

## Game and Fish Fund Report



For the  
Fiscal Year Ended  
June 30, 2018

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# Game and Fish Fund

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*Fiscal Year 2018 Annual Report*

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# Letter from the Commissioner

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I am pleased to submit the annual Game and Fish Fund Report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018 as required by Minnesota Statute 97A.055 Subdivision 4. This report contains an overview of the Game and Fish Fund (GFF) and a summary of fiscal year activities including revenues, expenditures, and outcomes. The GFF has an improved outlook since the Legislature approved fee increases in 2017 and due to peak levels of federal Pittman-Robertson revenues. With shifting participation trends, growing needs in fish and wildlife conservation, however, some long-term concerns remain.

Highlights of this year's report include:

- In total, the GFF includes 15 accounts including 3 direct-appropriated accounts (GFF Operating Account, Heritage Enhancement Account, and Peace Officer Training Account), 11 statutory accounts, and an account for lifetime license fees.
- Total GFF FY 2018 revenues exceeded annual expenditures (\$120.7 million versus \$107.7 million). It is normal for expenditures to be lower in the first year of the biennium. At the end of FY 2018, the overall fund balance was \$54.3 million. Seventy-eight percent of this balance resides in the GFF Operating and the Lifetime License Accounts.
- FY 2018 revenues into the Game and Fish Fund Operating Account were above annual expenditures (\$98.9 million versus \$88.6 million) resulting in an increase in the fund balance in this account to \$28.5 million.
- Federal Pittman-Robertson revenues hit a peak in FY 2018. Minnesota received \$25.3 million in FY 2018, which is up \$3.6 million from FY 2017. These revenues are expected to decline in the future.
- Annual expenses exceed annual revenues in the operating account, which lowers the projected fund balance in that account to \$14.9 million by FY 2021. The license fee increases authorized by the 2017 Legislature became effective March 1, 2018.
- The Game and Fish Fund November 2018 Forecast (released on December 6) provides updated projections through FY 2023 but were received too late to be included in this report.

Looking ahead, our top priority continues to be ensuring the long-term health of the GFF. The recent fee increases have improved the GFF's short-term outlook but the long-term concerns remain. National experts expect hunting and fishing license sales will decline over time, but costs to manage a sustainable habitat base and suitable fish and wildlife populations will continue to increase. This presents an unsustainable management situation sometime in the near future.

Minnesota's approach to funding fish and wildlife conservation is based on the North American Model, a "user-pay, user-benefit" model. Although the North American Model has served us well since its adoption, the world is changing, introducing new challenges and opportunities. New and aging populations are shifting demographics and the way people participate in outdoor activities. Changing landscapes and emerging natural resources issues are increasing costs and creating budget pressures. To ensure that Minnesota's hunting and fishing legacy continues, we must continue to periodically take a comprehensive look at sales of licenses and stamps and modify as needed. We must also explore innovative, new funding models.

Another challenge facing Minnesota is preventing and managing wildlife disease outbreaks such as Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). With news of additional positive tests, CWD poses unique disease management challenges and has serious, negative impacts on the state and programs provided by the Department of Natural Resources. As we've noted in the past, the unpredictability of disease creates both programmatic and budgetary challenges as we seek to minimize their impact on the outdoor experience and animal populations statewide. We need to find budgetary solutions for our disease management work that minimize impacts to the GFF.

Finally, our 2018 legislative efforts to dedicate increased amounts of hunting license fees to deer management and deer health accounts didn't cross the finish line. I reiterate my commitment to this idea and look forward to working with the 2019 Legislature and Governor-elect Walz to enact this change.

Minnesota is home to some of the nation's most sought-after outdoor experiences. Our continued work together will help ensure that this reputation continues indefinitely.

Sincerely,



Tom Landwehr  
Commissioner DNR



# Game and Fish Fund

## Fiscal Year 2018 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.

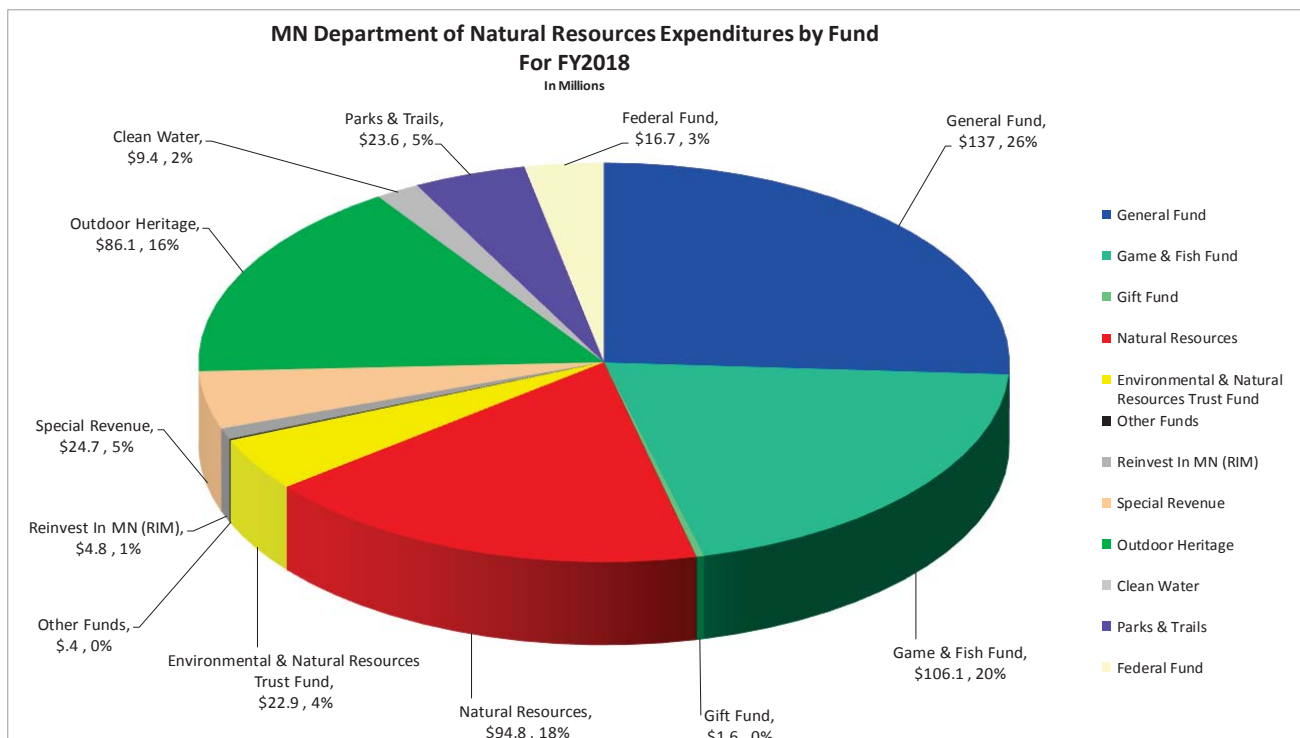
### Game and Fish Annual Report Requirements

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.

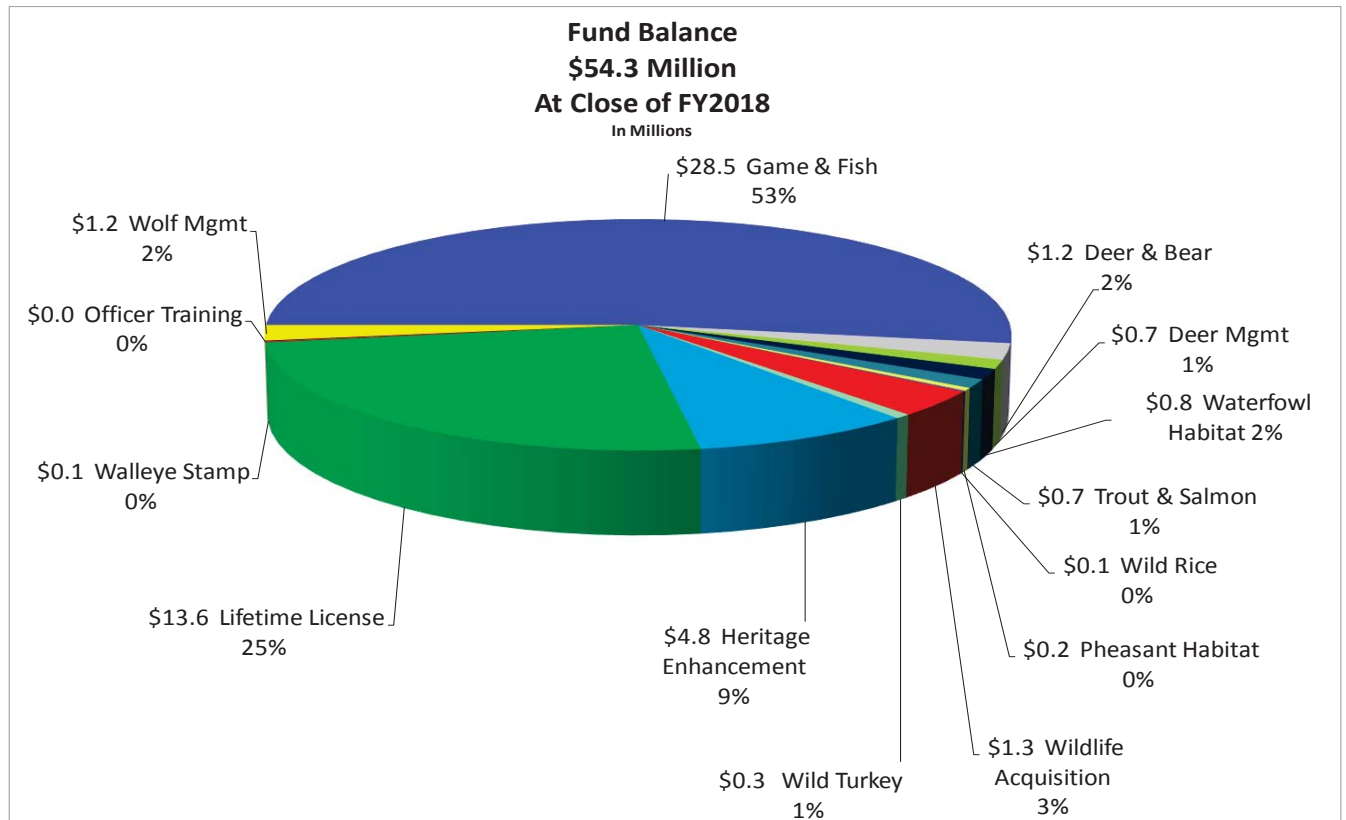
The DNR views the production of the annual Game and Fish fund report as much more than an exercise in meeting the statutory requirements. In preparing and distributing the report, the DNR has the opportunity to communicate with individuals, stakeholder groups, the Game and Fish Oversight committees, 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 2018 (FY2018) the Game and Fish Fund comprised 20 percent (\$106.1 million) of the total DNR expenditures (\$528.1 million). Dollars include both operating expenditures and pass-thru costs.



## Game and Fish Fund Balance

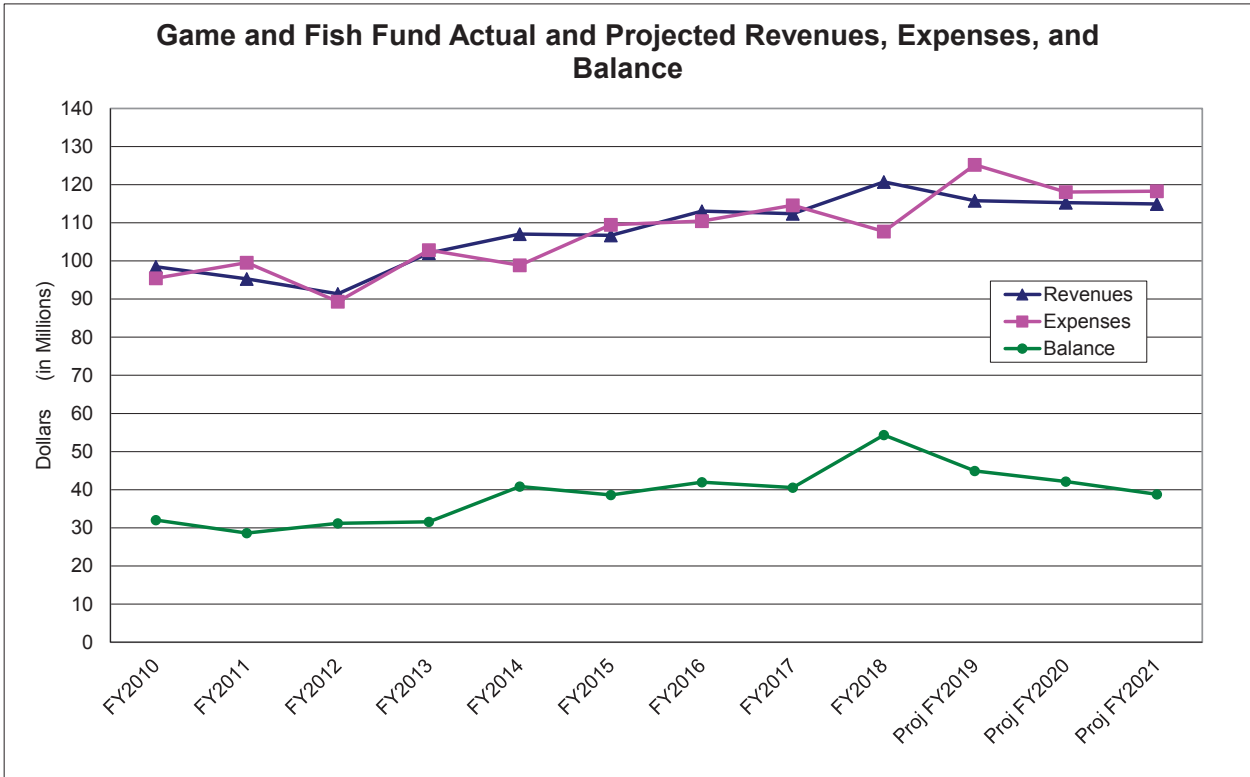


## Fund Analysis

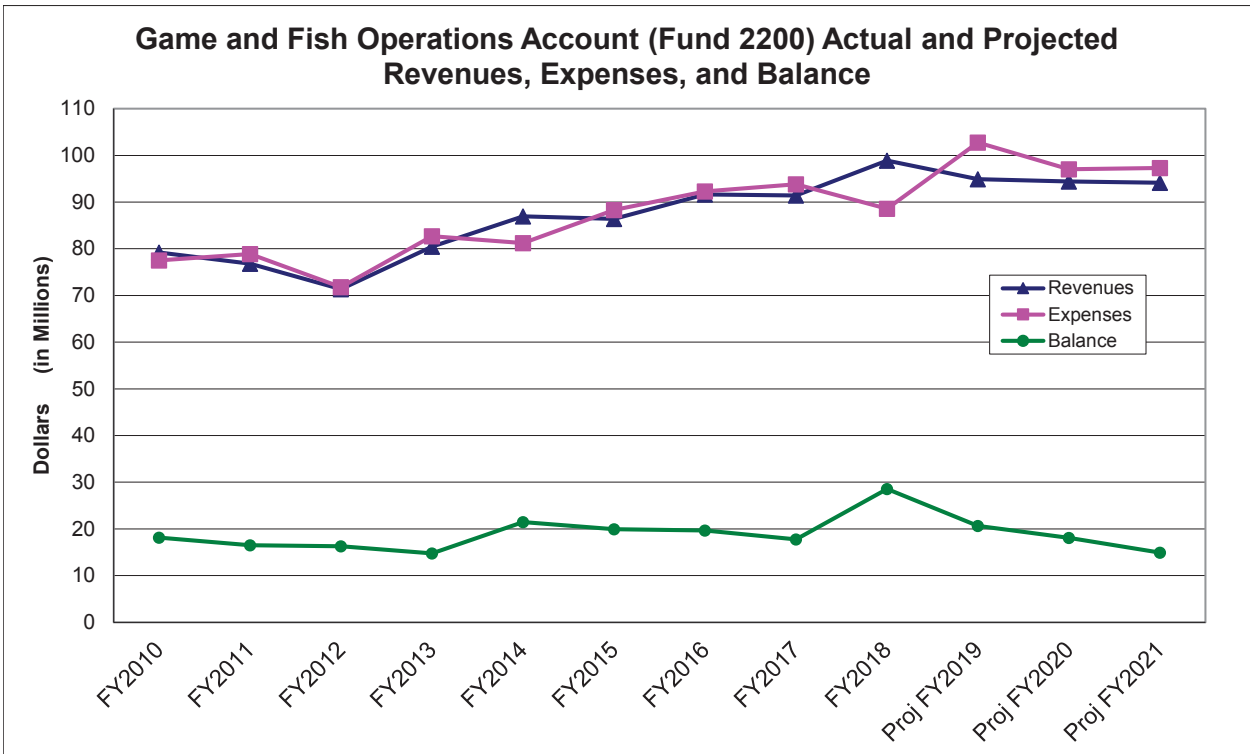
The Game and Fish Fund balance at the end of fiscal year (FY) 2018 was \$54.3 million including a \$28.5 million balance in the Game and Fish Operating Account. The remainder of the fund balance is from the dedicated accounts of which a large part is from the Lifetime Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund at \$13.6 million.

- Game and Fish Operations Account (Fund 2200)
  - License revenues are projected to increase, but a projected reduction in Federal revenues from the Wildlife Restoration Act will offset the increase in license fees.
  - Due to a projected structural imbalance (annual appropriations exceed annual projected revenues) the balance is projected to decline over time from \$28.5M in FY18 to \$14.9 Million in FY2021.
- Lifetime License Trust Fund (Fund 2210) will continue to grow and become a larger part of the total fund balance, until activation costs exceed license sales.
- Heritage Enhancement account (Fund 2209) balance is projected to decline over time.





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



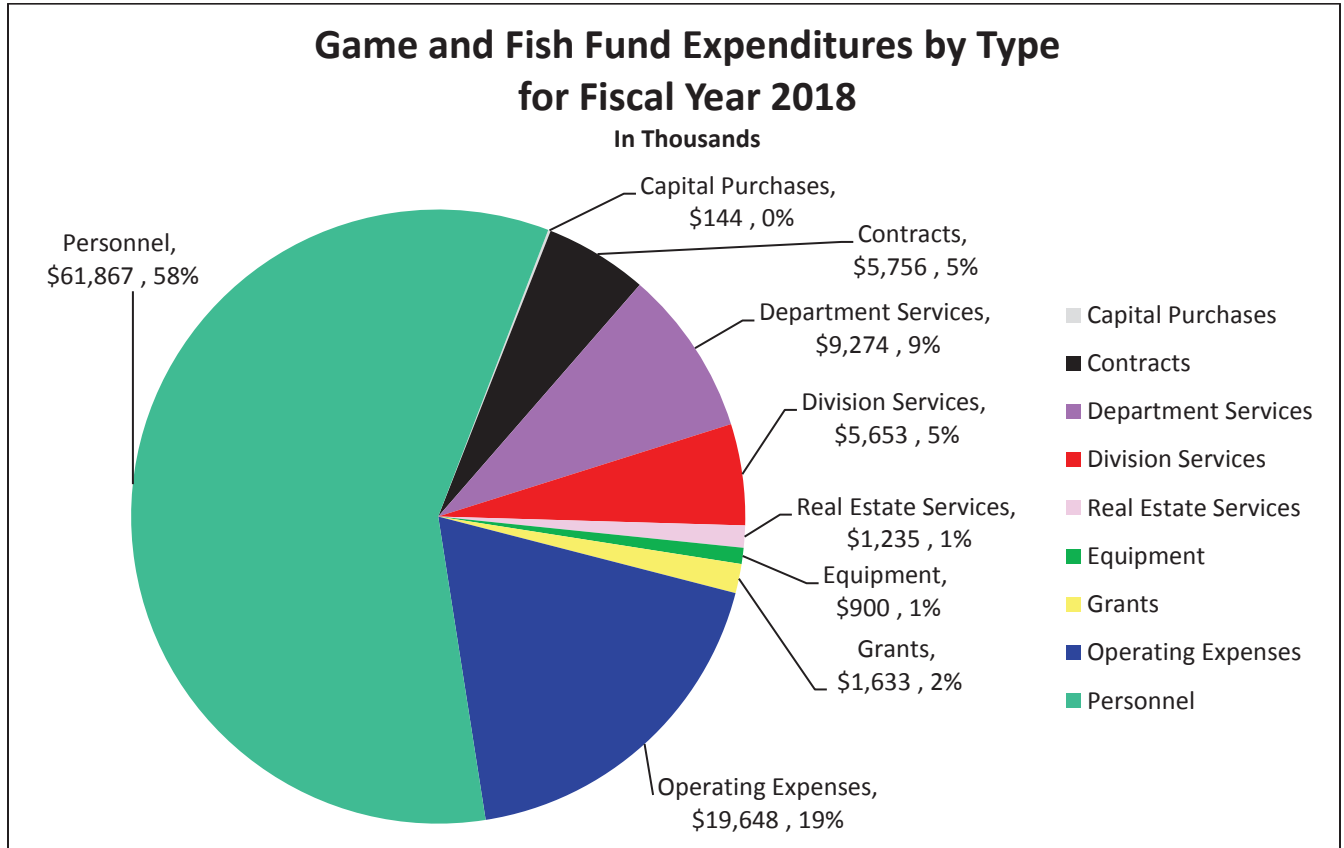
## Game and Fish Fund Revenues

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

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

Receipts and Transfers-in Fiscal Years (In Thousands)							
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Hunting Licenses	\$20,264	\$20,473	\$22,301	\$20,736	\$21,383	\$21,674	\$21,591
Fishing Licenses	20,670	23,343	28,085	27,614	26,651	26,912	29,667
Sports Licenses (Hunting and Fishing)	4,524	5,494	6,022	5,822	5,605	5,471	5,775
Hunting and Angling Stamps	2,179	2,155	2,178	2,200	2,211	2,205	2,158
Small Game Surcharge	1,752	1,669	1,629	1,613	1,580	1,545	1,483
Lifetime Licenses	1,149	1,373	576	671	762	1,038	1,123
Commercial Licenses	355	354	346	355	347	344	342
Federal Grant Fisheries (Dingell-Johnson)	11,996	14,957	12,515	12,547	14,532	11,897	12,384
Federal Grant Wildlife (Pittman-Robertson)	9,813	12,549	14,278	15,717	19,506	21,623	25,269
Lottery In-lieu-of-sales Tax	12,193	13,304	12,434	12,841	13,909	13,211	14,054
License Issuing and Application Fees	3,488	3,557	3,659	3,476	3,429	3,453	3,468
Sale and Lease of Natural Resources	1,050	1,114	1,154	1,245	1,162	841	1,228
Investment Income	144	151	156	164	191	298	506
All Other Receipts	938	711	811	745	744	943	632
Transfer-in: Police State Aid	859	847	919	937	1,046	951	1,026
<b>Total Receipts and Transfers-in</b>	<b>\$91,376</b>	<b>\$102,050</b>	<b>\$107,064</b>	<b>\$106,683</b>	<b>\$113,058</b>	<b>\$112,406</b>	<b>\$120,706</b>

## Game and Fish Fund Expenditures



Notes:

- Department Services includes costs for Leadership (Commissioner's Office and Regional Operations), Shared Services (Human Resources, Management Resources, Facilities, Office of Management & Budget Services, and Office of Communications and Outreach), Mailroom, and MNIT services (computer and technology support).
- Division Services includes the division's administrative support costs.

<b>Expenditures and Transfers-out</b>							
<b>Fiscal Years</b>							
<b>(In Thousands)</b>							
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Fish and Wildlife	59,185	\$68,272	\$67,324	\$75,952	\$74,607	\$79,130	\$73,784
Ecological & Water Resources	4,281	4,300	3,876	3,931	3,907	4,790	4,773
Enforcement	20,477	21,093	21,156	22,586	25,758	23,998	23,788
Parks and Trails	1,080	3,463	1,869	2,642	1,877	2,410	1,025
Forestry	1,216	1,348	1,135	1,277	1,121	1,238	1,048
Lands and Minerals	1,072	1,576	635	350	333	355	343
Operations Support	746	72	-	-	-	-	-
Statewide Indirect	625	1,021	1,189	1,151	1,303	1,047	1,349
Transfers-out	657	1,675	1,691	1,618	1,572	1,646	1,617
<b>Agency Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$89,339</b>	<b>\$102,820</b>	<b>\$98,876</b>	<b>\$109,508</b>	<b>\$110,478</b>	<b>\$114,614</b>	<b>\$107,727</b>

## Game and Fish Fund Expenditures by Division and Fund

Fiscal Year 2018 Expenditures by Division and Fund		
Division	Fund	Expenditures
Fish and Wildlife	Game & Fish Operations	\$ 59,740,970
	Deer & Bear Management	\$ 1,076,783
	Deer Management	\$ 1,436,351
	Waterfowl Habitat Improvement	\$ 588,746
	Trout & Salmon Management	\$ 1,062,651
	Pheasant Habitat Improvement	\$ 387,863
	Wild Rice Management	\$ 31,274
	Wildlife Acquisition	\$ 781,655
	Wild Turkey Management	\$ 155,504
	Heritage Enhancement	\$ 8,138,694
	Walleye Stamp	\$ 87,531
	Wolf Management	\$ 295,546
<b>Total for Fish and Wildlife</b>		<b>\$ 73,783,567</b>
Ecological & Water Resources	Game & Fish Operations	\$ 2,459,824
	Heritage Enhancement	\$ 2,313,056
<b>Total for Ecological and Water Resources</b>		<b>\$ 4,772,880</b>
Enforcement	Game & Fish Operations	\$ 22,194,191
	Heritage Enhancement	\$ 1,497,131
	Peace Officer Training	\$ 96,424
<b>Total for Enforcement</b>		<b>\$ 23,787,746</b>
Parks and Trails	Game & Fish Operations	\$ 1,024,846
<b>Total for Parks and Trails</b>		<b>\$ 1,024,846</b>
Forestry	Heritage Enhancement	\$ 1,048,293
<b>Total for Forestry</b>		<b>\$ 1,048,293</b>
Lands and Minerals	Game & Fish Operations	\$ 343,116
<b>Total for Lands and Minerals</b>		<b>\$ 343,116</b>
<b>Statewide Indirect Costs</b>		<b>\$ 1,349,335</b>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>		<b>\$ 106,109,781</b>

## Accounts in the Game and Fish Fund

For fiscal year 2018, 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
<b>Game and Fish Fund (2200)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revenues include licenses and permits issued, all income from state lands acquired by purchase or gift for game or fish purposes, fines and forfeited bail, sales of contraband, wild animals, and other property under the control of the division, fees from advanced education courses for hunters and trappers, reimbursements of expenditures by the account, contributions to the account, and Federal aid reimbursements. (M.S. 97A.055)</li> <li>• 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)</li> </ul>
<b>Deer and Bear Management Account (2201)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revenues include \$1 from deer, bear, and super-sports license fees.</li> <li>• Funds pay deer and bear management programs, including the computerized licensing system. (M.S. 97A.075, Subd. 1c)</li> </ul>
<b>Emergency Deer Feeding and Wild Cervidae Health Management Account (2201)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revenues include \$.50 from deer and super-sports license fees.</li> <li>• Funds pay for emergency deer feeding and wild cervidae health management. (M.S. 97A.075, Subd. 1d)</li> </ul>
<b>Deer Management Account (2202)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revenues include \$2 from deer and super-sports license fees.</li> <li>• Funds pay for deer habitat improvement or deer management programs. (M.S. 97A.075, Subd. 1b)</li> </ul>
<b>Waterfowl Habitat Improvement Account (2203)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revenues include ninety percent of the revenue from the Minnesota migratory waterfowl stamps.</li> <li>• 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)</li> </ul>
<b>Trout and Salmon Management Account (2204)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revenues include ninety percent of the revenue from trout and salmon stamps.</li> <li>• 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)</li> </ul>

Account Name	Sources and Uses of the Account Funding
<b>Pheasant Habitat Improvement Account (2205)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revenues include ninety percent of the revenue from pheasant stamps.</li> <li>• 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)</li> </ul>
<b>Wild Rice Management Account (2206)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revenues from the sale of wild rice licenses.</li> <li>• Funds shall be used for management of designated public waters to improve natural wild rice production. (M.S. 84.0911)</li> </ul>
<b>Wildlife Acquisition Account (2207)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revenues from the small game surcharge.</li> <li>• 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)</li> </ul>
<b>Wild Turkey Management Account (2208)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revenues include \$4.50 from each turkey license sold, except youth licenses.</li> <li>• 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)</li> </ul>
<b>Heritage Enhancement Account (2209)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revenues include lottery payments in lieu of sales tax on lottery tickets.</li> <li>• 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)</li> </ul>
<b>Lifetime Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund Account (2210)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revenues are from Lifetime license sales.</li> <li>• 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)</li> </ul>
<b>Walleye Stamp Account (2211)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revenues are from walleye stamps sales.</li> <li>• Funds may pay only for stocking walleyes purchased from the private sector in waters of the state. (M.S. 97A.075, Subd. 6)</li> </ul>
<b>Peace Officer Training Account (2212)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revenue from the portion of the surcharges assessed to criminal and traffic offenders.</li> <li>• 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)</li> </ul>
<b>Wolf Management and Monitoring Account (2213)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revenues include \$.50 from each deer and super-sports license.</li> <li>• Funds are only for wolf management, research, damage control, enforcement, and education. (M.S. 97A.075, Subd. 7b)</li> </ul>

## 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.<sup>1</sup>

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 that support citizens who are knowledgeable about the social and ecological value of healthy environments. This enables citizens to become supportive of the conservation of natural resources and ecological systems. DNR provides effective citizen partnerships to manage fish and wildlife resources.
4. FAW delivers outreach, recruitment, and retention efforts that results in increased multicultural, urban, youth, and new adult participation and appreciation of the state's outdoor heritage as well as retention of current fish and wildlife recreation participants. This work includes implementing mentored hunts, managing the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP), providing skills-based training through youth and women's programs, working directly with the Southeast Asian and other ethnic communities, investing in youth education through the MinnAqua program, and enhancing skills through the Becoming An Outdoors Woman/Family program (BOW), and Fishing In the Neighborhood (FIN).
5. The License Center serves citizens seeking licenses, registration and titling. This includes distribution of licenses, stamps and permits required for hunters, anglers and commercial game and fish interests. An Electronic Licensing System (ELS) is used by nearly 1,500 sales agents, 170 deputy registrars, and DNR license center staff to process these transactions. In fiscal year 2018, sales agents, handled approximately 87 percent of all transactions with another 12 percent via online and mobile. The remaining 1 percent, including issuance of commercial and lifetime licenses, were sold at the License Center in the DNR's St. Paul central office<sup>2</sup>. Nearly 2.4 million licenses, permits, stamps, and license validation transactions were processed through ELS, generating \$64.4 million in revenue for the year.

