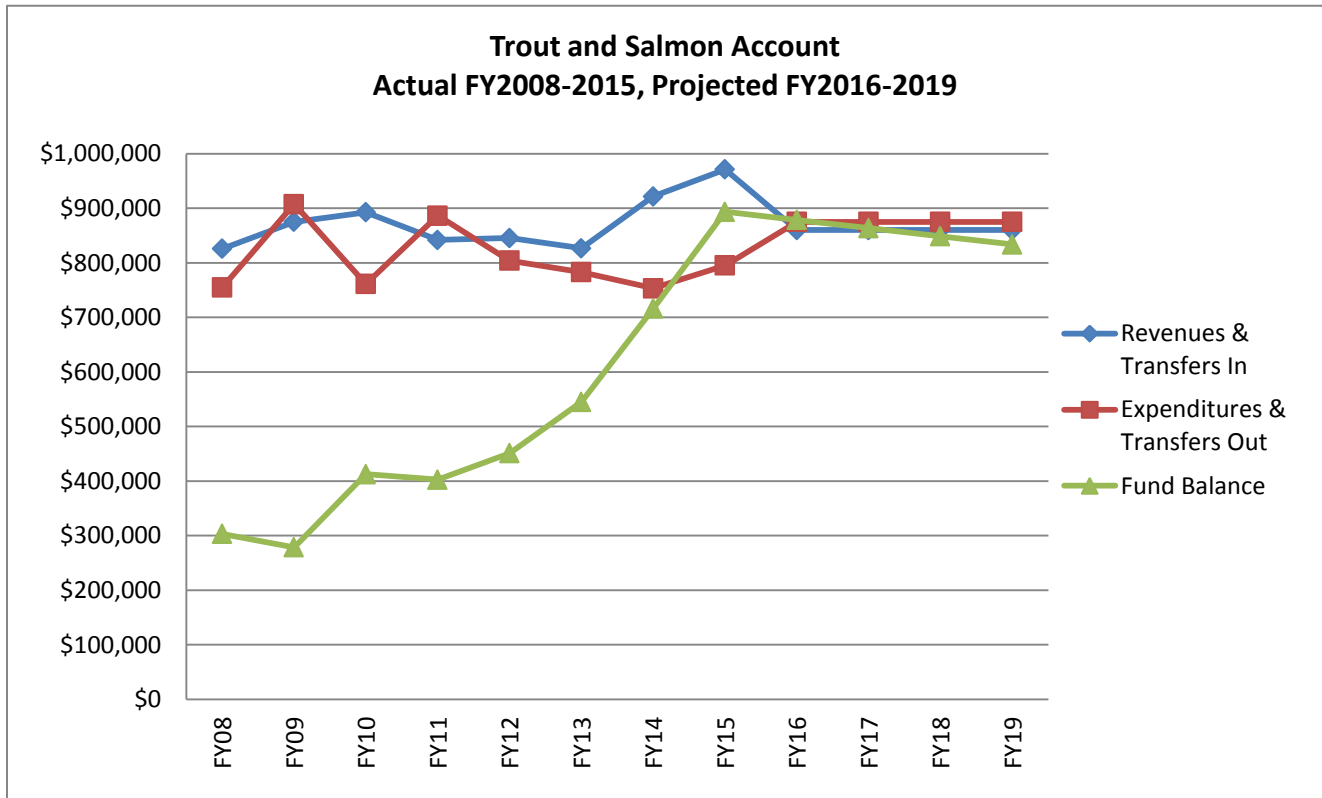
Financial Review	
FY2015 Beginning fund balance	\$716,175
Prior year adjustment	\$1,751
Receipts	
Trout Stamp	\$971,054
Total receipts and transfers in	\$971,054
Expenditures	
Fish & Wildlife	\$795,355
Total expenditures	\$795,355
FY2015 Ending fund balance	\$893,624
Net change for FY2015	\$177,449

Notes

Account Analysis

Trout and Salmon stamp sales have been increasing in recent years. Fish and Wildlife expects spending to keep pace with revenues and the fund balance to remain stable.

Financial Summary FY2008 to FY2019



Expenditure projections are based on spending authorized in law for the current biennium and carried out through 2019. The department will manage levels of spending to ensure the account does not go negative as shown above.

Pheasant Habitat Improvement Account

*Game and Fish Fund
Fiscal Year 2015 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.

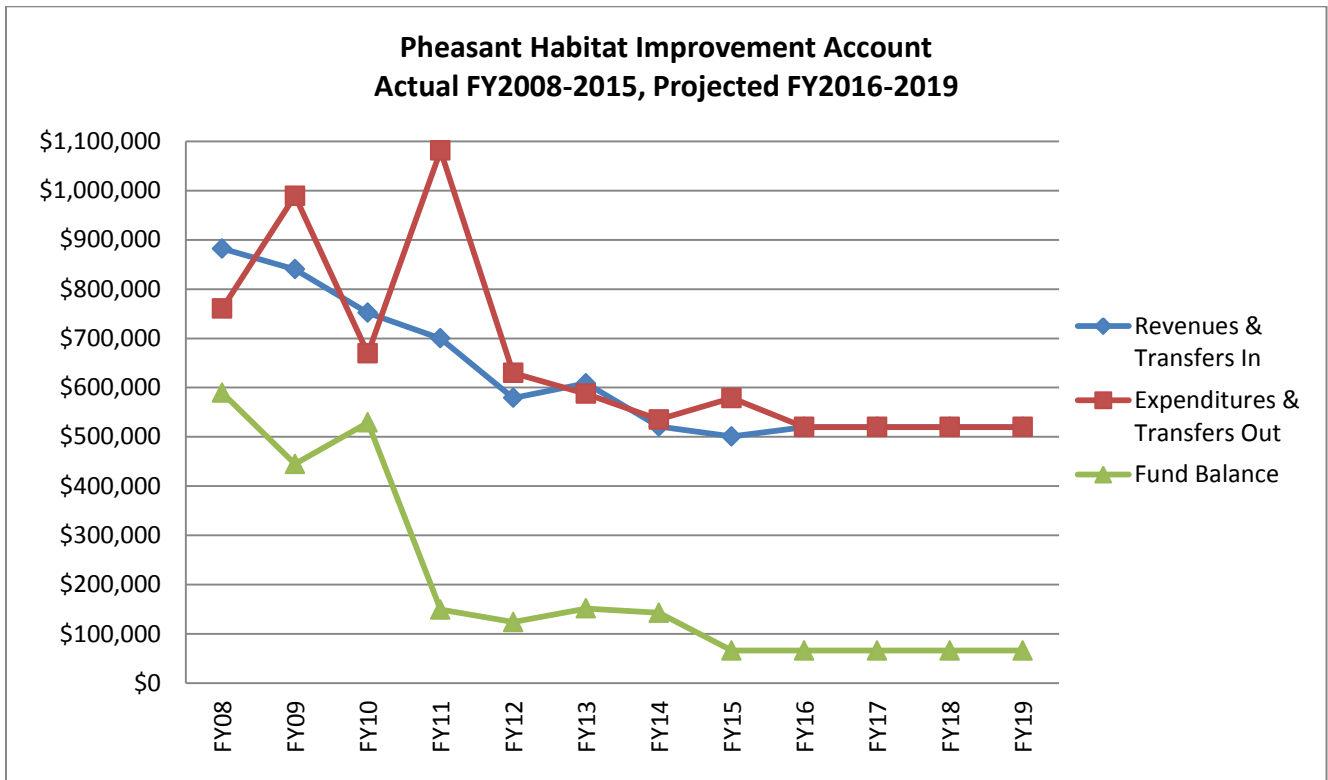
Financial Review	
FY2015 Beginning fund balance	\$142,928
Prior year adjustment	\$1,134
Receipts	
Pheasant Stamp	\$500,770
Refunds from Prior Period	<u>\$0.00</u>
Total receipts and transfers in	\$500,770
Expenditures	
Fish and Wildlife	<u>\$578,719</u>
Total expenditures	\$578,719
FY2015 Ending fund balance	<u>\$66,113</u>
Net change for FY2015	\$(76,815)

Notes

Account Analysis

Pheasant stamps sales have been trending downward. Fish and Wildlife plans to reduce spending in this account to retain a larger balance in this volatile account.

Financial Summary FY2008 to FY2019



Wild Rice Management Account

*Game and Fish Fund
Fiscal Year 2015 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

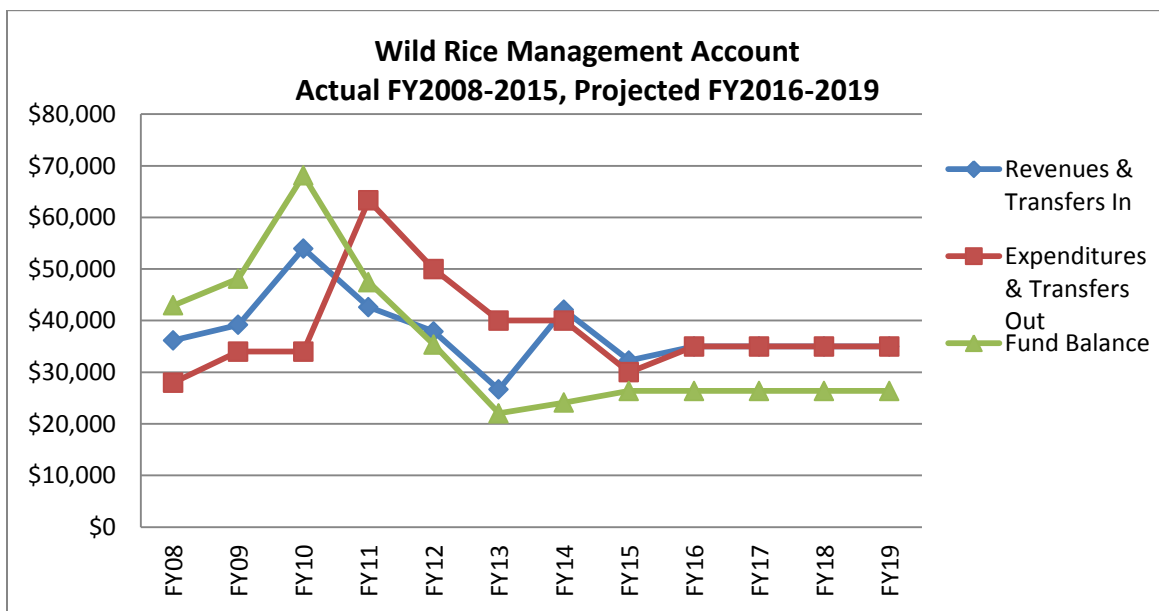
FY2015 Beginning fund balance	\$24,122
Prior year adjustment	\$0
Receipts	
Wild Rice License	<u>\$32,257</u>
Total receipts and transfers in	\$32,257
Expenditures	
Fish and Wildlife	<u>\$30,000</u>
Total expenditures	\$30,000
FY2015 Ending fund balance	<u>\$26,379</u>
Net change for FY2015	\$2,257

Notes

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.

Financial Summary FY2008 to FY2019





Wildlife Acquisition Account

*Game and Fish Fund
Fiscal Year 2015 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;

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.

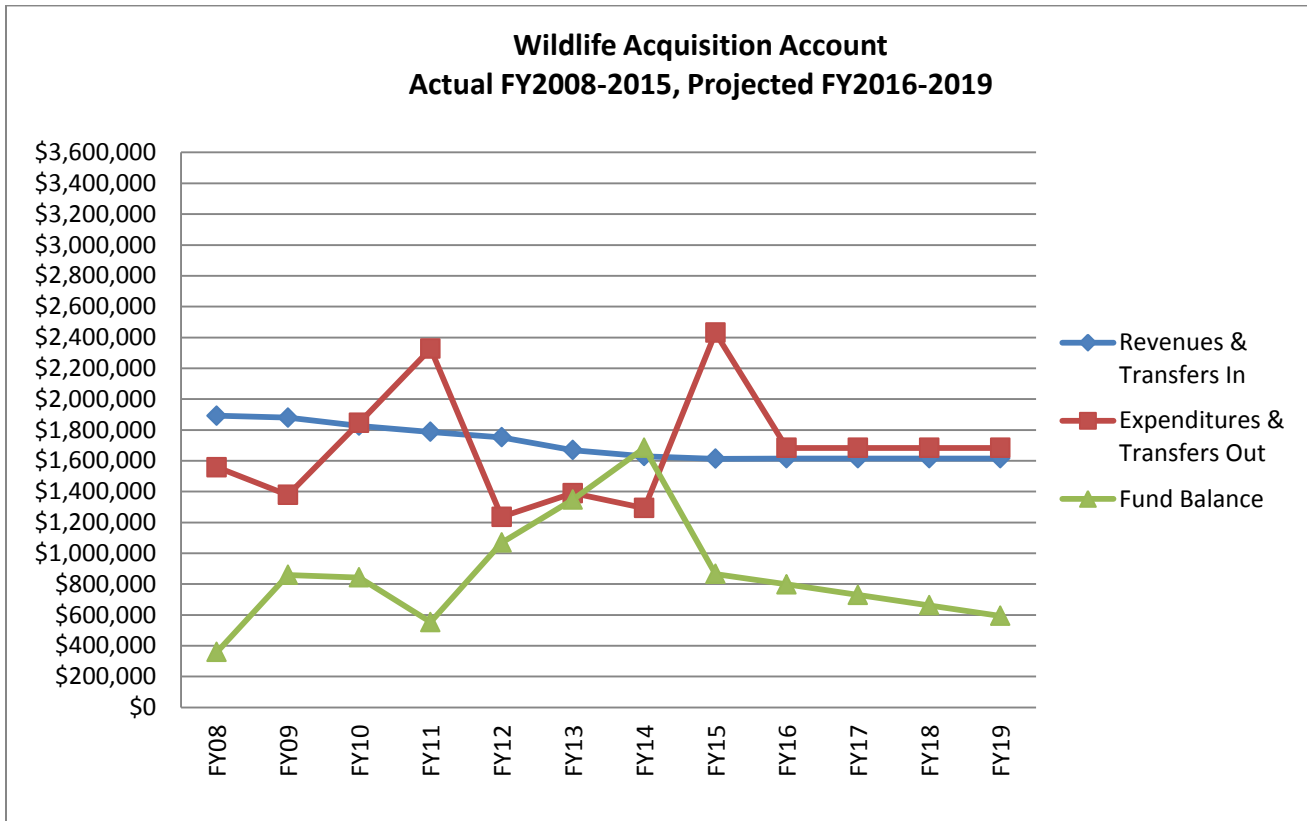
Financial Review	
FY2015 Beginning fund balance	\$1,683,961
Prior year adjustment	\$0
Receipts	
Wildlife Acquisition Surcharge	<u>\$1,612,539</u>
Total receipts and transfers in	\$1,612,539
Expenditures	
Fish and Wildlife	<u>\$2,430,283</u>
Total expenditures	\$2,430,283
FY2015 Ending fund balance	<u>\$866,218</u>
Net change for FY2015	\$(817,743)

Notes

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 plan to spend down the current balance over time while maintaining sufficient funds to meet cash flow needs.

Financial Summary FY2008 to FY2019



Wild Turkey Management Account

*Game and Fish Fund
Fiscal Year 2015 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 transplantation of wild turkeys; and
5. The promotion of turkey habitat development and maintenance, population surveys and monitoring, and research.

(b) 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.

