

MINNESOTA OUTDOOR HERITAGE ALLIANCE

Legislative Update



Week ending January 29, 2021

Important Upcoming Dates:

- Committee deadlines agreed to by the House and Senate leadership:
 - 1st Deadline: Friday, March 12, 2021
 - 2nd Deadline: Friday, March 19, 2021
 - 3rd Deadline: Friday, April 9, 2021

- The Easter/Passover recess for the Minnesota Legislative Session will begin at the end of the day, Friday, March 26, and go through Monday, April 5. Legislative activity may resume at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, April 6

- May 17, 2021 – Regular Session adjourns

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General Session News:

Gov. Tim Walz [unveiled his \\$52.4 billion 2022-23 budget proposal](#) Tuesday, that would raise taxes on the wealthiest Minnesotans, corporations and tobacco products while trying to ease the pandemic's burden on students, lower-income families and small business owners. Walz said the next budget needs to [address the uneven economic toll](#) the coronavirus has exacted. He planned to raise taxes for families earning more than \$1 million while offering a tax cut to about one million couples making less than \$39,810. [Read more.](#)

Jim Schowalter, commissioner of Minnesota Management and Budget, said the \$1.3 billion in new spending is offset by \$150 million in budget reductions and use of carryover funds. The proposal also uses \$1 billion of the state's budget reserve (leaving \$847 million) and \$130 million from the stadium reserve fund which is used to pay bonds on the \$1.1 billion U.S. Bank Stadium. The stadium reserve would still have \$100 million; something Schowalter said would be "more than enough to handle any unexpected reductions in revenue." The budget would leave \$470 million on the bottom line. [Read more.](#) [MORE: Summary of [recommended changes by agency](#), proposed [General Fund](#) and [non-General Fund](#) changes]

WHERE DO THE GENERAL FUND DOLLARS COME FROM?

Fiscal years (in millions of dollars)	2020-21	2022-23
Forecast balance forward	\$3,971	\$3,025
Non-dedicated revenues: individual income tax	\$24,764	\$27,238
Sales tax	\$11,501	\$12,507
Corporate tax	\$3,074	\$3,705
Statewide property tax	\$1,554	\$1,540
Liquor, wine, beer taxes	\$195	\$209
Cigarette & tobacco taxes	\$1,163	\$1,304

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Other tax revenues	\$2,584	\$2,835
All other revenues	\$1,543	\$1,436
Subtotal non-dedicated revenues	\$46,378	\$50,774
Transfers from other funds	\$584	\$308
Prior year adjustments	\$136	\$75
Subtotal other resources	\$721	\$383
Subtotal current resources	\$47,099	\$51,157
Total available resources	\$51,071	\$54,182

WHERE THE GENERAL FUND DOLLARS GO?

Fiscal years (in millions of dollars)	2020-21	2022-23
Total available resources	\$51,071	\$54,182
E-12 education	\$19,960	\$21,257
Higher education	\$3,403	\$3,556

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Property tax aids & credits	\$3,993	\$4,200
Health & Human Services	\$13,777	\$16,674
Public safety & judiciary	\$2,612	\$2,655
Transportation	\$352	\$266
Environment	\$347	\$364
Agriculture & housing	\$250	\$262
Jobs, economic development & commerce	\$453	\$374
State government & veterans	\$1,547	\$1,233
Debt service	\$1,056	\$1,257
Capital projects & other	\$294	\$318
Subtotal-omnibus bills	\$48,045	\$52,416

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Total estimated expenditures	\$48,045	\$52,416
Cash flow account	\$350	\$350
Budget reserve	\$2,377	\$847
Stadium reserve	\$81	\$100
Projected general fund balance	\$217	\$470

Table: Jim Foster, Star Tribune Source: Minnesota Management and Budget

Escaped deer provision reinserted into floor-bound natural resources bill: [HF219](#), a six-part natural resources bill that includes the provision, was approved 14-5 by the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee Tuesday and now heads to the House floor. There is no Senate companion.

Bill sponsor [Rep. Rob Ecklund](#) (DFL-International Falls) said the aim is to protect Minnesota's wild deer from chronic wasting disease, which is always fatal, has no cure and can survive for years in the environment. To protect Minnesota's deer herd from a fatal brain disease, a House committee for a second straight year has approved a provision that would allow licensed hunters to shoot and keep escaped farm-raised deer. Since 2002, CWD-positive deer and elk have occasionally been found on farms throughout the state, which raise animals for meat and to be killed by hunters who enjoy specific characteristics, such as large antlers.

Authorities worry about escaped deer and elk spreading the disease to wild animals and potentially endangering the state's prominent deer-hunting industry. About 100 animals escape farms each year. Current law requires deer and elk farmers to try their best to capture escaped animals as soon as possible. But it doesn't address rare situations in which hunters, who might not be able to distinguish them from wild animals, accidentally shoot and kill a farm-raised deer. Under the bill, hunters who do so would not be required to pay the deer farmer for the animal. The bill also would require the deer farmers to pay to test the animal for CWD. [Rep. Josh Heintzeman](#) (R-Nisswa), voted to approve the bill, but took issue with the escaped deer provision. He said a lot of the escapes are no fault of deer farmers. [Read more](#).