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

<sup>2</sup> Combined sales agents and deputy registrar transactions total 18 percent of online and mobile transactions.



## Ecological and Water Resources

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

Game and Fish operating fund dollars support traditional game and fish activities. Appropriations to EWR have remained relatively constant over the past several years. The division uses these funds on a variety of programs that are designed to conserve and/or enhance aquatic and upland habitats that are critical for fish and wildlife populations. In fiscal year 2018, Game and Fish operating funds were directed at ten programs: lake habitat assessment, river habitat assessment and restoration, grassland habitat monitoring, management and stewardship, environmental review, natural resource damage assessment and cost recovery, tracking wetland change, wildlife education, planning and coordination, and information management. For many of the programs listed, the work described was also supported by other funding sources.

The division fulfills its mission through the following strategies:

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

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

## Enforcement

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

The Enforcement division fulfills its mission through the following strategies:

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

## Parks and Trails

Minnesota is ranked third in the nation for the number of registered boats (825,658 in 2017) which has been stable for the past eight years and has increased 1% each year for the past two years. The total annual economic impact of recreational boating in Minnesota is \$5.5 billion (source NMMA.org).

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

DNR’s water recreation programs are funded by multiple sources. PAT utilizes Game and Fish Funds for public water access and fishing pier acquisition, development, rehabilitation, and maintenance. These programs improve the quality of boating and fishing access throughout the state. The Water Recreation Account is projected to be in deficit sometime in the near future so PAT has cut back on investments in new facilities and other project expenditures. The FY18 focus for the boating access program was to maintain and improve existing sites with high customer demand and/or poor existing conditions by implementing current best management practices. Similarly, the FY18 focus of the fishing pier and shore-fishing program was to replace and repair aging/damaged facilities before adding new facilities.

In fiscal year 2018, PAT utilized \$1.024 million in Game and Fish Funds to develop and maintain the state’s water recreation system.

## Forestry

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

We use Game and Fish funds to implement the Ecological Classification System (ECS) and Terrestrial Invasive Species (TIS) programs. Each of these programs directly benefits wildlife habitat. The ECS program inventories current vegetation (flowers, grasses, shrubs, and trees), soil types, and the site's position in the landscape to determine which forest cover is best suited for the site. Foresters, and other resource managers, use ECS to select the right management activity for the site to ensure a healthy, vigorously growing forest. A healthy forest makes great wildlife habitat.

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

### **Lands and Minerals**

The Lands and Minerals division (LAM) provides professional real estate and mineral services to the State that promote conservation excellence, provide world-class recreational opportunities, and support the State's economy. LAM manages all state-owned mineral rights and provides real estate services for the DNR's various land-managing divisions. Monies from the Game and Fish Fund directly supports the Land Record System (LRS), which is the application maintained by LAM, which inventories all DNR-managed land and mineral assets. The program is used by over 600 DNR professionals statewide, not counting the thousands more that consume the data collected by the application through reports, maps, and transaction data. The records are vital to the acquisition and ongoing management of fish and wildlife resources, parks and trails, forestry, scientific and natural areas – virtually every DNR program.

### **Real Estate**

Real Estate Services are operated as a centralized service within the DNR. Services are provided by the Lands and Minerals division to land-managing divisions through service level agreements and professional service rates. Game and Fish funds are used by land-managing divisions to pay for Real Estate Services for activities related to the purpose of the fund. Total charges to the Game and Fish Fund for real estate services in fiscal year 2018 were \$1,235,281. See expenditure chart on page 7.

In fiscal year 2018, LAM performed the following work under Service Level Agreements (SLAs) with the Divisions of Ecological and Waters Resources, Fish and Wildlife, Forestry, and Parks and Trails:

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

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

- Acquisitions of land
- Appraisals
- Surveys, and related legal description reviews
- Land exchanges involving DNR managed land
- Sale of DNR lands
- Transfers of custodial control

- Transfers of administrative control
- Lands and Minerals' attorney work
- Grant appraisal review and associated advice for the grant programs
- Management, fiscal, and support staffing for the above-listed areas.

### **Operations Support**

Operations Support provides;

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

Department Services, which includes Leadership (Commissioner's Office and Regional Operations), Shared Services (Human Resources, Management Resources, Facilities, Office of Budget & Management, and Office of Communications and Outreach), Mailroom, and MNIT services (Computer and Technology support), are charged to each division through internal allocation processes. In fiscal year 2018, \$9.3 million was spent out of the Game and Fish Fund on department services. These costs are shown in the chart on page 7.



# Game and Fish Operations Account Fund 2200

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*Game and Fish Fund  
Fiscal Year 2018 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.

<b>Financial Review</b>	
<b>FY2018 Beginning fund balance</b>	<b>\$17,733,267</b>
Prior year adjustment	\$472,791
<b>Receipts</b>	
Fishing Licenses	\$28,549,569
Hunting Licenses	\$18,562,674
Sports and Super-Sports Licenses	\$5,774,899
Sport Fish Restoration Act (Dingell-Johnson)	\$12,383,664
Wildlife Restoration Act (Pittman-Robertson)	\$25,268,588
License Issuing Fees	\$3,285,911
Fishing Surcharge	\$1,117,504
Hunting Surcharge	\$196,117
Sales of Natural Resources	\$1,231,991
Fines, Forfeits, and Restitution	\$307,044
Application Fees	\$128,603
Occupational Permits	\$341,614
Non-occupational Fees	\$198,082
Investment Income (Interest)	\$501,021
Other	\$16,163
Transfers-in (Police State Aid & Transfers from Federal Funds)	<u>\$1,025,855</u>
Total Revenues and Transfers-in	98,889,297
<b>Expenditures</b>	
Fish and Wildlife (includes License Center)	\$59,582,970
Ecological & Water Resources	\$2,459,824
Enforcement	\$22,194,191
Parks and Trails	\$1,024,846
Lands & Minerals	\$343,116
Statewide Indirect Costs	\$1,349,335
Transfers-out (FMIA, Invasive Species, Venison Donation, and Walk-in-Access)	<u>\$1,617,075</u>
Total Expenditures and Transfers-out	\$88,571,356
<b>FY2018 Ending fund balance</b>	<b><u>\$28,524,000</u></b>
Net change for FY2018	\$10,790,733

### Account Analysis

A large increase in FY2018 in the amount of Wildlife Restoration Act federal reimbursement money help increase the fund balance. Future federal reimbursement revenues are projected to be less. The new fishing license increase started in the spring of 2018 increasing fishing license revenues. The combination of increased revenues and reduced expenditures in the first year of the biennium resulted in an increase of



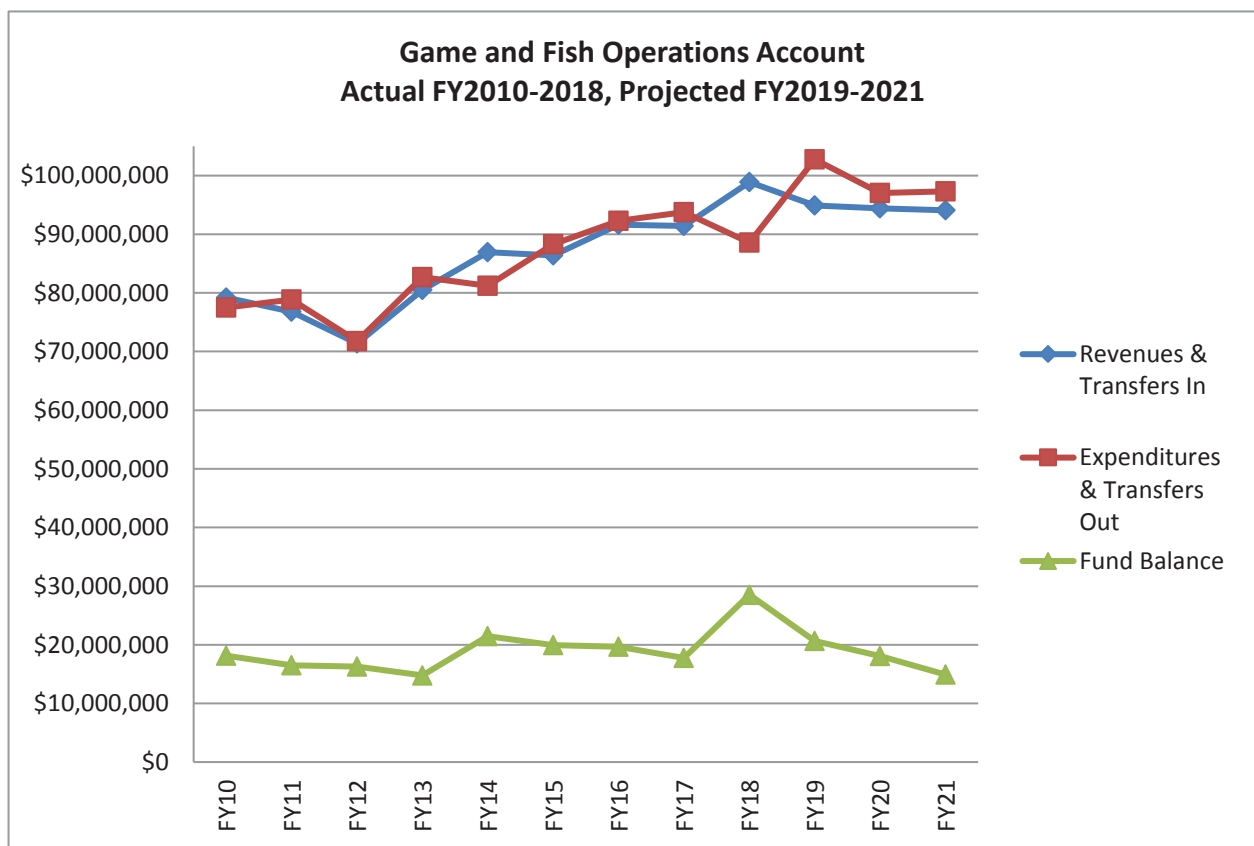
the fund balance by \$10.8 million. As the appropriations roll to the second year of the biennium, expenditures are projected to be higher in FY2019.

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

Some additional trends are;

- Fish license revenues are expected to increase in FY2019 due to an increase in license fees.
- Deer hunting license revenues are expected to increase due to fee increases and more liberal hunting regulations in future years as the deer populations increase to goal levels.
- Sport Fish Restoration Act revenues are expected to stay level in future years.
- Wildlife Restoration Act revenues are expected to decline and then plateau at some lower level over time. Federal apportionments increased greatly in fiscal years 2014 through 2017 due to increased firearm and ammunition sales. Increase in FY2018 revenues is from reimbursed dollars apportioned in a prior year.

## Financial Summary FY2010 to FY2021



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



# Deer and Bear Management Account Fund 2201

*Game and Fish Fund  
Fiscal Year 2018 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:

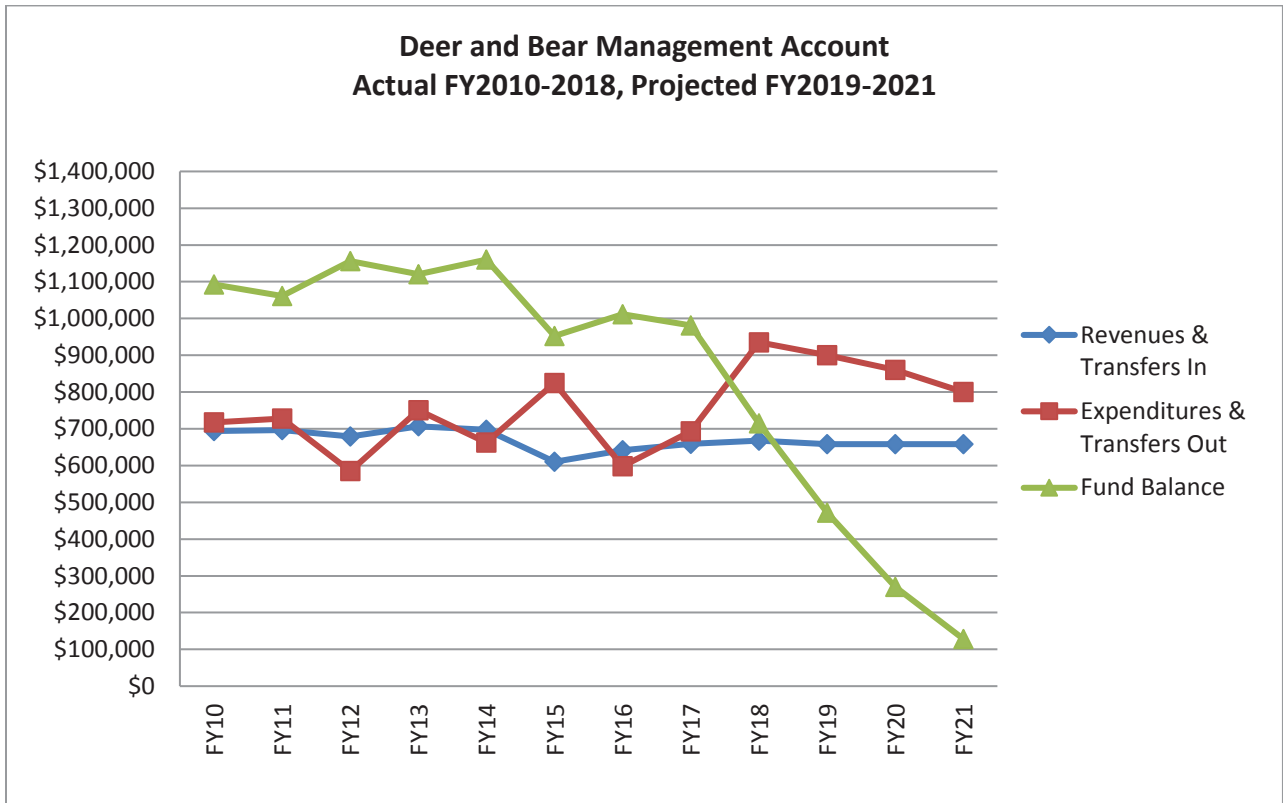
Deer and bear management programs, including a computerized licensing system.

<b>Financial Review</b>	
<b>FY2018 Beginning fund balance</b>	<b>\$981,335</b>
Prior year adjustment	\$871
<b>Receipts</b>	
Hunting License	\$614,013
License Issuing Fees	<u>\$53,454</u>
Total receipts and transfers in	\$667,467
<b>Expenditures</b>	
Fish and Wildlife (includes License Center)	<u>\$935,299</u>
Total expenditures	\$935,299
<b>FY2018 Ending fund balance</b>	<b>\$714,374</b>
Net change for FY2018	(\$266,962)

## Account Analysis

Revenues have rebounded and are projected to continue at current levels in future years. 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 FY2010 to FY2021



# Emergency Deer Feeding and Wild Cervidae Health Management Account Fund 2201

*Game and Fish Fund  
Fiscal Year 2018 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:

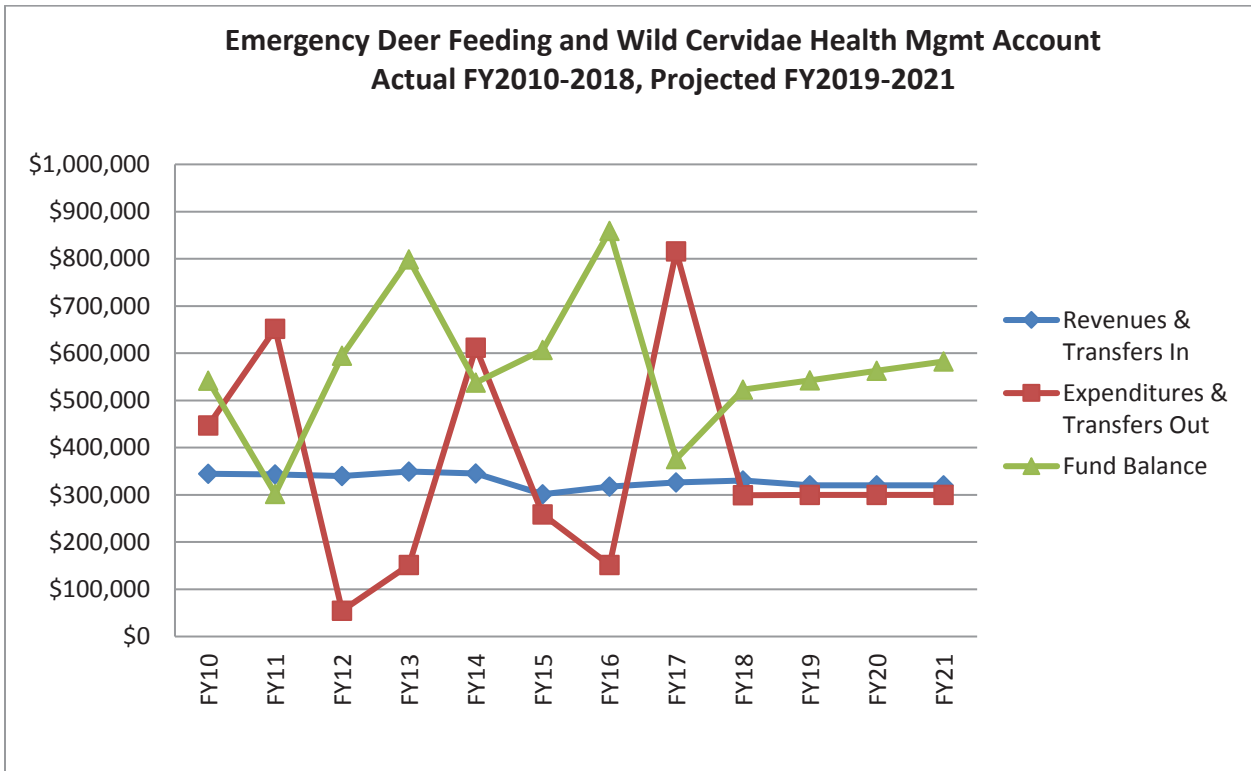
Emergency deer feeding and wild cervidae health management. Funds are available until expended. When the unencumbered balance in the appropriation for emergency deer feeding and wild cervidae health management exceeds \$2,500,000 at the end of a fiscal year, the unencumbered balance in excess of \$2,500,000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

<b>Financial Review</b>	
<b>FY2018 Beginning fund balance</b>	<b>\$376,086</b>
Prior year adjustment	\$115,764
<b>Receipts</b>	
Hunting License	<u>\$330,405</u>
Total receipts and transfers in	\$330,405
<b>Expenditures</b>	
Fish and Wildlife	<u>\$299,484</u>
Total expenditures	\$299,484
<b>FY2018 Ending fund balance</b>	<b><u>\$522,771</u></b>
Net change for FY2018	\$146,685

## Account Analysis

Revenues have rebounded and are expected to continue at current levels in future years. The DNR generally works to maintain a reserve balance of \$1 million to ensure the ability to meet the needs of an emergency cervid disease outbreak. However, during FY17 positive CWD detections in wild and captive deer were discovered, and managing the disease is expected to rapidly decrease account balances. In an effort to take pressure off of the cervid health account, the department is seeking alternative funding sources to transfer responsibility of surveillance around captive cervid facilities (managed as livestock by the Minnesota Board of Animal Health) away from deer license buyers.

## Financial Summary FY2010 to FY2021



# Deer Management Account Fund 2202

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*Game and Fish Fund  
Fiscal Year 2018 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.

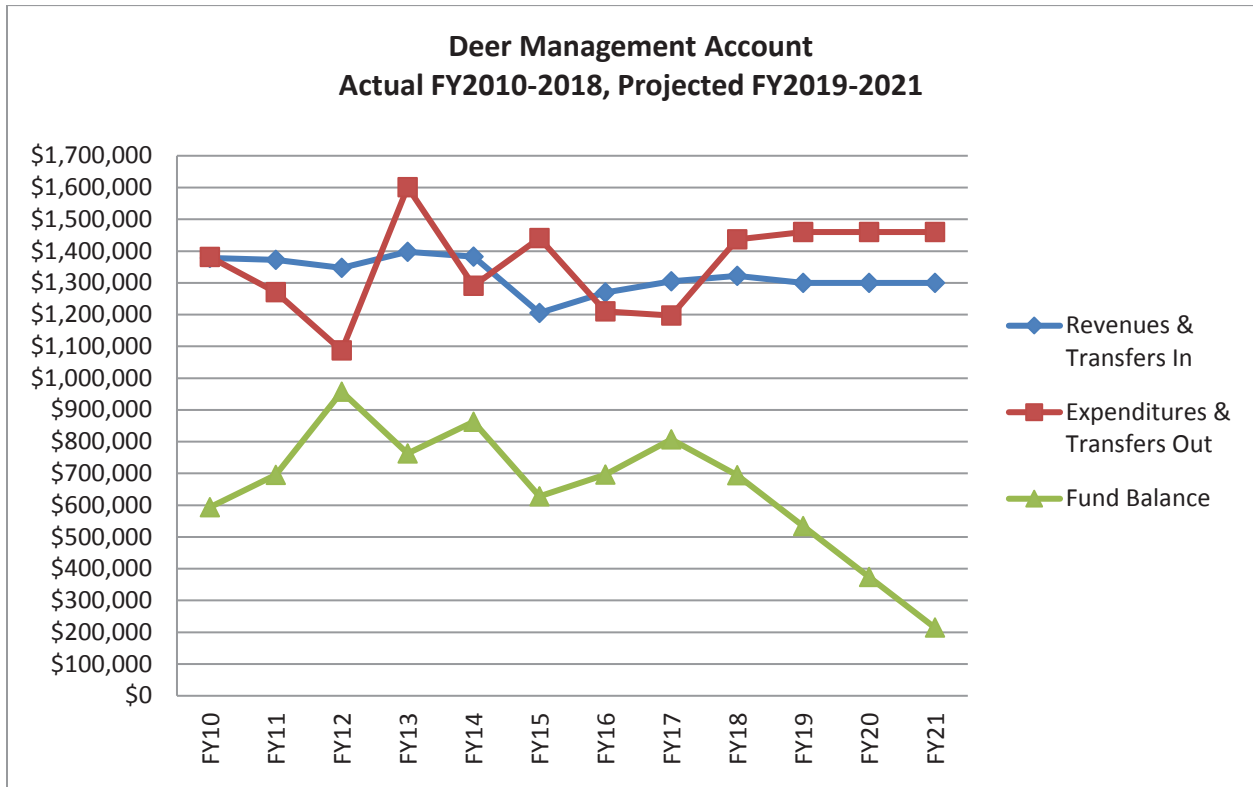
<b>Financial Review</b>	
<b>FY2018 Beginning fund balance</b>	<b>\$806,923</b>
Prior year adjustment	\$2,197
<b>Receipts</b>	
Hunting License	\$1,321,620
Refunds of Prior Year Expenditure	<u>\$0</u>
Total receipts and transfers in	\$1,321,620
<b>Expenditures</b>	
Fish and Wildlife	<u>\$1,436,351</u>
Total expenditures	\$1,436,351
<b>FY2018 Ending fund balance</b>	<b><u>\$694,389</u></b>
Net change for FY2018	(\$112,534)

## **Account Analysis**

Revenues have rebounded and are expected to continue at current levels in future years. 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 FY2010 to FY2021



# Waterfowl Habitat Improvement Account Fund 2203

*Game and Fish Fund  
Fiscal Year 2018 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:

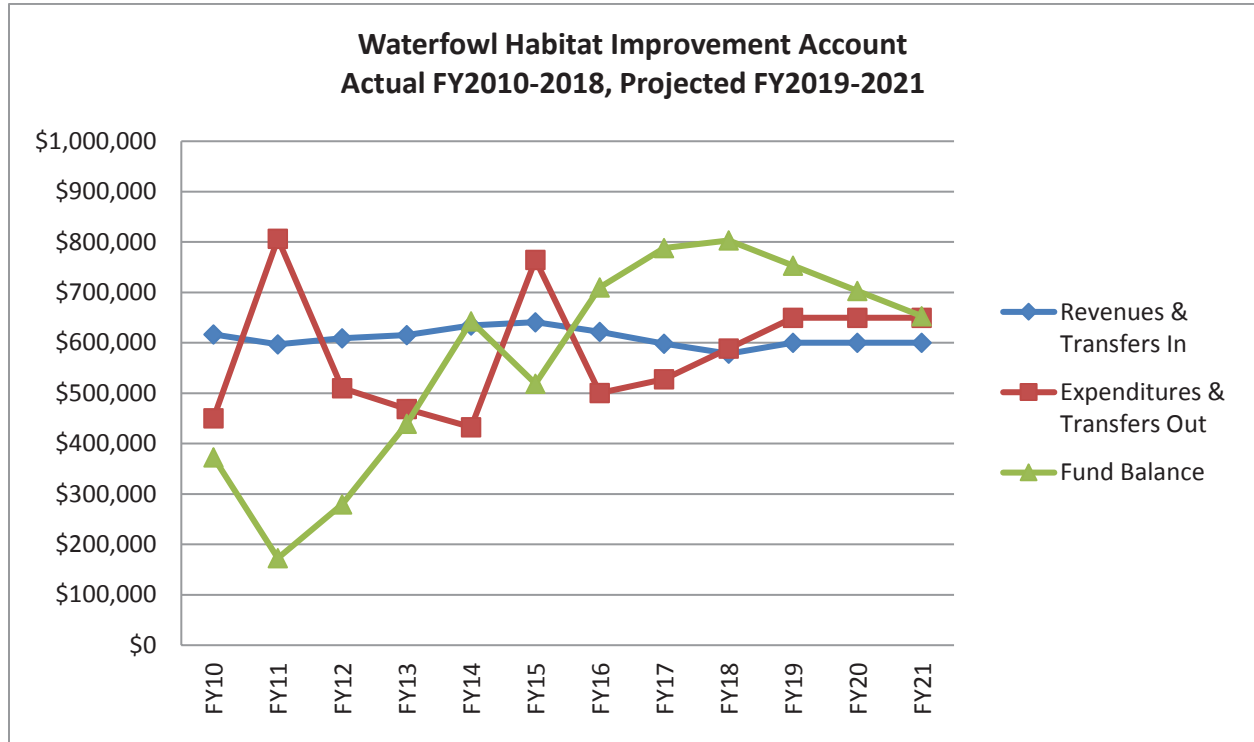
1. Development of wetlands and lakes in the state and designated waterfowl management lakes for maximum migratory waterfowl production including habitat evaluation, the construction of dikes, water control structures and impoundments, nest cover, rough fish barriers, acquisition of sites and facilities 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).

<b>Financial Review</b>	
<b>FY2018 Beginning fund balance</b>	<b>\$787,972</b>
Prior year adjustment	\$25,475
<b>Receipts</b>	
Waterfowl Stamp	\$578,484
Refunds of Prior Year Expd	<u>\$0</u>
Total receipts and transfers in	\$578,484
<b>Expenditures</b>	
Fish & Wildlife	<u>\$588,746</u>
Total expenditures	\$588,746
<b>FY2018 Ending fund balance</b>	<b><u>\$803,185</u></b>
Net change for FY2018	\$15,213

## Account Analysis

Waterfowl stamp sales have been fairly stable over the past nine years with minor annual variations. Staff are increasing spending on needed expenditures in FY18 and will continue in FY19 to reduce the fund balance. Fish and Wildlife expects future spending to keep pace with revenues.