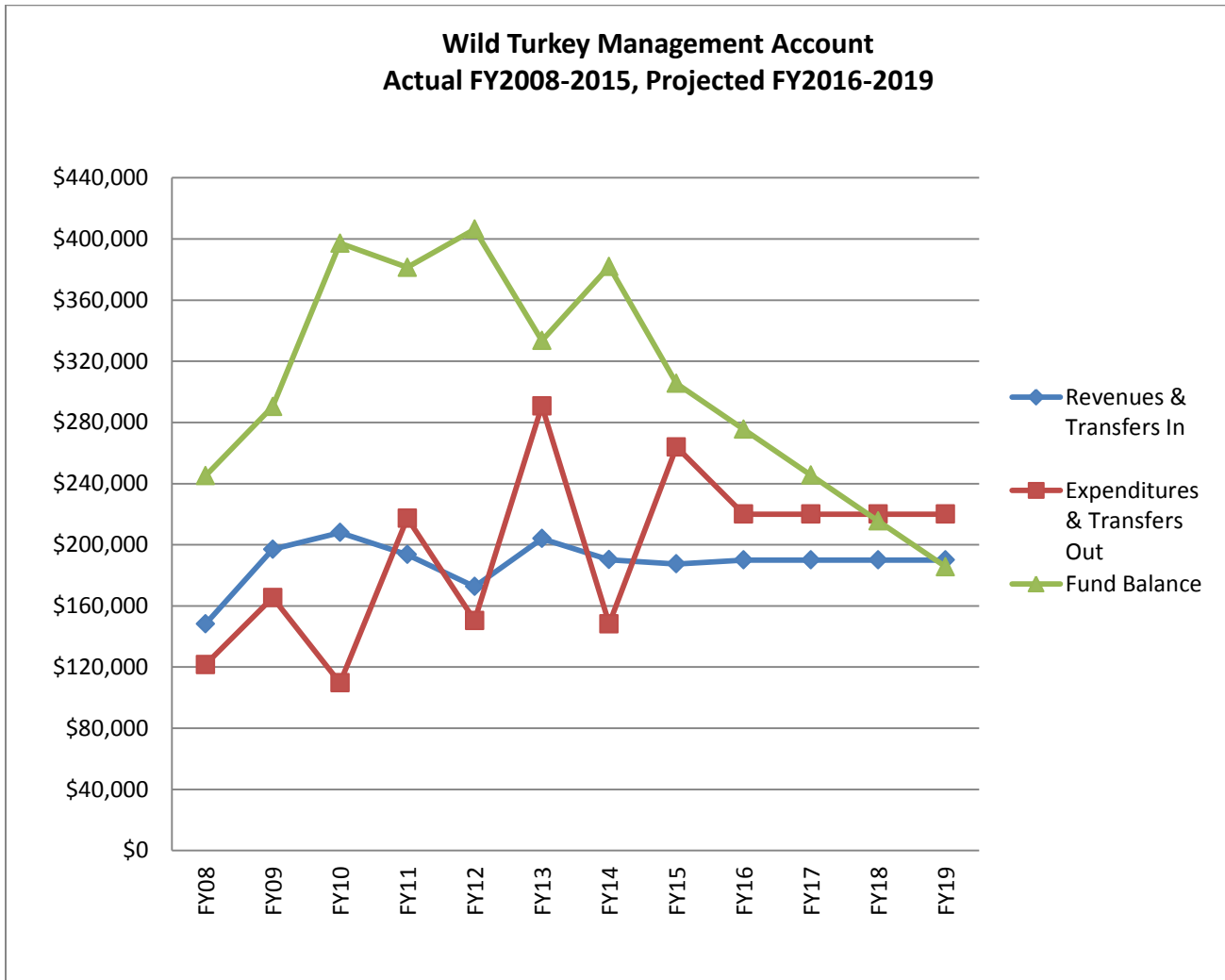
Financial Review	
FY2015 Beginning fund balance	\$382,023
Prior year adjustment	\$0
Receipts	
Hunting Licenses	\$187,394
Total receipts and transfers in	\$187,394
Expenditures	
Fish and Wildlife	\$263,904
Total expenditures	\$263,904
FY2015 Ending fund balance	\$305,513
Net change for FY2015	\$(76,510)

Notes

Account Analysis

Revenues credited to the Wild Turkey Management Account from turkey license sales seem to have leveled out after many years of growth. The Division of Fish and Wildlife plan to spend down the fund balance over time while maintaining sufficient funds to meet cash flow needs.

Financial Summary FY2008 to FY2019



Heritage Enhancement Account

*Game and Fish Fund
Fiscal Year 2015 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	
FY2015 Beginning fund balance	\$2,735,977
Prior year adjustment	\$120,749
Receipts	
Heritage Enhancement - Lottery-In-Lieu	\$12,840,896
Credit Agreement Rebate	\$3,116
Refund of Prior Period Expenditures	\$25,189
Agency Indirect Cost Reimbursement	\$0
Total Revenues and Transfers-in	\$12,869,201
Expenditures	
Fish and Wildlife	\$8,396,862
Fish and Wildlife – Prairie Wetlands	\$653,736
Ecological & Water Resources	\$1,555,780
Enforcement	\$1,476,005
Forestry	\$1,277,246
Total Expenditures and Transfers-out	\$13,359,629
FY2015 Ending fund balance	\$2,366,298
Net change for FY2015	\$(369,679)

Notes - See fund statement for detail.

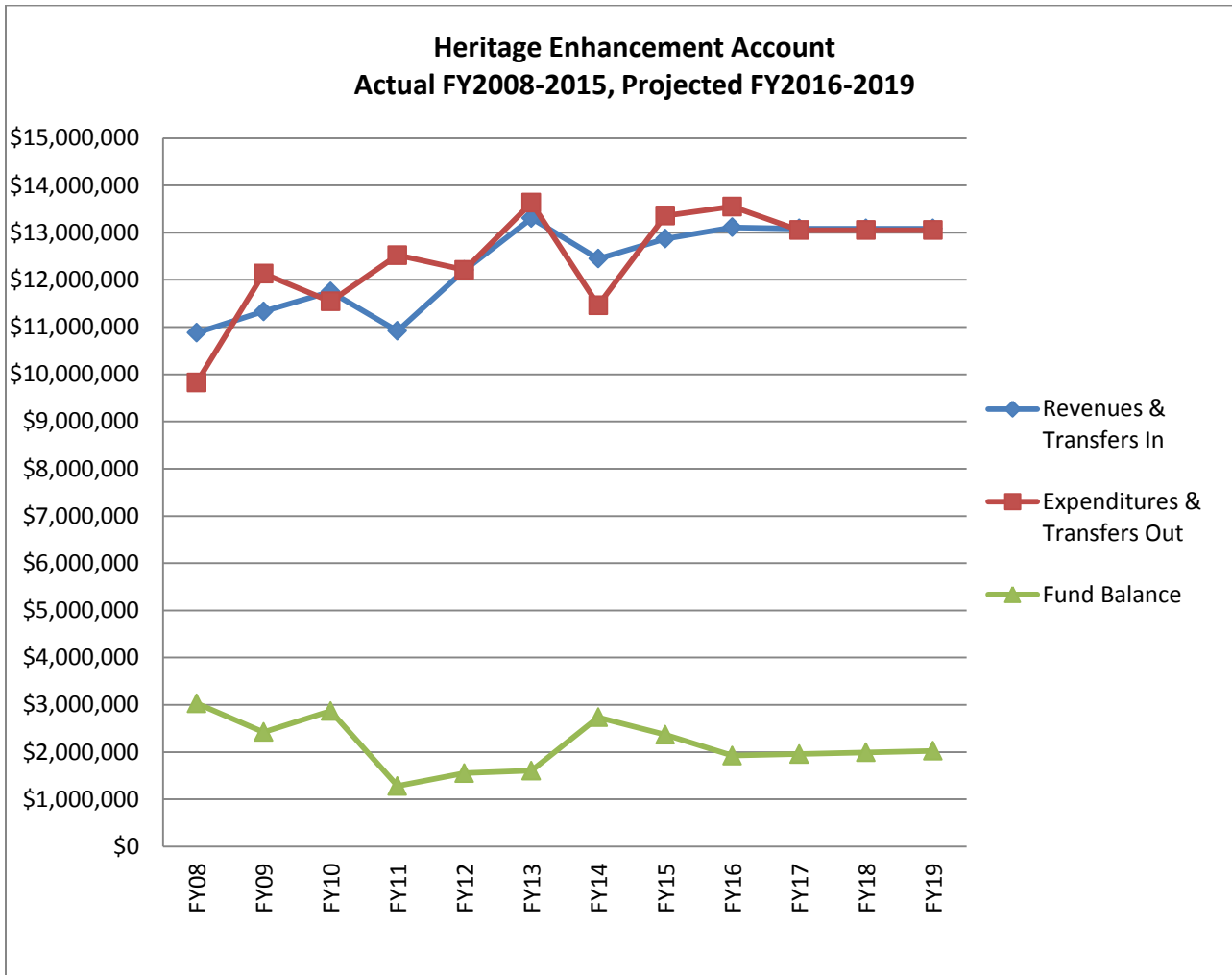
Description of Revenues

- 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 2019. Current appropriations (expenditures) are about the same amount as the projected revenues, so the fund balance is projected to stay about the same through fiscal year 2019.

Financial Summary FY2008 to FY2019



Expenditure projections are based on spending authorized in law for the current biennium and carried out through 2019.

Lifetime Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund

*Game and Fish Fund
Fiscal Year 2015 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

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	
FY2015 Beginning fund balance	\$10,017,291
Prior year adjustment	\$0
Receipts	
Fishing Licenses	\$308,117
Hunting Licenses	\$474,729
Sportsman Licenses	\$489,003
G-F Lifetime License Activations	\$(600,879)
ITC Interest Earnings	\$1,858
Total Revenues and Transfers-in	\$672,828
Expenditures	
	\$0
Total Expenditures and Transfers-out	\$0
FY2015 Ending fund balance	\$10,690,119
Net change for FY2015	\$672,828

Notes

1. See fund Statement for detail.

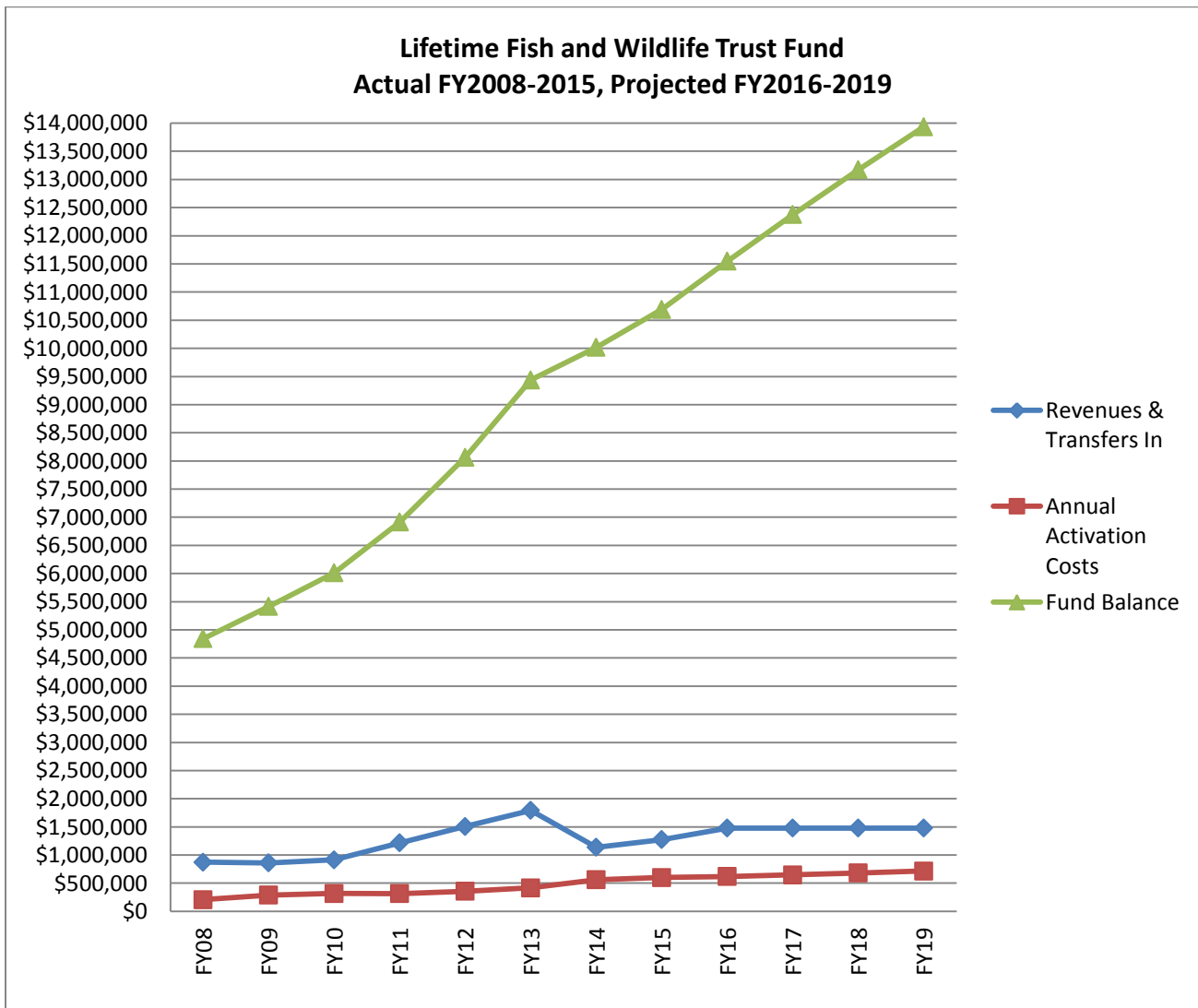
Description of Revenues

- 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 times current license prices). Funds are transfer 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 2017.

Financial Summary FY2008 to FY2019



Walleye Stamp Account

*Game and Fish Fund
Fiscal Year 2015 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)

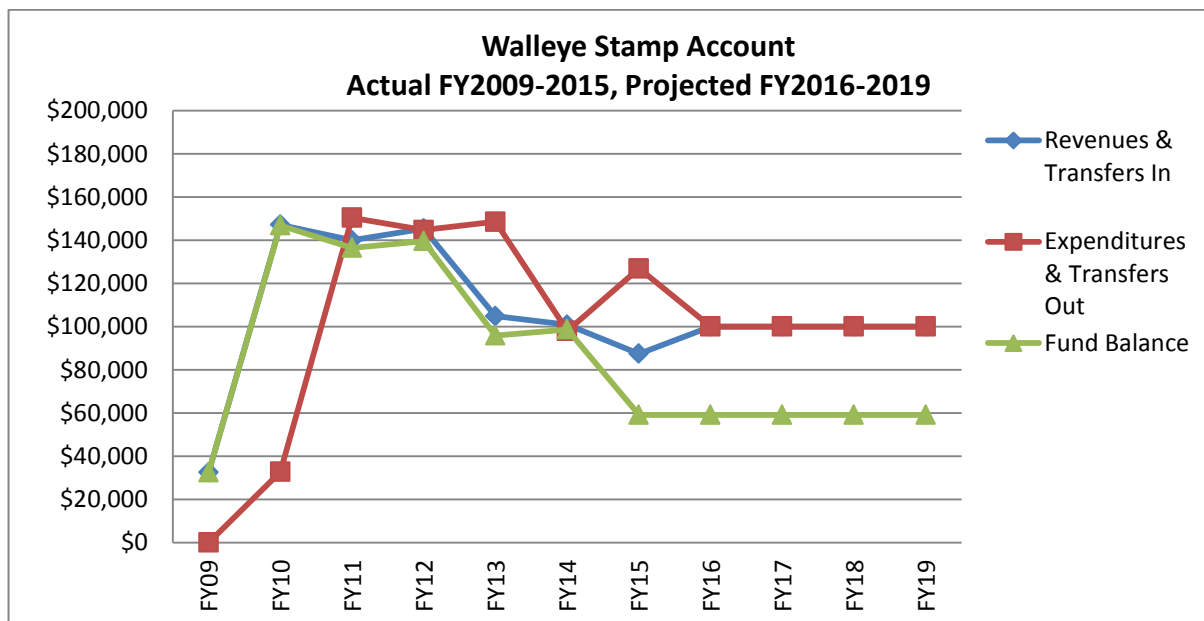
Financial Review	
FY2015 Beginning fund balance	\$98,682
Prior year adjustment	\$0
Receipts	
Walleye Stamp	<u>\$87,408</u>
Total receipts and transfers in	<u>\$87,408</u>
Expenditures	
Fish and Wildlife	<u>\$126,946</u>
Total expenditures	<u>\$126,946</u>
FY2015 Ending fund balance	<u>\$59,144</u>
Net change for FY2015	\$(39,538)

Notes

Account Analysis

There has been a decline in the optional walleye stamp since fiscal year 2012. Expenditures will be managed to prevent the balance from going negative.

Financial Summary FY2009 to FY2019





Peace Officer Training Account

*Game and Fish Fund
Fiscal Year 2015 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.

