MNDNR

2016 FACT SHEET

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DNR Supplemental Budget 2016

The Governor recommends increased funding for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) totaling $11.6 million in the current biennium and $2.4 million in FY 2018-19. This funding advances the Governor's goals of making critical investments in an economy that works better for all Minnesotans.

This represents a 1 percent increase to our 2016-17 base funding.

dollars in thousands

	2016-17	2018-19
General Fund	8,666	394
Game and Fish Fund	674	8
Natural Resources Fund	2,300	2,000
Total	11,640	2,402

We focus our efforts on conserving, maximizing and enjoying the state's natural resources. This additional funding ensures that 1) one-time needs are met without diverting resources from our core services and that 2) we continue to deliver the services that citizens deserve and expect.

Proposals by Fund

dollars in thousands	**2016-17**	**2018-19**
General Fund	**8,666**	**394**
Mille Lacs Operations	197	394
NorthMet Legal Support Costs	3,969	-
Parks and Trails Operations Funding	3,000	-
Pineland Sands Land & Water Study	1,500	-
Game and Fish Fund	**674**	**8**
Aviation Supplemental Budget	670	-
Wild Rice Harvest	4	8
Natural Resources Fund	**2,300**	**2,000**
Cost Recovery for Admin of Local & Regional Grants	-	-
Parks and Trails Operations Funding (State Parks Account)	2,300	2,000
TOTAL	**11,640**	**2,402**

Proposals

NorthMet Legal Costs. This proposal helps fund our legal costs associated with defending our environmental review and permitting decisions for the NorthMet project. The 2016-17 appropriation of $4 million from the general fund will be available until spent.

Parks and Trails Operations Funding. This proposal provides $5.3 million in FY 2017 needed due to higher-than-projected personnel and system improvement costs. The funds will 1) prevent further loss of parks and trails customer services that result from reduced staffing and 2) deploy relevant technologies and improved processes that will begin to modernize and streamline our service models across the entire parks and trails system. Funding is split between the general fund and the state parks account in the Natural Resources fund.

dollars in thousands

	FY17	FY18	FY19
General Fund	3,000	-	-
State Parks Account	2,300	1,000	1,000
	5,300	1,000	1,000

Pineland Sands Lands and Water Study. This one-time funding of $1.5 million allows us to study large-scale land conversion effects on resources including drinking water, surface water, and plant and animal species related to recent activity in the Pineland Sands Aquifer. The funding would also be used to leverage additional private resources and take advantage of other work in the Pineland Sands Aquifer. This appropriation is from the general fund.

Mille Lacs Operations. This proposal provides $197,000 annually starting in FY2017 for operations of the new facility on Mille Lacs that the Governor proposed in his capital budget recommendations. This funds a year-round resident scientist and two seasonal staff for hatchery support. Without additional funding, we would have to permanently divert resources away from other critical work across the state. This appropriation is from the general fund.

DNR Aviation Supplement Budget. This proposal provides $670,000 from the Game and Fish fund for a recently purchased helicopter. Last year, we received funding to purchase a used helicopter. We found that used helicopters did not meet our needs due to lower-than-expected used inventory. After consultation with key stakeholders and aviation experts, we concluded it was in the state's best interest to purchase a new helicopter. We received $2.1 million in the 2015 session. The new helicopter cost $2.77 million. This proposal funds the difference.

Wild Rice License Exemption for Tribal Authorities. This proposal allows tribal members to harvest wild rice through a tribally issued permit or license, to harvest wild rice anywhere in the state without a state ricing license. We estimate that this change will likely reduce revenues from license sales by less than $4,000 annually.

Cost Recovery for Administration of Local and Regional Grants. This proposal allows us to use 2.5 percent of the current Lottery-in-Lieu appropriation that provides parks and trails grants to local and regional partners. This proposal is budget neutral, because it repurposes $25,000 from existing funds for our administrative effort. This practice and amount is consistent with the Parks and Trails Legacy grant program.

For further information contact

Barb Juelich, Chief Financial Officer
Operations Services/Office of Management and Budget Services
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
500 Lafayette Rd. St. Paul, MN 55155
651-259-5561
barb.juelich@state.mn.us

This information can be made available in alternative formats such as large print, braille or audio tape by emailing info.dnr@state.mn.us calling 651-259-5016.