## Financial Summary FY2010 to FY2021



# Trout and Salmon Account Fund 2204

*Game and Fish Fund  
Fiscal Year 2018 Annual Report*

## Purpose of the Account

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

## Sources and Uses of the Funds

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

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

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

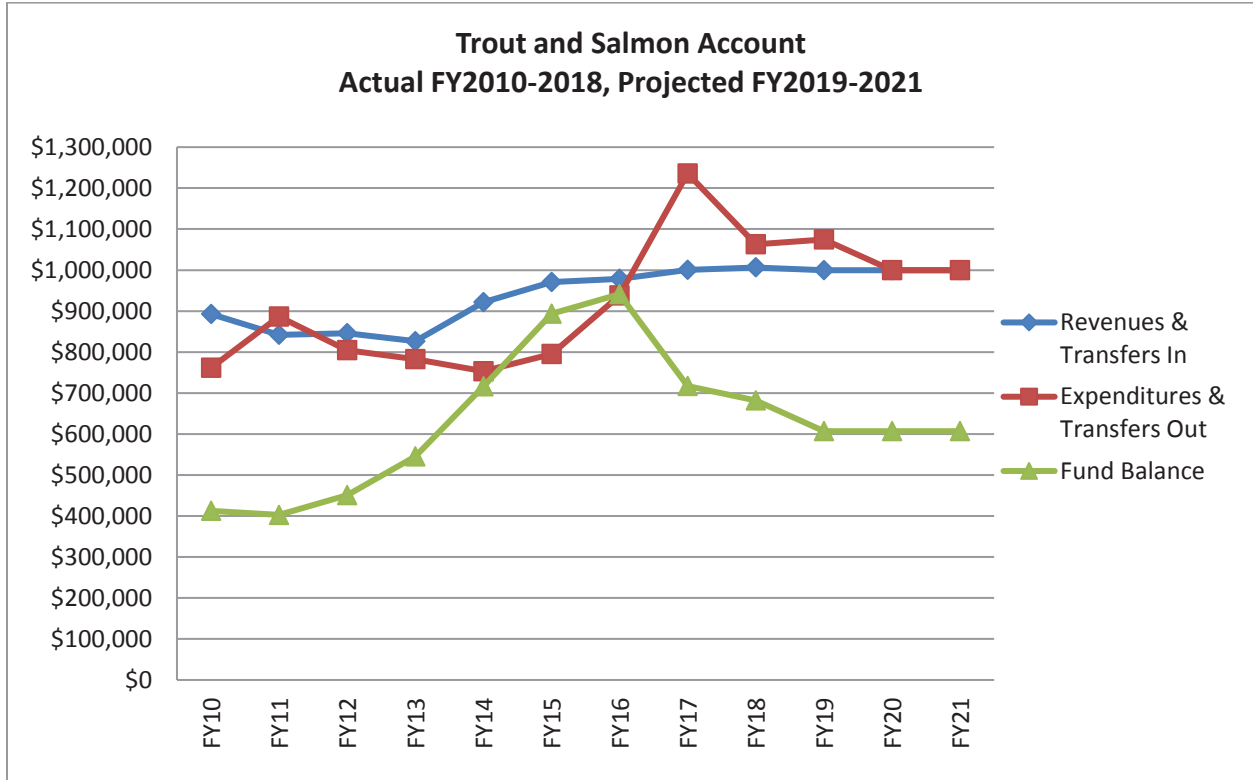
Money in the account may not be used for costs unless they are directly related to a specific parcel of land or body of water, to specific fish rearing activities under (2), or for costs associated with supplies and equipment to implement trout and salmon management activities.

<b>Financial Review</b>	
<b>FY2018 Beginning fund balance</b>	<b>\$717,359</b>
Prior year adjustment	\$20,580
<b>Receipts</b>	
Trout Stamp	<u>\$1,006,311</u>
Total receipts and transfers in	\$1,006,311
<b>Expenditures</b>	
Fish & Wildlife	<u>\$1,062,651</u>
Total expenditures	\$1,062,651
<b>FY2018 Ending fund balance</b>	<b><u>\$681,599</u></b>
Net change for FY2018	<b>(\$35,760)</b>

## Account Analysis

Trout and Salmon stamp sales have set records for four consecutive years from FY 15-18. As a result, we have adjusted our expectations for future revenue to \$1,000,000 per year. The Trout Stamp Account had been accruing a surplus from FY12-FY16 because of revenue outpacing expectations. Expenditures were increased significantly in FY17 to begin reducing the account balance. We plan to continue spending above revenue until FY21 to gradually draw down the balance closer to the \$400,000 reserve that we would like to maintain for this account. This reserve provides a cushion for the season where expenditures exceed revenues during the license year.

## Financial Summary FY2010 to FY2021



# Pheasant Habitat Improvement Account Fund 2205

*Game and Fish Fund  
Fiscal Year 2018 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:

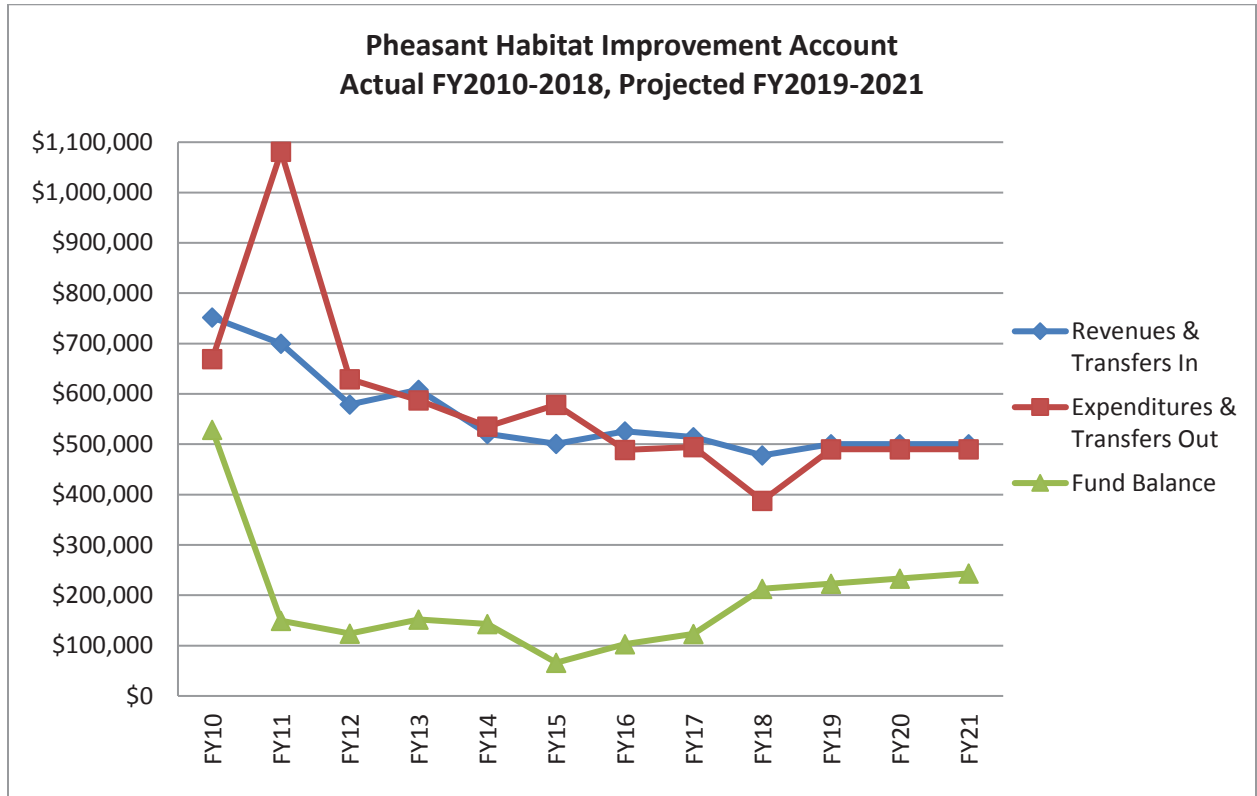
1. Costs that are not directly related to a specific parcel of land.; or
2. Any personnel costs, except that prior to July 1, 2019, personnel may be hired to provide technical and promotional assistance for private landowners to implement conservation provisions of state and federal programs.

<b>Financial Review</b>	
<b>FY2018 Beginning fund balance</b>	<b>\$123,111</b>
Prior year adjustment	\$10
<b>Receipts</b>	
Pheasant Stamp	\$477,924
Refunds from Prior Period	<u>\$0.00</u>
Total receipts and transfers in	\$477,924
<b>Expenditures</b>	
Fish and Wildlife	<u>\$387,863</u>
Total expenditures	\$387,863
<b>FY2018 Ending fund balance</b>	<b><u>\$213,181</u></b>
Net change for FY2018	\$90,070

## Account Analysis

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

## Financial Summary FY2010 to FY2021





# Wild Rice Management Account Fund 2206

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*Game and Fish Fund  
Fiscal Year 2018 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)

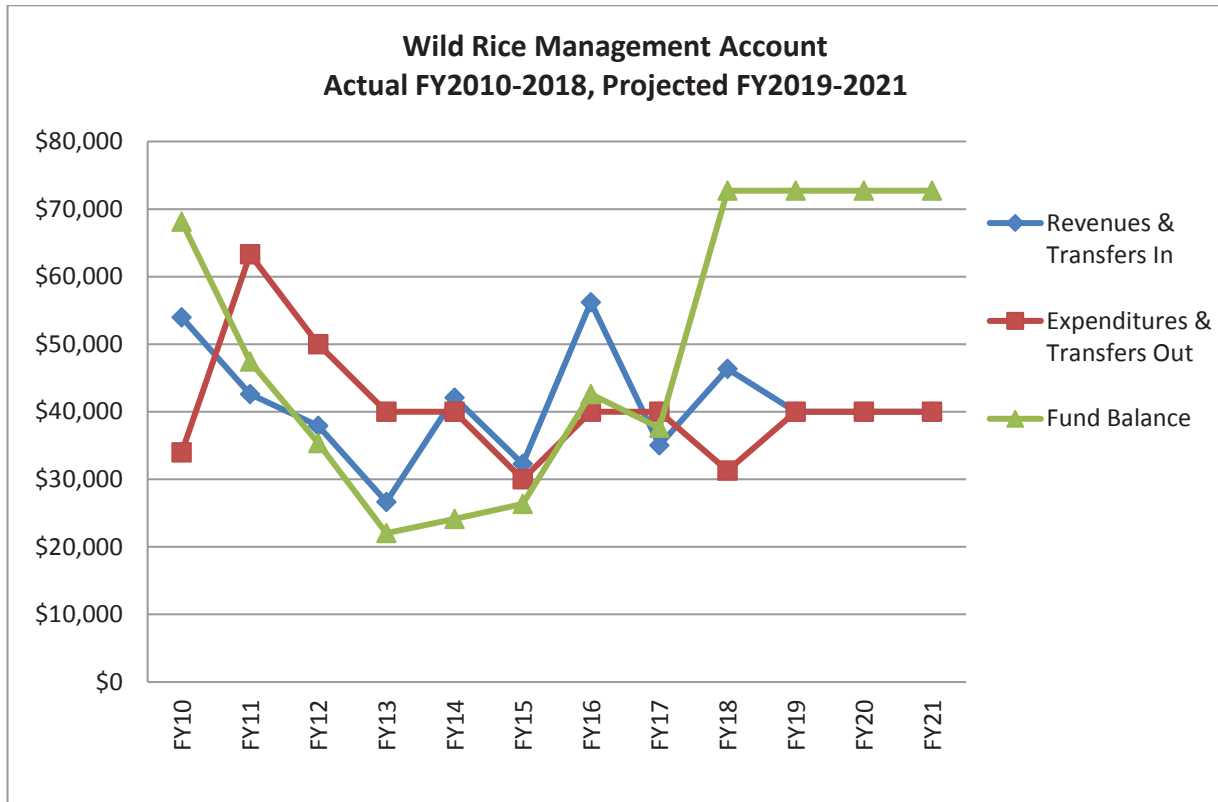
By statute, money in the account may only be used for management of designated public waters to improve natural wild rice production.

<b>Financial Review</b>	
<b>FY2018 Beginning fund balance</b>	<b>\$37,633</b>
Prior year adjustment	\$20,000
<b>Receipts</b>	
Wild Rice License	<u>\$46,357</u>
Total receipts and transfers in	\$46,357
<b>Expenditures</b>	
Fish and Wildlife	<u>\$31,274</u>
Total expenditures	\$31,274
<b>FY2018 Ending fund balance</b>	<b>\$72,716</b>
Net change for FY2018	\$35,083

## **Account Analysis**

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

## Financial Summary FY2010 to FY2021



# Wildlife Acquisition Account Fund 2207

*Game and Fish Fund  
Fiscal Year 2018 Annual Report*

## Purpose of the Account

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

## Sources and Uses of the Funds

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

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

Subd. 2a Use of wildlife acquisition account money.

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

Subd. 3 Waterfowl breeding grounds in Canada.

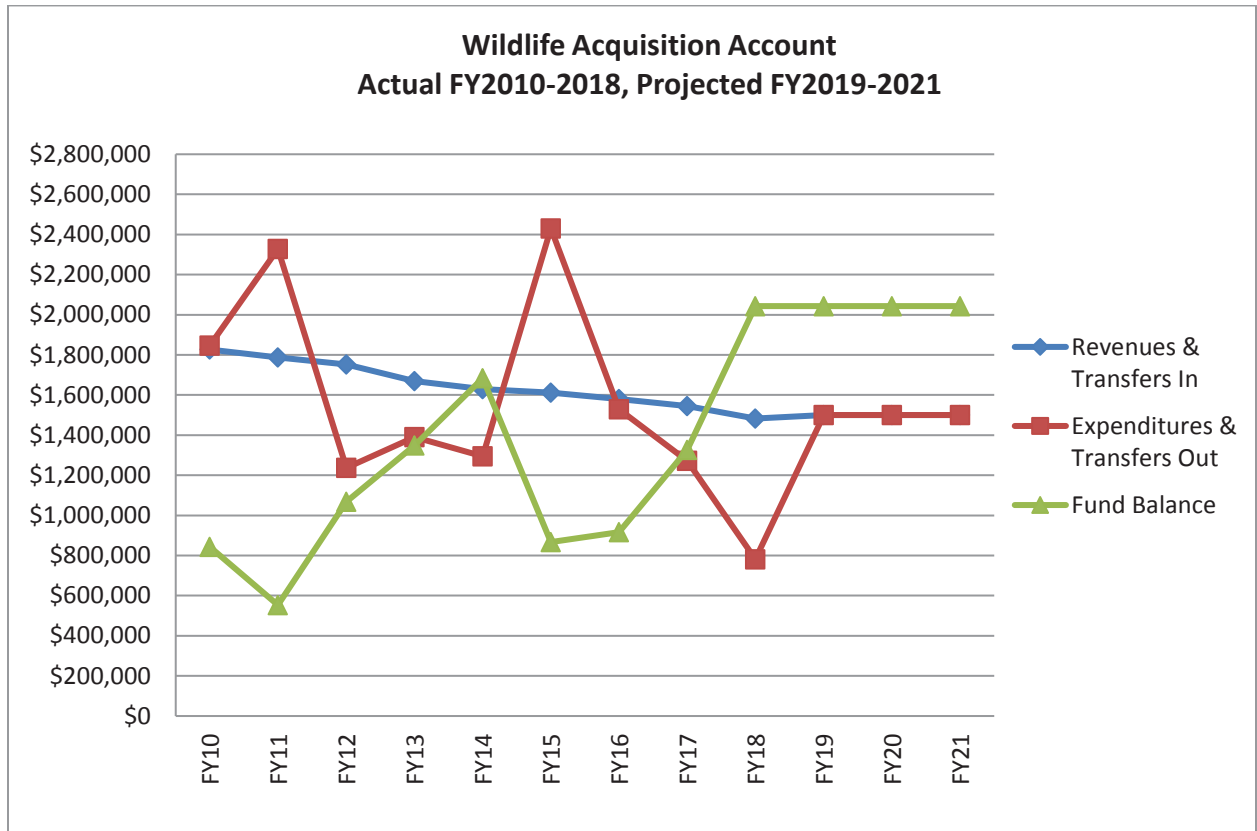
The wildlife acquisition account may be used for developing, preserving, restoring, and maintaining waterfowl breeding grounds in Canada under agreement or contract with any nonprofit organization dedicated to the construction, maintenance, and repair of projects that are acceptable to the governmental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

<b>Financial Review</b>	
<b>FY2018 Beginning fund balance</b>	<b>\$1,325,922</b>
Prior year adjustment	\$15,980
<b>Receipts</b>	
Wildlife Acquisition Surcharge	\$1,482,834
Sale of Buildings	<u>\$0</u>
Total receipts and transfers in	\$1,482,834
<b>Expenditures</b>	
Fish and Wildlife	<u>\$781,655</u>
Total expenditures	\$781,655
<b>FY2018 Ending fund balance</b>	<b><u>\$2,043,082</u></b>
Net change for FY2018	\$717,160

## Account Analysis

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

## Financial Summary FY2010 to FY2021



# Wild Turkey Management Account

## Fund 2208

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*Game and Fish Fund*  
*Fiscal Year 2018 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.

Money in the account may not be used for:

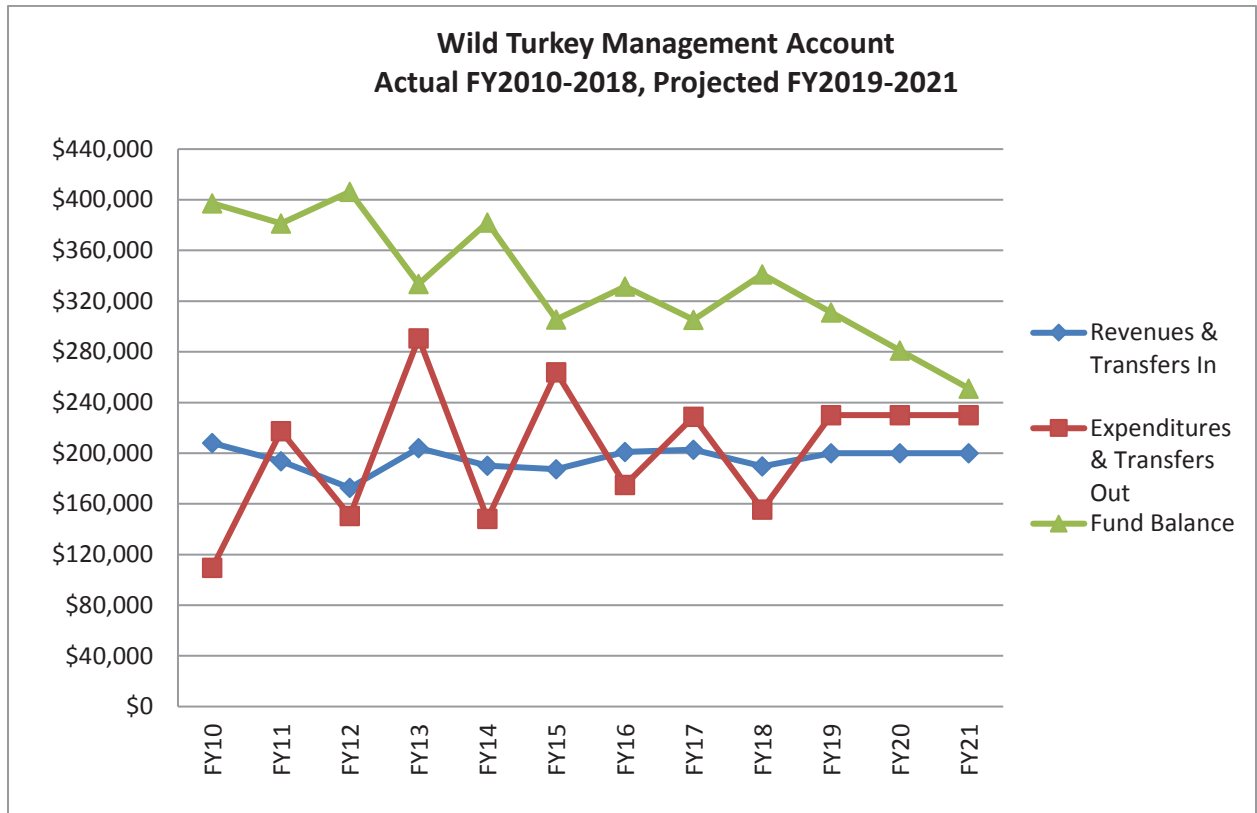
1. Costs that are not directly related to a specific parcel of land under paragraph (a), clauses (1) to (3), a specific trap and transplant project under paragraph (a), clause (4), or to specific promotional or evaluative activities under paragraph (a), clause (5); or
2. Any permanent personnel costs.

<b>Financial Review</b>	
<b>FY2018 Beginning fund balance</b>	<b>\$305,316</b>
Prior year adjustment	\$1,588
<b>Receipts</b>	
Hunting Licenses	<u>\$189,728</u>
Total receipts and transfers in	\$189,728
<b>Expenditures</b>	
Fish and Wildlife	<u>\$155,504</u>
Total expenditures	\$155,504
<b>FY2018 Ending fund balance</b>	<b><u>\$341,129</u></b>
Net change for FY2018	\$35,813

## Account Analysis

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

## Financial Summary FY2010 to FY2021



# Heritage Enhancement Account Fund 2209

*Game and Fish Fund  
Fiscal Year 2018 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)

<b>Financial Review</b>	
<b>FY2018 Beginning fund balance</b>	<b>\$3,610,359</b>
Prior year adjustment	\$121,826
<b>Receipts</b>	
Heritage Enhancement - Lottery-In-Lieu	\$14,054,260
Credit Agreement Rebate	\$3,395
Refund of Prior Period Expenditures	\$0
Agency Indirect Cost Reimbursement	<u>\$1,745</u>
Total Revenues and Transfers-in	\$14,059,401
<b>Expenditures</b>	
Fish and Wildlife	\$7,587,098
Fish and Wildlife - Shooting Sports Facilities	\$39,998
Fish and Wildlife - Lead Shot Study	\$11,598
Fish and Wildlife - Emergency Disease Outbreak	\$500,000
Ecological & Water Resources	\$1,903,056
Ecological & Water Resources - Invasive Species Grants	\$410,000
Enforcement	\$1,497,131
Forestry	<u>\$1,048,293</u>
Total Expenditures and Transfers-out	\$12,997,174
<b>FY2018 Ending fund balance</b>	<b><u>\$4,794,412</u></b>
Net change for FY2018	\$1,184,053

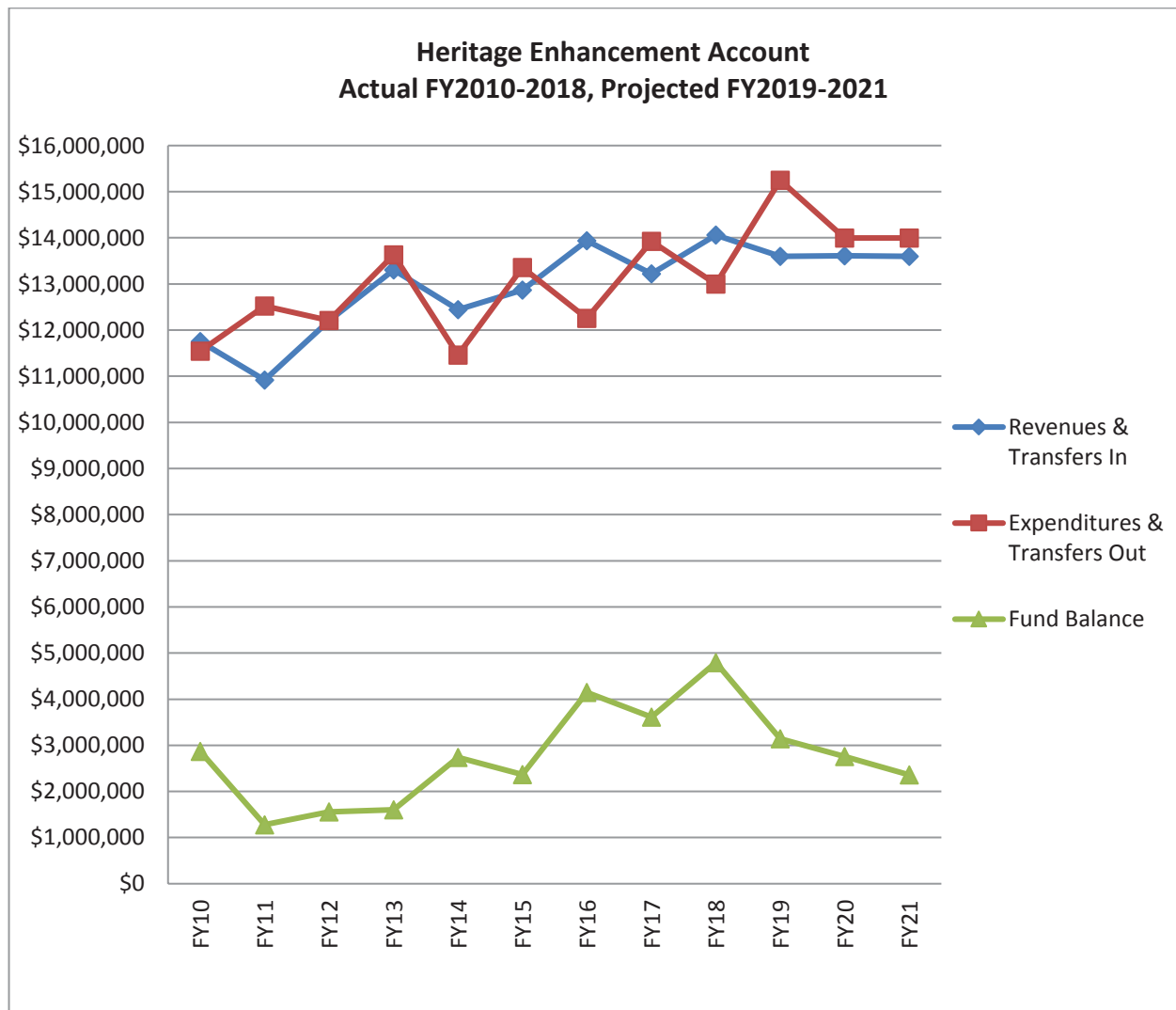
## Description of Revenues

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

## Financial Summary FY2010 to FY2021



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



# Lifetime Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund

## Fund 2210

*Game and Fish Fund*  
*Fiscal Year 2018 Annual Report*

### Creation and Purpose of the Account

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

### Sources and Uses of the Funds

Purpose - law

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

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

<b>Financial Review</b>	
<b>FY2018 Beginning fund balance</b>	<b>\$12,498,789</b>
Prior year adjustment	\$0
<b>Receipts</b>	
Fishing Licenses	\$500,980
Hunting Licenses	\$632,076
Sportsman Licenses	\$702,173
G-F Lifetime License Activations	(\$712,166)
ITC Interest Earnings	<u>\$5,174</u>
Total Revenues and Transfers-in	\$1,128,237
<b>Expenditures</b>	
Total Expenditures and Transfers-out	\$0
<b>FY2018 Ending fund balance</b>	<b><u>\$13,627,026</u></b>
Net change for FY2018	\$1,128,237

### Description of Revenues

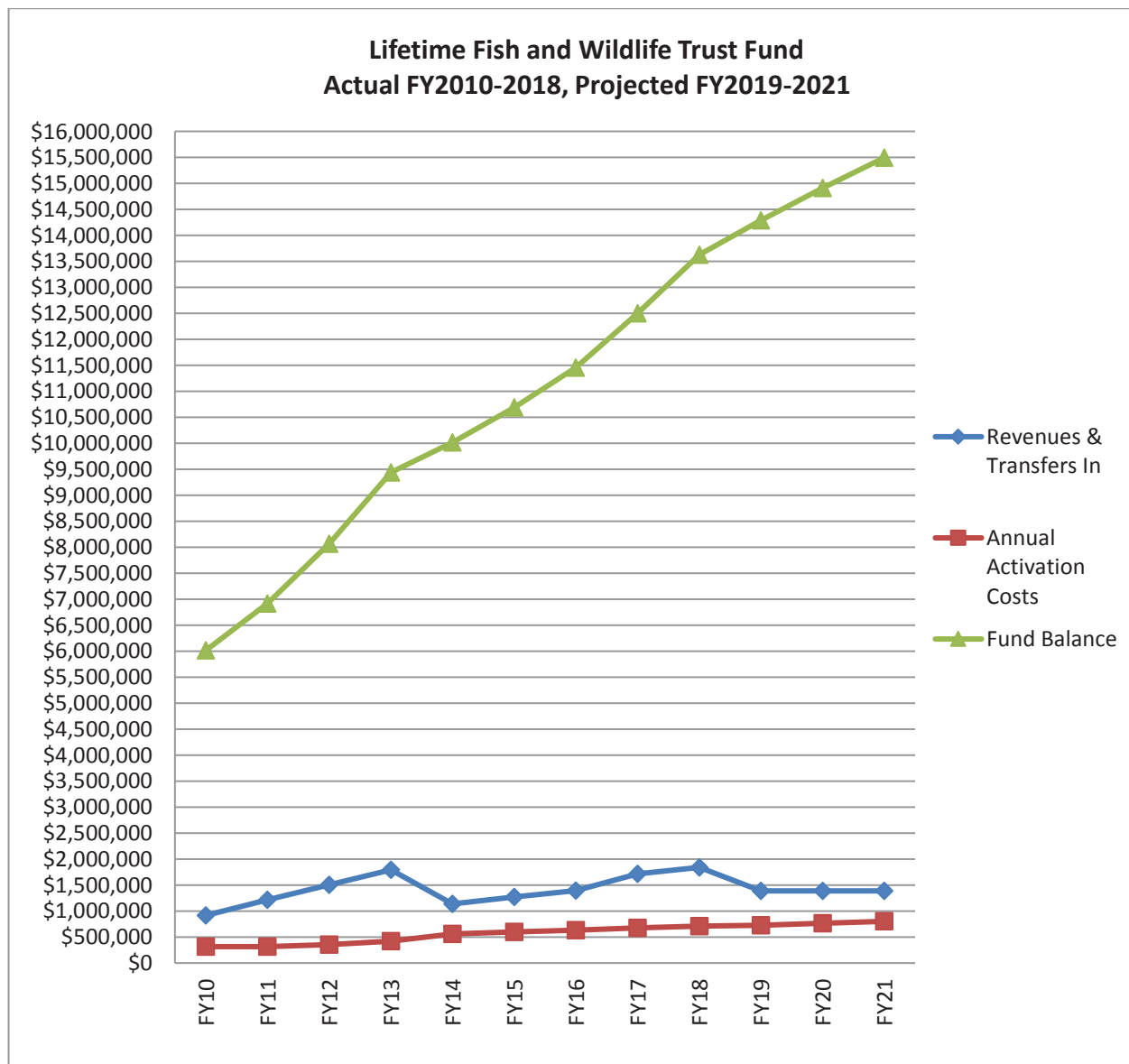
- 1) **Sales of Lifetime Licenses** – Hunting, fishing, small game, and sports.
- 2) **G&F Lifetime License Activations** – Deposit correction for total amount of activations for the license year (number of activations multiplied by current license prices). Funds are transferred from the Lifetime Fish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

## Account Analysis

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

The DNR was awarded a recruitment, retention, reactivation (R3) grant by the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation to implement promotional efforts to increase lifetime fishing license sales. There was a bump in sales due to this effort. For more information see the Outreach section of this report.