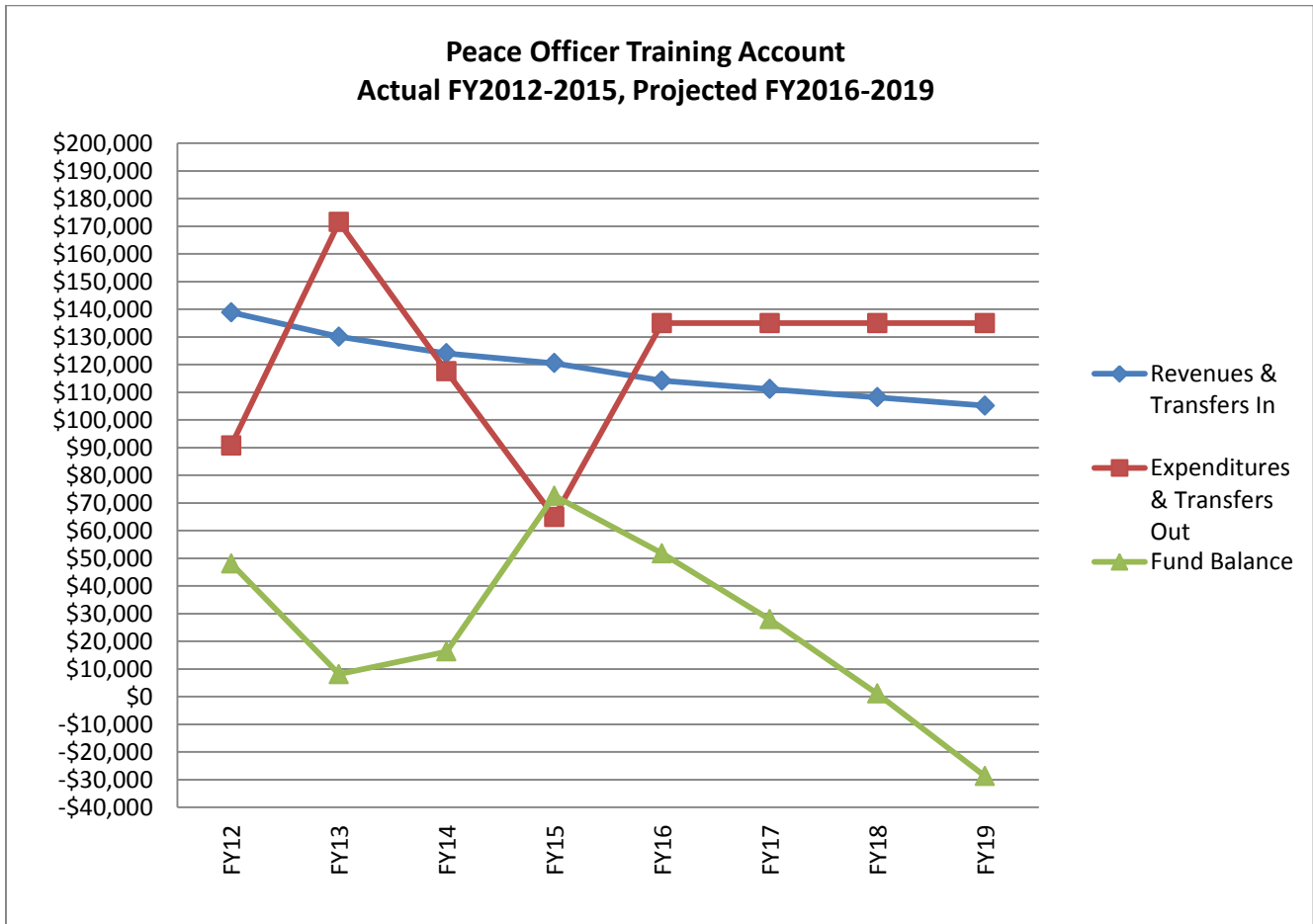
Financial Review	
FY2015 Beginning fund balance	\$16,287
Prior year adjustment	\$717
Receipts	
General K/T Surcharge	\$120,433
Credit Agreement Rebate	<u>\$75</u>
Total receipts and transfers in	\$120,509
Expenditures	
Enforcement	<u>\$64,905</u>
Total expenditures	\$64,905
FY2015 Ending fund balance	<u>\$72,608</u>
Net change for FY2015	\$56,321

Notes

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 thousand per year. Revenues in fiscal year 2015 were only \$120,509 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 FY2019



Expenditure projections are based on spending authorized in law for the current biennium and carried out through 2019. The department will manage levels of spending to ensure the account does not go negative as shown above.

Wolf Management and Monitoring Account

*Game and Fish Fund
Fiscal Year 2015 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)

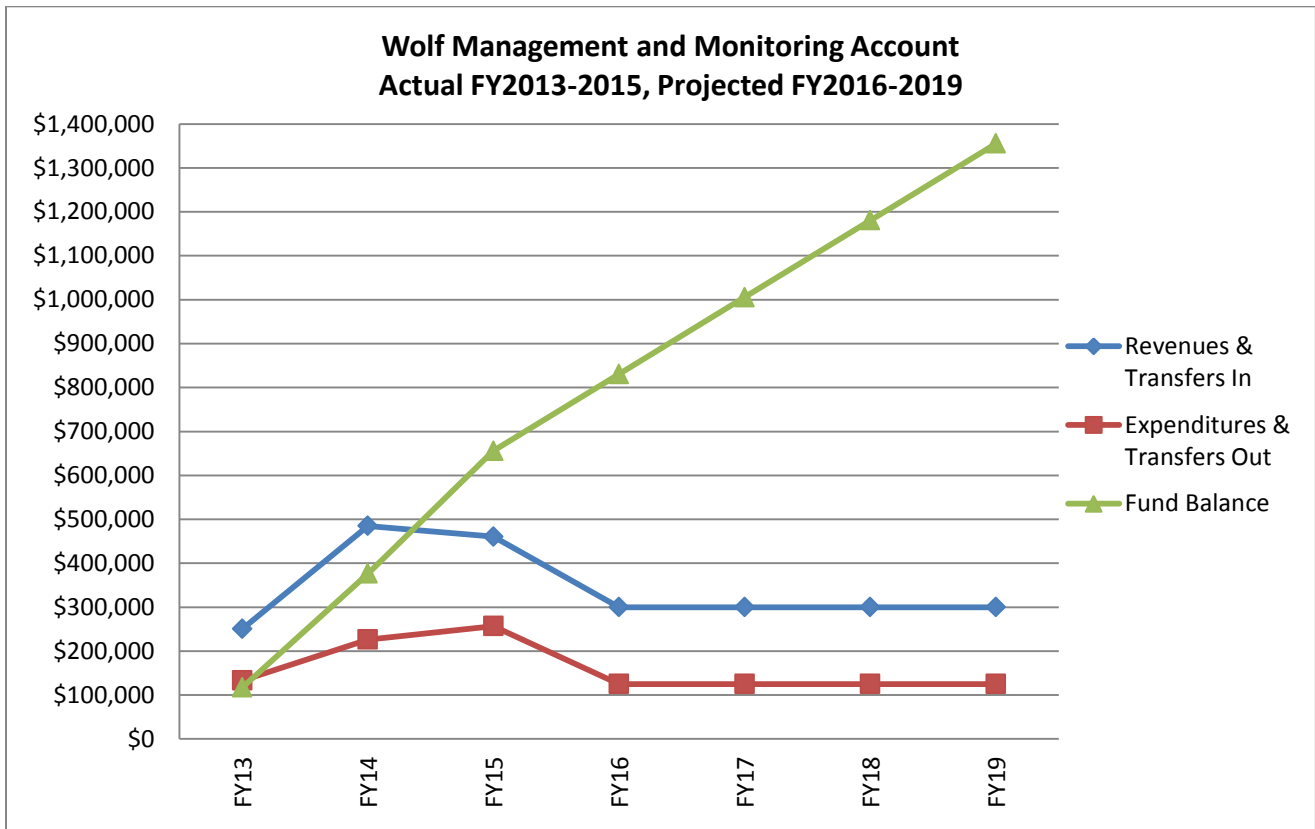
Financial Review	
FY2015 Beginning fund balance	\$376,424
Prior year adjustment	\$75,560
Receipts	
Wolf Hunting and Trapping Licenses	\$159,072
Wolf Allocation	<u>\$301,357</u>
Total receipts and transfers in	\$460,429
Expenditures	
Fish and Wildlife	<u>\$256,797</u>
Total expenditures	\$256,797
FY2015 Ending fund balance	<u>\$655,616</u>
Net change for FY2015	\$279,192

Notes

Account Analysis

Wolf account revenues are projected to decline 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 expected to increase over time.

Financial Summary FY2013 to FY2019



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:

- Reviewed and updated 347 lake and stream management plans. These plans serve as a template for compiling survey information, assessing and evaluating management actions, and recommending future management activities such as stocking or habitat manipulation.
- Conducted 799 lake surveys and 124 stream surveys. Surveys provide the foundation for fisheries management by providing information to guide management activities. Lake surveys and lake management plans are available at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind/index.html>
- Conducted 20 angler creel surveys which provides critical data to inform management activities such as stocking, rule making, and the potential need for regulation changes.
- Reviewed and issued 1,710 commercial fishing licenses and 55 commercial removal permits. The commercial fishing industry provides a critical service by removing select non-game fish that can compete with, and negatively impact certain game fish species. The commercial fishing industry also contributes to the natural resource based economy by providing jobs and local food products.
- Reviewed and issued 377 fishing tournament permits.
- The Fisheries pathology laboratory tested 18,978 specimens for Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS), 7,044 specimens for state and private aquaculture facilities, 14,591 specimens from warmwater streams, and one fish kill investigation. The Fisheries pathology laboratory conducts a variety of fish health examinations to protect against potential disease transfer from one water body to another through fish stocking activities; assess fish health in state and private fish hatcheries; and assess various fish kills or disease outbreaks.
- Enhanced our existing survey database to allow storage of stream survey data. The creation of a streams database will allow better access to historical data, analysis of data on a statewide basis, and allow easier access to the data by the public. The database is planned to be operational by the summer of 2015.
- Worked collaboratively with various tribal governments, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, border state agencies, and non-profit groups to enhance lake sturgeon habitat and populations throughout the state. Approximately 19,257 lake sturgeon were stocked, and a new regulation allowing statewide catch and release fishing was implemented.

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 six trout stream easements totaling 3.4 miles and 58 acres that will provide enhanced access to trout fisheries.
- Secured one flowage easement totaling 0.5 miles and 75 acres.
- Secured eight fee-title tracts totaling 3.5 miles and 135 acres of Aquatic Management Areas that provide additional recreational access and protection of aquatic resources.
- Reviewed and issued 842 new aquatic plant management permits.
- Reviewed and issued 3,675 renewal 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 10 coldwater streams, benefitting 24.8 miles of stream. These projects include placing structures such as wood or rock into a stream, dam modification or removal, 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 27 coldwater streams, benefitting 253.8 miles of stream. These projects 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, benefitting 0.5 miles of stream.
- Eight aeration systems were installed to decrease the number of fish that die in shallow lakes due to low oxygen concentrations through the winter.
- Two fishing piers were installed to increase access to fishery resources.
- Facilitated aquatic plant restoration projects at 49 sites to restore 12,077 feet of lake front shoreline. Restoration projects included installing native vegetation in highly erosive and sensitive areas and removal of invasive species such as buckthorn.
- Collaborated with the University of Minnesota to investigate the effects of shoreline development on fish and fish habitat. The results of the project will help guide shoreline protection efforts such as shoreline zoning and land acquisition.
- Completed a project to assess relationships between game fish and stream biotic integrity. The results indicate that game fish such as smallmouth bass thrive in streams with good water quality and high degrees of biotic integrity, reaffirming the need to protect and restore water quality in Minnesota.
- Began a new collaborative project with the University of Minnesota to measure the relationships between wind speed, lake size, and substrate type on the success of walleye natural reproduction. The project will identify shorelines of lakes that are important habitat for spawning walleyes.

3. Culture and Stocking

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

Accomplishments:

- Contributed to an estimated \$2.4 billion dollars in economic activity from fishing and fishing-related expenditures by stocking more than 260 million fish in 976 different lakes and 87 rivers

- Five different species of trout were stocked into 158 lakes and 75 streams, including:
 - Approximately 774,655 rainbow trout, 458,927 brown trout, 210,744 brook trout, 195,657 lake trout, and 87,863 splake.
- Eleven different species of cool and cold water fish were stocked into 818 lakes and 12 rivers, including:
 - Approximately 256,000,000 walleye, 1,500,000 northern pike, 26,000 bluegill, and 16,000 muskellunge.
- Expanded the Fishing in the Neighborhood program from actively managing 67 lakes to actively managing 83 lakes to increase angling opportunities, public awareness, and environmental stewardship within the seven-county metro region.
- Purchased 115,034 walleyes from private aquaculture facilities, using walleye stamp funds, which were stocked into seven lakes in the Hinckley area.

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.

Accomplishments:

- Provided educational tours and hands-on learning experiences to more than 2,000 people at the five coldwater fish hatcheries.
- Developed and distributed the Trout Angling guide and map book for southern and central Minnesota, which is available at: http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/maps/trout_streams/south-2015/map_all.pdf
- Completed nine rulemaking processes to manage and conserve fisheries resources. Examples include: new or revised rules to help limit the transmission of Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia from one waterbody to another; expanded trout fishing opportunities in southeast Minnesota; and implemented regulations to assure Treaty agreements were met.
- Implemented a comprehensive public engagement and communication strategy to actively engage stakeholders who want to see improvements to northern pike fishing and spearing opportunities. The communication strategy included public meetings, a human dimensions survey, and an open comment period on the DNR internet site. The ultimate goal of this initiative is to improve and sustain northern pike fishing and spearing for those who are harvest-oriented.
- Provided educational materials and staff for the State Fair.

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:

- Finalized a draft version of the Lake Superior Management Plan which will be distributed for public review and finalized in fiscal year 2016.
- Developed and implemented Memorandums of Understanding with the US Forest Service and Minnesota Department of Agriculture to share resources to collect and analyze water quality and fisheries data.

Developed hatchery needs and capacity assessment documents for Crystal Springs, Lanesboro, Spire Valley, and Petersen Hatcheries (the French River document was previously completed). These documents provide the foundation for the development of a statewide strategic cold water hatchery plan that will be developed during fiscal year 2016.

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.

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.

Accomplishments:

- Managed the deer, elk and bear hunts for 2014 to provide hunt opportunities.
- Continued implementation of the Moose Management and Research Plan to better understand moose population decline and dynamics.
 - Preliminary results show that, of radio-collared moose that have died, 60% died due to health-related conditions. The remainder were otherwise healthy animals that were killed by wolves.
 - The DNR has started to form several committees that will be charged with making moose management recommendations based on knowledge gained from research.
- 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 big game hunting opportunities.
- Distributed and evaluated hunter and landowner surveys (n = 24,800) regarding deer population management for 40 permits areas in the state to better understand social aspects of deer populations to apply to population and hunt management.
- Conducted broad public engagement process to publicly revisit deer population goals in one third of the state to establish population management goals that are supported by the broad public.
- Began a public process to update the 2009-2015 Strategic Elk Management Plan to guide elk population management and recreational opportunity into the future.

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 development and communication of administrative rules and completion of the 2014 Harvest Report to provide hunting opportunities and feedback to turkey hunters.
- Designed process to review spring turkey hunting structure; Investigated and identified opportunities to simplify and increase turkey hunting opportunities for implementation in 2016.
- Rewrote turkey information on the website into “plain language” format to make information more understandable to the public.

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.

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, wolf, 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.
- Worked with Licensing to renew the ELS contract to continue to provide local license buying and hunter registration services.

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:

- Managed the prairie chicken limited season, including the development and communication of administrative rules, and completion of 2014 Harvest Report to provide recreational opportunity and information to the public.
- Managed the 2014 wolf season, including the development and communication of administrative rules to provide recreational opportunity and as directed by statute.

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 improving native prairie and other grasslands on WMAs, and other DNR and non-DNR public lands, controlling noxious weeds, managing food plots and cooperative farming agreements, and developing winter cover plantings. This activity is needed due to accelerating demands for clean water, energy and farmable land on the landscape. Habitat loss and fragmentation, loss of plant and animal species, degradation of soil and water resources, and invasive species are immediate threats to our grassland system.

Accomplishments:

- DNR hosted the Governor’s Pheasant Summit
- Lead the effort in developing the Pheasant Summit Action Plan
- 7,307 acres of Noxious Weed Control on 488 WMAs as required by law
- 1,774 acres of food development on 231 plots to provide winter food resources for wildlife
- 31,250 acres in 737 Cooperative Farming Agreements to provide winter food and cover, and to enhance habitat for wildlife
- 16,139 acres in 242 Rx burns to enhance the quality of grassland habitats for wildlife
- 32 acres of woody cover development on 10 WMAs to provide winter cover for wildlife
- 2,285 acres of Prairie/Grassland Establishment on 129 WMAs to provide habitat for grassland wildlife
- 6,457 acres of Woody vegetation Removal on 170 WMAs to enhance the quality of grassland habitats for wildlife
- 10,002 acres of conservation grazing on 23 WMAs to enhance the quality of grassland habitats for wildlife
- 766 acres of other grassland management activities on 69 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:

- 14,449 acres in 33 Brushland Rx burns to enhance the quality of brushland habitats for wildlife
- 4,947 acres in Brushland management on 77 Sites to enhance the quality of brushland habitats for wildlife
- 1,688 acres in 9 Forest Rx burns to enhance the quality of forest habitats for wildlife
- 453 acres of forest opening management on 221 openings to enhance forest habitat for wildlife that thrive on small forest openings
- 34,420 acres of Forest Stand Improvements on 1,709 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:

- 113,409 acres of Wetland Habitat Maintenance on 477 basins to enhance wetland habitat for wildlife
- 2,042 Nest Structures Maintained on 427 basins to provide nesting habitat for wetland wildlife
- 81 acres of Wetland Restored on 25 basins to provide new habitat for wetland dependent wildlife
- 11,432 acres of Wetlands impacted by Wetland Water Control work on 50 basins to enable wetland habitat enhancement for wildlife through water level manipulation
- 20,812 acres of Wetland Enhancements on 166 basins to enhance wetland habitat for wildlife
- 31,219 acres on 120 wild rice lakes were actively managed to improve conditions for wild rice for the benefit of wetland wildlife that utilize wild rice stands

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. 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.