Up North: Student anglers hit the ice with homemade equipment: Patrick Baumann, a senior adapted physical education specialist for the Virginia special education co-op., has been an educator in the Virginia area for 36 years. Recently he's dedicated time to running outdoor programs at Marquette Catholic School. This year he

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taught 35 students from 5th through 7th grade how to dress for cold temperatures, take care of the environment by picking up trash, and reel in some fish. "We get three or four months of no mosquitoes. We can walk around and fish wherever we want and we just can get outside and play," Baumann said. "We try and encourage them to get off of the electronic devices, read a good book, go outside, explore nature and learn." The students also made all of the equipment they used to fish with, including their rods, tip-ups, and backpack buckets. [Read more.](#)

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Press Releases:

- **DNR RESPONSE TO COVID-19:** For details on adjustments to DNR services, [visit this webpage](#). For information on the state's response, visit the [Department of Health website](#).
- **[DNR invites public input on recommendations to enhance outdoor recreation](#):** The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources invites the public to review and comment on a set of recommendations intended to bring measured growth, increased and equitable access, and a higher quality of outdoor recreation opportunities to Minnesotans and visitors.
- **[DNR accepting applications for fisheries and wildlife advisory committees](#):** Minnesotans can apply to serve on committees that advise the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources about fisheries and wildlife topics.
- **[DNR continues simplified spring turkey regulations in 2021](#):** Hunters in three large wildlife management areas have through Feb. 12 to apply for permits
- **[DNR seeks input on statewide off-highway motorcycle trails master plan](#):** The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has initiated a statewide master planning project for off-highway motorcycle (OHM) trails.

Last Week in Review:

On Monday afternoon, the Senate [Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Legacy Finance](#) met to hear a presentation by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council and the Parks and Trails Legacy Fund.

On Tuesday morning, the Senate [Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance](#) heard two bills: [S.F. 261](#) (Weber): Storm water retention and infiltration study and water storage plan appropriations and [S.F. 54](#) (Bakk): Voyager Country ATV Trail and Prospector Loop Trail appropriation; Voyager Country ATV Trail and Quad Cities ATV Club appropriation extension.

Also on Tuesday, the House [Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy](#) held a hearing on [HF219](#) (Ecklund) Farmed Cervidae provisions modified, muzzleloader provisions modified, portable stands in wildlife management areas permanently allowed, and Cervidae carcass transportation restrictions modified. This bill contains a number of provisions related to the state's game and fish laws that were considered during the 2020 session (with some modifications), including provisions addressing chronic wasting disease (CWD),

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muzzleloaders, and the use of deer stands in certain wildlife management areas (WMAs). See the [House Research Summary](#) and following committee testimony: [Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Letter](#); [Federal Ammunition, Traditions Firearms and Hogdon Powder Written Testimony](#); [Minnesota Deer Farmers Association Letter](#); and [Minnesota Deer Hunters Association Letter](#). The committee also heard a presentation on the Minnesota Zoo.

On Tuesday at 3:00 PM, the Senate [Committee on Mining and Forestry Policy](#) convened for informational overview of forestry in Minnesota. The committee documents can be found here: [Forestry Overview 1.26.21 \(Power Point\)](#); Minnesota Forestry Resource Council [Report](#); MFRC [Resolution](#): Recommendation to Reauthorize the Sustainable Forest Resources Act; [MFRC Resolution](#): Authorizing Letter to Governor Walz Recommending SFRA Reauthorization and Highlighting Recommendations in the 2020 Climate Report; Climate Change and Minnesota Forest's: [Executive Summary](#); [Pete Aube, Chair of MFRC, Written Testimony](#); [MFRC Biennial Report](#) and [Standing-Tall-MNDNR \(PDF\)](#).

On Wednesday afternoon, [Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Legacy Finance](#) met to hear overviews from the MPCA and DNR.

On Thursday afternoon, the House Committee on [Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy](#) met to hear [HF228](#) (Acomb) Statewide invasive species management plan requirements modified. See [HF228 House Research Summary](#). The committee also heard overviews from the [Environmental Quality Board \(handout\)](#), [Explore Minnesota Tourism](#), and [Metropolitan Council](#) (Parks and Water Resources).

Next Week at the Legislature:

Note: Due to COVID-19, committee hearings will be held remotely. Watch Senate committee hearings live [here](#) and House committees live [here](#).

On Monday at 1:00 PM, the Senate [Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Legacy Finance](#) will hear overviews from Board of Water and Soil Resources and the Clean Water Council.