## Financial Summary FY2010 to FY2021



# Walleye Stamp Account

## Fund 2211

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*Game and Fish Fund*  
*Fiscal Year 2018 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**

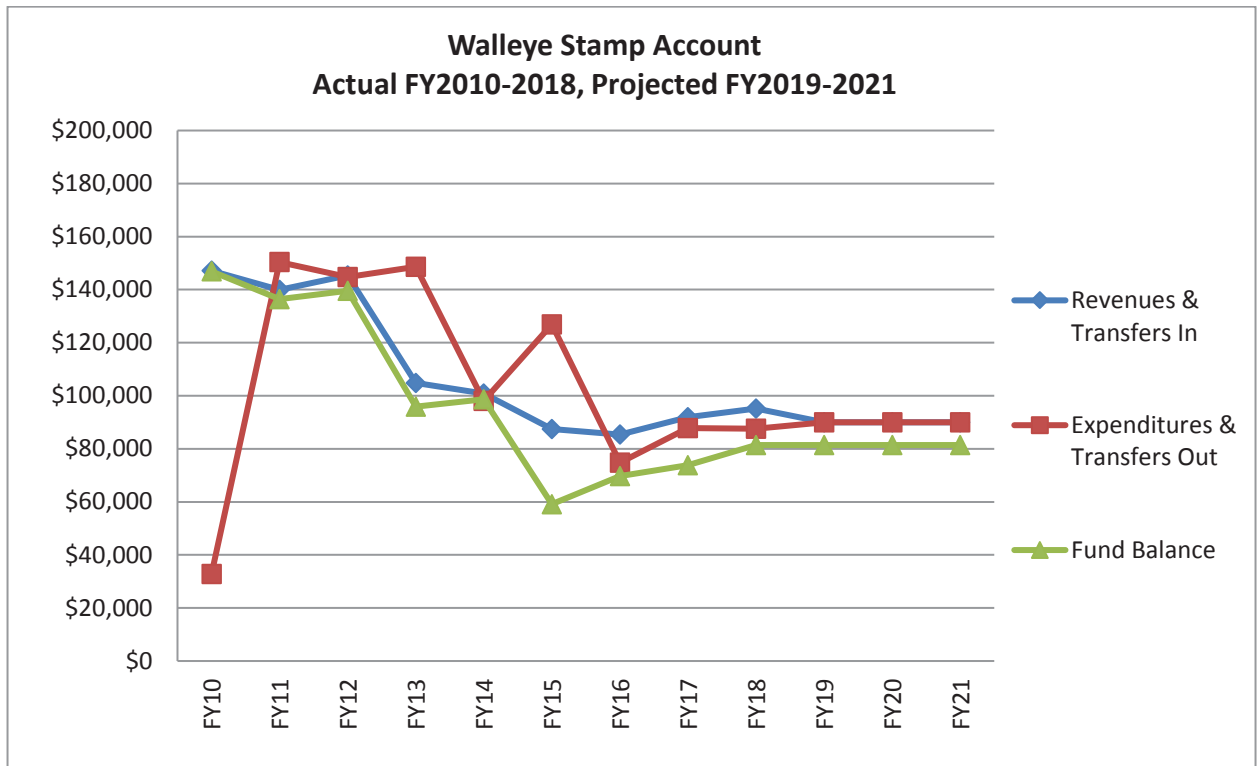
Revenue from walleye stamps must be credited to the walleye stamp account and is appropriated to the commissioner only for stocking walleyes purchased from the private sector in waters of the state.  
(M.S. 97A.075, Subd. 6)

<b>Financial Review</b>	
<b>FY2018 Beginning fund balance</b>	<b>\$73,764</b>
Prior year adjustment	\$0
<b>Receipts</b>	
Walleye Stamp	<u>\$95,208</u>
Total receipts and transfers in	\$95,208
<b>Expenditures</b>	
Fish and Wildlife	<u>\$87,531</u>
Total expenditures	\$87,531
<b>FY2018 Ending fund balance</b>	<b><u>\$81,441</u></b>
Net change for FY2018	\$7,677

### **Account Analysis**

There has been an increase in sales the last 2 years after several years of decline. Expenditures will be managed to prevent the balance from going negative.

## Financial Summary FY2010 to FY2021



# Peace Officer Training Account Fund 2212

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*Game and Fish Fund  
Fiscal Year 2018 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**

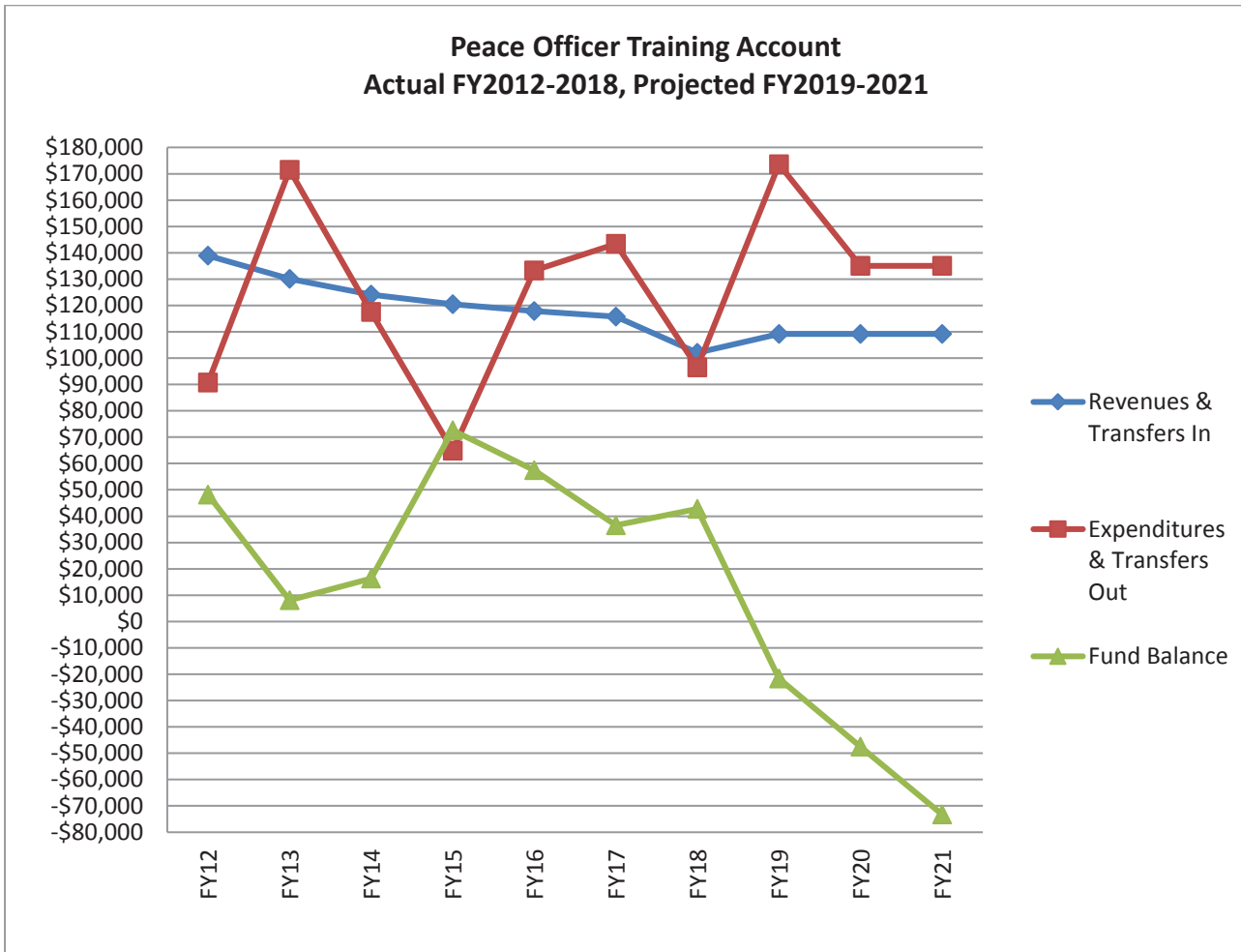
1% of the revenue from surcharges assessed to criminal and traffic offenders are deposited in the account. Money in the peace officer training account may only be spent by for peace officer training for enforcement officers of the Department of Natural Resources.

<b>Financial Review</b>	
<b>FY2018 Beginning fund balance</b>	<b>\$36,577</b>
Prior year adjustment	\$527
<b>Receipts</b>	
General K/T Surcharge	\$102,052
Credit Agreement Rebate	<u>\$3</u>
Total receipts and transfers in	\$102,055
<b>Expenditures</b>	
Enforcement	<u>\$96,424</u>
Total expenditures	\$96,424
<b>FY2018 Ending fund balance</b>	<b><u>\$42,735</u></b>
Net change for FY2018	\$6,158

## **Account Analysis**

Revenues have been in decline since the inception of the account. This account is appropriated by the legislature. Currently the annual appropriation is \$135,000 per year. Revenues in fiscal year 2018 were only \$102,055 and are not expected to increase in future years. Enforcement will manage their expenses to prevent the account from going negative.

## Financial Summary FY2012 to FY2021



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

# Wolf Management and Monitoring Account Fund 2213

*Game and Fish Fund  
Fiscal Year 2018 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 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014, due to a federal court ruling related to the recovery status of the Great Lakes region wolf population.

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

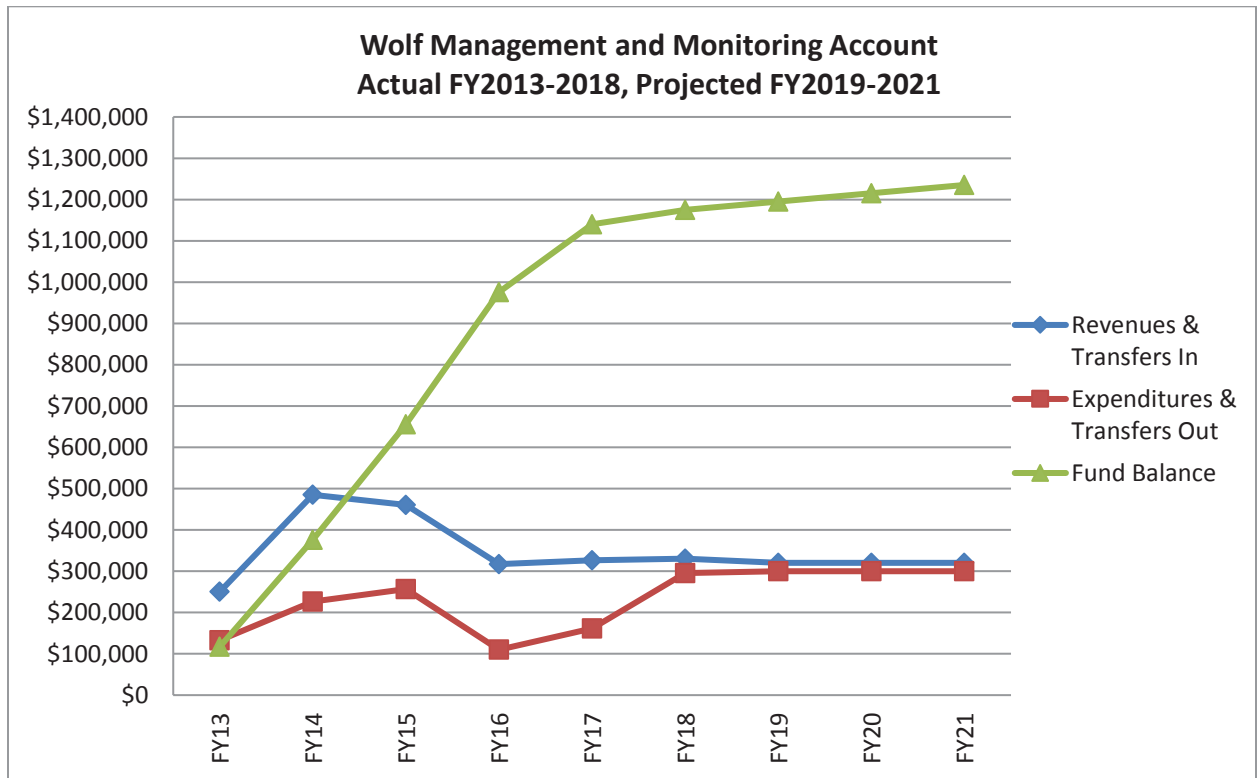
Note: The amendment to subdivision 1 by Laws 2017, chapter 93, article 2, section 70 (removal of \$.50 from deer licenses), is effective July 1 of the year following the year the wolf is delisted under the federal Endangered Species Act. Laws 2017, chapter 93, article 2, section 70, the effective date.

<b>Financial Review</b>	
<b>FY2018 Beginning fund balance</b>	<b>\$1,140,367</b>
Prior year adjustment	\$0
<b>Receipts</b>	
Wolf Hunting and Trapping Licenses	\$0
Wolf Allocation	<u>\$330,391</u>
Total receipts and transfers in	\$330,391
<b>Expenditures</b>	
Fish and Wildlife	<u>\$295,546</u>
Total expenditures	\$295,546
<b>FY2018 Ending fund balance</b>	<b><u>\$1,175,211</u></b>
Net change for FY2018	\$34,845

## Account Analysis

Wolf account revenues declined with the loss of wolf license application fees and license sales. The account's current source of revenue is \$.50 from each deer license. The fund balance is projected to increase through FY2021. Wolves are a federally managed animal. While listed, the state has committed to match \$110,000 USDA federal wolf damage control program with prior Governor Administration support. This was a short-term solution to be revisited each year.

## Financial Summary FY2013 to FY2021





# Outcomes/Accomplishments

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## 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., and are regularly evaluated to assess effectiveness.

#### Accomplishments:

- Lake surveys and lake management plans are now instantaneously uploaded to [LakeFinder](#) – making the information available to the public much sooner than had been done previously.
- Reviewed and issued 338 fishing tournament permits. Also facilitated discussions regarding the rapidly growing high school fishing leagues and how those will be managed looking forward.
- Conducted 8 angler creel surveys on our large lakes to provide critical data angling pressure, species targeted, and fishing quality that inform user-based management decisions.
- Completed 7 management evaluations that answer questions that cannot be addressed with creel surveys, such as impacts of regulations on population size structure, comparison of fish strain performance, and new approaches to fish production.
- Completed 302 standard lake surveys, 476 targeted lake survey, 121 stream surveys, 11 large lake surveys, and 7 winter fish house surveys. These surveys provide the foundation for the development of lake and stream management plans.
- Given the extended ice season in FY18, there were 217 dissolved oxygen surveys completed – a 339% increase from FY17. Although we experienced one of the latest ice-outs in recorded history in FY18, fish kills were scattered and mild, likely due to limited snow cover on most lakes.
- Reviewed and updated 322 lake and stream management plans that provide interpretations of survey results, report on the outcomes of ongoing management actions, identify habitat protection and restoration needs, and provide strategic approaches to fish community management in an effort to sustain and improve lake health and fishing quality.
- Collectively reviewed and issued more than 1,200 licenses as part of our Aquatic Commercial Programs, including commercial fish harvest, aquaculture, minnow dealers, turtle sellers, and Lake Superior fishing guides. Commercial fishing continues to maintain its place in Minnesota, helping to keep some fish communities in balance and contributing to the state's economy.
- In FY2018, the Fisheries Pathology Laboratory completed the following assessment and diagnostic services:
  - Tested 6,974 specimens to help staff maintain healthy fish in our state and private hatchery systems.
  - Tested 12,649 specimens for Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia to prevent transfer of this disease among water bodies.
  - Reviewed more than 350 live fish transportation permits to help prevent the spread of pathogens.
  - Collaborated on the investigations of Koi Herpes Virus cases in Minnesota.
  - Participated in 20 fish kill investigations.

- Implemented new possession and length limits for northern pike tailored to geographic zones following an extensive evaluation of northern pike populations across the state that resulted in landmark recommendations on changes to statewide northern pike regulations.
- Special Regulations for Walleye were evaluated on Leech, Lake of the Woods and Upper Red Lake. The evaluation included analyses of annual fish population assessment data and current harvest with respect to specific walleye population goals and objectives identified in the Lake Management Plan for each lake. Outcomes of this evaluation resulted in proposed regulation changes to be implemented in FY19. The proposals included:
  - Lake of the Woods (tighten regulations)
    - Winter season - reduce aggregate bag limit of Walleye and Sauger from 8 to 6, of which only 4 may be Walleye (19.5-28" protected slot with only one Walleye over 28 inches.
    - Spring season (March 1 –April 14) – change from a 2 fish Walleye bag limit with a maximum size of 19.5 inches to a catch and release only season)
  - Upper Red Lake (relax regulation)
    - Winter season - 4 Walleye bag with only one fish > 17 inches
    - Summer season – 4 Walleye bag with only one fish > 20 inches
  - Leech Lake (relax regulation)
    - Drop the protected slot of 20-26 inches with only one fish over 26 inches (4 fish bag)
    - Implement a one fish over 20 inch size restriction, retain the 4 Walleye bag

## 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 19 trout stream easements totaling 9.8 miles of shoreline and 215.5 acres of riparian lands that will provide enhanced access to trout fisheries.
- Purchased four fee-title tracts totaling 2.0 miles of shoreline and 107.1 acres for Aquatic Management Areas that provide additional recreational access and protection of aquatic resources.
- Reviewed and issued 5,277 aquatic plant management permits, an increase of 595 permits compared with FY17. The permit process ensures that removal of native aquatic vegetation enhances recreational opportunities while not negatively impacting fishery resources.
- Developed habitat on two coldwater streams, benefitting 13.6 miles of stream. These projects include placing structures such as wood or rock into a stream, and bank stabilization or channel modification to restore or enhance habitat for various trout species. Enhanced trout habitat contributes to more healthy and abundant fish populations.
- Maintained habitat on 26 coldwater streams, benefitting 199 miles of stream. These project are intended to sustain existing high quality trout habitat by removing beaver dams and maintaining healthy stream bank vegetation through plantings, protection, and removal of invasive plants.

- Developed habitat on four warmwater streams, benefitting 1,190 acres of habitat. Projects restored backwater habitats on the Mississippi River, and constructed a riffle on the Minnesota River, and modifying a lake outlet dam to allow fish passage.
- Maintained habitat on three warmwater streams. Projects added rock to modified dams, maintaining fish passage to 73 stream miles and 2,686 lake acres of habitat.
- The shoreland habitat grant program was ended in FY2016 because local SWCDs and Watershed Districts have developed the capacity of run their own programs. For FY2018 funds previously used for that purpose were used for Fisheries stream and lake habitat projects and AMA maintenance (7 projects including shoreline restoration, culvert replacement, riparian plantings, stream enhancement, access road repair, trash removal, parking lots), boundary surveys (21 completed) and enhancement projects (33 AMAs and 1,577 acres, using a mix of LSOHC and Game and Fish funding).
- Completed an update to the designated trout list, continuing a proposal began in FY2016 to add two lakes and portions of 19 streams totaling 54 miles, and adding additional short segments of 29 currently designated trout streams to the list. These segments were missed when the streams were originally designated. The proposal also includes removing one lake and 41 streams from the designated trout list.

### 3. Culture and Stocking

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

Accomplishments:

- Area Managers used the Minnesota Walleye Stocking Evaluation Workbook (WAESTOCK) to conduct lake-specific analyses of walleye catch per unit effort (CPE), recruitment (year-class strength), and growth in combination with yellow perch and northern pike CPE to determine which of those lakes benefited from the increased stocking conducted as part of the former Accelerated Walleye Program, and which did not.
  - In most lakes, walleye recruitment remained unchanged (52% of lakes) or declined (20% of lakes), despite increased fingerling stocking.
  - Increased recruitment was observed in only 17% of the lakes, whereas 11% of the lakes required additional surveys for proper assessment.
  - Changes in walleye catch rates followed a similar pattern, where 21% of the lakes experienced an increase in walleye CPE, 51% remained unchanged, and 19% declined.
  - The results of the WAESTOCK analysis was then used by the Area Managers to determine whether the current stocking plans should be retained or changed to levels thought to better maximize sustainable recruitment (given observed trends and conditions in the lakes). Following this review, the management decisions below have been implemented:
    - Elevated fingerling stocking density will be continued on 70 lakes (28%),
    - Continued until additional surveys are completed on 45 lakes (18%),
    - Stocking density or frequency will be increased on 10 lakes (4%),
    - Stocking density or frequency will be reduced on 85 lakes (33%),
    - Stocking will be converted to fry on 36 lakes (14%), and
    - Walleye stocking will be discontinued on eight lakes (3%).
- More than 218 million fish in 985 public waters of the state were stocked in FY18. These stocking efforts certainly contribute to the significant economic benefit recreational fishing brings to Minnesota.

- Four species and one hybrid strain of trout were stocked into 107 lakes and 53 streams, including (numbers are approximate) 552,000 rainbow trout, 416,000 brown trout, 15,000 brook trout, 60,000 lake trout, and 86,000 splake (lake trout – brook trout hybrids).
- Twelve species of cool and warm water fish were stocked (fry and fingerlings combined) into 818 lakes and 7 rivers, including (numbers are approximate) nearly 2.1 million walleye, 967,000 northern pike, 3,163 bluegill, and 53,000 muskellunge.
- The Fishing in the Neighborhood (FiN) program also stocked approximately 600 bluegills, 1,377,000 walleye fry, 750 walleye fingerlings and adults, 60 largemouth bass, 16,500 channel catfish, 2,700 yellow perch, 14,000 white bass, 30 black crappie, and 15 pumpkinseed sunfish into 33 lakes within the 7-county metropolitan area to increase angling opportunities and public awareness of how citizens can become better stewards of the urban environment.
- Purchased a total of 40,000 pounds of walleye from private fish farmers, of which 4,095 pounds were purchased with walleye stamp funds and stocked into five lakes in the Grand Rapids area.
- Implemented a more than 10-year assessment of walleye stocking strategies as part of the Accelerated Walleye Program which reduced walleye fingerling stocking by 17% to improve walleye stocking efficiencies and effectiveness.
- Ceased Kamloops strain rainbow trout stocking in Lake Superior due to program cost and genetic introgression with other rainbow trout in Lake Superior. In place of Kamloops, implemented a clipped Steelhead strain rainbow trout stocking program in Lake Superior to ensure that rainbow trout angling opportunities continue to exist.
- Evaluated several populations in attempts to identify a “heritage” Brook Trout population that could be used as a source for brood stock. Stringent disease-testing results have thus far inhibited our ability to bring fish from any potentially native brook trout stocks into our hatcheries. A work group of staff have been reviewing those testing criteria and looking at other options.

#### **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:

- Completed the legislative process for substantive northern pike management regulations state-wide. The NOP Zone-based regulations were rolled out as part of a substantial outreach effort to inform anglers and resort owners about the changes. This effort included public meetings, press releases, use of social media, and individual meetings with various groups.
- Mille Lacs Lake public information and engagement: Facilitated seven in-person meetings of the Mille Lacs Fisheries Advisory Committee to engage stakeholders and obtain feedback on various management strategies and informed Mille Lacs Lake Fisheries Advisory Committee via email and conference call prior to news releases being published.
- Notified the public of special regulations through news releases, web page updates, and brochures distributed to resorts and businesses around the lake.
- Completed expedited permanent rules on northern pike possession limits.
- Completed expedited emergency rules regarding Mille Lacs and Upper Red lakes.

- Provided educational tours and hands-on learning experiences to more than 2,200 people at fish hatcheries around the state.
- Collaborated with Division of Ecological & Water Resources to complete a public input process with minnow dealers operating in infested waters, finalized a report entitled “Minnow Harvest in Waters Listed as Infested with AIS,” and implemented several of the report’s recommendations.
- Completed 5 public meetings in southeast Minnesota to gather public input about MN-WI border waters recreational fishing regulations. Attendance was light, with approximately 90 people attending in total. However, an additional 250+ comments were also received as a result of the on-line comments outreach effort.
- Via a contract with the University of Minnesota, we conducted a human-dimensions survey to receive input from anglers regarding potential options for future walleye and panfish regulations, as well as to secure information about fishing priorities, needs, and desires of anglers.
- West Metro Fishing in Neighborhoods (FiN) staff participated and/or organized 41 Fishing/Aquatic Education Events at 11 different lakes for 2,803 participants from Hennepin, Carver, and Scott counties.
- The Section of Fisheries has been very active conducting Outreach at the Minnesota State Fair. In FY18, 14 fisheries professionals staffed the DNR Information Booth for a total of 156 hours, 2 staff were available for Invasive Carp Outreach for 112 hours, and 19 staff contributed >300 hours setting up, monitoring, and cleaning up the Fish Tanks and Display Area. In total, 35 staff were active at the state fair for more than 568 hours – providing important interactions with thousands of people seeking to learn more about fish and fishing in the state of Minnesota.

## 5. Planning and Coordination

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

### Accomplishments:

- Section of Fisheries staff completed 330 lake and 20 stream management plans.
- Completed two comprehensive lake vegetation management plans on public waters and contributed habitat management expertise on more than 100 additional plans.
- Engaged a stakeholder input group to develop a comprehensive fisheries management plan for Lake of the Woods.
- Initiated an interagency review of the fish contaminants program. The deadline for this process is December 2018.
- Completed full overhaul of cost-coding guide that had not been done in nearly 10 years. This effort should help facilitate improved accuracy in how staff code their hours.
- Reconvened work group to evaluate creel program options. The creel program (actual software-based creel management program) has been in place for many years and does not provide some calculations desired by field staff. Evaluation of the Nebraska Creel Model did not meet our criteria either – and the decision was made to develop a new creel model in FY19.
- Adopted new staffing plan to stay within anticipated funding levels. The “base-4” staffing plan called for each Area Office to include an Area Supervisor, Assistant Area Supervisor, and 2 additional staff made of any combination of Specialist and Technicians. Offices that manage a designated large lake will also maintain a large lake specialist and those offices that have substantial hatchery duties will maintain a hatchery specialist.

- Prepared numerous documents and provided information to legislators regarding bonding funds needed to complete repairs and upgrades at Lanesboro Fish Hatchery. The bonding bill that was approved included \$5 million for the Lanesboro Hatchery.
- Completed the Lake Vermilion Management Plan, including changes to muskie and walleye stocking protocols and a directive to evaluate northern pike regulations.

Fish Management Expenditures for FY2018								
(\$ in thousands)								
Fisheries Fund	Habitat Mgmt	Population Mgmt	Culture & Stocking	Planning & Coord	Educ & Outreach	Division Services	Dept Services	Fund Total
2200	3,219.2	11,141.7	2,674.0	5,541.0	1,387.7	2,012.9	3,039.8	29,016.3
2204	260.9	190.4	611.4					1,062.7
2209	138.0	192.4	3,251.0	1.7			354.5	3,937.6
2211			87.5					87.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,618.1</b>	<b>11,524.5</b>	<b>6,623.9</b>	<b>5,542.7</b>	<b>1,387.7</b>	<b>2,012.9</b>	<b>3,394.3</b>	<b>34,104.1</b>

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

## Wildlife Management

### 1. Wildlife – Population Management

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

#### A. Big Game Activities

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

Accomplishments:

- Fall of 2017 was the first time mandatory testing for CWD was implemented. The Wildlife Health Program coordinated mobilization of the entire Section of Wildlife to target surveillance in high risk areas associated with CWD positive deer farms and the CWD Management Zone (Deer Permit Area 603). A total of 13,094 wild deer were sampled in fall 2017. Six additional deer tested positive for CWD and all were adult males and found within the CWD Management Zone (DPA 603). To date, no CWD positive wild deer have been detected outside of DPA 603.
- Managed the 2017 deer, elk, and bear hunts to provide hunting opportunities and biological benefit.
- Completed public engagement in the development of the Minnesota White-tailed Deer Management Plan, the State’s first statewide deer plan. Engagement included nearly monthly meetings of the Deer Management Plan Advisory Committee, dozens of open houses, tribal input, and over 1000 public comments in 2018.