Accomplishments:

- 277.5 acres of food plots to provide winter food for wildlife
- 2 acres of woody cover development to provide winter cover for wildlife
- 47 acres of grassland development to create new grassland habitat for wildlife
- 251 acres of forest management to enhance forest habitat for wildlife
- 56 acres of wetland development to create wetland habitat for wildlife
- 939.3 acres of prescribed burning 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:

- 45,056 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
- Assessment of habitat suitability for bobwhite quail
- Development of a database to monitor effectiveness of openland/brushland habitat management
- Assessing the availability of older forest on non-DNR land

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 5,533 acres by gift or purchase in FY2015 to add to WMAs to provide wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities, summarized as follows:
 - 3,050 acres in the prairie zone – species benefited include ring-necked pheasant
 - 1,028 acres in the northern forest zone - species benefited include sharp-tailed grouse
 - 895 acres in the metro/deciduous transition zone – species benefited include waterfowl
 - 560 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: 5,786 hours (45,056 acres on 60 lakes) to provide information on enhancing wildlife lake habitat.
- Forest wildlife technical guidance: 13,567 hours to improve forest wildlife habitat on non-WMA land.
- Interagency technical guidance including urban management for wildlife values: 20,427 hours.
- Private land technical guidance: 1,522 hours to improve wildlife habitat on private land.
- Nuisance animal technical guidance: 4,025 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:

- 1,064 miles of access management on 326 units to improve access to WMAs

- 2,041 facilities managed on 710 units to guide users on the proper uses and to protect wildlife habitat resources on WMAs
- 586 miles of boundary managed on 265 units to inform users of locations of WMA boundaries
- 56 sites on 53 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 routine public information on hunting seasons and DNR policy so that users and the public better understand our management goals and are equipped with information to help them take advantage of recreational opportunities.
- 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.
- Represented the DNR at wildlife and hunting-oriented events to give us opportunities to engage our traditional clientele one-on-one about our activities.
- Developed brochures, news releases, and synopsis of regulations and seasons to inform the public.

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:

- Delivered the Draft Feasibility Study for the Restoration of Wild Northern Bobwhite in Minnesota to the legislature as required by law.

Fish and Wildlife - Outreach

1. Outreach - Marketing

Marketing efforts are aimed to retain existing license holders, reduce lapse rates over the life cycle of purchasing, and increase hunting, fishing and trapping license sales overall. 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.

Note: due to a lapse in program staff for 5 months some past efforts were reduced or missed this fiscal year.

A. Direct email promotion of license seasons

Worked to retain and reduce lapse rates of license holders by encouraging license purchase at the beginning of season.

Accomplishments:

- Sent direct email to close to 84,000 past licensed hunters prior to spring turkey and deer firearms seasons encouraging license purchase.
- Worked with ELS vendor to create effective email layouts for better customer experience and email metric (click rates) evaluation.

B. Promotion of license seasons

Raise awareness of hunting and fishing seasons through out of home media promotions.

Accomplishments:

- Call to action promotions under “Share the Passion” for hunters/anglers to purchase upcoming licenses for grouse, deer, waterfowl, and turkey and fishing seasons.
- New media outreach using Pandora (online music) ads and continuation of effective media reach through Google Search, YouTube, Google Display Network and radio ads.
- Click rates and cost per reach are evaluated each season to formulate best return on investment.

C. Formal Agreements with Explore MN Tourism

Collaborated with external partners to promote hunting and fishing to new, existing and lapsed license holders.

Accomplishments:

- Utilized tourism outlets for promoting grouse hunting and bass fishing in the state of Minnesota.
- Bass fishing partnership included promotional efforts on an Explore Minnesota tourism bass web landing page; full color flyer in Pioneer Press; Iowa Trade Shows; Iowa Sportsman; native (content articles) advertising through Collinson Media in ND, SD, IA, WI; targeted email; InFisherman.com banners; and BASSfan.com banners.
- Grouse partnership included promotional efforts on Explore Minnesota tourism web pages; two page spread in Ruffed Grouse Society Magazine; targeted emails by TwinCities.com; Pheasants Forever email; Sportsman email; full page spread in Gray’s Sporting Journal, The Upland Almanac; Quail Forever; and Iowa Sportsman.

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.

Accomplishments:

- Formal partnerships, for discounts and giveaways for licensed hunters and anglers, with Minnesota Sporting Journal for discount subscription, Twins baseball for discounted tickets and hat giveaway, WILD hockey for discounted tickets, and junior Outdoor News free 3 month subscription with firearms safety.

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.

Accomplishments:

- 17 new schools enrolled in NASP program
- 6,800 new students introduced to archery
- 17 new teachers trained as NASP program
- 200,000 students and 400 schools conducting NASP programs as of June 30th, 2015.

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:

- Partnered with Seward Coop in Minneapolis to plan and deliver adult Learn to Hunt programs for deer and turkeys. These were new programs for the MN DNR.
- 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 and for the first time in the history of the MN DNR Hunter Recruitment and Retention program we have findings from pre/post evaluations that show that participating in the activity better prepared students to become hunters and lead to a “new” license purchaser. 60% of program participants purchased a hunting license the year following their participation in an adult “Learn to Hunt”.
- Conducted 22 youth mentored deer hunts that reached 410 youth and 410 non-hunting parent/guardian participants.
- Conducted 7 youth mentored waterfowl hunts that reached 58 youth and 58 non-hunting parent/guardian participants.
- Conducted 37 youth and adult mentored turkey hunts that reached 240 youth and adults with 207 non-hunting parent/guardian participants.
- Conducted 20 youth and family mentored upland bird hunts that reached 94 youth and family participants and 26 non-hunting parents/guardians.

C. Public Archery Range Development and Rehabilitation

In 2012 the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Archery Trade Association contracted with Responsive Management to conduct a telephone survey of residents 18 and older to determine how many participated in some form of archery in the previous 12 month period. The findings indicated that 8.3% of those surveyed participated in archery. This finding, coupled with the ongoing restrictions being place by local units of government on discharge of firearms including archery equipment points to a need for providing public recreational archery shooting opportunities.

Accomplishments:

- Provided matching grants to four local recreation and parks departments to develop new archery ranges in their community. (Cities of Houston, Adams, St. Paul, and South St. Paul).
- Provided matching grants to two local recreation and parks department to rehabilitate existing archery ranges in their community. (Cities of Willmar and Brooklyn Park).

D. Trap Shooting Range Development and Rehabilitation

As provided by [2014 Minnesota Session Law, Chapter 290](#), Section 13, 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:

- \$1,187,309 provided in grant funding to develop, expand, enhance and/or rehabilitate 63 trap shooting facilities in Minnesota.

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 Trail 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 Sandstone ELC and filled with 77 women with a wait list.
- Fall Workshop was held at Eagle Bluff ELC and filled with 72 women.
- 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 2015 BOW offered 69 Beyond BOW women classes. Many of these classes are conducted with internal and external partners.
- Cooperatively worked with Three Rivers Park District to offer programming for women at Three Rivers Parks
- Cooperatively worked with Anoka County Parks to offer programming for women at Anoka Co. Parks.
- Cooperatively work with Fisheries Staff to offer Sturgeon Fishing Programming for women.
- Cooperatively work with MN State Park Naturalists to expand the new in calendar year 2014 “Women in the Parks” Series for the second year. Expansion included increasing both the program numbers and number of parks classes are held in calendar year 2015.
- Cooperatively work with North Country Chapter of Safari Club International to offer archery series & bow hunting for women.

- Cooperatively with volunteers to offer classes for women. New in calendar year 2015 was a “Learn to Sport Fish” series that included a classroom segment held at Cabela’s that filled with 57 women with two fishing opportunities that followed the classroom lesson. Evaluations showed the growth of knowledge in how to fish from pre/post evaluations.

C. *Becoming and 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 FY2015 including a fly-fishing theme workshop at Whitewater State Park, and hatchery tour, electroshocking for trout and fly-fishing with MinnAqua staff. Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center (ELC) continues to provide family workshops for BOW offering one or two per year.
- BOW hosted 46 classes for families in FY2015. All of these classes were held cooperatively with Three River Park District and Anoka County Parks.

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:

- Worked with 15 Southeast Asian Organizations to disseminate information on angling, hunting and outdoor recreation opportunities
- Conducted 16 angling and hunting seminars
- Conducted five radio shows of fish and wildlife topics
- Recruited students and assisted in training 200 Southeast Asian Youth in Hunter Education/Firearms Safety
- Answered over 3,000 phone calls and e-mails from Southeast Asian sportsmen/women calling with questions about angling and hunting opportunities and regulations

5. Outreach – Angling Recruitment, Retention and Aquatic Education

A. *MinnAqua Program*

Minnesota’s Aquatic Education program, MinnAqua, provides authentic environmental and outdoor education learning opportunities in an outdoor setting. Our programs continue to support Minnesota families and youth as they strengthen and nurture that connection while exploring the recreational opportunities that foster a closer relationship with the environment throughout their lives. We provide high-quality aquatic and fishing education programming that provides content knowledge, fishing skills enhancement and builds societal awareness for sustained fisheries management.

Accomplishments:

- 52,000 participants reached through MinnAqua and Fishing in the Neighborhood (FiN) aquatic/fishing education programs.
- 218 new educators trained, including MinnAqua Specialists, Liaisons, Interns, Fisheries staff, Educators and Volunteers.
- Nearly 1,000 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.
- 21 mentors trained and linked with new anglers.
- Following aquatic resource education materials and tools were produced:
 - 5 interpretive panels for Fish Habitat & Fish I.D. at MN State Fair.
 - Two planning tools and an introductory slide show to help Fisheries staff refine themes and begin planning aquatic resources education exhibits at their location (e.g., audience inventory; resource inventory; introductory slide show).
 - Numerous on-line resources added for educators.
 - Development and purchase of educational materials for fisheries offices and other outreach locations.
- Variety of surveys and evaluations are done to keep the program current on aquatic issues and relevant to the day-to-day needs of our staff and clientele:
 - Conducted a major revision and update of the program database that will better enable us to measure and report outcomes
 - Mentored Beginners Fly-Fishing Weekend for Youth-Adult Pairs
 - 198 DNR Fisheries staff
 - Interns

6. Outreach – Communications

The program provides a comprehensive strategic communication program for the Fish and Wildlife Division (approximately 600 employees) that delivers 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.

Two section staff members work in the program – the information program leader and the information program specialist.

Because measuring success in communicating messages is an inexact science, the Outreach Section's information program strives to provide accurate, comprehensive information about resources and division activities related to them as transparently, usefully and engagingly as possible. Doing so creates opportunities for our audiences to understand why and how Fish and Wildlife Division activities and actions benefit the resources it manages.

Note that statistics in this report are outputs, not outcomes. This report also does not include statistics detailing communications guidance, assistance and tools provided to numerous programs, staff and initiatives during the last year within the sections of fisheries, wildlife, outreach and administration.

A. 157 Annual news releases

- Fisheries: 39
- License Center: 5
- Outreach: 46
- Wildlife: 67

B. Website views

Visitors	Lake Finder	Fishing	Hunting	Regulations	Licenses	WMAs	Fish Minnesota	All Visitors
July 2014	175,814	60,934	72,363	17,346	46,857	3,494	1,590	378,398
August 2014	134,154	45,518	123,366	17,205	43,607	5,231	1,265	370,346
September 2014	85,243	27,961	191,816	17,901	46,565	11,026	859	381,371
October 2014	64,453	18,912	197,070	17,838	36,440	15,728	645	351,086
November 2014	57,399	20,325	206,789	22,207	37,004	10,809	603	355,136
December 2014	126,713	43,187	77,580	16,136	29,740	6,350	1,411	301,117
January 2015	186,099	70,647	40,729	17,087	32,217	3,742	6,872	357,393
February 2015	129,120	76,732	30,903	13,703	26,327	2,812	2,366	281,963
March 2015	102,526	72,377	51,039	14,124	31,880	4,192	3,308	279,446
April 2015	100,467	94,687	60,336	17,592	37,294	4,600	10,533	325,509
May 2015	168,609	109,993	43,123	20,934	63,795	4,822	10,613	421,889
June 2015	180,092	74,558	25,987	16,289	55,978	3,566	3,928	360,398
Total	1,510,689	715,831	1,121,101	208,362	487,704	76,372	43,993	4,164,052

C. Social media

- Minnesota Fishing (Facebook) – 3,689 Likes · 241,259 people reached in 2015
- Minnesota Fishing (Twitter) – 1,028 Followers · 278 Tweets · 41 Klout *
- Minnesota Wildlife (Facebook) – 3,415 Likes · 223,145 people reached in 2015
- Minnesota Wildlife (Twitter) – 580 Followers · 257 Tweets · 40 Klout *

* Klout is a social media influence metric. It measures overall social media influence through 25 variables broken into three categories.

Fish & Wildlife – License Center

1. Electronic Licensing System

A third-part 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. More than 2,395,585 licenses, permits, stamps, passes, and license validation transactions were processed through ELS, generating more than \$64,600,000 in revenue for the year.

A. Hunting/Angling license sales

Accomplishments:

- Provided 1,940,082 licenses serving 1,313,150 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	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Angling	1,144,658	1,159,082	1,124,998	1,187,850	1,175,172	1,198,760	1,086,392	1,094,095	1,158,156	1,181,336
Deer	527,843	551,647	647,130	626,931	618,362	608,093	619,081	622,274	621,627	596,693
Small Game	295,537	298,128	292,389	289,463	279,329	302,915	283,913	282,800	259,289	260,797
Sports	181,317	186,258	181,793	185,501	179,755	156,374	169,875	158,905	161,165	158,518

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	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Trout	93,735	94,965	91,952	96,953	96,928	96,409	91,364	92,396	99,591	107,992
Walleye	NA	NA	NA	5,165	28,388	29,664	27,477	21,064	19,467	17,395
Pheasant	118,723	131,970	130,432	107,394	110,621	104,646	84,335	90,043	75,440	72,730
Waterfowl	102,815	103,045	100,142	95,185	90,873	89,021	89,369	91,037	92,195	93,325
Turkey	29,247	29,312	32,793	8,971	3,384	2,272	1,953	1,786	1,681	1,685

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	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Fiscal Year Totals	1,820	2,069	2,181	2,136	2,271	3,086	3,882	4,291	2,207	2,532

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	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Interactive Voice Response (IVR)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,398	46,735	46,264	51,308	55,118	46,760
Internet	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,664	64,816	67,837	69,976	76,963	68,803
Agent	268,496	284,643	274,844	238,264	210,917	111,533	92,992	78,713	52,441	38,787
Totals	268,496	284,643	274,844	238,264	213,979	223,084	207,093	199,997	184,522	154,350

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	NA	1,438,054	NA

(1) Data submitted to USFWS "Part I - Certification"
 (2) Data submitted to USFWS "Part II - Summary of Hunting and Sport Fishing Licenses Issued"
 *2014 Total is an estimate. Final numbers will not be calculated/certified until 2016.
 ** Due to a change in reporting requirements, figures for LY2002 were not certified.
 Compiled by MN Federal Aid Coordinator

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 and Aquatic Plan Permits, Dam Safety and Inspections, and Land Programs. Its main functions are community conservation assistance and project review and permitting. Environmental review of projects is important because it ensures that fish and wildlife needs are being appropriately addressed. Review of lake aeration authorizes activities that prevent winterkill and help sustain fishing opportunities. The section also works with Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) when natural resources have been damaged by spills to assign responsibility and recover damages.

A. Environmental Review (outcomes also supported with other funding sources)

Accomplishments:

- Reviewed more than 211 public and private projects, including 24 transportation projects, 15 industrial/commercial projects, 9 renewable energy (wind and solar) projects, 5 pipelines, 3 mining projects and 7 transmission lines.
- Began developing an interagency document for best practices for siting solar facilities.
- Participated in more than 22 WCA processes as DNR TEP representative.
- Reviewed and provided comment on 270 public water permits.