- Continued implementation of the Moose Management and Research Plan to better understand, mitigate and prevent the decline of the moose population.
  - Final results show that annual survival rates for 2013-2017 were 81%, 88%, 85%, 87% and 86% respectively. The overall 5-year average for non-hunting mortality was 14.4%, which is slightly lower than the 21% previously reported in Minnesota and slightly higher than the 8-12% reported in other North American moose populations.
  - Additional results were reported in the final report for the study titled, “Causes of Non-Hunting Mortality of Adult Moose in Minnesota, 2013-2017”.
  - Our calf helicopter surveys during late March 2017 (just prior to the new calving season) documented a 0.37 calf:cow ratio (e.g. survival of calves to 1 year of age), comparable to the 12-year average since 2005 (0.35). Results from ongoing moose research continue to suggest a complex system with much annual variation in monitored factors.
  - Collaboration continues with other tribal and federal partners for making moose management recommendations.
  - Moose management was identified as the big game priority within primary moose range in the new Minnesota White-tailed Deer Management Plan (2019-2028).
- Completed the administrative rules for big game and revised the hunting synopsis to provide and communicate about big game hunting opportunities.
- Continued an evaluation of hunter and landowner surveys regarding deer population management for 60 permit areas in the state to better understand social aspects of deer populations to apply to population and hunt management.
- Continued implementation of the 2016-2019 intermediate Strategic Elk Management Plan to guide elk population management and recreational opportunity through 2019. Implemented management strategies to stabilize current populations per 2016 legislative statute and intermediate Strategic Elk Management Plan.
- Continued implementation of recommendations contained in the Office of the Legislative Auditor’s audit of the Deer Management Program, with a priority on work to improve deer population monitoring (e.g., development and testing of a statewide bowhunter observation survey and other research projects).

**B. Wild Turkey Activities**

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

Accomplishments:

- Managed spring and fall turkey seasons, including the completion of the 2017 Harvest Report.
- Supported habitat projects that benefit wild turkeys, including enhancing nesting cover, winter food development, and forest stand improvement.

**C. Waterfowl Activities**

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

Accomplishments:

- Breeding ground waterfowl population surveys conducted 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.
- New research being initiated to evaluate wetland habitat management techniques, mallard movements, and nest cavity availability for forest waterfowl.
- Waterfowl banding activities for ducks (4,000+ banded) and geese (3,000+ banded) to assess harvest rates and survival rates
- Waterfowl hunter survey completed to assess hunter satisfaction, preferences, and demographics
- Review of waterfowl population survey completed

#### ***D. Wildlife Registration Activities***

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

Accomplishments:

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

#### ***E. Other Activities***

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

Accomplishments:

- Worked with stakeholders and area wildlife managers to address concerns about firearms use on the Hampton Woods and Sandstone Wildlife Management Areas while continuing to provide as much hunting opportunity as possible at both locations.
- Worked with the Wildlife Health Program to provide additional information on Chronic Wasting Disease response in the 2018 Hunting and Trapping Regulations Handbook. This year's edition contains the addresses of all CWD sampling stations, mapped locations and instructions for complying with deer sampling requirements.
- Worked with the Division of Enforcement to clarify administrative rules on the use of bonus permits for taking antlerless deer.
- Worked with GIS/MNIT staff to improve permit area maps provided to deer, turkey and bear hunters so that each shows consistent landmarks, such as towns, cities, major roads and waterways.
- Continued to collect detailed information on non-target trapping incidents involving domestic animals and worked with stakeholders to develop public information aimed at minimizing the occurrence of these incidents.
- Maintained special regulations that allow opportunities for limited hunting, trapping, wild ricing or bird watching on 16 state game refuges. In total, there are 48 state game refuges with similar opportunities.



## **2. Wildlife – Habitat Management**

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

### **A. Grassland Habitat Management Activity**

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

Accomplishments:

- Continued refinement of pheasant habitat complexes.
- 5,293 acres of Noxious Weed Control on 286 WMAs as required by law.
- 1,774 acres of food development on 229 plots to provide winter food resources for wildlife.
- 20,343 acres in 514 Cooperative Farming Agreements to provide winter food and cover, and to enhance habitat for wildlife.
- 20,995 acres in 252 prescribed burns to enhance the quality of grassland habitats for wildlife.
- 30 acres of woody cover development on 15 plantings to provide winter cover for wildlife.
- 3,432 acres of Prairie/Grassland Establishment on 141 WMAs to provide habitat for grassland wildlife.
- 5,628 acres of Woody vegetation Removal on 309 WMAs to enhance the quality of grassland habitats for wildlife.
- 8,313 acres of conservation grazing on 30 WMAs to enhance the quality of grassland habitats for wildlife.
- 1,656 acres of other grassland management activities on 75 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:

- 10,329 acres in 28 brushland prescribed burns to enhance the quality of brushland habitats for wildlife.
- 2,818 acres of brushland management on 50 Sites to enhance the quality of brushland habitats for wildlife.
- 541 acres in 7 Forest prescribed burns to enhance the quality of forest habitats for wildlife.
- 471 acres of forest opening management on 363 openings to enhance forest habitat for wildlife that thrive on small forest openings.
- 5,254 acres of Forest Stand Improvements on 217 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:

- 154,835 acres of Wetland Habitat Maintenance on 531 basins to enhance wetland habitat for wildlife.
- 1,679 Nest Structures Maintained on 401 basins to provide nesting habitat for wetland wildlife.
- 419 acres of Wetland Restored on 185 basins to provide new habitat for wetland dependent wildlife.
- 17,912 acres of Wetlands impacted by Wetland Water Control work on 60 basins to enable wetland habitat enhancement for wildlife through water level manipulation.
- 15,184 acres of Wetland Enhancements on 116 basins to enhance wetland habitat for wildlife.
- 70,914 acres on 202 wild rice lakes were actively managed to improve conditions for wild rice for the benefit of wetland wildlife that utilize wild rice stands. This includes work done through funding provided to Ducks Unlimited and by Area Wildlife staff. Additional wild rice work was done as part of the Wetland Habitat Maintenance and Wetland Enhancement work shown in the previous bullets.

### **D. Private Land Habitat Management Activity**

Private land habitat management is accomplished primarily through assistance provided by private lands specialists within the Wildlife Habitat Program. Each of the habitat teams (forest, wetland, and prairie) has a private land specialist that emphasizes their team's focus, however the prairie private land specialist remained vacant for FY2018. Primary emphasis is habitat management through coordinating with agencies and organizations which influence private lands programs; implementing strategic habitat improvement projects on private lands; and providing technical assistance to private landowners, so the DNR's contribution can be leveraged, efficient and effective. The accomplishments listed below are results where DNR contributed directly to those efforts. Coordinated efforts are tracked in hours in the Technical Guidance section. An additional \$60,000 was provided to the Farm Bill Assistance Partnership, which is a joint effort between DNR, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, Pheasants Forever (PF), Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD), the Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service that places staff in the local USDA Service Center to actively engage landowners in conservation programs that benefit wildlife.

Accomplishments:

- 1,108 acres of food plots to provide winter food for wildlife.
- 47 acres of grassland development to create new grassland habitat for wildlife.
- 911 acres of prescribed burning to enhance habitat for wildlife.
- 118 acres of wetland development to enhance habitat for wildlife.

### **E. Habitat Assessment Activity**

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

Accomplishments:

- 82,348 acres of wildlife lake assessments on 197 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.
- Assessing the value of permanently managed wildlife openings for American woodcock.

### **F. Land Acquisitions Activity**

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

Accomplishments:

- Acquired a total of 6,795 acres by gift or purchase in FY2018 to add to WMAs to provide wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities, summarized as follows:
  - 5,035 acres in the prairie zone – species benefited include ring-necked pheasant.
  - 1,320 acres in the northern forest zone - species benefited include sharp-tailed grouse.
  - 330 acres in the metro/deciduous transition zone – species benefited include waterfowl.
  - 110 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. DNR completed a 10-year Sustainable Timber Harvest Analysis for DNR-managed forest lands. 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: 6,982 hours to provide information on enhancing wildlife lake habitat.
- Forest wildlife technical guidance: 13,869 hours to improve forest wildlife habitat on non-WMA land.
- Interagency technical guidance including urban management for wildlife values: 8,990 hours.
- Private land technical guidance: 1,066 hours to improve wildlife habitat on private land.
- Nuisance animal technical guidance: 4,195 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:

- 1,707 miles of access management on 334 units to improve access to WMAs.
- 206 miles of access management on 35 units to improve access to other non-WMA public lands.
- 2,233 facilities managed on 754 units to guide users on the proper uses and to protect wildlife habitat resources on WMAs.
- 407 miles of boundary managed on 202 units to inform users of locations of WMA boundaries.
- 141 miles of boundary managed on 6 units to inform users of locations of boundaries on other non-WMA public lands.
- 58 sites on 29 WMAs managed for site/building cleanup/well sealing to enhance habitats on WMAs and to protect wildlife resource and users from contamination or other potential hazards.

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

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

Accomplishments:

- Provided electronic information and technology access to persons with disabilities in compliance with state and federal statutes. This included electronic versions of the Hunting and Trapping and Waterfowl Regulations handbooks
- Provided online access to, and issued the majority of, Other Power-Driven Motorized Devices permits issued by the Department for as part of our commitment to making the outdoors accessible to as many people as possible.
- Updated online tools to share information on deer permit areas, populations and license requirements.
- Continued commitment to using plain language in high-profile public documents, such as hunting regulations
- Participated in state and county fairs to reach non-traditional constituents that may have interest in our programs and policies, but would not normally seek out information.
- Developed brochures, news releases, and synopsis of regulations and seasons to inform the public.
- Represented the DNR at wildlife and hunting-oriented events, such as annual Game Fair, to give us opportunities to engage our traditional clientele one-on-one about our activities.

#### **4. Wildlife – Planning and Coordination**

Planning and coordination includes coordination efforts with conservation groups, area Wildlife managers, other DNR disciplines, other government agencies, and other land and water management organizations regarding the improvement of wildlife habitat, or techniques and policies to reduce wildlife damage. Many of our planning and coordination efforts are reported elsewhere in this document.

Accomplishments:

- Consistent with Top Finding #1 from the FY2015 BOC report, after the conclusion of the Office of the Legislative Auditor's completed their review of the DNR's deer management program, continued work on drafting Minnesota's first statewide deer management plan. See section 1. A. Big Game Activities above for additional information.
- Forest habitat planning continues to be a huge interagency effort and an opportunity for Wildlife staff to influence forest management to benefit wildlife. See section 2. G. Technical Guidance Activity for accomplishments. Significant staff time was spent on High Conservation Value Forests, Lowland Conifer Old Growth, and the Sustainable Timber Harvest Analysis.
- Wildlife lake technical guidance continues to be an opportunity for Wildlife staff to influence lake management within and outside the agency to benefit shallow lake dependent wildlife. See section 2.G. Technical Guidance Activity for accomplishments.
- Continued implementation of the Elk Plan as reported in section 1. A. Big Game Activities above.
- Continued implementation of the Moose Management and Research Plan as reported in section 1. A. Big Game Activities above.
- Consistent with Top Finding #3 from the FY2015 BOC report, DNR Wildlife continued development of Major Unit plans. During FY1018, work continued on management plan updates for two WMA major units: Whitewater and Thief Lake. The Thief Lake Wildlife Management Area Master Plan, 2017-2027 has been completed, up to and including Commissioner's approval. It is being implemented and will guide management into the future.

<b>Wildlife Management Expenditures for FY2018</b>							
<i>(\$ in thousands)</i>							
<b>Wildlife Fund</b>	<b>Habitat Mgmt</b>	<b>Population Mgmt</b>	<b>Planning &amp; Coord</b>	<b>Educ &amp; Outreach</b>	<b>Division Services</b>	<b>Dept Services</b>	<b>Fund Total</b>
2200	10,358.4	6,318.6	1,987.7	1,285.2	1,139.4	3,039.8	24,129.2
2201	341.0	734.9			0.9		1,076.8
2202	920.3	401.8	0.1		114.2		1,436.4
2203	327.8	260.9					588.7
2205	362.7	24.9	0.2				387.9
2206	31.3						31.3
2207	781.7						781.7
2208	155.5						155.5
2209	2,149.8	1,272.4	43.0	20.0	10.5	354.5	3,850.1
2213	-4.2	299.7					295.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,424.4</b>	<b>9,313.3</b>	<b>2,031.0</b>	<b>1,305.2</b>	<b>1,264.9</b>	<b>3,394.3</b>	<b>32,733.1</b>

\* Decrease in Division Services from prior years is a result of redefining the category to align with Agency definition.

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## Fish and Wildlife – Outreach

### 1. Outreach - Marketing

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

The marketing coordinator is also working in conjunction with the project for the Electronic Licensing System. Serving as a liaison for specifications to increase customer centered marketing logistics. These may include automated email reminders, customer friendly online purchasing ‘carts’ of past purchases and encouraging upsells of other license options.

#### **A. Direct email promotion of license seasons**

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

Accomplishments:

- Seasonal direct emails (no cost) were sent through our Electronic Licenses System vendor to past licensed hunters and anglers encouraging them to purchase a license for the new license year. Emails for this FY include seasonal themes of: spring turkey hunting, fishing, and deer hunting.
- A grant was applied for and awarded to the Division by Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation (RBFF). RBFF is a national, nonprofit organization whose mission is to increase participation in partnership with industry and government. The grant was used to implement and evaluate the effectiveness of promotional efforts aimed at increasing angler retention through the sale of lifetime fishing licenses. The promotion did create an increase in lifetime licenses sold netting \$11,441 in license sales during April – June 2018.

#### **B. Promotion of license seasons- non-direct**

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

Accomplishments:

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

### **C. Formal Agreements with Explore MN Tourism**

Collaborated with external partners to promote hunting and fishing to target audiences in and outside Minnesota's borders. MN DNR continued to formally partner with Explore Minnesota Tourism for creating impactful hunting and fishing content written by outdoor writers on the abundant hunting and fishing resources and opportunities across the state of Minnesota. Efforts included turkey and trout fishing, showcasing Minnesota's vast public access and nationally renowned opportunity which is shared through a story writing format that highlights the experience and the resources. These stories are used as advertorials through online media and targeted emails reaching across the states of WI, ND, and IA (states with most non-resident MN sales). This year also included two video advertisements on spring turkey and trout fishing created by Ron Schara productions shown on their television show Backroads with Ron and Raven.

Accomplishments:

- A cooperative agreement with explore MN tourism continued to promote efforts through out-of-home media outlets outside of Minnesota's borders. Target states include primarily WI, IA, and ND where the majority of non-resident license purchasers are from.
- Utilized tourism outlets for promoting spring turkey and trout fishing in the state of Minnesota.
- Fishing partnership efforts included promotional efforts on an Explore Minnesota tourism fishing/hunting web landing page; native (content story articles) advertising in out-of-state regional markets; targeted emails to fishing audiences; and online advertising banners on fishing web sites; trout fishing television advertisement shown on Backroads with Ron and Raven.
- Hunting partnership included promotional efforts on Explore Minnesota tourism hunting/fishing web landing pages; advertisement in regional print magazines Midwest Hunting & Fishing; targeted emails to hunting audiences; and online target audience advertising banners on hunting sites; spring turkey hunting television ad shown on Backroads with Ron and Raven.

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

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

Accomplishments:

- Formal partnerships continue for licensed hunters and anglers with Twins baseball for discount tickets, and a hat giveaway.

## **2. Outreach – Hunter/Shooter Recruitment and Retention**

### **A. National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP)**

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



Accomplishments:

- Recruited 13 new programs to NASP, NASP 3-D Archery and Explore Bowhunting that break down as follows:
  - 4 new schools enrolled in NASP program, 479 new students introduced to basic archery through the NASP Program.
  - 8 new teachers trained as NASP Basic Archery Instructors
  - During the 2017 School year the MN DNR NASP Program began using the NASP National reporting system for all current Basic Archery Instructors to capture their student numbers. Using this new reporting system we found 45,752 students per school year as being the current yearly total reached as reported by 1024 Instructors. We found a slight decrease in the number of Basic Archery Instructor teaching the class. It is presumed that some of those instructors had retired out of the program or moved on to different job classifications within their schools. There is no notification from those teacher as to why or when they had left the program. Going forward the program will only post numbers from known active programs using the annual NASP Reporting System.
- 4 new Explore Bowhunting programs started with assistance matching grant program
  - 8 new Explore Bowhunting Instructors trained
- 5 new 3-D Archery Grants awarded to start the 3-D Shooting Program
  - 350 youth shot at the first 3-D Archery tournament for MN NASP participants.

***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 Outdoor Recreation Adoption Model of hunter recruitment and retention. Pre/Post evaluations of adults participating in our “Learn to Hunt” programs show that 100% of the adults leave the programs with greater skills and knowledge and are better prepared to become hunters if they so choose.

Accomplishments:

- Worked closely with Backcountry Hunters and Anglers to plan and deliver an Adult Learn to Deer Hunt program for 14 new, 8 second year students, and 3 third year students.
- Provided new-to-hunting adult participants with a comprehensive introduction to hunting and participation in a mentored hunt to demonstrate their acquired skills and knowledge. We conducted pre/post student evaluations.
- Conducted 18 mentored youth and adult deer hunts that reached 333 youth.
- Conducted 6 youth mentored waterfowl hunts that reached 22 youth.
- Conducted 30 youth and adult mentored turkey hunts that reached 69 youth, 31 adults, 26 families and 3 physically challenged youth with 75 non-hunting parent/guardian participants.
- Conducted 40 youth, adult and family mentored upland bird hunts that reached 25 youth, 5 adults and 15 families on mentored hunts.

***C. Trap Shooting Range Development and Rehabilitation***

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

Accomplishments:

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



Session Laws:

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

**D. Governor's Deer and Pheasant Openers**

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

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

**A. BOW Weekend Workshops**

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

Accomplishments:

- Two workshops were held in cooperation with Environmental Learning Centers.
- Winter workshop was held at Audubon ELC with 75 women – full program.
- Fall Workshop was held at Deep Portage ELC with 62 women.
- DNR's Specialist spoke on wild rice at fall workshop.
- USFWS staff provided a talk on the Monarch project at Winter Workshop.
- BOW coordinated with volunteers to serve as program instructors, and assistants.
- Post evaluations indicate 100% of the women were motivated to continue their new found sport in hunting, fishing and/or non-consumptive sports.
- Post evaluations indicate 100% of the women at both workshops said they would take another BOW workshop based on their experience at the workshop they attended.

**B. Beyond BOW Programs**

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

Accomplishments:

- In fiscal year 2018 BOW offered 62 Beyond BOW women classes reaching 750 participants. Many of these classes are conducted with internal and external partners.
- New Fishing cooperation was made with the Minnesota Steel Headers Association. One program was designed to teach women how to fish for steelhead and trout. Due to demand two programs for 20 women were offered.
- Cooperatively work with volunteers to offer classes for women.

- Cooperatively worked with Three Rivers Park District classes for women.
- Cooperatively work with MN State Park Naturalists to offer “Women in the Parks” Series classes for the fifth year. Parks include Afton, Fort Snelling, and Whitewater State Parks.
- Cooperatively work with North Country Chapter of Safari Club International, A-1 Archery and Chilakoot Bow hunters to offer archery series & bow hunting series for women. This series consisted of 3 classes and two mentored weekend hunts. Pre/post evaluation showed growth in knowledge of bow hunting.

### **C. *Becoming an Outdoor Family Weekends & Events***

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

Accomplishments:

- BOW hosted two family weekend workshops in FY2018 cooperatively with Eagle Bluff ELC geared toward those with children ages 6 and older, 95 participants were reached.
- BOW worked cooperatively with ELC’s and Three Rivers Park to offer 46 family programs reaching 460 participants for FY18.

## **4. Outreach – Southeast Asian Outreach**

### **A. *Outreach to SE Asian Organizations and populations***

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

Accomplishments:

- Firearm Safety Trainings: total of three classes (two for Hmong students and one for Karen students) with 121 students participated, successfully passed the test and have been out hunting with a parent.
- Hunting workshops: five small workshops with 45 participants for small game and big game. Topics included license, daily limit, trespass, legal guns, tree stand and hunting public lands, such as WMAs, state forest and federal land.
- Daily phone calls and office visits: handle approximately 800 to 1,000 annual interactions including topics such as hunting and fishing information, trespass laws, maps, firearm safety problems, citation or violation ticket, gun information, season dates, early deer seasons, CWD special hunts, party hunting, legal shooting hours, and tree stands on public lands.
- Hmong Radio and TV programs: one fishing and two for small and big game and one on CWD that included rules and regulation changes, safety issues, trespass issues, daily limit, season dates, and blaze orange requirements.

## **5. Outreach – Angling Recruitment, Retention and Aquatic Education**

### **A. *MinnAqua Program***

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

The MinnAqua *Fishing: Get in the Habitat!* curriculum includes 39 lessons that help teachers and other leaders introduce youth to fishing, aquatic ecosystems, and water conservation. Lessons can be viewed at [https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/minnaqua/leadersguide/lg\\_online/index.html](https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/minnaqua/leadersguide/lg_online/index.html).

Instead of delivering public programs, the two MinnAqua specialists build capacity through partnerships with organizations that will deliver their own fishing and aquatic education programs. For example, resources previously used by Fish and Wildlife Outreach to hire and manage MinnAqua interns were shifted to support nine Naturalist Corps-MinnAqua interns who taught *I Can Fish!* programs in eight state parks during summer 2018.

#### Accomplishments:

- In calendar year 2017, 64,436 participants reached through MinnAqua, area office liaisons, partners, volunteers, and Fishing in the Neighborhood (FiN) aquatic/fishing education programs.
- 159 new educators trained, including Fisheries staff, volunteers, college students, formal and informal educators.
- In partnership with Minnesota State Parks and Trails, MinnAqua trained 17 summer interns, staff and one volunteer to teach *I Can Fish!* programs in or near state parks.
- Over 1,000 new and previously recruited youth and adult mentors attended Big Brothers Big Sisters Outdoors Buddy program events that introduced a variety of aquatic education and angling skills and included summer and ice fishing experiences. Estimated 85% returning participants with 15% new recruited youth and adult mentors.
- Coordinated youth education programming for 56 fifth-grade students in the Willmar Lakes Area as part of the 2018 Governor's Fishing Opener. Each student received ten hours of instruction (560 student-contact hours) including aquatic education lessons during two classroom visits and learning activities during the Youth Fishing Education Day event.
- Developed and produced new aquatic education materials and tools including:
  - Intern training materials specific to needs of State Parks-MinnAqua interns teaching *I Can Fish!* programs
  - Training and coordination to teach college students how to lead fishing and aquatic education lessons for youth
  - "Can I Keep It?" Fishing Regulations Activity
  - Development and purchase of educational materials for fisheries offices and other outreach locations
  - Printed and distributed 40,000 copies of the popular *Fishes of Minnesota* poster
- Conducted evaluations to help MinnAqua and partners improve programs and better meet the needs of audiences:
  - Evaluated the impact of participating in the Beginners Youth: Adult: Mentor Fly-Fishing Weekend by assessing change in knowledge and attitudes indicated by responses on the pre-learning and post-learning assessments.
  - Evaluated State Parks-MinnAqua intern program through a post-season survey that asked interns to rate their teaching competence and confidence. The survey also collected intern feedback about the quality of the professional experience and training received.
  - To make it easier to measure, interpret, and report program outputs and outcomes, Fish and Wildlife Outreach is working with other DNR divisions to plan a program-tracking database.
- In partnership with FAW Outreach in calendar year 2017 Minnesota State Parks offered 306 *I Can Fish!* programs for 9,395 participants.
- During the 2018 Beginners Youth: Adult: Mentor Fly-Fishing Weekend, 38 participants were given fly combos to use and take home for continued opportunity. These combos are normally purchased for this event.

## **6. Outreach – Communications**

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

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

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

### **A. 180+ Annual news releases**

- Releases are issued for the wildlife section, fisheries section, outreach section and license center. The majority of news releases are prepared for wildlife and fisheries.

### **B. DNR website**

#### **Hunting**

- Visitors: 1,967,730
- Pages & sections with 100,000 or more visitors: deer, hunting seasons, waterfowl, licenses, regulations, turkey

#### **Fishing**

- Visitors: 1,127,252
- Pages & sections with 100,000 or more visitors: licenses, seasons, regulations

### **C. Social media**

#### **Facebook**

##### **Minnesota Wildlife**

- Likes: 6,375
- Followers : 6,407

##### **Minnesota Fishing**

- Likes: 8,495
- Followers : 8,593

*\*Followers allow our posts to appear on their Facebook news feeds. Note that being a follower does not guarantee that our posts appear in a user's news feed. Engagement estimates of the percentage of followers who actually see a page's posts range from 2-10 percent.*

## **Twitter**

### **Minnesota Wildlife**

- Likes: 425
- Followers: 1,816

### **Minnesota Fishing**

- Likes: 424
- Followers: 2.633

*\* Followers subscribe to the tweets we issue, which means that they will see those messages in their Twitter feeds. Likes mean that a follower has liked (clicked the heart) on one or more of our Twitter posts.*

## **D. Internal Communication Guidance, Assistance and Tools**

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

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

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

### **A. Capacity-building grants**

Accomplishments:

- Closeout 12 R3 Grant Program Round One projects:
  - \$200,000 to 12 projects throughout Minnesota
    - 8,393 total participants.
- Monitor Round Two and Three of R3 Grant Program:
  - Awarded \$279,000 to 23 projects throughout Minnesota.
  - \$50,000 grant awarded to Karen Organization of Minnesota to hire a staff person to coordinate hunting and fishing outreach programs to the Karen Community during 2017 and 2018.
  - \$5,000 grant has been awarded to St. Paul Urban Ministry to provide fishing outreach programs to Hmong youth in 2017 and 2018.
- Announce, accept and evaluate applications for Round Four of R3 Grant Program, 10 projects selected for funding totaling \$150,000. Over \$500,000 in requested funds.

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

Accomplishments:

- Finalized a Charter to form a citizen advisory council to advance R3 efforts in Minnesota.
- Worked with Pheasants Forever to put a pilot program in place for a certified mentor training that would set the groundwork for a state-wide mentor network.
- Distributed the R3 Toolkit, which has been recognized nationally.

- Partnership with ExploreMinnesota.com to promote and support an inclusive web listing of MN DNR and partner hunting and fishing events across the country.

<b>Outreach Fund</b>	<b>Fishing R3 &amp; Aquatic Ed</b>	<b>Hunting R3 &amp; Wildlife Ed</b>	<b>Marketing</b>	<b>Commun- ications</b>	<b>Grants</b>	<b>Division Services</b>	<b>Dept Services</b>	<b>Fund Total</b>
2200	579.3	142.0	133.5	294.5	962.1	3.2	192.0	2,306.6
2209	25.0	203.4	66.9	20.9	12.0	0.9	21.9	351.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>604.3</b>	<b>345.4</b>	<b>200.4</b>	<b>315.4</b>	<b>974.1</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>213.9</b>	<b>2,657.6</b>

## Fish & Wildlife – License Center

### 1. Electronic Licensing System

A third-party vendor handles the day-to-day operation with additional support provided by the DNR License Center. Monthly payments to the contract vendor cover costs of terminal use, paper used to print licenses and permits, a 24-hour technical support phone line, and use of the vendor’s host computer. Nearly 2.4 million licenses, permits, stamps, passes, and license validation transactions were processed through ELS, generating \$64.4 million in revenue for the year.