B. Spills and Kills Events

Accomplishments:

- Responded to 346 reports of spills and fish/wildlife kill incidents.

C. Lake Aeration

Accomplishments:

- Issued 330 aeration permits; approximately 147,230 surface water acres were aerated. Of the permits issued, 205 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 (outcomes also supported with other funding sources)

Accomplishments:

- Implemented prairie enhancement projects involving 37 landowners
- Monitored 16 sites & completed 21 Baseline Property Reports

- Completed 44 prairie management projects on private lands including: woody encroachment removal on 74 acres (6 sites), 9 acres of prairie reconstruction and restoration (3 sites); invasive treatment (non-woody) on 22 acres (14 sites); prescribed burn on 850 acres (19 sites); prescribed grazing on 53 acres (2 sites).

B. Monitor Wetland Changes (outcomes also supported with other funding sources)

Accomplishments:

- Acquired the first year of aerial photographs for the fourth cycle (2015-2017) of the wetland status and trends program.
- Completed digitization of wetland change for the third year (2014) of the third cycle (2012-2014).

C. Nongame Wildlife: Project WILD (wildlife education)

Accomplishments:

- Conducted 24 workshops attended by 344 educators and youth leaders.
- 6 Project WILD workshops for 270 participants
- Growing Up WILD workshops for 35 participants
- 3 Project WILD/Aquatic WILD workshops for 36 participants
- 1 Growing Up WILD/Project Learning Tree workshop for 12 participants
- 1 Flying WILD workshop for 24 participants.
- Making learning trunks available to teachers is an extremely important feature of the Project WILD Program for teachers who do not have funds for travel to distant learning sites.
- Education learning trunks are provided to teachers on topics of loons, bats, wolves, bears, animal tracks, and snakes. These learning trunks were provided to teachers on request.
- 14 Digital Photography Bridge to Nature camera kits were made available to teachers throughout Minnesota.
- Coordinator is currently involved with writing and field testing activities for pollinator-focused lessons that are being added to the national Project WILD curriculum, and adapting those lessons for use in Minnesota.
- Conducted community presentations; 4-H and FFA judging of wildlife projects and conservation awards.

1. 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:

- Devised sampling approach, planned, established, and sampled permanent transects in 40 wetland basins at the Chippewa Prairie Patch-Burn Grazing (PBG) project with the assistance of two graduate students and The Nature Conservancy.
- With a team of 4 botanist contractors, we sampled sample 50 permanent vegetation plots (25 pairs in which one member of each pair is within an enclosure) in upland prairie at the Chippewa PBG project.

- Assisted soil ecosystem ecologists from Carleton College and the University of Minnesota with setting up a research project to sample soils (nitrogen, carbon, microbial activity) within 50 permanent vegetation plots at the Chippewa Patch-Burn Graze project.
- [Plant specimens processed, managed and summarized monitoring data, and completed a report on the wetland basin vegetation monitoring work at Chippewa PBG project (see attached).
- Created a RFP, reviewed applications, and established a contract for contractors to sample 50 permanent vegetation plots at Caribou WMA and the adjacent The Nature Conservancy (TNC) tracts.
- Conducted some site assessments and worked with managers of Hole in the Mountain WMA to discuss potential monitoring approaches for tracking the effects of cattle grazing on native prairie vegetation.
- Identified two botanical assistants and set up annual plan contracts for them to assist with the second year of wetland basin monitoring at Chippewa PBG project to be conducted in July 2015.

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

Accomplishments:

- Contributed 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 participated in field surveys and re-sampling of historic vegetation plots in the large patterned peatlands in Beltrami, Lake of the Woods and Koochiching counties.
- A database for prepared and stored specimen collection data (i.e. Specimen Label database) was upgraded to improve data entry, quality control, and functionality with related databases such as the Relevé (vegetation plot) database and the standardized state list of plants (MN TAXA database).
- Contributed 439 relevés to the statewide vegetation plot database.
- Analyzed calcareous fen floristic indicator values as part of a reexamination of calcareous fen designation criteria.
- Continued baseline vegetation and botanical surveys in the Border Lakes subsection.
- Developed pollinator values to plant lists for 77 native plant community classes per the three-volume DNR *Field Guide to Native Plant Communities*.
- Routinely provide relevé data to external users per request. For example, NatuerServe, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Environment Protection Agency (EPA), National Park Service (NPS), and US Forest Service (USFS).
- Continued in the development of a book publication covering the natural history, native plant communities, and selected sites of biodiversity significance of the Red River Valley and Aspen Parklands in northwest Minnesota.
- Partnered with DNR regional plant ecologists in the delivery of prairie field workshops that focused on plant ID, soil interpretation, and native plant community classification. Over 150 people attended and included natural resource professionals, master naturalists, volunteers and citizens.
- Delivered 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 (SNAs)).

- 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.
- Coordinated and led a revision of Minnesota native plant community condition ranking guidelines associated with the *Field Guide to Native Plant Communities*.

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

Accomplishments:

- Conducted aquatic plant identification and survey method workshops for 150 DNR staff and provided technical assistance on aquatic plant survey methodology to various DNR programs and outside groups. (Clean Water Legacy funds help support this work)
- Conducted quantitative, lake-wide vegetation surveys on 12 lakes (approx. 12,600 acres), delineated emergent and floating-leaf plant stands on 14 lake (approx.. 15,100 acres) and shoreland habitat assessments on 18 lakes (approx.13,800 acres) in Aitkin, Blue Earth, Clearwater, Cook, Crow Wing, Hennepin, Hubbard, ,St. Louis, Stearns, and Waseca counties; these surveys included three major bays of Mille Lacs. Clean Water Legacy funds help support this work)
- Analyzed aquatic invertebrate samples for various fisheries management and research programs.
- Continued monitoring Mille Lacs Lake to assess potential ecological impacts from invasive species populations. (Invasive Species funds help support this work).
- Continued long-term monitoring work on zooplankton communities in Minnesota's large lakes including Mille Lacs, Lake of the Woods, Rainy, Kabetogama, Cass, Red, Winnibigoshish, Leech and Vermilion. (Invasive Species funds help support this work).
- Analyzed zooplankton samples collected from the Phase II Sentinel Lakes Study.
- Continued long-term monitoring of fish habitat associations throughout the state, including on the Otter Tail, Buffalo, Yellow Medicine, Sand Hill, Grindstone, Sunrise, and Cloquet rivers and Lawndale and High Island creeks.
- Continued long-term sampling of channel morphology on Whitewater River and Lawndale Creek.
- Continued work with partners on six (6) stream protection and restoration projects, including the Knutson dam removal and rapids, Orinoco dam removal and restoration, Buffalo River restoration, Chamber Grove bank stabilization on the St. Louis River, Sand Hill and Grindstone river restorations. Also, continued work related to the restoration of river segments on Whitewater River and Mission, Cascade, and Stewart creeks.
- Continued development of the GIS-based Watershed Health Assessment Framework, which is available on-line. (Clean Water Legacy funds help support this work)

2. Strategic Information Services

The Strategic Information section is composed of three units: 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. These data support decisions for environmental review, high conservation value forest certification, strategic land asset management (SLAM), Watershed Health Assessment Framework (WHAF), and 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 (1,760 samples, 339,977 individual specimens), rare and endangered species (971 elements, 35446 occurrences, 547 new occurrences this year), colonial water birds, vegetation (10,015 individual plots, 106 new plot records this year, 392,859 individual plants), plant community (88,525 records), and stream habitat databases.
- The data are published and shared as Geographic Information System layers and are combined and organized in web-based reports. Last year, users downloaded 1,445 vegetation plot reports, 1,874 Minnesota County Biological Survey (MCBS) site reports, and 1,045 source feature observation reports.

Division of Enforcement

The division finalized and began implementing its 2015- Strategic Plan (ongoing) and has increased efficiency and effectiveness of law enforcement and education services through the following initiatives:

- Launched records management system (RMS) in April 2015 and issued field tablets to all officers. This has resulted in over 12,500 documented contacts being entered through June 30th 2015 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 clarified rank for supervisory and non-supervisory positions.
- Increased outreach efforts through information officer reporting directly to chief.
- Hired 13 officers (including 4 conservation officer (CO) prep candidates) and increased the diversity and natural resource background of new officers.

1. Fish and Game Regulation

Through delivery of public education and law enforcement service we strive to attain sustainable resource use through gaining voluntary compliance with regulations.

Accomplishments:

- The division officers conducted license 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

Compliance with invasive species regulations at Enforcement Check stations has improved from 63% in 2012 to 83% in 2014. 2015 data to date shows approximately 86% compliance to date.

3. Safety Training Education

Accomplishments:

- The division provided education programs for youth and adults in hunter education and safety training programs. Students certified increased from 23,655 in calendar year 2012, to 26,714 in 2013, and 30,028 in 2014. There were 24 hunting related accidents in 2014, including two fatalities. Those numbers are dramatically lower than the 1960s when Minnesota averaged 110 non-fatal injuries and about 14 fatalities per year.
- Increased availability of training through on-line and “virtual range day”. This has significantly increased participation by adult female students. Approximately 36 percent of those trained in firearms safety took the online course.

Division of Parks and Trails

The division of Parks and Trails uses Game and Fish funds to ensure that Minnesotans 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 (810,000 in 2014) 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.

Accomplishments:

- Detroit Lake, Becker County: 2 parcels, 1 acre, added to a fiscal year 2013 2.5 acre acquisition will lead to the development of a new access on the north side of the lake. Once it is constructed this site will replace other inadequate sites around the lake, allowing for watercraft inspections at both the north and south accesses to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.
- Wita Lake, Blue Earth County: 5.10 acres. The land is adjacent to the existing boat access. This acquisition will clear up an issue with the existing entrance road issue and allow for the construction of an adequate parking area and improve stormwater management.
- Diamond Lake, Hennepin County: 4.16 acres. The property contains approximately 635 feet of lake shore and is adjacent to the existing DNR public water access. The expansion will improve safety, address shoreline and stormwater runoff issues, and provide for effective boat launching and trailer parking facilities.
- Clearwater Lake, Wright County: 1.61 acres. Across the road from an existing access, this expansion will provide additional parking capacity, storm water management and room for aquatic invasive species best management practices.
- Lake Waconia, Carver County: 5.18 acres. A part of the redevelopment and expansion of the Regional Park. Currently DNR owns a public access on the northeast side of the lake, and an access on the south shore is highly desirable due to the lake size and proximity to densely populated areas. Lake Waconia is the second largest lake in the seven county metropolitan area at over 3,000 acres.
- Freeborn Lake, Freeborn County: This tax-forfeit property is adjacent to a 2 acre parcel that was gifted to the state for public water access. The lake is important for waterfowl and as a recreational fishery. The land will enhance public recreation and provide protection of the valuable wildlife habitat by increasing the undisturbed riparian area; it meets an objective of the 2005 Fisheries Management Plan for Freeborn Lake.

- Rice Lake, Todd County: .5 acre donation from the Sportsman’s Club for a riparian parcel on the south side of an existing access – (Popular duck hunting and wild rice lake).

2. Development

The goal of the development program is to improve and/or expand new or existing sites using universal design principles that meet or exceed the requirements of the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and apply best management practices (BMPs) for safety, aquatic invasive species (AIS) and storm water (SW) management.

Accomplishments:

- Lake Minnewashta (fish hatchery), Pope County: Complete rehabilitation of facility including two boat launching ramps, AIS BMPs, SW BMPs and ADA, 9 single car parking spaces, and a ADA sidewalk to the retaining wall for shore fishing.
- Detroit Lake (South), Becker County: Engineering costs to design the expansion of the existing site from one boat ramp to two, AIS BMPs, increased parking, and SW BMPs and ADA. Site will be constructed in FY16.
- Detroit Lake (North), Becker County: Site preparation; demolition of a house and removal of hazardous materials.
- Grand Lake, St. Louis County: Engineering costs to design the expansion of an existing county road boat ramp. The expanded site will be constructed in FY16 and will have 13 parking spaces, SW BMPs, AIS BMPs, and ADA.
- Lake Cormorant, Becker County: Expansion of an existing small site. The lake side facility was reconstructed to have ADA parking, SW BMPs, boat launch ramp and single car parking. Plus the construction of a new parking lot across the road for 11 vehicles with trailers.
- Reno Lake, Douglas County: Design of an expansion /replacement boat access.
- Red River (North Dam), Clay County: Final costs for a carry-in access site for the reconfiguration of the parking lot.
- Lake Vermilion (Moccasin Point), St. Louis County: Engineering/design of a complex expansion that will involve the removal and replacement of a large concrete dock and the blasting of bedrock as well as accommodating multiple types of uses.
- Minnesota River (Minnecon), Brown County: Partnership with the City of New Ulm to rehabilitate the existing access and increase functionality by changing the location of boat ramp and adding SW BMPs, ADA, and AIS BMPs.
- Red River (Hilltop), Kittson County: Supplemental costs for fiscal year 2014 project for a new public water access in an area that had limited access
- Mille Lacs Lake (Pike Point), Crow Wing County: Engineering concepts for additional parking/special use area near Garrison Wayside boat access.
- Pelican Lake (West), Becker County: Site Preparation/tree removal for development in FY16.
- Sugar Lake, Wright County: Demolition/sire preparation for expansion of existing site, adding overflow parking area.
- Girl Lake, Cass County: Removal of concrete slab and storage shed in preparation for construction of replacement facility for the boat launch right off road right away in the City of Longville.
- Mississippi River (West Newton), Wabasha County: Carry over from fiscal year 2014
- Lake Koronis (County Park), Stearns/ County: Demolition of a cabin on site adjacent to an existing access for future expansion.
- St. Louis River (Boy Scout Landing), St. Louis County: Carry over from fiscal years 2013 & 2014 project with the City of Duluth that reconfigured traffic flow, added AIS BMPs, SW BMPs and ADA.
- Rainy River (Nelson Park Landing), Koochiching County: Concrete boat ramp planks to replace landing.

3. Fishing Piers and Shore Fishing Areas

The goal of the fishing pier/shore fishing program is to provide safe, easy access to the water. Minnesota has 365 fishing piers and developed shore fishing areas across the state. Game and Fish funds are the only funds expended on the operations and maintenance of the fishing piers. The low cost of the fishing pier program is due to the fact that routine maintenance at many facilities is performed by local government units through joint powers agreements (partnerships).

Accomplishments:

- Purchasing of supplies and performing general maintenance on DNR administered facilities
- Performed compliance checks on partnership facilities.
- Assisting with critical repairs on partnership facilities when the repairs are beyond the capabilities of the local government unit.
- Contributed supplies to rehabilitate the Pleasant Lake Fishing Pier in partnership with Wright County.

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.

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 nine years. The minimum annual NPC mapping target is 161,900 acres.

Accomplishments:

- A total of 168,213 acres were classified or mapped to NPC in fiscal year 2015.
 - DNR staff visited 947 locations to determine the NPC.
 - Field work resulted in 115,384 acres of NPC mapping on state forestlands and wildlife management areas.
 - Contractors mapped another 46,468 acres of state forestlands and wildlife management areas.
 - In addition, 305 forest stands totaling 6,361 acres were field visited and classified to NPC for active 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. Resource managers are presented with a range of possible management options.

Accomplishments:

- Division of Forestry personal continues to work with technology staff to reconfigure the website so that it's more user friendly. The new website is expected to be available for resource managers by the end of fiscal year 2017.

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 will be assessed. Thirty case studies have been completed.

Accomplishments:

- Two new case study sites were started. We measured site conditions before management started to get the base-line site data. These sites will have ongoing monitoring to track the impact of forest management decisions implemented by resource managers.
- Seven existing case studies sites were re-visited after forest management had occurred and site conditions were measured.
- Three older sites, about a decade old, were visited and measured to better understand past management's effect on the site. These sites will be added to the roster of case studies the DNR is tracking.
- Two retrospective case studies were written and submitted to the University of Minnesota Sustainable Forests Education Cooperative silviculture library at <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:

- 28 formal training events were conducted with 571 foresters, biologists, and ecologists.
- 62 contact days between ECS staff and field personnel. 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 has this invasive species control program to inventory and treat invasive infestations on state lands; educate staff, partners, and stakeholders about invasive species and the damage they can cause; and run 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 species and the 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, 15 invasive plant management projects were implemented on state forest lands. Special projects included survey work on 922 acres and control projects on 165 acres.
- Final ground truthing was done on polygons mapped as suspected buckthorn during a previous federal grant project. Final maps were distributed to state forest and wildlife managers participating in the project.
- Survey guidelines were developed to integrate invasive plant survey into all ground-based regeneration checks, summer stand exams and native plant community determinations.
- Division staff from Forestry and Wildlife attended one of two spotted knapweed biocontrol workshops. These workshops were done with assistance from Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA).
- 5,000 knapweed root weevils were released across the General Andrews Nursery and state forest to control knapweed infestations.
- Heritage funds paid the salary of DoF staff to coordinate the Division invasive species program and serve as a liaison to the Minnesota Invasive Species Advisory Council (MISAC).