### A. Hunting/Angling license sales

Accomplishments:

- Provided 1,883,171 licenses serving 1,259,716 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 approximately 100,000 lottery applications worksheets for interested parties and sent winner notices to parties selected so they can proceed with necessary requirements. Decrease in lottery applications is attributed to no wolf or moose hunts, and deer designation changes.
- 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

<b>Type</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
Angling	1,187,850	1,175,172	1,198,760	1,086,392	1,094,095	1,158,156	1,181,336	1,143,699	1,144,788	1,123,042
Deer	626,931	618,362	608,093	619,081	622,274	621,627	596,693	610,566	608,341	594,435
Small Game	289,463	279,329	302,915	283,913	282,800	259,289	260,797	255,727	249,852	238,651
Sports	185,501	179,755	156,374	169,875	158,905	161,165	158,518	152,469	148,423	141,845

## Fiscal Year Stamp Sales

Type	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Trout	96,953	96,928	96,409	91,364	92,396	99,591	107,992	109,328	111,812	111,574
Walleye	5,165	28,388	29,664	27,477	21,064	19,467	17,395	17,052	18,485	18,778
Pheasant	107,394	110,621	104,646	84,335	90,043	75,440	72,730	76,517	75,055	69,367
Waterfowl	95,185	90,873	89,021	89,369	91,037	92,195	93,325	90,454	87,111	83,963
Turkey	32,793	8,971	3,384	2,272	1,953	1,786	1,681	1,685	1,585	1,640

### 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 Licenses	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Fiscal Year Totals	2,136	2,271	3,086	3,882	4,291	2,207	2,532	2,768	3,442	3,586

### C. Harvest Transactions

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

## Fiscal Year Harvest Transactions

Transaction Type	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Interactive Voice Response (IVR)	N/A	1,398	46,735	46,264	51,308	55,118	46,760	56,452	57,874	65,507
Internet	N/A	1,664	64,816	67,837	69,976	76,963	68,803	80,581	87,607	109,802
Agent	238,264	210,917	111,533	92,992	78,713	52,441	38,787	37,869	44,881	34,484
Totals	238,264	213,979	223,084	207,093	199,997	184,522	154,350	174,902	190,362	209,793

### 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)**

<b>License Year</b>	<b>Number of Certified Paid Hunters (1)</b>	<b>Total Hunting Licenses, Tags Permits &amp; Stamps (2)</b>	<b>Number of Certified Paid Anglers (1)</b>	<b>Total Fishing Licenses, Tags, Permits &amp; Stamps (2)</b>
2000	580,338	1,247,482	1,565,708	1,446,898
2001	585,104	1,594,619	1,492,913	1,417,094
*2002	562,602	-	1,487,076	-
2003	573,424	1,413,759	1,461,112	1,341,921
2004	571,581	1,397,641	1,467,677	1,381,787
2005	571,547	1,377,389	1,458,013	1,363,272
2006	578,244	1,456,775	1,478,193	1,411,415
2007	579,060	1,419,876	1,492,087	1,275,308
2008	581,828	1,471,568	1,481,758	1,269,926
2009	576,723	1,424,718	1,518,357	1,390,489
2010	579,910	1,553,789	1,492,460	1,607,859
2011	578,371	1,525,137	1,418,995	1,552,339
2012	592,125	1,571,600	1,487,547	1,649,088
2013	572,203	1,486,362	1,423,502	1,589,856
2014	564,694	1,413,430	1,437,227	1,610,356
2015	568,057	1,421,004	1,447,089	1,623,871
2016	563,127	1,433,698	1,448,327	1,629,811
**2017	550,081	NA	1,451,419	NA

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

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

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

\*\* 2017 Total is an estimate. Final numbers will not be calculated/certified until 2019.

Compiled by MN Federal Assistance Coordinator

**License Center Expenditures for FY2018  
(*\$ in thousands*)**

<b>License Center Fund</b>	<b>Transaction Costs</b>	<b>Operating Costs</b>	<b>Division Services</b>	<b>Dept Services</b>	<b>Fund Total</b>
2200	2,972.1	840.1	190.6	128.0	4,130.8
2201	158.0				158.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,130.1</b>	<b>840.1</b>	<b>190.6</b>	<b>128.0</b>	<b>4,288.8</b>



## Division of Ecological and Water Resources

### 1. Conservation Assistance and Regulation

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

#### A. Environmental Review

Accomplishments:

- Reviewed more than 600 public and private projects, including 55 communications towers, 107 development projects (residential, commercial, and industrial), 28 pipelines, 92 transportation projects, 38 wind energy projects and 71 utilities projects.

#### B. Spill and Kill Events

Accomplishments:

- Responded to 968 reports of spills and fish/wildlife kill incidents.

#### C. Lake Aeration

Accomplishments:

- Issued 441 aeration permits; approximately 137,000 surface water acres were aerated. Of the permits issued, 245 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 (EMP) is composed of four units: Conservation Management and Rare Resources, Nongame Wildlife and Education, Invasive Species, and Scientific and Natural Areas. EMP staff carry out habitat management and restoration, conservation planning and policy, ecological education, outreach and recreation, and ecosystem services evaluation. This work helps to improve the management of prairie, wetland and forest habitat on public and private lands. Outreach and education also leads to better public understanding of the importance of habitat protection and the value of healthy aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems.

#### A. Native Prairie Stewardship

Accomplishments:

- Provided conservation planning and technical assistance to over 150 landowners. Implemented prairie enhancement projects involving 61 landowners.
- Monitored 41 sites and completed 7 Baseline Property Reports.
- Provided 10 Prairie Stewardship Plans to private landowners.
- Completed 51 prairie management projects on private lands, including woody encroachment removal on 253 acres (14 sites), invasive treatment (non-woody) on 14 acres (13 sites), prairie reconstruction/rehabilitation on 39 acres (3 sites), and prescribed burn on 1,159 acres (21 sites).

- Completed 70 prairie management projects on public lands, including woody encroachment removal on 373 acres (20 sites), invasive treatment (non-woody) on 323 acres (29 sites), prairie reconstruction/rehabilitation on 88 acres (2 sites), and prescribed burn/haying on 1,192 acres (19 sites).

#### **B. Monitor Wetland Changes**

Accomplishments:

- The sampling protocol for the wetland status and trends program was revised beginning with the aerial photo acquisition in spring 2018 to reduce project cost.
- Acquired the first year of aerial photographs for the fifth sample cycle (2018-2020) of the wetland status and trends program.
- Completed analysis of changes in wetlands over time for the fourth sample cycle (2015-2017) and preparing a report.
- An analysis of Minnesota wetland acreage trends from 2006 through 2014 was published in September, 2017:  
Kloiber, S.M., and D.J. Norris (2017). Monitoring Changes in Minnesota Wetland Area and Type from 2006 to 2014. *Wetland Science & Practice*. 34(3), 76-87.

#### **C. Calcareous Fen Wetlands**

Accomplishments:

- Acquired two calcareous fens and surrounding lands using funds provided by Unimin Corporation as mitigation for potential impacts to a calcareous fen threatened by a sand mining operation.
- Began discussions with the City of Rochester to address potential impacts to several calcareous fens that may be affected by new drinking water wells.
- Worked with project sponsors to minimize impacts to calcareous fens in Scott and Polk Counties due to pipeline maintenance.
- Developed a manual of field procedures for collecting data on calcareous fens (soils, hydrology, vegetation, chemistry).

#### **D. Nongame Wildlife: Project WILD, a wildlife education effort**

Accomplishments:

- Conducted 11 workshops attended by 233 educators and youth leaders with a strong emphasis on early childhood educator audiences.
- Ramsey County Library Project WILD programs reached 1,500 people in FY18.
- Nine institutions requested Minnesota college pre-service teacher, and outdoor educator training support, for both graduate and undergraduate programs. Our strongest partners include Bemidji State, Winona State, University of Minnesota Duluth, and University of Minnesota Crookston.
- Provided learning trunks about loons, bats, wolves, bears, animal tracks, and snakes to elementary teachers and scout leaders. These learning trunks are important for teachers who do not have funds for travel to distant learning sites. They are provided to teachers on request. The Rattlesnake Education Kit was center stage at the Rattlesnake Festival in Houston, MN in September for the first time – audience of 128 participants.
- The Project WILD Coordinator edited revised K-12 Project WILD guide which features new focus on inquiry, technology integration, and STEM connections.
- Conducted 25 community presentations for Minnesota Master Naturalists, Extension Master Gardeners, and school groups.

- Provided a learning station at the Governor Pheasant Opener event featuring the effects of pesticides on ground nesting bird reproduction.
- Assisted with nongame calls received by the DNR Information Center.

#### ***E. Nongame Wildlife: Regional Plant Ecologists and Nongame Specialists***

Accomplishments:

- Conducted forest stand reviews and assisted with forest planning.
- Contributed to DNR's third-party forest certification, through participation in external and internal audits, developing responses to corrective action requests, high conservation value forest monitoring, and representative sample areas.
- Conducted calcareous fen peatland surveys that contribute to the protection and management of these rare wetland systems.
- Contributed to the development of cover crop implementation as a conservation measure.
- Regional Plant Ecologists contributed to and provided planning and ecological expertise for (1) "Landscape Stewardship Plan", (2) "Groundwater Restoration and Protection Strategies" plan, and (1) "one Watershed One Plan" plan.
- Assisted in identifying Old Forest Management Complex Special Management Areas and Management Opportunity Areas (MOAs) to inform the Departments Sustainable Timber harvest Implementation Project.
- Led efforts to manage the State's Old Growth Forest network by conducting field evaluations, staff trainings, and planning services.
- Provide planning assistance and ecological perspective in developing climate change adaptation guidance documents.

#### ***F. Administration of Falconry and Wildlife Rehabilitation Programs***

Accomplishments:

- Staff liaised with wildlife rehabilitators who accept calls from citizens about injured wildlife and ensure their lawful handling and care.
- Administered rehabilitator exams, conducted facilities inspections, and renewed falconry and wildlife rehabilitation permits as needed.
- Held a meeting with falconers to discuss the number of peregrines from Minnesota allowed to be taken for falconry.
- Managed the information for the falconry and wildlife rehabilitation programs on the DNR website.

### **3. Inventory, Monitoring and Analysis**

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

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

Accomplishments:

- Minnesota Biological Survey (MBS) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) biologists continued to collaborate on a new project to monitor the effects of cattle grazing on wet meadow plant communities embedded in prairie pothole complexes. Wetland vegetation was

sampled in a total of 40 wetlands at Prairie Wildlife Management Area (WMA), Prairie WPA, Schellberg Prairie Bank, and Clinton Prairie SNA.

- MBS and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) staff sampled 39 wetland basins in an ongoing project to monitor the effects of cattle grazing on wetland basins at the Chippewa Prairie Patch-Burn Graze project, a joint effort of the DNR and TNC.
- In an ongoing project to monitor the effects of cattle grazing on upland prairie in joint TNC-DNR projects: 50 vegetation plots were sampled at the Chippewa Patch-Burn Graze project; 200 quadrats were established and sampled in randomized grids at Hole in the Mountain WMA; and 10 new monitoring sites were selected and marked in the field at Caribou WMA to add to 40 previously-identified plot locations.
- A progress report for Upland Prairie Monitoring at the Chippewa Prairie Patch-Burn-Graze Project for the 2017 field season was completed and distributed to site managers, The Nature Conservancy, and additional partners. The report summarized data obtained from monitoring mesic prairie over six years of patch-burn grazing at the site.
- Processed plant specimens and managed and summarized monitoring data as part of the above work.

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

Accomplishments:

- Continued to provide field survey, technical guidance, and team participation 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*.
- Field surveys of previously undocumented native prairies, wetlands and forests in and near Prairie Plan core areas. This work also includes re-sampling of historic vegetation plots.
- Worked with regional plant ecologists and nongame specialists to provide ecological expertise and field survey and monitoring results to DNR's third-party forest certification and sustainable forest management.
- Continued to store and manage observation and specimen data in several related databases within the Natural Heritage Information System (NHIS) such as the relevé (vegetation plot) database, the standardized state list of plants (MN TAXA database), Observation database, and Biotics.
- Continued baseline vegetation, botanical and breeding-season bird surveys in St. Louis, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods and Beltrami counties.
- Conducted field surveys in Koochiching County for rare plants, collected and prepared specimens for accession and curation at the UMN Bell Museum of Natural History herbarium.
- Conducted field surveys with internal and external collaborators advancing conservation efforts of rare amphibians and reptiles.
- Provided public outreach, including presentations for MN Ornithologists' Union, answering numerous bird and bird identification questions from public.
- Assistance with development of proposed "Heart of the Bog Birding Trail" (numerous internal and external partners).
- Subject Matter Experts for rare species and other high conservation values on DNR Forest Certification and State Trust Land projects (e.g. management guidance for red-shouldered hawk, spotted salamander, wood turtle, goblin fern, rare native plant communities)
- Routinely provided quantitative plant species presence and abundance information (from relevés) to internal and external users per request. Recipients include NatureServe, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Environment Protection Agency (EPA), National Park Service (NPS), and US Forest Service (USFS).

- Continued work on a book covering the natural history, native plant communities and selected sites of biodiversity significance of the Red River Valley and Aspen Parklands in northwest Minnesota.
- Continued to deliver internal and external technical guidance related to Minnesota Biological Survey (MBS) survey results, native plant communities, rare plant identification and relocation, ecological management, climate change adaptation and site protection (e.g. review of potential Scientific and Natural Areas).
- Updated native plant community and rare plant surveys in four sites in the Blufflands Subsection of southeast Minnesota; two of these involved joint visits with Forestry staff to discuss potential forest management projects and their impacts on rare natural features.
- Set up monitoring plots and collected first-year data in Quarry Park SNA to monitor the effects of prescribed burning and brush control on the state-endangered plant species, *Platanthera flava* (tuberclad rein-orchid).
- Contributed field work and technical guidance to an ENRTF-funded MBS team installing permanent vegetation monitoring plots in central and north-central Minnesota.
- Conducted field survey in an old-growth pine forest in Morrison County to support an Ecological Evaluation for a potential new SNA.

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

Accomplishments:

- Conducted aquatic plant identification workshops for 62 Natural Resource Agency staff including DNR, tribal agencies and counties (Clean Water Legacy funds help support this work).
- Conducted quantitative, lake-wide vegetation surveys on 45 lakes (in Anoka, Beltrami, Big Stone, Cass, Carver, Chisago, Crow Wing, Douglas, Hubbard, Itasca, Kanabec, Lincoln, Meeker, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Pine, Ramsey, St. Louis, Stearns, Todd, and Wright Counties (Clean Water Legacy funds help support this work).
  - Survey goals varied between lakes and included:
    - delineation of emergent and floating-leaf plant stands
    - Shoreland habitat assessments
    - nearshore plot surveys
    - lakewide quantitative surveys
- Continued long-term monitoring of fish habitat associations throughout the state, including Little Rock Creek, Otter Tail, Redwood, Yellow Medicine, and Sand Hill Rivers.
- Monitored various lakes to track how aquatic plants are responding to invasive species infestations; including Vineland and Cove Bays of Mille Lacs (zebra mussels), and Koronis Lake and Lake Winnibigoshish (starry stonewort) (Clean Water Legacy funds help support this work).
- Initiated studies to evaluate the habitat requirements and population responses of rare aquatic plants that may be impacted by aquatic plant management control efforts and/or climate change.
- Continued collaboration with researchers at New York Botanical Garden to better describe the distribution, diversity and ecological roles of macroalgae in Minnesota lakes.
- Continued long-term monitoring work on zooplankton communities in Minnesota's nine large walleye lakes, 15 of the 25 Sentinel lakes, and various other special requests in collaboration with the Section of Fisheries. A total of 500 zooplankton samples were analyzed to help Fisheries managers better understand the trophic dynamics and any potential impacts aquatic invasive species may have on the fisheries in these lakes (Invasive Species Program funds helped support work on large walleye lakes).

- Provided technical assistance to Region 4 Fisheries LCCMR project (establish baseline data on various parameters of the river prior to invasive carp arrival/establishment) by analyzing 42 Minnesota River samples for rotifers and crustacean zooplankton.
- Assisted in planning, field and lab work, and data analysis for a Fisheries-led LCCMR project examining food webs in the Minnesota large walleye lakes.
- Assisted in the interpretation of phytoplankton data collected from Leech and Carlos lakes, with relationship to the zooplankton communities and potential changes from zebra mussel infestations.
- Summarized data from existing studies on Sentinel Lakes for inclusion in Sentinel Lakes program long-term monitoring centralized database for future work. Provided report on nearshore benthic community from one Sentinel lake. Analyzed stomach contents from 38 young-of-the-year small mouth bass collected from Carlos Lake for a Fisheries Sentinel Lakes project for veliger presence.
- Continued long-term sampling of channel morphology on the Whitewater River watershed and in Lawndale Creek. Lawndale Creek monitoring also includes sampling invertebrates, fish, mammals, insects and amphibians, over time.
- Continued work with partners on numerous stream protection and restoration projects, including finalizing the Orinoco dam removal and restoration, beginning the Blue Mounds Park dam removal and restoration, and continuing work on Bostic Creek and Whitewater River restorations, and the conceptual design for the Itasca headwaters project.
- Continued development of the GIS-based Watershed Health Assessment Framework (WHAF), which is available online. Development focuses on the relationship between health scores and biological (e.g., fish survey - IBI) outcomes, to provide insight on the factors influencing health, particularly on a basin or regional scale (Clean Water Legacy funds help support this work).
- Continued development of a Decision Support System to complement WHAF that will help resource managers identify and understand resource issues at multiple scales, and identify strategies that optimize outcomes for the whole system (five components).
- Also, we are finalizing development of a ‘targeting’ process within the WHAF to select sites for studying excess sediment in streams within major watersheds. The process accounts for upstream catchment health, risk, and opportunity so that sediment work is begun on catchments that have a good probability of benefitting from any subsequent restoration work that results.
- Continued work to establish a new geomorphic-based approach to infrastructure design at road/river intersections. This effort has involved:
  - Collaboration with agency engineers to develop, test, demonstrate, and disseminate the approach, first within the DNR and then to local communities and engineers across the state.
  - Creation of a ‘how to manual’ with an associated tool for engineers designing culverts.
  - Assistance with webpage creation for the Minnesota Permit Application Reporting System.
  - Field demonstrations (construction of five road/river intersection designs).
  - Monitoring completed projects to document successes, learn from failures, and facilitate appropriate design adjustments.
  - Work to publish this approach in a journal is planned for this winter (2018-2019), to help establish the techniques and promote the approach to infrastructure design and installation on river systems.

#### ***D. Mississippi River Coordinator***

Accomplishments:

- Coordinated staff from multiple divisions to discuss ongoing management issues and concerns regarding the Mississippi River from the Twin Cities south to the Iowa border.



- Collaborated with other state and federal agencies with management jurisdiction on the Mississippi River. The partnership goals included Mississippi River restoration through construction projects and water level management. The partnership team approved and began the planning of three restoration projects. A communications strategy we developed will guide communication with stakeholders about the successes and challenges of the Upper Mississippi River Restoration Program.
- Collaborated with the US Army Corps of Engineers, along with other State and Federal agencies on best practices to manage the Mississippi River navigation channel and the dredge material byproducts associated with channel maintenance.
- Mississippi River education and outreach included an episode of Animal Planet’s “Mighty Rivers” about Mississippi River health. After the show aired, staff responded to several requests for talks about Mississippi River health using long-term data collected by MNDNR.

#### 4. Strategic Information Services

The Strategic Information Services section is composed of three units: Division Services (Business and Administrative), Information Technology, and Planning and Communication. Its main functions are business and financial support, information technology support, and planning and communication support. Information technology staff collect, verify and analyze data related to almost all of the technical work done by EWR’s three natural resource sections to:

- Provide professional accounting, payroll and accounts payable services.
- Provide professional meeting planning and facilitation.
- Provide project management assistance
- Support decisions the Department must make during environmental reviews.
- Evaluate attributes of working forests as part of forest certification.
- Assess natural resources values of public lands for strategic land asset management.
- Populate the Watershed Health Assessment Framework maps with information.
- Provide professional data management for all data collection efforts.

#### A. Information Technology

Accomplishments:

- Managed information for aquatic invertebrates, vegetation plots, and rare species locations and provided database administration and system support for aquatic invertebrates, rare and endangered species, colonial water birds, vegetation, plant community and stream habitat databases.
- The data are published and shared as Geographic Information System layers and are combined and organized in web-based reports. Vegetation plot reports can be downloaded and Minnesota County Biological Survey (MCBS) site reports and source feature observation reports are available.

Ecological and Water Resources Expenditures for FY2018 (\$ in thousands)						
Fund	Conservation Assistance & Regulation	Ecosystem Mgmt & Protection	Inventory, Monitoring & Analysis	Strategic Information Services	Dept. Services	Fund Total
2200	418.3	81.3	1,129.7	601.5	229.0	2,459.8
2209		1,362.7	582.5	149.1	218.8	2,313.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>418.3</b>	<b>1,444.0</b>	<b>1,712.2</b>	<b>750.6</b>	<b>447.8</b>	<b>4,772.9</b>

*Note: Division Services expenses of \$750,614 are included in Strategic Information Services*

## Division of Enforcement

The Division of Enforcement continues to improve and implement the goals and strategies outlined in its 10-year strategic plan, which has been in place since 2015. The Division has been and will continue to be successful at adapting and finding new approaches and strategies to provide the services that meet the needs of citizens while conserving and protecting our state's natural resources. We strive to continue this long-standing tradition. We have increased the efficiency and effectiveness of our outreach, safety education and law enforcement through the following initiatives:

- In April 2015, we launched a records management system (RMS) and issued field tablets to all of our conservation officers. Since it launched, the RMS has resulted in over 30,000 documented contacts being entered annually and has increased officer safety through GPS tracking capabilities. Officers have violation and incident information at their fingertips and managers have real-time data on enforcement and education outcomes.
- Restructured the Division to direct more resources to field operations by reducing specialty positions. The Division continues to hold open other specialty positions to keep field vacancies as low as possible with remaining staff.
- Increased communications and outreach efforts by hiring a safety education outreach coordinator and communications coordinator.
- Last year, the Division initiated the hiring process for the 18th Conservation Officer Academy, which began in May 2018. Interviewed 21 new recruits and 18 cadets graduated from the Academy in August. Among the recruits were officers who came through the Division's CO Prep program, which increased the diversity and natural resources background of new officers.
  - During the Academy and subsequent field training process, cadets learn firsthand the laws and regulations of the state and the specifics of the job of a conservation officer.
  - The Division has expanded its outreach and recruitment efforts for its hiring, putting an emphasis on using social media such as Facebook and LinkedIn (along with traditional community and professional organizations) to reach recruits. This included sponsored and boosted Facebook posts.

### 1. Fish and Game Regulation

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

Accomplishments:

- The Division's conservation officers continue to dedicate thousands of law enforcement hours to enforcing the state's natural resources laws and regulations to ensure long-term sustainability.
- Worked 154,145 law enforcement hours in game- and fish-related activities. Big-game, small-game and sport-fishing enforcement constituted 86% of these hours. These efforts resulted in increased levels of service delivery and compliance with natural resources laws.
- Continued to conduct license checks and harvest inspections of recreational and commercial activity, protected spawning and closed season populations, and performed outreach and public education.
- Several high profile poaching cases were completed with effective media efforts resulting in increased public and legislative interest increasing penalties for egregious poaching.
- Conducted special investigations on habitual and large-scale poaching.
- Increased use of media to attain voluntary compliance with regulations by explaining importance/value in following regulations.



## **2. Invasive Species Enforcement and Education**

The Division continues to emphasize Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) as priority work and a core responsibility. The Division has other AIS funding sources that are used to support nearly all of its invasive species activities. However, conservation officers often enforce AIS laws as part of routine game and fish-related enforcement contacts.

Accomplishments:

- Increased public understanding of invasive species laws, roadside compliance checks and use of zebra mussel detecting dogs. The Division has added two more AIS-detecting handler/K9 teams.
- Compliance with invasive species regulations at Enforcement check stations has increased from 82% in calendar year 2016, to 84% in 2017, and to 85% in 2018. Overall compliance at check stations has sharply increased from 63% in 2012.
- During 2018, DNR conservation officers provided 11,253 hours of AIS enforcement and education and conducted numerous media interviews on the importance of AIS regulation compliance.
- The Division's Aviation Unit has been working throughout the state as part of an effort to kill invasive cattails and help wetland wildlife such as waterfowl.

## **3. Safety Training Education and Outreach**

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

### **A. Safety Education**

Accomplishments:

- Provided educational programs and law enforcement services designed to introduce new and existing users to recreational opportunities and to limit or prevent personal injury accidents and fatalities while encouraging the safe and responsible use of Minnesota's resources.
- Trained 22,895 students in the firearms safety/hunter education program; 1,163 in the adult hunter education program; 5,025 in the all-terrain vehicle (ATV) safety program; 6,893 in the snowmobile safety program; and 7,461 in the boating safety program.
- The Division makes numerous safety education and training activities available to the public, increasing Minnesotan's awareness of Enforcement Division's education programs and recreational safety issues.
- Increased availability of training through online and the adult "virtual field day." This has significantly increased participation by adult female students. Number of students taking the online firearms safety training courses increased slightly and a little over 40% of those online students were females.

### **B. Media and Outreach**

Accomplishments:

- Firearms, ATV and ice safety videos have been produced for online use and have been made available as a resource for media outlets statewide.
- Promoted "good news" stories about the Division's K9 Unit and the 18<sup>th</sup> Conservation Officer Academy. The stories appeared in several publications and on multiple television channels.
- Messages that focus on recreational safety and that show conservation officers in various aspects of their jobs are posted weekly or more on the department's social media pages.

- Rotating weekly safety messages are posted on the department’s social media pages, which are encouraged to be used and shared by stakeholder groups. Featured safety and enforcement messages also posted to the DNR homepage. Officers also work with local media on a regular basis promoting recent events and relevant topics during different seasons.
- Spanish language cold water print-advertising published in two local Hispanic newspapers during the “cold water” months.
- Ice safety brochure produced and printed for statewide use which covers ice safety tips, what to do in an ice emergency and hypothermia. Ice thickness recommendation cards are also printed and used in statewide education and outreach.
- Since 2015, the division has averaged over 550 public outreach events and over 450 media events annually.

Enforcement Expenditures for FY2018 ( <i>\$ in thousands</i> )							
Fund	AIS			Academy	Division Services	Dept. Services	Fund Total
	Fish & Game Regulation	Enforcement & Education	Safety Trng & Outreach				
2200	18,466.4	208.7	780.4	153.9	1,206.6	1,378.2	22,194.2
2209	1,245.3	14.1	52.6	10.4	81.3	93.4	1,497.1
2212	0.0	0.0	0.0	96.4	0.0	0.0	96.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,711.7</b>	<b>222.8</b>	<b>833.0</b>	<b>260.7</b>	<b>1,287.9</b>	<b>1,471.6</b>	<b>23,787.7</b>

## Division of Parks and Trails

The Division of Parks and Trails uses Game and Fish funds to ensure that Minnesotan’s have access to public waterways for activities like boating, canoeing, kayaking, and angling. The Game and Fish funds are primarily used to improve the quality of public water access facilities throughout the state. Minnesota is third in the nation for the number of registered boats (825,658 in 2017) 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 public water access or provide access where it is inadequate. Expansion of existing access sites takes priority over the over the acquisition of a new site. In FY18 there were no land acquisitions.

### 2. Development

The goals of the development program are to improve public water access sites using universal design principles that meet or exceed the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and to apply best management practices (BMPs) for safety, aquatic invasive species, and storm water management. DNR enters into joint powers agreements with project partners, and then helps design, develop and/or rehabilitate all or part of the access site.

Accomplishments:

- Big Carnelian Lake, Washington County: Redevelopment of existing site; improved boat ramp and launching area, ADA, storm water and AIS area.
- Girl Lake, City of Longville, Cass County: Develop new access just north of town. Replaces the challenging launch in town, which caused traffic delays and had no parking. New site has ADA, storm water and AIS area and 10 parking spaces.

- Lake Benton, Lincoln County: Cooperative agreement with City of Lake Benton for design of an existing informal site with user/roadway conflicts. Plan to construct in 2019.
- Lizzie Lake, Otter Tail County: Expansion and upgrade of existing site on acquired lands. Phase 1 was the realignment of the township road. Will expand site in phase 2 in 2019 or 2020.
- Mille Lacs Lake, Pike Point/Garrison Wayside, Crow Wing County: Contracted with consultant for wave analysis, basin and site design of a potential protected facility. Plan includes additional parking. No current plans for development.
- Minnesota River, Cedar Avenue, Dakota County: Rehabilitation of existing MNDOT site. Reduces unused parking spaces and adds storm water, shoreline and AIS best management practices.
- Mississippi River, Interstate 90, Houston County: Rehabilitation of existing launch ramp.
- Mississippi River, Wildcat Park, Houston County: Rehabilitation of one of the existing launch ramps (site has two launch ramps in two locations) cooperative agreement with Houston County
- Pickerel Lake, Freeborn County: Cooperative agreement with MNDOT (former wayside rest) and Freeborn County. Formally developed existing access site to fix entrance location and install new launch ramps, and add AIS area, ADA and storm water.
- Spring Lake, Scott County: Rehabilitation of existing access; new boat ramp, storm water, ADA and AIS area. Lake association added a sign kiosk.
- Minnesota Historical Society: Archeological surveys and reports (cultural resource reviews) for compliance with state and federal laws.
- Several other projects under \$1,000 each, either carry-over funding or initial design.

### **3. Public Water Access Operations and Maintenance**

Parks and Trails maintains and helps partners maintain 1,690 trailer and carry-in access sites statewide.

Accomplishments:

- Purchased concrete boat ramp planks – for repair and replacement of boat ramps

### **4. Fishing Pier and Shore Fishing facilities**

The goal of the fishing pier/shore fishing program is to provide people with safe and convenient places to fish. Funding limitations have necessitated focusing on replacing aging piers, which subsequently limits the number of new facilities that are added to the system. The DNR Parks and Trails Division maintains 80 facilities on state owned lands and has 289 facilities with local government unit partners. DNR helps develop and rehabilitate the facilities through cooperative agreements with local government units who often provide the day-to-day operations and maintenance. (Partners shown in parenthesis).