B. Emerald Ash Borer Management

The emerald ash borer (EAB) was found in Anoka, Chisago, Scott and Dakota counties, bringing the total of quarantined counties in the state up to 10. There are in excess of 900 million ash trees in Minnesota. Because there is no demonstrated resistance to EAB in native ash, native plant communities dependent on ash are at risk of serious degradation. Firewood has been the major vector for the spread of EAB. The MN Department of Agriculture (MDA) is the lead state agency over EAB management in the state.

Accomplishments:

- 597 firewood vendors were approved to supply park visitors with safe wood for use on DNR administered lands.
- A project to review and update the DNR firewood program was initiated. It will be completed and recommendations submitted to the Commissioner in fiscal year 2016.
- MDA updated their recreational firewood brochure and it was distributed at 6 sports shows, 15 parks participating in National Get Outdoors Day and at the state fair, as well as through all division offices.
- A process to encourage ash management was developed and is being incorporated in the updated subsection forest resource management plans (SFRMP) for the Northern Minnesota and Ontario Peatlands (most or all of Lake of the woods, Beltrami, and Koochiching counties) and North Superior Uplands (most or all of St. Louis, Lake, and Cook counties). Completion of those plans is delayed, so outreach concerning use of the selection process will be accomplished in fiscal year 2016.
- An EAB initiative was launched that resulted in urban and community forest legislation. The bill was not passed, but will be re-introduced again in 2016.
- DoF program staff actively supported collaboration at both the state and local levels by serving on the statewide unified command, the local incident command (Winona County), and by serving as the DNR liaison for all other EAB-related management efforts.

C. Gypsy Moth Management

The national Slow-The-Spread gypsy moth (GM) program has been working with the state for several years to delay gypsy moth establishment in Minnesota. Cook and Lake counties are quarantined. Population levels are still low and visible defoliation is not expected for several years. However, quarantine regulations concern industry representatives and residents are beginning to wonder how to prepare for the invasive insect. MDA is the lead state agency for gypsy moth management in the state.

Accomplishments:

- MDA quarantined Cook and Lake counties on July 1, 2014. Over the past year, DNR staff worked closely with MDA to inform department partners, vendors and clients of the implications of the quarantine.
- DoF support collaboration between agencies and stakeholders by serving on the statewide Gypsy Moth Advisory (GMPAC) and executive committees (GMSEC).
- There were no treatments this year for Gypsy moth.

D. 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.
- With heritage funding, DoF program staff gave 18 presentations on invasive species identification, prevention, management and restoration to a combination of stake-holder groups including land managers, industry representatives, DNR staff, and recreationists. With federal funding, Forest Health staff gave a similar number of presentations on topics related to invasive species.
- Quarterly forest health newsletters were written and distributed. This coming January's issue is dedicated to invasive species topics.
- The outreach campaign PlayCleanGo: Stop Invasive Species In Your Tracks (PCG) designed two new brochures. The targeted audiences are water fowl and deer hunters. Outreach materials were distributed at 6 sports shows and at the state fair. The number of participating organizations tripled during the past year. As of July 1, 2015, there are 204 PCG partner organizations.
- In conjunction with National Get Outdoors Day, the third annual PlayCleanGo Day was hosted at 15 locations (up from 13 in 2014). Volunteers spoke with about 2,000 park visitors across the state about strategies to prevent the spread of terrestrial invasive species.

Division of Lands and Minerals

Moving the Land records System (LRS) from the project stage to production was the major accomplishment of fiscal year 2015. The LRS now becomes the system of record for the DNR's land transactions. The LRS provides the capability to process and capture the stages along with the relevant information which goes into a DNR land transaction, be it a land acquisition or possibly a land exchange. The LRS is there to capture the process information as it happens along with the associated information which is so important in providing a complete picture of any particular transaction.

Transparency for the land acquisition process was originally the major focus of the LRS. As the project developed and matured the LRS has become a more complete program that can meet many needs. Of particular importance to the Game and Fish Fund Oversight Committee (GFF) is the ability to track a proposed acquisition from initial proposal to final closing.

The information stored and the documents tracked directly relate to projects which have utilized money from the GFF account. The LRS is now the inventory of record for lands acquired by the MNDNR. Records from the LRS's forerunner the AS400 have all been migrated onto the new platform. All new acquisitions are added seamlessly to the land inventory that the LRS maintains. Because the LRS is a complete package it allows for tracking of other real estate transactions such as land sales, land exchanges, easement granting, leases and licenses. All are actions which may have an impact of land acquired with GFF's.

1. Land Records System Operations

Accomplishments:

- Provided access to over 600 users statewide whereas the old record system was open to approximately 50 users. Users now do work on acquisitions, land exchanges, sales, Cooperative Farming Agreements and many other transaction types on the system. Acquisitions totaling 9,300 currently reside on the LRS. There are approximately 316 proposed acquisitions currently in process on the system.
- Created a Microsoft SharePoint site to enhance interactions about the LRS. Developed and continue to develop training videos and training write-ups for the site. The site also allows for direct interaction of users and MN.IT support staff through questions and a Discussion forum. In addition to the SharePoint site, hands-on-training is offered on-site in the metro area and in greater Minnesota.

Appendix A

Fund Statement

**Department of Natural Resources
Game and Fish Fund Statement 2015 Close Forecast**

CONSOLIDATED GAME & FISH FUND

	FY2012 Actual	FY2013 Actual	FY2014 Actual	FY2015 Actual	FY2016 Planning Est.	FY2017 Planning Est.	FY2018 Planning Est.	FY2019 Planning Est.
Balance Forward In	28,609,119	31,166,683	31,564,642	40,851,148	38,639,893	34,380,563	31,271,097	30,026,631
	<u>520,689</u>	<u>1,167,405</u>	<u>1,097,869</u>	<u>614,010</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Adjusted Balance Forward	29,129,808	32,334,087	32,662,511	41,465,158	38,639,893	34,380,563	31,271,097	30,026,631
Receipts								
Taxes	12,192,918	13,304,475	12,433,635	12,840,896	13,108,000	13,084,000	13,084,000	13,084,000
<i>Federal Grant Fisheries (D-J)</i>	11,996,112	14,956,893	12,515,386	12,547,150	12,000,000	12,000,000	12,000,000	12,000,000
<i>Federal Grant Wildlife (P-R)</i>	9,813,289	12,549,184	14,278,474	15,716,753	21,090,000	20,202,000	17,921,000	17,671,000
<i>Federal Grants</i>	21,809,401	27,506,077	26,793,860	28,263,903	33,090,000	32,202,000	29,921,000	29,671,000
Departmental Services	22,314,930	28,016,823	27,297,592	29,091,744	33,532,300	32,644,300	30,363,300	30,113,300
Departmental Sales	723,318	745,153	849,329	616,026	770,700	770,700	770,700	770,700
Licenses and Fees	54,372,834	58,455,508	64,806,117	62,484,893	63,585,250	63,828,750	63,795,750	63,761,750
Departmental Penalties	420,795	377,290	438,437	381,114	376,825	376,825	376,825	376,825
Investment Income	143,907	150,510	155,527	164,363	149,700	149,700	149,700	149,700
<i>Fines and Surcharges</i>	140,337	129,789	124,615	120,433	114,000	111,000	108,000	105,000
<i>Internal Reimbursement</i>	177,496	6,177	28,520	75	7,666	7,666	7,666	7,666
<i>Other Revenue</i>	6,781	4,326	2,975	26,439	400	400	400	400
<i>Cost Recovery/Reimbursement</i>	22,834	13,064	8,563	19,139	8,176	8,176	8,176	8,176
All Other	347,449	153,355	164,673	166,087	130,242	127,242	124,242	121,242
Total Receipts	90,516,152	101,203,114	106,145,311	105,745,122	111,653,017	110,981,517	108,664,517	108,377,517
Transfer In:	859,376	846,982	919,134	937,411	962,517	962,517	962,517	962,517
General Fund (State Aid)								
TOTAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE	120,505,336	134,384,183	139,726,956	148,147,692	151,255,428	146,324,597	140,898,131	139,366,664
Expenditures								
Land and Minerals	1,072,033	1,575,567	634,884	349,722	344,000	344,000	344,000	344,000
Forest Management	1,215,801	1,347,719	1,135,118	1,277,246	1,287,000	1,287,000	1,287,000	1,287,000
Parks & Trails	1,080,376	3,462,863	1,869,119	2,641,779	2,266,000	2,273,000	2,273,000	2,273,000
Fish & Wildlife Mgmt	54,941,048	63,979,600	63,125,885	71,711,111	76,190,201	75,132,216	70,950,216	70,950,216
Fish & Wildlife Mgmt, Licensing	4,244,337	4,292,312	4,198,123	4,241,313	4,537,664	4,639,284	4,639,284	4,639,284
Ecological and Water Resources Mgmt	4,280,932	4,299,725	3,876,162	3,931,251	4,386,000	4,481,000	4,481,000	4,481,000
Enforcement	20,476,635	21,093,076	21,156,374	22,586,269	25,058,000	24,052,000	24,052,000	24,052,000
Operations Support	745,551	71,928	0	0	0	0	0	0
Statewide Indirect Costs	625,248	1,021,384	1,188,914	1,151,458	1,151,000	1,151,000	1,151,000	1,151,000
Subtotal Expenditures	88,681,960	101,144,173	97,184,578	107,890,149	115,219,865	113,359,500	109,177,500	109,177,500
Transfer Out:								
Debt Service	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fund 2113 FMIA, Forestry certification (18I)	0	294,260	384,459	399,855	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000
Fund 2112 Invasive Species Account (18M)	402,672	680,055	1,111,190	1,090,279	1,099,000	1,099,000	1,099,000	1,099,000
Fund 2112 Invasive Species Account (18M)	0	500,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fund 2000 Venison Donations (200)	246,021	85,378	93,161	28,285	50,000	89,000	89,000	89,000
Fund 2000 Walk In Access Program	0	110,915	102,420	99,230	106,000	106,000	106,000	106,000
Fund 2001 MAD Better Government Effort	8,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fund 1000 SEGIP Reduction to MMB	0	4,760	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fund 100 K/T Surcharge & Balance Transfer (2212)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Transfer Out	656,693	1,675,368	1,691,230	1,617,649	1,655,000	1,694,000	1,694,000	1,694,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND TRANSFERS OUT	89,338,653	102,819,541	98,875,808	109,507,799	116,874,865	115,053,500	110,871,500	110,871,500
FUND BALANCE	31,166,683	31,564,642	40,851,148	38,639,893	34,380,563	31,271,097	30,026,631	28,495,164
Less Des. Appr. & Funds (Appropriated 7201, 7204, Funds 2201-2213)	15,188,552	17,115,345	19,660,172	18,992,283	19,288,990	20,161,601	20,998,212	21,797,822
AVAILABLE FUND BALANCE	15,978,130	14,449,297	21,190,976	19,647,610	15,091,573	11,109,496	9,028,419	6,697,342

**Department of Natural Resources
Game and Fish Fund Statement 2015 Close Forecast**

	FY2012 Actual	FY2013 Actual	FY2014 Actual	FY2015 Actual	FY2016 Planning Est.	FY2017 Planning Est.	FY2018 Planning Est.	FY2019 Planning Est.
2200 Game and Fish (Operations)								
Legal Citation: M.S. 97A.055, Subd. 1								
Balance Forward In	16,513,659	16,285,983	14,776,166	21,453,509	19,931,793	15,398,924	11,416,847	9,335,770
Prior Year Adjustment	184,780	676,145	915,886	380,005	0	0	0	0
Adjusted Balance Forward	16,698,438	16,962,128	15,692,052	21,833,515	19,931,793	15,398,924	11,416,847	9,335,770
Receipts								
Departmental Earnings (DE)								
636002 Non-Ferrous Metallic Minerals	27,631	0	9,888	0	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
636005 Peat Royalties	879	1,069	1,080	1,080	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
636016 Timber Sales	657,594	703,190	790,707	563,757	716,000	716,000	716,000	716,000
636017 Timber Sales Interest- Penalty	621	232	1,629	408	825	825	825	825
636018 Resource Mgmt Access Permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
636043 License Credit Card Serv Charge	(17,559)	(23,624)	(14,779)	(18,495)	(18,600)	(18,600)	(18,600)	(18,600)
636047 Easements on DNR Lands	9,272	14,108	3,492	7,890	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
636051 Water Cross Lic on DNR Land	323,273	339,342	306,161	652,881	200,500	200,500	200,500	200,500
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	474	0	0	0	0	0	0
636074 Application Fees	146,323	221,263	197,537	156,722	187,000	187,000	187,000	187,000
636075 License Issuing Fee /ELS	3,308,307	3,295,736	3,357,342	3,213,489	3,184,673	3,258,207	3,255,617	3,252,898
636076 Game & Fish Commercial License	33,834	40,116	44,741	47,751	49,327	51,793	54,383	57,102
636077 License Issuing Fee /ELS from Lifetime License Sales	354,976	353,870	345,755	354,843	351,000	351,000	351,000	351,000
636078 Fishing Licenses	20,142,251	22,524,441	26,789,015	26,326,378	25,844,188	25,835,872	25,827,666	25,819,049
636078 Fishing Licenses from Lifetime License Sales	80,648	94,684	141,326	151,992	155,812	164,128	172,334	180,951
636079 Hunting Licenses	17,363,923	17,243,030	18,892,766	17,729,825	18,855,140	18,848,947	18,840,869	18,832,913
636079 Hunting Licenses from Lifetime License Sales	77,347	98,870	129,531	139,505	142,860	151,053	159,131	167,087
636081 Sports Licenses	4,408,301	5,301,996	5,709,756	5,450,829	5,798,993	5,788,159	5,777,543	5,766,520
636081 Sports Licenses from Lifetime License Sales	115,913	128,328	181,862	194,549	201,007	211,841	222,457	233,480
636082 Waterfowl Stamp	0	(5)	0	0	0	0	0	0
636085 DNR Sale of Fish/Eggs	26,934	13,755	15,448	18,932	18,700	18,700	18,700	18,700
636086 Wild Rice Harvest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
636088 Game & Fish Federal D-J (Fisheries)	11,996,112	14,956,893	12,515,386	12,547,150	12,000,000	12,000,000	12,000,000	12,000,000
636089 Game & Fish Federal P-R (Wildlife)	9,813,289	12,549,184	14,278,474	15,716,753	21,090,000	20,202,000	17,921,000	17,671,000
636090 Game and Fish Misc	13,902	15,453	16,019	16,703	14,400	14,400	14,400	14,400

**Department of Natural Resources
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	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019
	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	7,821	8,810	9,010	9,641	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
636094 Firearm Safety Training	141,128	156,286	173,937	159,222	212,000	212,000	212,000	212,000
636098 Fines Game & Fish	139,916	198,631	190,095	196,608	165,000	165,000	165,000	165,000
636099 Fine Game & Fish Surcharge	0	200	0	0	0	0	0	0
636103 Forfeits Game & Fish	201,037	13,452	146,190	76,997	145,000	145,000	145,000	145,000
636104 DNR Restitution	76,817	161,477	97,274	104,853	61,000	61,000	61,000	61,000
636105 Peeling Fees	145	468	243	697	0	0	0	0
636107 Trespass Civil citations	2,404	3,299	3,250	2,249	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	63	370	5	0	0	0	0	0
636122 Aeration System Permit	24,750	23,000	25,500	30,275	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
636127 Hunting Surcharge	246,049	196,514	195,332	127,515	156,000	195,000	195,000	195,000
636128 Fishing Surcharge	402,672	680,055	1,111,190	1,090,279	1,099,000	1,099,000	1,099,000	1,099,000
636129 Fishing Contests Permit	43,930	43,460	43,920	45,080	43,000	43,000	43,000	43,000
636134 Land Crossing Lic on DNR Land	3,823	41,378	25,223	200	5,250	5,250	5,250	5,250
636140 Super Sports R N	0	63,315	130,815	176,360	130,000	130,000	130,000	130,000
Subtotal Departmental Earnings	70,174,323	79,463,120	85,865,117	85,292,917	90,873,075	90,102,075	87,821,075	87,571,075
Investment Earnings								
512001 ITC Interest Earnings	142,956	148,600	153,543	162,505	148,000	148,000	148,000	148,000
Other Revenue (OR)								
512428 Restitutions	0	0	622	0	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	16,060	3,756	566	0	0	0	0	0
553091 Credit Agreement Rebate	5,109	7,297	6,951	16,023	6,731	6,731	6,731	6,731
512606 All Other Reimbursements - Internal	354	369	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	6,139	3,284	2,016	1,223	0	0	0	0
512607 Agency Indirect Cost Reimb (Regional Indirect Cost Plan)	166,940	5,542	17,329	0	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500
512833 Cash Overages	71	(106)	(134)	27	100	100	100	100
Subtotal Other Revenue	196,128	20,142	27,349	17,273	14,331	14,331	14,331	14,331
Total Receipts	70,513,407	79,631,862	86,046,008	85,472,695	91,035,406	90,264,406	87,983,406	87,733,406
Transfer In								
From General Fund (Police State Aid)	859,376	846,982	919,134	937,411	962,517	962,517	962,517	962,517
Total Transfers In	859,376	846,982	919,134	937,411	962,517	962,517	962,517	962,517
TOTAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE	88,071,221	97,440,972	102,657,194	108,243,620	111,929,716	106,625,847	100,362,770	98,031,693

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Expenditures	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Planning Est.	Planning Est.	Planning Est.	Planning Est.
Land and Minerals (R291002)	882,917	848,613	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lands Records Management System (R291017 & R291009)	189,116	726,955	634,884	349,722	344,000	344,000	344,000	344,000
Parks & Trails, Water Access (R294008)	1,080,376	3,462,863	1,869,119	2,641,779	2,266,000	2,273,000	2,273,000	2,273,000
Fish & Wildlife Management (R296002)	42,348,965	49,175,225	49,718,296	53,953,453	58,860,836	59,367,216	56,185,216	56,185,216
Grey Wolf Mgmt (R296040)	120,000	120,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shooting Sports Facilities Grants (R296406 & 6411)	0	0	0	978,209	2,021,792	1,000,000	0	0
Bobwhite Quail Restoration Plan (R296116) FY15	0	0	0	5,615	0	0	0	0
Public Grazing Program (R296222) FY15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fish & Wildlife Mgmt, Licensing (R296056)	913,961	895,983	797,432	1,082,956	1,241,164	1,266,784	1,266,784	1,266,784
License Center / ELS (R296237)	3,330,376	3,396,329	3,400,691	3,110,158	3,237,000	3,313,000	3,313,000	3,313,000
Ecological and Water Resources Mgmt (R292005)	1,926,242	2,242,119	2,296,409	2,375,471	2,368,000	2,463,000	2,463,000	2,463,000
Enforcement (R297006 & R297051)	18,657,002	18,803,342	19,321,178	20,044,815	21,262,000	22,113,000	22,113,000	22,113,000
Safety Training & Hunter Educ. Fees (R297201, R297204)	238,783	175,853	176,040	295,474	224,000	224,000	224,000	224,000
Advanced Hunter Ed (R297030)	70,008	53,604	76,232	60,306	0	0	0	0
Enforcement Records Mgmt (R297011)	0	0	33,260	644,764	1,900,000	0	0	0
Enforcement Aviation Services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ops Support (R298002)	745,551	71,928	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ops Support: Regional Operations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Statewide Indirect Costs (R290228)	625,248	1,021,384	1,188,914	1,151,458	1,151,000	1,151,000	1,151,000	1,151,000
Subtotal Expenditures	71,128,546	80,994,197	79,512,455	86,694,179	94,875,792	93,515,000	89,333,000	89,333,000
Transfers Out:								
Fund 2113 Forestry certification (18I)	0	294,260	384,459	399,855	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000
Fund 2112 Invasive Species (R29630) from NR Fishing Surchg (R292206)	402,672	680,055	1,111,190	1,090,279	1,099,000	1,099,000	1,099,000	1,099,000
Fund 2112 Invasive Species Account (18M)	0	500,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fund 2000 Venison Donation Surcharge	246,021	85,378	93,161	28,285	50,000	89,000	89,000	89,000
Fund 2000 Walk In Access Program	0	110,915	102,420	99,230	106,000	106,000	106,000	106,000
Fund 2001 MAD Better Government Effort	8,000	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:	656,693	1,670,608	1,691,230	1,617,649	1,655,000	1,694,000	1,694,000	1,694,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND TRANSFERS OUT	71,785,238	82,664,806	81,203,685	88,311,828	96,530,792	95,209,000	91,027,000	91,027,000
FUND BALANCE	16,285,983	14,776,166	21,453,509	19,931,793	15,398,924	11,416,847	9,335,770	7,004,693
Less Dedicated Appropriations: R296237, R297201, R297204; (G9T 208, G64 208)	307,853	326,869	262,533	284,183	307,351	307,351	307,351	307,351
FUND BALANCE Less Dedicated Appropriations	15,978,130	14,449,297	21,190,976	19,647,610	15,091,573	11,109,496	9,028,419	6,697,342

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	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Planning Est.	Planning Est.	Planning Est.	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	1,060,971	1,156,480	1,120,502	1,160,130	952,156	842,156	777,156	712,156
Prior Year Adjustments	911	8,273	4,756	6,640	0	0	0	0
Adjusted Balance Forward	1,061,882	1,164,753	1,125,258	1,166,770	952,156	842,156	777,156	712,156
Receipts								
636079 Hunting License	676,877	702,218	633,588	547,328	626,111	670,917	670,713	670,499
636079 Hunting License from Lifetime License Sales	2,513	4,433	4,567	5,086	3,889	4,083	4,287	4,501
636075 License Issuing Fee	0	0	59,256	57,430	59,500	59,500	59,500	59,500
636075 License Issuing Fee From Lifetime Licenses	0	0	407	383	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	679,390	706,651	697,818	610,226	689,500	734,500	734,500	734,500
TOTAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE	1,741,273	1,871,404	1,823,076	1,776,996	1,641,656	1,576,656	1,511,656	1,446,656
Expenditures								
Fish & Wildlife Management	584,793	750,903	662,946	776,640	740,000	740,000	740,000	740,000
Wildlife Management	0	0	0	48,200	59,500	59,500	59,500	59,500
License Center	584,793	750,903	662,946	824,840	799,500	799,500	799,500	799,500
Total Expenditures	1,156,480	1,120,502	1,160,130	952,156	842,156	777,156	712,156	647,156
FUND BALANCE without Appropriation R296213 (D01)	585,393	750,902	662,946	824,840	800,000	800,000	800,000	800,000
APPROPRIATION R296213 (D01) (Statutory)								
Emergency Deer Feeding and Wild Cervidae Health Management Account								
Balance Forward In	302,107	594,511	798,981	537,834	607,166	627,666	670,666	713,666
Prior Year Adjustments	7,015	6,360	5,000	26,748	0	0	0	0
Adjusted Balance Forward	309,122	600,872	803,981	564,582	607,166	627,666	670,666	713,666
Receipts								
636079 Hunting License	337,599	347,208	343,119	298,813	316,611	338,917	338,713	338,499
636079 Hunting License from Lifetime License Sales	2,513	2,217	2,487	2,543	3,889	4,083	4,287	4,501
512832 Refunds of Prior Year Expd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Receipts	340,113	349,424	345,606	301,356	320,500	343,000	343,000	343,000
TOTAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE	649,235	950,296	1,149,587	865,938	927,666	970,666	1,013,666	1,056,666
Expenditures								
Fish & Wildlife Management	54,723	151,315	611,753	258,771	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000
Wildlife Management	594,511	798,981	537,834	607,166	627,666	670,666	713,666	756,666
APPROPRIATION R296213 (D01) BALANCE	1,750,991	1,919,483	1,697,963	1,559,322	1,469,822	1,447,822	1,425,822	1,403,822
FUND BALANCE: Including Appropriation R296213 (D01)	585,393	750,902	662,946	824,840	800,000	800,000	800,000	800,000

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	FY2012 Actual	FY2013 Actual	FY2014 Actual	FY2015 Actual	FY2016 Planning Est.	FY2017 Planning Est.	FY2018 Planning Est.	FY2019 Planning Est.
2202 Deer Habitat Improvement Account (232) (Statutory)								
Legal Citation: M.S. 97A.075, Subd. 1 (b)								
Balance Forward In	695,248	957,370	763,254	863,021	627,887	513,887	488,887	463,887
Prior Year Adjustments	<u>1,810</u>	<u>9,157</u>	<u>8,120</u>	<u>707</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Adjusted Balance Forward	697,058	966,527	771,374	863,728	627,887	513,887	488,887	463,887
Receipts								
636079 Hunting License	1,340,345	1,388,830	1,372,476	1,194,742	1,275,032	1,363,484	1,362,908	1,362,304
636079 Hunting License from Lifetime License Sales	6,702	8,866	9,948	10,682	10,968	11,516	12,092	12,696
553091 Credit Agreement Rebate	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
512832 Refunds of Prior Year Expd	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Receipts	1,347,047	1,397,696	1,382,424	1,205,424	1,286,000	1,375,000	1,375,000	1,375,000
TOTAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE	2,044,105	2,364,223	2,153,799	2,069,152	1,913,887	1,888,887	1,863,887	1,838,887
Expenditures								
Fish & Wildlife Management								
Wildlife Management (R296024)	<u>1,086,735</u>	<u>1,600,969</u>	<u>1,290,777</u>	<u>1,441,265</u>	<u>1,400,000</u>	<u>1,400,000</u>	<u>1,400,000</u>	<u>1,400,000</u>
FUND BALANCE	<u>957,370</u>	<u>763,254</u>	<u>863,021</u>	<u>627,887</u>	<u>513,887</u>	<u>488,887</u>	<u>463,887</u>	<u>438,887</u>
2203 Waterfowl Habitat Improvement Account (Statutory)								
Legal Citation: M.S. 97A.075, Subd. 2								
Balance Forward In	172,641	279,452	439,837	642,783	519,260	538,260	557,260	576,260
Prior Year Adjustments	<u>7,717</u>	<u>14,014</u>	<u>1,049</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Adjusted Balance Forward	180,357	293,466	440,886	642,783	519,260	538,260	557,260	576,260
Receipts								
5425 Hunting License	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
636082 Waterfowl Stamp	609,345	615,164	634,611	641,032	619,000	619,000	619,000	619,000
553901 Credit Agreement Rebate	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
512832 Refunds of Prior Year Expd	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Receipts	609,345	615,164	634,655	641,032	619,000	619,000	619,000	619,000
TOTAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE	789,703	908,630	1,075,541	1,283,815	1,138,260	1,157,260	1,176,260	1,195,260
Expenditures								
Fish & Wildlife Management								
Wildlife Management (R296025)	<u>510,251</u>	<u>468,792</u>	<u>432,758</u>	<u>764,555</u>	<u>600,000</u>	<u>600,000</u>	<u>600,000</u>	<u>600,000</u>
FUND BALANCE	<u>279,452</u>	<u>439,837</u>	<u>642,783</u>	<u>519,260</u>	<u>538,260</u>	<u>557,260</u>	<u>576,260</u>	<u>595,260</u>

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	FY2012 Actual	FY2013 Actual	FY2014 Actual	FY2015 Actual	FY2016 Planning Est.	FY2017 Planning Est.	FY2018 Planning Est.	FY2019 Planning Est.
2204 Trout and Salmon Management Account (Statutory)								
Legal Citation: M.S. 97A.075, Subd 3								
Balance Forward In	402,800	450,953	545,257	716,175	893,624	878,624	863,624	848,624
Prior Year Adjustments	6,849	50,671	2,600	1,751	0	0	0	0
Adjusted Balance Forward	409,649	501,624	547,858	717,926	893,624	878,624	863,624	848,624
Receipts	845,499	826,132	921,649	971,054	860,000	860,000	860,000	860,000
636083 Trout Stamp	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
553091 Credit Agreement Rebate	0	471	0	0	0	0	0	0
512832 Refunds of Prior Year Expd	845,499	826,603	921,649	971,054	860,000	860,000	860,000	860,000
TOTAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE	1,255,147	1,328,227	1,469,507	1,688,980	1,753,624	1,738,624	1,723,624	1,708,624
Expenditures	804,194	782,970	753,332	795,355	875,000	875,000	875,000	875,000
Fish & Wildlife Management								
Fish Management (R296003)								
FUND BALANCE	450,953	545,257	716,175	893,624	878,624	863,624	848,624	833,624
2205 Pheasant Habitat Improvement Account (235) (Statutory)								
Legal Citation: M.S. 97A.075, Subd 4								
Balance Forward In	149,399	124,113	151,750	142,928	66,113	66,113	66,113	66,113
Prior Year Adjustments	25,139	6,628	5,370	1,134	0	0	0	0
Adjusted Balance Forward	174,538	130,741	157,120	144,062	66,113	66,113	66,113	66,113
Receipts	579,132	608,521	520,897	500,770	520,000	520,000	520,000	520,000
636084 Pheasant 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	579,132	608,521	520,897	500,770	520,000	520,000	520,000	520,000
TOTAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE	753,671	739,261	678,017	644,832	586,113	586,113	586,113	586,113
Expenditures	629,558	587,511	555,088	578,719	520,000	520,000	520,000	520,000
Fish & Wildlife Management								
Wildlife Management (R296)								
FUND BALANCE	124,113	151,750	142,928	66,113	66,113	66,113	66,113	66,113

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	FY2012 Actual	FY2013 Actual	FY2014 Actual	FY2015 Actual	FY2016 Planning Est.	FY2017 Planning Est.	FY2018 Planning Est.	FY2019 Planning Est.
2206 Wild Rice Management Account (236) Legal Citation: M.S. 84.0911, Subd. 1								
Balance Forward In	47,453	35,364	22,028	24,122	26,379	26,379	26,379	26,379
Prior Year Adjustments	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Adjusted Balance Forward	47,453	35,364	22,028	24,122	26,379	26,379	26,379	26,379
Receipts	37,911	26,665	42,094	32,257	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000
636086 Wild Rice License	85,364	62,028	64,122	56,379	61,379	61,379	61,379	61,379
TOTAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE								
Expenditures	50,000	40,000	40,000	30,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000
Fish & Wildlife Management Wildlife Management (R296211)								
FUND BALANCE	<u>35,364</u>	<u>22,028</u>	<u>24,122</u>	<u>26,379</u>	<u>26,379</u>	<u>26,379</u>	<u>26,379</u>	<u>26,379</u>

	FY2012 Actual	FY2013 Actual	FY2014 Actual	FY2015 Actual	FY2016 Planning Est.	FY2017 Planning Est.	FY2018 Planning Est.	FY2019 Planning Est.
2207 Wildlife Acquisition Account (237) (Statutory) Legal Citation: M.S. 97A.071, Subd. 1								
Balance Forward In	553,162	1,068,635	1,348,210	1,683,961	866,218	798,218	730,218	662,218
Prior Year Adjustments	0	601	0	0	0	0	0	0
Adjusted Balance Forward	553,163	1,069,236	1,348,210	1,683,961	866,218	798,218	730,218	662,218
Receipts	1,714,921	1,628,332	1,586,445	1,567,130	1,567,631	1,565,263	1,562,776	1,560,165
636080 Wildlife Acquisition Surcharge	36,920	40,905	42,965	45,409	47,369	49,737	52,224	54,835
636080 Wildlife Acq Surcharge from Lifetime License Sales	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	1,751,841	1,669,237	1,629,410	1,612,539	1,615,000	1,615,000	1,615,000	1,615,000
Total Receipts	2,305,004	2,738,473	2,977,620	3,296,501	2,481,218	2,413,218	2,345,218	2,277,218
TOTAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE								
Expenditures	1,236,369	1,390,263	1,293,659	2,430,283	1,683,000	1,683,000	1,683,000	1,683,000
Fish & Wildlife Management Wildlife Management (R296030, R296022)								
FUND BALANCE	<u>1,068,635</u>	<u>1,348,210</u>	<u>1,683,961</u>	<u>866,218</u>	<u>798,218</u>	<u>730,218</u>	<u>662,218</u>	<u>594,218</u>