Accomplishments:

- Purchased replacement parts, performed general maintenance, and major repairs to fishing piers and developed shore-fishing areas.
- Compliance checks on partnership facilities.
- Assistance with critical repairs to the following fishing piers (partner):
  - Stubler Pit (City of Buhl) St. Louis County: Repair of 1998 platform
  - Elysian Lake (City of Janesville) Waseca County: Repair of 1989 84' pier
  - Upper Sakatah Lake, Sakatah Lake State Park, Le Sueur County: Repair to 1999 64' pier
  - Valley Lake (City of Lakeville) Dakota County: Repair to 1993 34' pier
  - Middle Spunk Lake (City of Avon) Wright County: Repair to 2011 84' pier
  - Lily Lake (City of Stillwater) Washington County: Repair to 1992 pier
- Lake Geneva (Alexandria Township) in Hubbard County: Replacement for 1988 84' fishing pier
- Carey Lake (City of Hibbing) St. Louis County: Replacement for 1988 84' fishing pier

**DNR Parks and Trails Division**  
**Public Water Access Expenditures of Game and Fish Funds for FY2018**  
*(\$ in thousands)*

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Acquisition &amp; Development</b>	<b>Operations &amp; Maintenance</b>	<b>Fishing Facilities</b>	<b>Division Services</b>	<b>Dept. Services</b>	<b>Fund Total</b>
2200	177.0	144.3	361.7	141.9	199.9	1,024.8
						0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>177.0</b>	<b>144.3</b>	<b>361.7</b>	<b>141.9</b>	<b>199.9</b>	<b>1,024.8</b>

## 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 (NPC) classifications and silvicultural strategies, help resource managers select appropriate treatments to optimize the forest’s potential to produce timber, conserve or enhance wildlife habitat, and protect water and soil resources.

#### A. Mapping Native Plant Community (NPC)

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

Accomplishments:

- A total of 244,319 acres were classified or mapped to NPC in fiscal year 2018.
  - Staff conducted 392 field NPC evaluations, mapping 165,163 acres, on state forestlands and wildlife management areas.
  - Contractors evaluated and mapped another 77,051 acres of state forestlands.
  - Staff also visited and classified NPCs on an additional 84 forest stands, totaling 2,105 acres, as they conducted other project work.

#### B. Develop Silvicultural Strategies (Interpretations)

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

#### Accomplishments:

- All analyses, tables, and figures necessary for the silvicultural strategies were completed in FY18.
  - New dynamic models were created for each of the 54 forested NPCs. These new models are essential for understanding natural succession as forests age, and thus give field foresters a better understanding of what is likely to happen when management is postponed (e.g. extended rotation).
  - New models were written to estimate when advance regeneration will develop in a NPC, to determine if the regeneration is the right species for the NPC, and whether the regeneration can save the state reforestation costs.
  - New tables showing advance regeneration and recruitment requirements were generated. These new data tables provide an understanding of the establishment needs of target species, whether those target species require site preparation, and whether a silvicultural treatment (herbicide treatment, release from competing vegetation) will be necessary to ensure survival of the seedlings.
  - These models, tables, and outputs will help ECS staff draft silviculture strategies.
- Initial draft silviculture strategies have been completed for three NPCs. Of the 54 forested NPCs, the 20 most common NPCs will have draft strategies completed in fiscal year 2019.
- A new web format for silvicultural strategies will be designed in fiscal year 2019.

#### **C. Case Studies**

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

#### Accomplishments:

- Six existing case studies sites were re-visited after forest management had occurred and site conditions were either measured or re-measured. Retrospective case studies sites that were treated ten or more years ago, were revisited to better understand the long-term effects of management. Three new case studies had field observations measured and nine sites were recorded as benchmarks for other case studies. Overall, 124 treatments are tracked and monitored.
- DNR submitted four case studies to the University of Minnesota Sustainable Forests Education Cooperative Great Lakes Silviculture Library (<http://silvlib.cfans.umn.edu/>).

#### **D. Training and Related Activities**

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

#### Accomplishments:

- 29 formal training events were conducted with 638 foresters, biologists, and ecologists.
- 96 contact days between ECS staff and field personnel were logged. Field days were spent reviewing data collection techniques, reviewing NPC classification determinations, and answering field staff's questions and concerns.

#### **2. Invasive Species Control Program**

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

### **A. Invasive Plant Management**

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

Accomplishments:

- Developed a prioritization tool to identify those forest stands most in need of detection surveys to help minimize the spread of invasive species into or within forest habitats; identified 5,000 acres, spread across some 200 stands, to survey during the summer of 2018.
- Designed detection survey methods and tested the methods on 4,158 acres of state forest lands to validate our sampling methods. Survey prioritization and subsequent detection surveys will become part of future annual work plans to address forest stands most in need.
- With supplemental funds from the Division of Ecological and Water Resources (EWR), 38 invasive plant management projects on 741 acres were completed on state forest lands. The projects, for example, included Oriental bittersweet and barberry treatments in southeast Minnesota and buckthorn treatments on state lands near Two Harbors, Aitkin, and Mora.
- Enhancements to the Silviculture and Roads Module (SRM) of the “FORIST” digital tracking system was developed to plan, report, and track invasive species projects and their results. Field testing and final roll-out will happen in FY19.
- All newly identified invasive species occurrences, roughly a thousand reports, were mapped, reported, and verified through EDDmaps at [www.eddmaps.org/midwest](http://www.eddmaps.org/midwest). EDDmaps data is can be viewed and downloaded by any interested party.

### **B. Emerald Ash Borer Management**

Emerald ash borer (EAB) has been found in Anoka, Chisago, Dakota, Dodge, Fillmore, Goodhue, Hennepin, Houston, Martin, Olmsted, Ramsey, St. Louis, Scott, Wabasha, Washington, Winona, and Wright counties, bringing the total of quarantined counties in the state to 17. There are nearly one billion ash trees in Minnesota. Because there is no demonstrated resistance to EAB in native ash, Minnesota is in danger of losing 99 percent of its ash trees, which will have a profound effect on native plants and animals dependent on ash communities, industries that rely on ash fiber and bark, and communities that have park, boulevard, and yard ash trees. Moving infested firewood has been the major means of spreading EAB. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is the lead state agency over EAB survey and regulation in the state.

Accomplishments:

- An internal review of the DNR firewood program was completed and the process to transition the program to the DNR Division of Parks and Trails was completed. Parks and Trails are now administering a revised vendor database and managing outreach efforts.
- Division of Forestry program staff actively support collaboration by serving as the DNR liaison for all EAB-related management efforts.
- Silviculture interpretations and draft strategies have been completed for the NPCs that contain the most ash. As these are completed in fiscal year 2019, they will provide guidance to forest managers to proactively address the impending expansion of EAB into working forests so that those forested communities remain forested.
- A GIS tool was developed to enable forest managers to identify and focus management efforts on forested stands that have the greatest potential for conversion to a non-ash forested community.



### C. Outreach and Technical Support

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

Accomplishments:

- Half of the automatic computer pop-up dashboard posts that appear when staff log in to their computer are invasive species awareness messages. This is an important outreach device as the staff that see these messages manage over 5 million acres of state administered lands.
- DoF program staff gave roughly 20 presentations including a two day workshop on invasive species identification, prevention, management and restoration to a combination of stakeholder groups including land managers, industry representatives, DNR staff, and recreationists.
- The DNR campaign PlayCleanGo: Stop Invasive Species In Your Tracks (PCG) has grown to include 541 partner organizations, 70 of which are in Minnesota. A memorandum of understanding was established with the North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA) to take over management of the roughly 20 PCG programs. NAISMA will focus on expansion of awareness and partnerships in the eastern states. This transfer of partner support and website management will be completed in FY19. The campaign now has been established in 35 states and has expanded to Canada and Mexico.
- PCG outreach materials were distributed at the state fair and a pledge drive of fair visitors produced 2,000 promises to use their PCG boot brush. PCG exhibit booths also distributed outreach materials at the spring and fall Outdoor Adventure Expos. Online ads were continued through Google and Facebook during the camping season, producing roughly one million impressions a month. Print ads were included in two seasonal recreation guides (MNTrails and Have Fun Biking) and the monthly Northern Wilds magazine producing roughly 500K impressions a month.

<b>Forestry Expenditures for FY2018</b> <i>(\$ in thousands)</i>				
<b>Fund</b>	<b>ECS</b>	<b>Invasive Species</b>	<b>Dept Services</b>	<b>Fund Total</b>
2209	770.6	253.2	24.5	1,048.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>770.6</b>	<b>253.2</b>	<b>24.5</b>	<b>1,048.3</b>

## Division of Lands and Minerals

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

- Continued development of the “Data Mart”, which allows data from the LRS to integrate seamlessly with GIS software layers and provides improved access to LRS information to DNR staff.
- Developing reports based on the Data Mart to measure our performance in transacting with partner organizations.
- Making improvements to the Web-based appraisal tracking system.

- Supporting and upgrading system hardware and software.
- Improving workflow, tracking and documentation of elements of real estate transactions.
- Developing skills within MNIT@DNR to make desired improvements.

During Fiscal 2018, MNIT@DNR/LAM staff continued to improve the LRS’ effectiveness and efficiency in managing DNR’s real estate business through the following measures:

- Improvements to the agricultural lease workflow and documents.
- Improvements to the land acquisition workflows.
- Improvements to land exchange workflows.
- Improvements to the grazing agreement workflow.
- Business analysis and technical requirements for the Payments in Lieu of Taxes process.
- Improvements to Acquisition Data Maintenance Transaction process.
- Improvements to Acquisition Finalization Stage.
- Enhancements to LRS data mart.
- Data quality improvements.
- Land acquisition performance reports.
- Improvements to County Summary Reports.
- Update Wires ledger to new Crystal Enterprise Environment.
- Create and revise LRS training tutorials for DNR staff.
- Improvements to LRS System Messaging.
- Support for Strategic Land Asset Management.

Three LRS application upgrades were received and installed in fiscal 2018. Each upgrade contained application and database improvements over the previous version of the software. Staff continue to work with software vendor Thompson Reuters to identify opportunities to improve the proprietary software upon which the LRS is developed.

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

<b>Lands and Minerals Expenditures for FY2018</b>		
<i>(\$ in thousands)</i>		
<b>Fund</b>	<b>Land Records System</b>	<b>Fund Total</b>
2200	343.1	343.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>343.1</b>	<b>343.1</b>



# Appendix A

## Fund Statement

**Department of Natural Resources  
Game and Fish Fund Statement 2018 Close Forecast**

**CONSOLIDATED GAME & FISH FUND**

	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Planning Est.	Planning Est.	Planning Est.
Balance Forward In	31,564,642	40,851,148	38,639,893	41,952,109	40,554,780	54,331,250	44,913,212	42,139,267
Prior Year Adjustment	1,097,869	614,010	732,518	809,959	797,611	0	0	0
Adjusted Balance Forward	32,662,511	41,465,158	39,372,411	42,762,067	41,352,390	54,331,250	44,913,212	42,139,267
<b>Receipts</b>								
Taxes	12,433,635	12,840,896	13,908,607	13,211,369	14,054,260	13,594,000	13,594,000	13,594,000
<i>Federal Grant Fisheries (D-J)</i>	12,515,386	12,547,150	14,531,579	11,896,870	12,383,664	12,400,000	12,400,000	12,100,000
<i>Federal Grant Wildlife (P-R)</i>	14,278,474	15,716,753	19,506,300	21,622,719	25,268,588	17,000,000	16,500,000	16,500,000
<i>Federal Grants</i>	26,793,860	28,263,903	34,037,879	33,519,589	37,652,253	29,400,000	28,900,000	28,600,000
Departmental Services	27,297,592	29,091,744	34,662,986	34,131,541	38,192,423	29,840,800	29,340,800	29,040,800
Departmental Sales	849,329	616,026	747,010	414,814	871,307	687,000	687,000	687,000
Licenses and Fees	64,806,117	62,484,893	61,960,684	62,663,297	65,619,847	69,918,000	69,882,000	69,844,000
Departmental Penalties	438,437	381,114	307,510	597,170	307,156	409,900	409,900	409,900
Investment Income	155,527	164,363	191,475	298,094	506,194	205,000	205,000	205,000
<i>Fines and Surcharges</i>	12,4615	120,433	117,814	116,386	102,160	109,200	109,200	109,200
<i>Internal Reimbursement</i>	28,520	75	66,016	66	5,346	0	25,000	0
<i>Other Revenue</i>	2,975	26,439	28,357	6,478	4,369	0	0	0
<i>Cost Recovery/Reimbursement</i>	8,563	19,139	21,539	16,087	16,797	19,300	19,300	19,300
All Other	164,673	166,087	233,725	139,016	128,672	128,500	153,500	128,500
Total Receipts	106,145,311	105,745,122	112,011,997	111,455,301	119,679,861	114,783,200	114,272,200	113,909,200
Transfer In: General Fund (State Aid)	919,134	937,411	946,739	951,123	1,025,855	1,025,855	1,025,855	1,025,855
Transfer In: Federal Funds	0	0	98,885	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE	107,064,445	106,682,533	112,958,736	112,406,424	120,705,716	115,809,055	115,300,055	114,935,055
Expenditures								
Land and Minerals	634,884	349,722	332,972	355,028	343,116	344,885	344,000	344,000
Forest Management	1,135,118	1,277,246	1,121,307	1,237,936	1,048,293	1,642,707	1,370,000	1,370,000
Parks & Trails	1,869,119	2,641,779	1,877,160	2,410,423	1,024,846	3,523,154	2,277,000	2,277,000
Fish & Wildlife Mgmt	63,125,885	71,711,111	70,358,013	74,743,117	70,480,539	81,552,948	76,639,000	76,579,000
Fish & Wildlife Mgmt, Licensing	4,198,123	4,241,313	4,248,932	4,386,555	3,303,027	3,439,000	3,399,000	3,399,000
Ecological and Water Resources Mgmt	3,876,162	3,931,251	3,907,477	4,789,762	4,772,880	5,512,120	5,269,000	5,269,000
Enforcement	21,156,374	22,586,269	25,757,718	23,997,557	23,787,746	26,283,279	25,845,000	26,106,000
Operations Support	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Statewide Indirect Costs	1,188,914	1,151,458	1,302,841	1,046,856	1,349,335	1,300,000	1,300,000	1,300,000
Subtotal Expenditures	97,184,578	107,890,149	108,906,421	112,967,233	106,109,781	123,598,094	116,443,000	116,644,000
Transfer Out:								
Debt Service	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fund 2113 FMEA, Forestry certification (18J)	384,459	399,855	343,888	375,256	303,455	350,000	350,000	350,000
Fund 2112 Invasive Species Account (18M)	1,111,190	1,090,279	1,075,703	1,098,589	1,117,504	1,099,000	1,099,000	1,099,000
Fund 2112 Invasive Species Account (18M)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fund 2000 Venison Donations (200)	93,161	28,285	46,061	65,139	86,563	80,000	80,000	80,000
Fund 2000 Walk In Access Program	102,420	99,230	105,850	107,495	109,554	100,000	100,000	100,000
Total Transfer Out	1,691,230	1,617,649	1,571,502	1,646,479	1,617,075	1,629,000	1,629,000	1,629,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND TRANSFERS OUT	98,875,808	109,507,799	110,477,923	114,613,712	107,726,856	125,227,094	118,072,000	118,273,000
FUND BALANCE	40,851,148	38,639,893	41,952,109	40,554,780	54,331,250	44,913,212	42,139,267	38,801,322
Less Ded. Appr. & Funds (Appropri R296237, 7201, 7204, Funds 2201-2213)	19,660,172	19,015,452	22,709,933	23,150,076	26,372,697	24,773,076	24,558,576	24,351,076
AVAILABLE FUND BALANCE	21,190,976	19,624,442	19,242,176	17,404,704	27,958,554	20,140,135	17,580,690	14,450,245

**Department of Natural Resources  
Game and Fish Fund Statement 2018 Close Forecast**

	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Planning Est.	Planning Est.	Planning Est.
2200 Game and Fish (Operations)	14,776,166	21,453,509	19,931,793	19,636,851	17,733,267	28,524,000	20,669,582	18,074,137
Legal Citation: M.S. 97A.055, Subd. 1	915,886	380,005	332,212	464,535	472,791	0	0	0
Balance Forward In	15,692,052	21,833,515	20,264,005	20,101,386	18,206,059	28,524,000	20,669,582	18,074,137
Prior Year Adjustment								
Adjusted Balance Forward								
Receipts								
Departmental Earnings (DE)								
636002 Non-Ferrous Metallic Minerals	9,888	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
636005 Peat Royalties	1,080	1,080	1,080	1,080	0	1,000	1,000	1,000
636006 M Leases Nonmag Taconite	0	0	0	630	0	0	0	0
636016 Timber Sales	790,707	563,757	648,454	346,849	790,688	630,000	630,000	630,000
636017 Timber Sales Interest- Penalty	1,629	408	197	119	230	200	200	200
636018 Resource Mgmt Access Permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
636043 License Credit Card Serv Charge	(14,779)	(18,495)	(19,982)	(22,646)	(23,284)	(18,200)	(18,200)	(18,200)
636047 Easements on DNR Lands	3,492	7,890	0	102,282	7,388	0	0	0
636051 Water Cross Lic on DNR Land	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
636052 Leasing of DNR Lands	306,161	652,881	461,978	348,505	386,022	271,000	271,000	271,000
636054 Sale of Gravel, Sand, Salt	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
636055 Land Earnings Sale of Crops	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
636056 Sale of Standing Timber	0	0	0	198	1,312	0	0	0
636074 Application Fees	197,537	156,722	139,283	131,333	128,603	130,000	130,000	130,000
636075 License Issuing Fee /ELS	3,357,342	3,213,489	3,181,274	3,211,405	3,228,628	3,241,785	3,238,907	3,235,868
636075 License Issuing Fee /ELS from Lifetime License Sales	44,741	47,751	50,343	53,935	57,283	58,215	61,093	64,132
636076 Game & Fish Commercial License	345,755	354,843	346,661	344,060	341,614	350,000	350,000	350,000
636078 Fishing Licenses	26,789,015	26,326,378	25,374,414	25,599,537	28,327,683	30,518,485	30,509,509	30,500,034
636078 Fishing Licenses from Lifetime License Sales	141,326	151,992	156,049	168,172	174,651	181,515	190,491	199,966
636079 Hunting Licenses	18,892,766	17,729,825	18,335,082	18,540,240	18,387,685	20,524,075	20,515,375	20,506,192
636079 Hunting Licenses from Lifetime License Sales	129,531	139,505	150,212	162,994	174,989	175,925	184,625	193,808
636081 Sports Licenses	5,709,756	5,450,829	5,184,989	5,001,042	5,221,422	5,769,230	5,757,818	5,745,772
636081 Sports Licenses from Lifetime License Sales	181,862	194,549	202,694	213,807	224,950	230,770	242,182	254,228
636082 Waterfowl Stamp	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
636085 DNR Sale of Fish/Eggs	15,448	18,932	41,268	31,013	32,951	16,000	16,000	16,000
636086 Wild Rice Harvest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
636088 Game & Fish Federal D-J (Fisheries)	12,515,386	12,547,150	14,531,579	11,896,870	12,383,664	12,400,000	12,400,000	12,100,000
636089 Game & Fish Federal P-R (Wildlife)	14,278,474	15,716,753	19,506,300	21,622,719	25,268,588	17,000,000	16,500,000	16,500,000
636090 Game and Fish Misc	16,019	16,703	18,736	27,850	21,713	18,000	18,000	18,000

**Department of Natural Resources  
Game and Fish Fund Statement 2018 Close Forecast**

	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Planning Est.	Planning Est.	Planning Est.
2200 Game and Fish (Operations)								
Legal Citation: M.S. 97A.055, Subd. 1								
636091 Turkey Stamp	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
636093 Adult Hunter Education	9,010	9,641	4,602	3,686	3,576	10,000	10,000	10,000
636094 Firearm Safety Training	173,937	159,222	159,773	152,274	144,756	160,000	160,000	160,000
636098 Fines Game & Fish	190,095	196,608	200,250	212,323	197,893	200,000	200,000	200,000
636099 Fine Game & Fish Surcharge	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
636103 Forfeits Game & Fish	146,190	76,997	10,154	242,663	2,844	100,000	100,000	100,000
636104 DNR Restitution	97,274	104,853	96,213	141,415	105,639	109,000	109,000	109,000
636105 Peking Fees	243	697	59	20	9	0	0	0
636107 Trespass Civil citations	3,250	2,249	696	650	550	700	700	700
636116 Deposit Clearance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
636119 Late Charges on Leasing DNR Land	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
636122 Aeration System Permit	25,500	30,275	40,250	45,250	49,750	39,000	39,000	39,000
636127 Hunting Surcharge	195,332	127,515	172,634	172,634	196,117	180,000	180,000	180,000
636128 Fishing Surcharge	1,111,190	1,090,279	1,075,703	1,098,589	1,117,504	1,099,000	1,099,000	1,099,000
636129 Fishing Contests Permit	43,920	45,080	44,460	45,295	47,235	45,000	45,000	45,000
636134 Land Crossing Lic on DNR Land	25,223	200	8,699	10,582	9,767	5,000	5,000	5,000
636140 Super Sports R N	130,815	176,360	217,325	256,377	328,527	225,000	225,000	225,000
Subtotal Departmental Earnings	85,865,117	85,292,917	90,320,705	90,163,752	97,340,944	93,670,700	93,170,700	92,870,700
Investment Earnings								
512001 ITC Interest Earnings	153,543	162,505	188,485	292,392	501,021	203,000	203,000	203,000
Other Revenue (OR)								
512428 Restitutions	622	0	0	650	108	0	0	0
512801 Settlements	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
513118 General K/T Surcharge (G9T)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
553090 All Other Reimbursements - External	566	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
553091 Credit Agreement Rebate	6,951	16,023	18,998	13,925	13,402	17,000	17,000	17,000
512253 Sale of Buildings	0	0	4,018	0	0	0	0	0
512606 All Other Reimbursements - Internal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
555002 Agency Indirect Cost Non General Fund (Fed Indirect)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
512832 Refunds of Prior Year Expenditures	2,016	1,223	23,515	231	4,355	0	0	0
512607 Agency Indirect Cost Reimb (Regional Indirect Cost Plan)	17,329	0	42,241	0	3,599	10,000	10,000	0
512833 Cash Overages	(134)	27	54	(330)	14	0	0	0
Subtotal Other Revenue	27,349	17,273	88,826	14,475	21,477	17,000	27,000	17,000
Transfer In								
Total Receipts	86,046,008	85,472,695	90,598,016	90,470,618	97,863,442	93,890,700	93,400,700	93,090,700
From General Fund (Police State Aid)	919,134	937,411	946,739	951,123	1,025,855	1,025,855	1,025,855	1,025,855
From Federal Fund 3000	0	0	98,885	0	0	0	0	0
Total Transfers In	919,134	937,411	1,045,624	951,123	1,025,855	1,025,855	1,025,855	1,025,855
TOTAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE	102,657,194	108,243,620	111,907,645	111,523,127	117,095,356	123,440,555	115,096,137	112,190,692

**Department of Natural Resources  
Game and Fish Fund Statement 2018 Close Forecast**

	FY2014 Actual	FY2015 Actual	FY2016 Actual	FY2017 Actual	FY2018 Actual	FY2019 Planning Est.	FY2020 Planning Est.	FY2021 Planning Est.
<b>2200 Game and Fish (Operations)</b>								
<b>Legal Citation: M.S. 97A.055, Subd. 1</b>								
<b>Expenditures</b>								
Land and Minerals (R291002)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lands Records Management System (R291017 & R291009)	634,884	349,722	332,972	355,028	343,116	344,885	344,000	344,000
Parks & Trails, Water Access (R294008)	1,869,119	2,641,779	1,877,160	2,410,423	1,024,846	3,523,154	2,277,000	2,277,000
Fish & Wildlife Management (R296002)	49,718,296	53,953,453	56,091,027	58,529,896	55,475,810	65,120,190	61,368,000	61,368,000
Grey Wolf Mgmt (R296040)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shooting Sports Facilities Grants (R296406 & 6411 )	0	978,209	567,008	656,903	962,132	378,735	0	0
Bobwhite Quail Restoration Plan (R296116) FY15	0	5,615	0	0	0	0	0	0
Public Grazing Program (R296222) FY15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fish Virus Surveillance (R296048)	0	0	0	49,968	0	0	0	0
Fish & Wildlife Mgmt, Licensing (R296056)	797,432	1,082,956	933,278	1,185,426	3,145,027	3,339,000	3,339,000	3,339,000
License Center / ELS (R296237)	3,400,691	3,110,158	3,279,841	3,201,128	2,459,824	2,689,176	2,635,000	2,635,000
Ecological and Water Resources Mgmt (R292005)	2,296,409	2,375,471	2,226,635	2,434,755	2,459,824	2,689,176	2,635,000	2,635,000
Enforcement (R297006 & R297051)	19,321,178	20,044,815	21,237,506	22,148,960	22,128,590	24,276,834	23,960,000	24,221,000
Safety Training & Hunter Educ Fees (R297201, R297204)	176,040	295,474	283,237	123,909	65,601	170,000	170,000	170,000
Advanced Hunter Ed (R297030)	76,232	60,306	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enforcement Records Mgmt (R297011)	33,260	644,764	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enforcement Aviation Services	0	2,567,786	0	130	0	0	0	0
Ops Support (R298002)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ops Support: Regional Operations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Statewide Indirect Costs (R290228)	1,188,914	1,151,458	1,302,841	1,046,856	1,349,335	1,300,000	1,300,000	1,300,000
	79,512,455	86,694,179	90,699,292	92,143,381	86,954,280	101,141,973	95,393,000	95,654,000
<b>Subtotal Expenditures</b>								
Transfers Out:								
Fund 2113 Forestry certification (18J)	384,459	399,855	343,888	375,256	303,455	350,000	350,000	350,000
Fund 2112 Invasive Species (R296230)	1,111,190	1,090,279	1,075,703	1,098,589	1,117,504	1,099,000	1,099,000	1,099,000
Fund 2112 Invasive Species Account (18M)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fund 2000 Venison Donation Surcharge	93,161	28,285	46,061	65,139	86,563	80,000	80,000	80,000
Fund 2000 Walk In Access Program	102,420	99,230	105,850	107,495	109,554	100,000	100,000	100,000
Fund 100 K/T Surcharge & Balance Transfer	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Transfers out:	1,691,230	1,617,649	1,571,502	1,646,479	1,617,075	1,629,000	1,629,000	1,629,000
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND TRANSFERS OUT</b>	81,203,685	88,311,828	92,270,794	93,789,860	88,571,356	102,770,973	97,022,000	97,283,000
<b>FUND BALANCE</b>	21,453,509	19,931,793	19,636,851	17,733,267	28,524,000	20,669,582	18,074,137	14,907,692
Less Dedicated Appropriations: R296222, R296237, R297201, R297204	262,533	307,351	394,675	328,563	565,447	529,447	493,447	457,447
<b>FUND BALANCE Less Dedicated Appropriations</b>	21,190,976	19,624,442	19,242,176	17,404,704	27,958,554	20,140,135	17,580,690	14,450,245

**Department of Natural Resources  
Game and Fish Fund Statement 2018 Close Forecast**

	FY2014 Actual	FY2015 Actual	FY2016 Actual	FY2017 Actual	FY2018 Actual	FY2019 Planning Est.	FY2020 Planning Est.	FY2021 Planning Est.
<b>2201 Deer and Bear Management Account/Computerized Licensing (231) (Statutory)</b>								
<b>Legal Citation: M.S. 97A.075, Subd. 1 (c)</b>								
<b>FUND 2201 (Appropriation R296023) without Appropriation R296213 (D01) (Statutory)</b>								
Balance Forward In	1,120,502	1,160,130	952,156	1,011,558	981,335	714,374	472,374	270,374
Prior Year Adjustments	4,756	6,640	15,798	3,713	871	0	0	0
Adjusted Balance Forward	1,125,258	1,166,770	967,953	1,015,271	982,206	714,374	472,374	270,374
Receipts								
636079 Hunting License	633,588	547,328	578,322	597,018	607,472	593,468	593,145	592,804
636079 Hunting License from Lifetime License Sales	4,567	5,086	5,422	6,052	6,541	6,532	6,855	7,196
636075 License Issuing Fee	59,256	57,430	57,579	55,853	52,928	57,489	57,464	57,438
636075 License Issuing Fee From Lifetime Licenses	407	383	434	473	526	511	536	562
553091 Credit Agreement Rebate	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
512832 Refunds of Prior Year Expd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Receipts	697,818	610,226	641,757	659,395	667,467	658,000	658,000	658,000
TOTAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE	1,823,076	1,776,996	1,609,710	1,674,666	1,649,672	1,372,374	1,130,374	928,374
Expenditures								
Fish & Wildlife Management								
Wildlife Management	662,946	776,640	562,339	693,330	777,299	800,000	800,000	740,000
License Center	0	48,200	35,813	0	158,000	100,000	60,000	60,000
Total Expenditures	662,946	824,840	598,152	693,330	935,299	900,000	860,000	800,000
FUND BALANCE without Appropriation R296213 (D01)	1,160,130	952,156	1,011,558	981,335	714,374	472,374	270,374	128,374
<b>APPROPRIATION R296213 (D01) (Statutory)</b>								
<b>Emergency Deer Feeding and Wild Cervidae Health Management Account</b>								
Balance Forward In	798,981	537,834	607,166	858,909	376,086	522,771	542,771	562,771
Prior Year Adjustments	5,000	26,748	85,777	6,612	115,764	0	0	0
Adjusted Balance Forward	803,981	564,582	692,943	865,522	491,850	522,771	542,771	562,771
Receipts								
636079 Hunting License	343,119	298,813	314,541	323,264	327,134	316,734	316,573	316,402
636079 Hunting License from Lifetime License Sales	2,487	2,543	2,928	3,026	3,271	3,266	3,427	3,598
512832 Refunds of Prior Year Expd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Receipts	345,606	301,356	317,469	326,290	330,405	320,000	320,000	320,000
TOTAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE	1,149,587	865,938	1,010,411	1,191,811	822,255	842,771	862,771	882,771
Expenditures								
Fish & Wildlife Management								
Wildlife Management	611,753	258,771	151,502	815,725	299,484	300,000	300,000	300,000
APPROPRIATION R296213 (D01) BALANCE	537,834	607,166	858,909	376,086	522,771	542,771	562,771	582,771
FUND BALANCE: Including Appropriation R296213 (D01)	1,697,963	1,559,322	1,870,467	1,357,421	1,237,144	1,015,144	833,144	711,144

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	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Planning Est.	Planning Est.	Planning Est.

2202 Deer Habitat Improvement Account (232) (Statutory)  
Legal Citation: M.S. 97A.075, Subd. 1 ( b )

Balance Forward In	763,254	863,021	627,887	696,221	806,923	694,389	534,389	374,389
Prior Year Adjustments	8,120	707	8,694	2,689	2,197	0	0	0
Adjusted Balance Forward	771,374	863,728	636,581	698,910	809,120	694,389	534,389	374,389
Receipts								
636079 Hunting License	1,372,476	1,194,742	1,258,156	1,292,425	1,307,836	1,286,256	1,284,859	1,284,859
636079 Hunting License from Lifetime License Sales	9,948	10,682	11,712	12,734	13,784	13,744	14,424	15,141
553091 Credit Agreement Rebate	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
512832 Refunds of Prior Year Expd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Receipts	1,382,424	1,205,424	1,269,868	1,305,159	1,321,620	1,300,000	1,300,000	1,300,000

TOTAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE

	2,153,799	2,069,152	1,906,449	2,004,068	2,130,740	1,994,389	1,834,389	1,674,389
Expenditures								
Fish & Wildlife Management								
Wildlife Management (R296024)	1,290,777	1,441,265	1,210,228	1,197,145	1,436,351	1,460,000	1,460,000	1,460,000

FUND BALANCE

	863,021	627,887	696,221	806,923	694,389	534,389	374,389	214,389
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2203 Waterfowl Habitat Improvement Account (Statutory)  
Legal Citation: M.S. 97A.075, Subd. 2

Balance Forward In	439,837	642,783	519,260	710,058	787,972	803,185	753,185	703,185
Prior Year Adjustments	1,049	0	69,357	7,374	25,475	0	0	0
Adjusted Balance Forward	440,886	642,783	588,617	717,433	813,447	803,185	753,185	703,185

Receipts								
636082 Waterfowl Stamp	634,611	641,032	621,825	598,176	578,484	600,000	600,000	600,000
553901 Credit Agreement Rebate	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
512832 Refunds of Prior Year Expd	44	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Receipts	634,655	641,032	621,825	598,176	578,484	600,000	600,000	600,000

TOTAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE

	1,075,541	1,283,815	1,210,442	1,315,609	1,391,931	1,403,185	1,353,185	1,303,185
Expenditures								
Fish & Wildlife Management								
Wildlife Management (R296025)	432,758	764,555	500,384	527,637	588,746	650,000	650,000	650,000

FUND BALANCE

	642,783	519,260	710,058	787,972	803,185	753,185	703,185	653,185
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	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Planning Est.	Planning Est.	Planning Est.
<b>2204 Trout and Salmon Management Account (Statutory)</b>								
<b>Legal Citation: M.S. 97A.075 Subd. 3</b>								
Balance Forward In	545,257	716,175	893,624	941,233	717,359	681,599	606,599	606,599
Prior Year Adjustments	2,600	1,751	6,944	11,309	20,580	0	0	0
Adjusted Balance Forward	547,858	717,926	900,569	952,542	737,939	681,599	606,599	606,599
Receipts								
636083 Trout Stamp	921,649	971,054	978,678	1,000,603	1,006,311	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
553091 Credit Agreement Rebate	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
512832 Refunds of Prior Year Expd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Receipts	921,649	971,054	978,678	1,000,603	1,006,311	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
TOTAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE	1,469,507	1,688,980	1,879,247	1,953,145	1,744,250	1,681,599	1,606,599	1,606,599
Expenditures								
Fish & Wildlife Management	753,332	795,355	938,013	1,235,786	1,062,651	1,075,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Fish Management (R296003)								
FUND BALANCE	716,175	893,624	941,233	717,359	681,599	606,599	606,599	606,599

	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Planning Est.	Planning Est.	Planning Est.
<b>2205 Pheasant Habitat Improvement Account (235) (Statutory)</b>								
<b>Legal Citation: M.S. 97A.075, Subd. 4</b>								
Balance Forward In	151,750	142,928	66,113	102,877	123,111	213,181	223,181	233,181
Prior Year Adjustments	5,370	1,134	0	6	10	0	0	0
Adjusted Balance Forward	157,120	144,062	66,113	102,883	123,121	213,181	223,181	233,181
Receipts								
636084 Pheasant Stamp	520,897	500,770	525,608	514,499	477,924	500,000	500,000	500,000
553091 Credit Agreement Rebate	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
512832 Refunds of Prior Year Expd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Receipts	520,897	500,770	525,608	514,499	477,924	500,000	500,000	500,000
TOTAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE	678,017	644,832	591,721	617,382	601,044	713,181	723,181	733,181
Expenditures								
Fish & Wildlife Management	535,088	578,719	488,843	494,271	387,863	490,000	490,000	490,000
Wildlife Management (R296)								
FUND BALANCE	142,928	66,113	102,877	123,111	213,181	223,181	233,181	243,181



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	FY2014 Actual	FY2015 Actual	FY2016 Actual	FY2017 Actual	FY2018 Actual	FY2019 Planning Est.	FY2020 Planning Est.	FY2021 Planning Est.
<b>2206 Wild Rice Management Account (236)</b> Legal Citation: M.S. 84.0911, Subd. 1								
Balance Forward In	22,028	24,122	26,379	42,588	37,633	72,716	72,716	72,716
Prior Year Adjustments	0	0	0	0	20,000	0	0	0
Adjusted Balance Forward	22,028	24,122	26,379	42,588	57,633	72,716	72,716	72,716
Receipts	42,094	32,257	56,209	35,045	46,357	40,000	40,000	40,000
636086 Wild Rice License	64,122	56,379	82,588	77,633	103,990	112,716	112,716	112,716
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE</b>								
Expenditures	40,000	30,000	40,000	40,000	31,274	40,000	40,000	40,000
Fish & Wildlife Management Wildlife Management (R296211)								
<b>FUND BALANCE</b>	<u>24,122</u>	<u>26,379</u>	<u>42,588</u>	<u>37,633</u>	<u>72,716</u>	<u>72,716</u>	<u>72,716</u>	<u>72,716</u>
<b>2207 Wildlife Acquisition Account (237) (Statutory)</b> Legal Citation: M.S. 97A.071, Subd. 1								
Balance Forward In	1,348,210	1,683,961	866,218	917,070	1,325,922	2,043,082	2,043,082	2,043,082
Prior Year Adjustments	0	0	92	135,047	15,980	0	0	0
Adjusted Balance Forward	1,348,210	1,683,961	866,309	1,052,117	1,341,903	2,043,082	2,043,082	2,043,082
Receipts	1,586,445	1,567,130	1,533,281	1,495,372	1,430,619	1,446,421	1,443,772	1,440,975
636080 Wildlife Acquisition Surcharge	42,965	45,409	46,943	49,641	52,215	53,579	56,228	59,025
512253 Sale of Buildings	0	0	0	602	0	0	0	0
553091 Credit Agreement Rebate	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
512832 Refunds of Prior Year Expd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Receipts	1,629,410	1,612,539	1,580,224	1,545,614	1,482,834	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE</b>	2,977,620	3,296,501	2,446,534	2,597,731	2,824,736	3,543,082	3,543,082	3,543,082
Expenditures	1,293,659	2,430,283	1,529,464	1,271,809	781,655	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000
Fish & Wildlife Management Wildlife Management (R296030, R296022)								
<b>FUND BALANCE</b>	<u>1,683,961</u>	<u>866,218</u>	<u>917,070</u>	<u>1,325,922</u>	<u>2,043,082</u>	<u>2,043,082</u>	<u>2,043,082</u>	<u>2,043,082</u>

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	FY2014 Actual	FY2015 Actual	FY2016 Actual	FY2017 Actual	FY2018 Actual	FY2019 Planning Est.	FY2020 Planning Est.	FY2021 Planning Est.
<b>2208 Wild Turkey Management Account (238) (Statutory)</b> <b>Legal Citation: M.S. 97A.075, Subd. 5</b>								
Balance Forward In	333,537	382,023	305,513	331,460	305,316	341,129	311,129	281,129
Prior Year Adjustments	6,512	0	0	45	1,588	0	0	0
Adjusted Balance Forward	340,049	382,023	305,513	331,506	306,904	341,129	311,129	281,129
Receipts								
636079 Hunting Licenses	190,236	187,394	201,011	202,667	189,728	200,000	200,000	200,000
512832 Refunds of Prior Year Expd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Receipts	190,236	187,394	201,011	202,667	189,728	200,000	200,000	200,000
Transfer In	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
From Fund 230								
TOTAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE	530,285	569,417	506,525	534,172	496,632	541,129	511,129	481,129
Expenditures								
Fish & Wildlife Management								
Wildlife Management (R296028)	148,263	263,904	175,064	228,856	155,504	230,000	230,000	230,000
FUND BALANCE	382,023	305,513	331,460	305,316	341,129	311,129	281,129	251,129
<b>2209 Heritage Enhancement Account (239)</b> <b>Legal Citation: M.S. 297A.94 (e) (1)</b>								
Balance Forward In	1,604,319	2,735,977	2,366,298	4,145,399	3,610,359	4,794,412	3,143,168	2,759,468
Prior Year Adjustments	146,407	120,749	100,777	171,633	121,826	0	0	0
Adjusted Balance Forward	1,750,726	2,856,726	2,467,074	4,317,032	3,732,185	4,794,412	3,143,168	2,759,468
Receipts								
510152 Heritage Enhancement	12,433,635	12,840,896	13,908,607	13,211,369	14,054,260	13,594,000	13,594,000	13,594,000
553091 Credit Agreement Rebate	1,046	3,116	2,541	2,162	3,395	2,300	2,300	2,300
512832 Refunds of Prior Year Expd	0	25,189	770	5,976	0	0	0	0
512607 Agency Indirect Cost Reimb (Regional Indirect Cost Plan)	11,103	0	23,733	0	1,745	0	15,000	0
Total Receipts	12,444,834	12,869,201	13,935,651	13,219,508	14,059,401	13,596,300	13,611,300	13,596,300
TOTAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE	14,197,560	15,725,927	16,402,725	17,536,540	17,791,586	18,390,712	16,754,468	16,355,768
Expenditures								
Forest Management ECS (R293002)	1,135,118	1,277,246	1,121,307	1,237,936	1,048,293	1,642,707	1,370,000	1,370,000
Fish & Wildlife Mgmt. (R296004)	7,224,721	8,268,862	7,336,674	8,108,518	7,587,098	9,093,902	8,411,000	8,411,000
Shooting Sports Facilities (R296042 & R296410)	0	0	679	152,909	12,000	4,718	0	0
World Class Shooting Range	0	0	0	0	27,998	2,002	0	0
Lead Shot Study	0	0	0	0	11,598	18,402	0	0
Emergency Disease Outbreak Response Planning	0	0	0	0	500,000	0	0	0
Itasca Shoot Fac Grant (R296403)	0	100,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
Prairie Wetlands (R296039)	89,905	653,736	208,579	400,336	0	0	0	0
Aquatic Plant Mgmt (R296115) FY15	0	3,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
Let's Go Fishing Grants and (R296407, R296408, R296403)	0	25,000	373,375	30,354	0	0	0	0
Southeast Asian Outreach (R296272)	0	0	0	59,992	0	0	0	0
Ecological Services (R292006, R292022)	1,579,754	1,555,780	1,680,842	2,355,007	1,903,056	2,412,944	2,224,000	2,224,000
Invasive Species Grants	0	0	0	0	410,000	410,000	410,000	410,000
Enforcement (R297007, R297010, R297046, R297052)	1,432,085	1,476,005	1,535,871	1,581,129	1,497,131	1,662,869	1,580,000	1,580,000
Operations Support - Southeast Asian Outreach	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Expenditures	11,461,583	13,359,629	12,257,326	13,926,181	12,997,174	15,247,544	13,995,000	13,995,000
Transfers Out:								
Total Transfers out:	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FUND BALANCE	2,735,977	2,366,298	4,145,399	3,610,359	4,794,412	3,143,168	2,759,468	2,360,768

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	FY2014 Actual	FY2015 Actual	FY2016 Actual	FY2017 Actual	FY2018 Actual	FY2019 Planning Est.	FY2020 Planning Est.	FY2021 Planning Est.
<b>2210 Lifetime Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund (23A)</b> Legal Citation: M.S. 97A.4742 Subd 1								
Balance Forward In	9,439,594	10,017,291	10,690,119	11,455,115	12,498,789	13,627,026	14,286,026	14,909,026
Prior Year Adjustments	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Adjusted Balance Forward	9,439,594	10,017,291	10,690,119	11,455,115	12,498,789	13,627,026	14,286,026	14,909,026
Receipts								
636078 Fishing License (Lifetime)	299,211	308,117	364,524	443,178	500,980	325,000	325,000	325,000
636079 Hunting License (Lifetime)	410,323	474,729	469,826	578,069	632,076	490,000	490,000	490,000
636081 Sportsman License (Lifetime)	426,754	489,003	557,671	691,212	702,173	570,000	570,000	570,000
636123 G-F Lifetime License Activation	(560,576)	(600,879)	(630,015)	(674,487)	(712,166)	(728,000)	(764,000)	(802,000)
512001 ITC Interest Earnings	1,985	1,858	2,990	5,703	5,174	2,000	2,000	2,000
Total Receipts	577,697	672,828	764,996	1,043,675	1,128,237	659,000	623,000	585,000
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE</b>	10,017,291	10,690,119	11,455,115	12,498,789	13,627,026	14,286,026	14,909,026	15,494,026
Deposit Correction to:								
Fund 2200, 636075, License Issuing Fee (RSRC 5421)	44,741	47,751	50,343	53,935	57,283	58,215	61,093	64,132
Fund 2200, 636078, Fishing Licenses fee (RSRC 5424)	141,326	151,992	156,049	168,172	174,651	181,515	190,491	199,966
Fund 2200, 636079, Hunting Licenses (RSRC 5425)	129,531	139,505	150,212	162,994	174,989	175,925	184,625	193,808
Fund 2200, 636081, Sports Licenses (RSRC 5427)	181,862	194,549	202,694	213,807	224,950	230,770	242,182	254,228
Fund 2200, 636128, Fishing Lic Surcharge (RSRC 5475)	250	285	310	400	440	432	453	476
Fund 2200, 636127, Hunting Lic Surcharge	5	25	40	70	76	79	79	83
Fund 2201, 636079, Hunting License (RSRC 5425)	7,054	7,629	8,350	9,078	9,812	9,798	10,282	10,794
Fund 2201, 636075, License Issuing Fee (RSRC 5421)	407	383	434	473	526	511	536	562
Fund 2202, 636079, Hunting License (RSRC 5425)	9,948	10,682	11,712	12,734	13,784	13,744	14,424	15,141
Fund 2207, 636080, Wildlife Acq Surcharge (RSRC 5426)	42,965	45,409	46,943	49,641	52,215	53,579	56,228	59,025
Fund 2213, 636142, Wolf Account	2,487	2,671	2,928	3,184	3,446	3,436	3,606	3,785
Deposit Correction detail: Game and Fish Fund (Operations)	560,576	600,879	630,015	674,487	712,166	728,000	764,000	802,000
<b>FUND BALANCE</b>	10,017,291	10,690,119	11,455,115	12,498,789	13,627,026	14,286,026	14,909,026	15,494,026
<b>2211 Walleye Stamp Account (23B) (Statutory)</b> Legal Citation: M.S. 97A.075 Subd 6								
Balance Forward In	95,894	98,682	59,144	69,673	73,764	81,441	81,441	81,441
Prior Year Adjustments	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Adjusted Balance Forward	95,894	98,682	59,144	69,673	73,764	81,441	81,441	81,441
Receipts								
636130 Walleye Stamp	100,842	87,408	85,363	91,963	95,208	90,000	90,000	90,000
512001 ITC Interest Earnings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Receipts	100,842	87,408	85,363	91,963	95,208	90,000	90,000	90,000
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE</b>	196,736	186,090	144,507	161,636	168,971	171,441	171,441	171,441
Expenditures								
Fish & Wildlife Mgmt, Fish Management (R296005)	98,054	126,946	74,834	87,873	87,531	90,000	90,000	90,000
<b>FUND BALANCE</b>	98,682	59,144	69,673	73,764	81,441	81,441	81,441	81,441

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	FY2014 Actual	FY2015 Actual	FY2016 Actual	FY2017 Actual	FY2018 Actual	FY2019 Planning Est.	FY2020 Planning Est.	FY2021 Planning Est.
<b>2212 Peace Officer Training Account</b>								
Legal Citation: M.S. 97A.052								
Balance Forward In	8,119	16,287	72,608	57,458	36,577	42,735	(21,641)	(47,441)
	1,664	717	313	6,748	527	0	0	0
Prior Year Adjustments	9,783	17,004	72,921	64,206	37,104	42,735	(21,641)	(47,441)
Adjusted Balance Forward								
Receipts								
513118 General K/T Surcharge	123,993	120,433	117,814	115,736	102,052	109,200	109,200	109,200
553091 Credit Agreement Rebate	89	75	42	66	3	0	0	0
Total Receipts	124,082	120,509	117,855	115,801	102,055	109,200	109,200	109,200
TOTAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE	133,865	137,513	190,776	180,007	139,159	151,935	87,559	61,759
Expenditures								
Enforcement (R297047)	117,578	64,905	133,318	143,430	96,424	173,576	135,000	135,000
Transfer In	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
From Fund 2200								
FUND BALANCE	16,287	72,608	57,458	36,577	42,735	(21,641)	(47,441)	(73,241)
<b>2213 Wolf Management and Monitoring Account (Statutory)</b>								
Legal Citation: M.S. 97A.075 Subd 7b								
Balance Forward In	117,193	376,424	655,616	975,638	1,140,367	1,175,211	1,195,211	1,215,211
	505	75,560	112,554	248	0	0	0	0
Prior Year Adjustments	117,698	451,984	768,170	975,886	1,140,367	1,175,211	1,195,211	1,215,211
Adjusted Balance Forward								
Receipts								
636141 Wolf Hunting & Trapping	139,453	159,072	0	0	0	0	0	0
636142 Wolf Allocation	343,119	298,686	314,540	323,204	327,150	316,601	316,433	316,255
636142 Wolf Allocation from Lifetime License Sales	2,487	2,671	2,928	3,086	3,240	3,399	3,567	3,745
Total Receipts	485,059	460,429	317,468	326,290	330,391	320,000	320,000	320,000
TOTAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE	602,757	912,413	1,085,638	1,302,176	1,470,757	1,495,211	1,515,211	1,535,211
Expenditures								
Fish and Wildlife Management (R296223)	226,332	256,797	110,000	161,809	295,546	300,000	300,000	300,000
Transfer In	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FUND BALANCE	376,424	655,616	975,638	1,140,367	1,175,211	1,195,211	1,215,211	1,235,211

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Game and Fish Fund Allocations to Hunting and Fishing Activity  
As of FY 2018 Close Forecast**

EXPENDITURES	FY14			FY15			FY16			FY17			FY18			FY19			FY20			FY21		
	Actual Expenditures			Actual Expenditures			Actual Expenditures			Actual Expenditures			Actual Expenditures			Actual Expenditures			Actual Expenditures			Actual Expenditures		
	Hunting	Fishing		Hunting	Fishing		Hunting	Fishing		Hunting	Fishing		Hunting	Fishing		Hunting	Fishing		Hunting	Fishing		Hunting	Fishing	
DNR Unit	-	29,686,426		31,347,195		30,310,322		31,548,338		31,140,033		36,621,668		34,439,553		34,439,553		34,439,553		34,439,553		34,439,553		34,439,553
Fisheries			25,207,730																					
Wildlife	21,723,101																							
License Center	2,308,968	1,889,155		1,886,901		2,317,215	1,895,903	2,412,605	1,975,949	2,169,982	1,775,440	2,459,410	2,012,245	2,371,889	1,940,636	2,371,889	1,940,636	2,371,889	1,940,636	2,371,889	1,940,636	2,371,889	1,940,636	2,371,889
Ecological Services	688,923	1,607,466		712,641	1,662,830	1,180,117	1,046,518	1,095,640	1,339,115	1,106,921	1,352,903	1,210,129	1,479,047	1,185,750	1,449,250	1,185,750	1,449,250	1,185,750	1,449,250	1,185,750	1,449,250	1,185,750	1,449,250	1,185,750
Enforcement	8,961,769	10,644,941	9,666,091	11,379,268	12,407,901	11,680,628	10,091,071	12,181,928	11,351,182	10,843,009	12,551,185	11,895,649	12,389,600	11,740,400	12,522,710	11,895,649	12,389,600	11,740,400	12,522,710	11,895,649	12,389,600	11,740,400	12,522,710	11,895,649
Parks and Trails		1,869,119		2,641,779		1,877,160		2,410,423		1,024,846		3,523,154		2,277,000		3,523,154		2,277,000		3,523,154		2,277,000		3,523,154
Forestry																								
Lands and Minerals	558,698	76,186		41,967	307,755	293,015	39,957	312,425	42,603	301,942	41,174	303,498	41,386	89,550	254,450	89,550	254,450	89,550	254,450	89,550	254,450	89,550	254,450	89,550
Operations Support																								
Statewide Indirect	508,783	680,131	504,658	646,800	629,936	672,905	488,156	558,700	634,965	714,370	588,022	711,978	592,413	707,587	592,413	707,587	592,413	707,587	592,413	707,587	592,413	707,587	592,413	707,587
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 34,750,241</b>	<b>\$ 46,453,444</b>	<b>\$ 38,705,088</b>	<b>\$ 49,606,740</b>	<b>\$ 44,613,801</b>	<b>\$ 47,666,982</b>	<b>\$ 43,734,802</b>	<b>\$ 50,055,068</b>	<b>\$ 41,679,882</b>	<b>\$ 46,891,775</b>	<b>\$ 46,485,847</b>	<b>\$ 56,285,126</b>	<b>\$ 44,213,124</b>	<b>\$ 52,808,876</b>	<b>\$ 44,346,426</b>	<b>\$ 52,808,876</b>	<b>\$ 44,346,426</b>	<b>\$ 52,808,876</b>	<b>\$ 44,346,426</b>	<b>\$ 52,808,876</b>	<b>\$ 44,346,426</b>	<b>\$ 52,808,876</b>	<b>\$ 44,346,426</b>	<b>\$ 52,808,876</b>

EXPENDITURES	FY14-15			FY16-17			FY18-19			FY20-21		
	Actual Expenditures			Actual Expenditures			Actual Expenditures			Actual Expenditures		
	Hunting	Fishing		Hunting	Fishing		Hunting	Fishing		Hunting	Fishing	
DNR Unit	73,455,329	43.3%	\$	88,348,604	47.5%	\$	88,165,429	46.1%	\$	88,559,550	45.6%	\$
Fisheries	96,060,185	56.7%	\$	97,712,049	52.5%	\$	103,176,902	53.9%	\$	105,745,450	54.4%	\$

**Biennial Totals**

**Revenue 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 FMA transfers allocated to Hunting Expenditures.

REVENUES	FY14-15			FY16-17			FY18-19			FY20-21		
	Total Receipts			Total Receipts			Total Receipts			Total Receipts		
	Hunting	Fishing		Hunting	Fishing		Hunting	Fishing		Hunting	Fishing	
Hunting	\$ 79,393,542	45.8%	\$	89,513,764	48.9%	\$	93,363,579	48.2%	\$	86,015,433	45.6%	\$
Fishing	\$ 93,981,704	54.2%	\$	93,551,619	51.1%	\$	100,442,274	51.8%	\$	102,527,677	54.4%	\$

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

PERCENTAGE	FY14-15			FY16-17			FY18-19			FY20-21		
	Actual Expenditures			Actual Expenditures			Actual Expenditures			Actual Expenditures		
	Hunting	Fishing		Hunting	Fishing		Hunting	Fishing		Hunting	Fishing	
Hunting	92.5%			98.7%			94.4%			103.0%		
Fishing	102.2%			104.4%			102.7%			103.1%		

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





# Appendix C

## Related Accounts

# Appendix C

## Related Accounts

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### *Game and Fish Fund Fiscal Year 2018 Annual Report*

#### **Venison Donation Program**

A \$1 fee on all deer bonus permits is collected and transferred out of the Game & Fish Fund into a special revenue fund to support this program.

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

#### Accomplishments:

- Twenty-five processors were certified to participate in the program in FY 2018.
- Venison donations have declined below the record high levels experienced during the mid-2000's when deer populations in much of the state were considered overabundant, and efforts were being made to reduce populations through hunting. Donations to the program in recent years have not increased to levels seen prior to conservative regulations in the fall of 2015 and 2016; however, it is anticipated they will increase as antlerless deer hunting opportunities increase. With a 28% increase in carcass donations, FY 2018 was the first year to demonstrate a reversal in the declining trend.

<b>Financial Review</b>	
<b>FY2018 Beginning fund balance</b>	<b>\$372,297</b>
Prior year adjustment	\$0
<b>Receipts</b>	
Donations	\$0
Transfer-in from 2200	<u>\$86,563</u>
Total receipts and transfers in	\$86,563
<b>Expenditures</b>	
Fish and Wildlife	\$9
Transfer-out to Dept. of Agriculture	<u>\$50,000</u>
Total expenditures and transfers-out	\$50,009
<b>FY2018 Ending fund balance</b>	<b>\$408,851</b>
Net change for FY2018	\$36,554

## Walk-In Access Program

This program operates out of a special revenue account. The Walk-In Access (WIA) program is in its eighth year. The program is currently funded through 2019 under a \$1.67 million grant by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, under number 69-3A75-16-509. The program was initially supported by a one-time appropriation of about \$616,000 made from the surcharge portion of the venison donation fund. It is also supported by 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 report is limited to the State dollars and does not include the Natural Resources Conservation Service grant dollars. WIA provides hunting opportunity by purchasing access on private land with high quality wildlife cover, through a landowner agreement. Much of that land is in a conservation easement such as the Conservation Reserve Program, Reinvest In Minnesota or Wetland Reserve Program. This program is voluntary for landowners. Most landowners choose to enroll their property for three years. Enrolled lands are covered under the Minnesota recreational use laws that limit landowners' liability.

### Accomplishments:

- Expanded the program from 21 counties in 2011 to 47 counties in 2018, across western and south central Minnesota.
- Increased WIA program enrollments each year since its inception, despite significant acreage losses in the Conservation Reserved Program during the same period. There are 29,200 acres enrolled for 2018/2019.
- Created, printed, and distributed 27,500 Walk-In Access Hunting Atlases to guide WIA users to WIA enrolled lands for access.
- Maintained and updated the Walk-In Access web site and electronic map products to provide additional opportunities for users to locate WIA lands for access.
- Provided significant enhancements to the WIA Electronic Information System, which is used to generate landowner agreements and track WIA enrollments.
- Increased hunter use each year. This is tracked by the sale of a \$3.00 validation required to access WIA land. In 2017/2018, 23,557 validations were sold.

<b>Financial Review</b>	
<b>FY2018 Beginning fund balance</b>	<b>\$380,296</b>
Prior year adjustment	\$0
<b>Receipts</b>	
Donations	\$21,992
Transfer-in from 2200	<u>\$109,554</u>
Total receipts and transfers in	\$131,546
<b>Expenditures</b>	
Fish and Wildlife	<u>\$51,386</u>
Transfers-out	\$0
Total expenditures and transfers-out	<u>\$51,386</u>
<b>FY2018 Ending fund balance</b>	<b>\$460,455</b>
Net change for FY2018	\$80,159

Expenditures from this account in fiscal year 2018 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.