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	FY2012 Actual	FY2013 Actual	FY2014 Actual	FY2015 Actual	FY2016 Planning Est.	FY2017 Planning Est.	FY2018 Planning Est.	FY2019 Planning Est.
2208 Wild Turkey Management Account (238) (Statutory)								
Legal Citation: M.S. 97A.075, Subd. 5								
Balance Forward In								
Prior Year Adjustments	381,447	406,367	333,537	382,023	305,513	275,513	245,513	215,513
	<u>2,172</u>	<u>13,860</u>	<u>6,512</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Adjusted Balance Forward	384,172	420,227	340,049	382,023	305,513	275,513	245,513	215,513
Receipts								
636079 Hunting Licenses	172,598	204,062	190,236	187,394	190,000	190,000	190,000	190,000
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	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Receipts	172,598	204,062	190,236	187,394	190,000	190,000	190,000	190,000
Transfer In	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
From Fund 230								
TOTAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE	556,770	624,288	530,285	569,417	495,513	465,513	435,513	405,513
Expenditures								
Fish & Wildlife Management	150,403	290,752	148,263	263,904	220,000	220,000	220,000	220,000
Wildlife Management (R296028)								
FUND BALANCE	<u>406,367</u>	<u>333,537</u>	<u>382,023</u>	<u>305,513</u>	<u>275,513</u>	<u>245,513</u>	<u>215,513</u>	<u>185,513</u>
2209 Heritage Enhancement Account (239)								
Legal Citation: M.S. 297A.94 (e) (1)								
Balance Forward In								
Prior Year Adjustments	1,279,311	1,554,991	1,604,319	2,735,977	2,366,298	1,924,470	1,958,215	1,991,960
	<u>281,244</u>	<u>380,254</u>	<u>146,407</u>	<u>120,749</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Adjusted Balance Forward	1,560,555	1,935,246	1,750,726	2,856,726	2,366,298	1,924,470	1,958,215	1,991,960
Receipts								
510152 Heritage Enhancement	12,192,918	13,304,475	12,433,635	12,840,896	13,108,000	13,084,000	13,084,000	13,084,000
553091 Credit Agreement Rebate	1,666	2,011	1,046	3,116	1,445	1,445	1,445	1,445
512832 Refunds of Prior Year Expd	571	677	1,050	25,189	300	300	300	300
512607 Agency Indirect Cost Reimb (Regional Indirect Cost Plan)	<u>10,189</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>11,103</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Receipts	12,205,344	13,307,164	12,446,834	12,869,201	13,109,745	13,085,745	13,085,745	13,085,745
TOTAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE	13,765,898	15,242,410	14,197,560	15,725,927	15,476,043	15,010,215	15,043,960	15,077,705
Expenditures								
Forest Management ECS (R293002)	231,050	296,320	1,135,118	1,277,246	1,287,000	1,287,000	1,287,000	1,287,000
Ecological Classification System Program (R293004)	984,750	1,051,399	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fish & Wildlife Mgmt. (R296004)	7,220,353	8,083,705	7,224,721	8,268,862	7,767,000	7,767,000	7,767,000	7,767,000
Shooting Sports Facilities (R296042 & R296410)	0	0	0	0	167,573	0	0	0
Itasca Shoot Fac Grant (R296403)	0	0	0	100,000	0	0	0	0
Prairie Wetlands (R296039)	0	255,519	89,905	653,736	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000
Aquatic Plant Mgmt (R296115) FY15	0	0	0	3,000	0	0	0	0
Let's Go Fishing Grants and (R296407, R296408, R296033) thru F	0	0	0	25,000	375,000	0	0	0
Ecological and Water Resources Mgmt (R292006 & R292022)	2,354,690	2,057,606	1,579,754	1,555,780	2,018,000	2,018,000	2,018,000	2,018,000
Enforcement (R297007, R297010, R297046, R297052)	<u>1,420,063</u>	<u>1,888,282</u>	<u>1,432,085</u>	<u>1,476,005</u>	<u>1,537,000</u>	<u>1,580,000</u>	<u>1,580,000</u>	<u>1,580,000</u>
Total Expenditures	12,210,907	13,633,331	11,461,583	13,359,629	13,551,573	13,052,000	13,052,000	13,052,000
Transfers Out:								
Fund 1000 SEGIP Reduction to MMB	0	<u>4,760</u>	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Transfers out:	0	4,760	0	0	0	0	0	0
FUND BALANCE	<u>1,554,991</u>	<u>1,604,319</u>	<u>2,735,977</u>	<u>2,366,298</u>	<u>1,924,470</u>	<u>1,958,215</u>	<u>1,991,960</u>	<u>2,025,705</u>

**Department of Natural Resources
Game and Fish Fund Statement 2015 Close Forecast**

	FY2012 Actual	FY2013 Actual	FY2014 Actual	FY2015 Actual	FY2016 Planning Est.	FY2017 Planning Est.	FY2018 Planning Est.	FY2019 Planning Est.
2210 Lifetime Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund (23A) Legal Citation: M.S. 97A.4742 Subd 1								
Balance Forward In	6,914,466	8,064,724	9,439,594	10,017,291	10,690,119	11,548,819	12,377,519	13,173,219
Prior Year Adjustments	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Adjusted Balance Forward	6,914,466	8,064,724	9,439,594	10,017,291	10,690,119	11,548,819	12,377,519	13,173,219
Receipts								
636078 Fishing License (Lifetime)	405,272	429,141	299,211	308,117	377,000	377,000	377,000	377,000
636079 Hunting License (Lifetime)	435,180	602,714	410,323	474,729	482,000	482,000	482,000	482,000
636081 Sportsman License (Lifetime)	665,323	759,408	426,754	489,003	617,000	617,000	617,000	617,000
636123 G-F Lifetime License Activation	(356,468)	(418,526)	(560,576)	(600,879)	(619,000)	(649,000)	(682,000)	(716,000)
512001 ITC Interest Earnings	951	2,132	1,985	1,858	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,700
Total Receipts	1,150,258	1,374,870	577,697	672,828	858,700	828,700	795,700	761,700
TOTAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE	8,064,724	9,439,594	10,017,291	10,690,119	11,548,819	12,377,519	13,173,219	13,934,919
Deposit Correction to:								
Fund 2200, 636075, License Issuing Fee (RSRC 5421)	33,834	40,116	44,741	47,751	49,327	51,793	54,383	57,102
Fund 2200, 636078, Fishing Licenses fee (RSRC 5424)	80,648	94,684	141,326	151,992	155,812	164,128	172,334	180,951
Fund 2200, 636079, Hunting Licenses (RSRC 5425)	77,347	98,870	129,531	139,505	142,860	151,053	159,131	167,087
Fund 2200, 636081, Sports Licenses (RSRC 5427)	115,913	128,328	181,862	194,549	201,007	211,841	222,457	233,480
Fund 2200, 636128, Fishing Lic Surcharges (RSRC 5475)	77	102	250	285	276	289	304	319
Fund 2200, 636127, Hunting Lic Surcharges	0	5	5	25	6	6	6	6
Fund 2201, 636079, Hunting License (RSRC 5425)	5,027	6,650	7,054	7,629	7,777	8,166	8,574	9,003
Fund 2201, 636075, License Issuing Fee (RSRC 5421)	0	0	407	383	449	471	495	519
Fund 2202, 636079, Hunting License (RSRC 5425)	6,702	8,866	9,948	10,682	10,968	11,516	12,092	12,696
Fund 2207, 636080, Wildlife Acq Surcharges (RSRC 5426)	36,920	40,905	42,965	45,409	47,369	49,737	52,224	54,835
Fund 2213, 636142, Wolf Account	0	0	2,487	2,671	3,150	3,308	3,473	3,647
Deposit Correction detail: Game and Fish Fund (Operations)	356,468	418,526	560,576	600,879	619,000	649,000	682,000	716,000
FUND BALANCE	8,064,724	9,439,594	10,017,291	10,690,119	11,548,819	12,377,519	13,173,219	13,934,919
2211 Walleye Stamp Account (23B) (Statutory) Legal Citation: M.S. 97A.075 Subd 6								
Balance Forward In	136,456	139,621	95,894	98,682	59,144	59,144	59,144	59,144
Prior Year Adjustments	2,499	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Adjusted Balance Forward	138,955	139,621	95,894	98,682	59,144	59,144	59,144	59,144
Receipts								
663130 Walleye Stamp	145,371	105,066	100,842	87,408	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
512001 ITC Interest Earnings	0	(222)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Receipts	145,371	104,844	100,842	87,408	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
TOTAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE	284,326	244,465	196,736	186,090	159,144	159,144	159,144	159,144
Expenditures	144,705	148,571	98,054	126,946	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Fund 2201, 636079, Hunting License (RSRC 5425)								
Fund 2201, 636075, License Issuing Fee (RSRC 5421)								
Fund 2207, 636080, Wildlife Acq Surcharges (RSRC 5426)								
Fund 2213, 636142, Wolf Account								
Deposit Correction detail: Game and Fish Fund (Operations)								
FUND BALANCE	139,621	95,894	98,682	59,144	59,144	59,144	59,144	59,144

**Department of Natural Resources
Game and Fish Fund Statement 2015 Close Forecast**

	FY2012 Actual	FY2013 Actual	FY2014 Actual	FY2015 Actual	FY2016 Planning Est.	FY2017 Planning Est.	FY2018 Planning Est.	FY2019 Planning Est.
2212 Peace Officer Training Account								
Legal Citation: M.S. 97A.052								
Balance Forward In	0	48,118	8,119	16,287	72,608	51,774	27,940	1,106
Prior Year Adjustments	0	1,442	1,664	717	0	0	0	0
Adjusted Balance Forward	0	49,560	9,783	17,004	72,608	51,774	27,940	1,106
Receipts								
513118 General KT Surcharge	138,881	129,789	123,993	120,433	114,000	111,000	108,000	105,000
553091 Credit Agreement Rebate	14	265	89	75	166	166	166	166
Total Receipts	138,895	130,054	124,082	120,509	114,166	111,166	108,166	105,166
TOTAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE	138,895	179,614	133,865	137,513	186,774	162,940	136,106	106,272
Expenditures								
Enforcement (R297047)	90,778	171,494	117,578	64,905	135,000	135,000	135,000	135,000
Transfer In	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FUND BALANCE	<u>48,118</u>	<u>8,119</u>	<u>16,287</u>	<u>72,608</u>	<u>51,774</u>	<u>27,940</u>	<u>1,106</u>	<u>(28,728)</u>
2213 Wolf Management and Monitoring Account (Statutory)								
Legal Citation: M.S. 97A.075 Subd 7b								
Balance Forward In	0	0	117,193	376,424	655,616	830,616	1,005,616	1,180,616
Prior Year Adjustments	0	0	505	75,560	0	0	0	0
Adjusted Balance Forward	0	0	117,698	451,984	655,616	830,616	1,005,616	1,180,616
Receipts								
636141 Wolf Hunting & Trapping	0	249,853	139,453	159,072	0	0	0	0
636142 Wolf Allocation	0	445	343,119	301,357	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000
636142 Wolf Allocation from Lifetime License Sales	0	0	2,487	0	0	0	0	0
Total Receipts	0	250,298	485,059	460,429	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000
TOTAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE	0	250,298	602,757	912,413	955,616	1,130,616	1,305,616	1,480,616
Expenditures								
Fish and Wildlife Management (R296223)	0	133,106	226,332	256,797	125,000	125,000	125,000	125,000
Transfer In	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FUND BALANCE	<u>0</u>	<u>117,193</u>	<u>376,424</u>	<u>655,616</u>	<u>830,616</u>	<u>1,005,616</u>	<u>1,180,616</u>	<u>1,355,616</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 2015 Close Forecast

EXPENDITURES	FY12		FY13		FY14		FY15		FY16		FY17		FY18		FY19	
	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	-	24,463,593	-	29,912,120	-	29,686,426	0	31,347,195	0	31,874,220	0	31,874,220	0	31,874,220	0	31,874,220
Fisheries	18,662,065	-	21,053,713	-	21,723,101	-	25,207,730	0	30,663,408	0	30,186,997	0	26,004,997	0	26,004,997	0
Wildlife	2,334,385	1,909,952	2,360,772	1,931,540	2,308,968	1,889,155	2,306,213	1,886,901	2,462,990	2,015,174	2,518,881	2,060,903	2,518,881	2,060,903	2,518,881	2,060,903
License Center	501,442	1,424,800	583,671	1,658,448	688,923	1,607,486	712,641	1,662,830	710,400	1,667,600	738,900	1,724,100	738,900	1,724,100	738,900	1,724,100
Ecological Services	8,534,607	10,431,186	8,564,760	10,468,039	8,961,769	10,644,941	9,666,091	11,379,268	11,691,900	11,694,100	10,174,850	12,162,150	10,174,850	12,162,150	10,174,850	12,162,150
Enforcement	-	1,080,376	-	3,462,863	-	1,869,119	0	2,641,779	0	2,266,000	0	2,273,000	0	2,273,000	0	2,273,000
Parks and Trails	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forestry	943,389	128,644	1,386,499	189,068	558,698	76,186	307,755	41,967	302,720	41,280	302,720	41,280	302,720	41,280	302,720	41,280
Lands and Minerals	327,974	417,577	29,936	41,992	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Operations Support	275,052	350,196	425,092	596,292	508,783	680,131	504,658	646,800	553,073	597,927	537,483	613,517	508,936	642,064	508,936	642,064
Statewide Indirect																
Total	\$ 31,578,913	\$ 40,206,325	\$ 34,404,442	\$ 48,260,363	\$ 34,750,241	\$ 46,453,444	\$ 38,705,088	\$ 49,806,740	\$ 46,384,491	\$ 50,146,301	\$ 44,459,831	\$ 50,749,169	\$ 40,249,284	\$ 50,777,716	\$ 40,249,284	\$ 50,777,716

Biennial Totals

	FY12-13	FY14-15	FY16-17	FY18-19
Hunting	\$ 65,983,355	\$ 73,455,329	\$ 90,844,322	\$ 80,498,567
Fishing	\$ 88,466,688	\$ 96,060,185	\$ 100,895,470	\$ 101,555,433
			47.4%	44.2%
			52.6%	55.8%

Expenditure Assumptions:

Dedicated Account dollars not included.
 Projected costs are based on current law.
 License Center costs allocated based on historical average number of licenses sold.
 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 FMIA transfers allocated to Hunting Expenditures.

REVENUES

	FY12-13	FY14-15	FY16-17	FY18-19
Hunting	\$ 69,404,327	\$ 79,383,542	\$ 90,954,831	\$ 85,318,420
Fishing	\$ 82,447,307	\$ 93,981,705	\$ 92,270,015	\$ 92,323,426
	45.7%	45.8%	49.6%	48.0%
	54.3%	54.2%	50.4%	52.0%

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

	FY12-13	FY14-15	FY16-17	FY18-19
Hunting	95.1%	92.5%	99.9%	94.4%
Fishing	107.3%	102.2%	109.3%	110.0%



Appendix C

Related Accounts

Appendix C

Related Accounts

Game and Fish Fund Fiscal Year 2015 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, and an option for all individuals to donate \$1, \$3, or \$5. These receipts are appropriated to the commissioner for deer management, including grants for assisting with the cost of processing deer taken for population management purposes for venison donation programs. The \$5 surcharge and voluntary donation was eliminated 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 feeding programs. 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 people in need while helping reduce local deer populations where needed.

Accomplishments:

- 28 processors are certified to participate in the program in 2015.
- Venison donations were down due to the overall lower deer population and less opportunity for hunters to take multiple deer.

Financial Review	
FY2015 Beginning fund balance	\$397,823
Prior year adjustment	\$0
Receipts	
Donations	\$0
Transfer-in from 2200	<u>\$28,285</u>
Total receipts and transfers in	\$28,285
Expenditures	
Fish and Wildlife	\$0
Transfer-out to Dept. of Agriculture	<u>\$65,000</u>
Total expenditures and transfers-out	\$65,000
FY2015 Ending fund balance	<u>\$361,108</u>
Net change for FY2015	\$(36,715)

Notes

Walk-In Access Program

This program operates out of a special revenue account. The Walk-In Access (WIA) program is in its fifth year. The program is 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.

This program provides hunting opportunities on private land that is already enrolled in existing conservation programs or lands with high quality wildlife cover. 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:

- Retained/enrolled 181 sites totaling 21,100 acres during the 2014/2015 Hunting season in 29 SW MN counties to provide public hunting recreation opportunity.
- Created, printed, and distributed 20,000 Walk-In Access Hunting Atlases to guide WIA users to WIA enrolled lands for access.
- Contracted with the University of Minnesota to conduct a hunter survey to understand uses of WIA lands and to investigate willingness to pay to assess potential long-term funding options.
- Applied for a Voluntary Public Access – Habitat Incentive Program (VPA-HIP) grant from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) funded by the 2014 Farm Bill to assist with funding the program.
- 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.

Financial Review	
FY2015 Beginning fund balance	\$728,855
Prior year adjustment	\$0
Receipts	
Donations	\$20,581
Transfer-in from 2200	<u>\$99,230</u>
Total receipts and transfers in	\$119,811
Expenditures	
Fish and Wildlife	\$224,546
Transfers-out	<u>\$0</u>
Total expenditures and transfers-out	\$224,546
FY2015 Ending fund balance	<u>\$624,120</u>
Net change for FY2015	\$(104,735)

Notes

Expenditures from this account in fiscal year 2015 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.