On Tuesday morning at 10:30, the Senate [Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance](#) will meet to hear the Governor's budget walk-through of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, the Minnesota Zoo, and the Science Museum of Minnesota.

Also at 10:30 on Tuesday, the House [Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy](#) will convene to hear an overview from the Minnesota Conservation Corps. The committee will also discuss [HF151](#) (Hansen) Environment and natural resources trust fund funding provided, and money appropriated. Note: Members of the public with questions about this process or who are interested in testifying at this meeting may email committee staff at Peter.Strohmeier@house.mn; If you wish to testify, please contact Peter.Strohmeier@house.mn and copy Adam.Kopel@house.mn at least one hour prior to the start of the remote hearing to get instructions. If you plan to submit written testimony, please send to Peter.Strohmeier@house.mn by 1:00pm, Monday, February 1, 2021.

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On Wednesday morning at 10:30, the Senate [Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance](#) will meet to hear the Governor's budget walk-through of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Minnesota Board of Soil & Water Resources.

On Thursday at 1:00 PM, the House [Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy](#) will convene to hear two bills: [HF78](#) (Wazlawik) Perfluorochemicals defined as hazardous substance under Minnesota Environment Response and Liability Act; and [HF79](#) (Wazlawik) Food packaging chemical use regulated. The committee will also continue the overview of the MPCA.

Bills of Interest: Week Ending January 29, 2021:

Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council Bills of Interest: LSOHC staff maintains a MyBills page on the Legislative website. This page will keep a current listing of all bills of pertinence to the Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF) and Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC). Please click [here](#) for a list of bills pertaining to the Outdoor Heritage Council. For bills related to the Environment and **Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) and the Legislative Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR)**, please click [here](#).

House

Outdoor Recreation:

Heintzeman and Lueck introduced: [H. F. 320](#), A bill for an act relating to education; establishing a grant program to include firearms safety, archery, hunting, and angling in school physical education courses; requiring a report; appropriating money. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

Koegel introduced: [H. F. 364](#), A bill for an act relating to natural resources; exempting paddleboards from watercraft licensure requirements; amending Minnesota Statutes 2020, sections 86B.005, subdivision 18; 86B.415, subdivision 1a. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

Game and Fish:

Vang introduced: [H. F. 387](#), A bill for an act relating to game and fish; modifying provisions for taking turtles; amending Minnesota Statutes 2020, sections 97A.475, subdivision 41; 97C.605, subdivisions 1, 2c, 3; repealing Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 97C.605, subdivisions 2, 2a, 2b, 5; Minnesota Rules, part 6256.0500, subparts 2, 2a, 2b, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

Natural Resources:

Lippert; Hansen, R.; Acomb; Jordan; Morrison; Lee; Becker-Finn and Long introduced: [H. F. 353](#), A bill for an act relating to natural resources; requiring a report about the state's peatlands; appropriating money. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

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Green introduced: [H. F. 368](#), A bill for an act relating to watershed districts; eliminating eminent domain powers of watershed districts; amending Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 103D.335, subdivisions 1, 11. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

Green introduced: [H. F. 369](#), A bill for an act relating to environment; limiting installers liability for damages caused by subsurface sewage treatment systems; amending Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 115.55, by adding a subdivision. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

Green introduced: [H. F. 370](#), A bill for an act relating to environment; requiring third-party contracting for certain analytical testing; amending Minnesota Statutes 2020, sections 84.027, by adding a subdivision; 116.07, by adding a subdivision. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

Hansen, R.; Morrison; Hanson, J.; Jordan and Lippert introduced: [H. F. 408](#), A bill for an act relating to agriculture; increasing fees for pollinator lethal insecticides; allocating fee revenue for pollinator research; amending Minnesota Statutes 2020, sections 18B.051; 18B.26, subdivision 3. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Agriculture Finance and Policy.

Lueck introduced: [H. F. 472](#), A bill for an act relating to natural resources; modifying wild rice harvesting provisions; amending Minnesota Statutes 2020, sections 84.091, subdivision 2; 84.111, subdivision 4. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

Lee introduced: [H. F. 503](#), A bill for an act relating to environment; requiring public hearing every five years for nonexpiring air emission permits; amending Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 116.07, by adding a subdivision. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

Lippert and Fischer introduced: [H. F. 518](#), A bill for an act relating to waters; providing for watershed management; establishing program for water quality and storage in Minnesota River basin; amending Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 103A.212; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 103F. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

Senate:

Game and Fish:

Senators Goggin, Ingebrigtsen, Howe, Dornink, and Lang introduced--[S.F. No. 271](#): A bill for an act relating to game and fish; prohibiting certain antler point restrictions; amending Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 97B.311; repealing Laws 2013, chapter 121, section 53; Minnesota Rules, part 6232.0350. Referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Legacy Finance.

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Senator Mathews introduced--[S.F. No. 293](#): A bill for an act relating to game and fish; requiring negotiation of safe harvest levels for walleye; requiring a report. Referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Legacy Finance.

Senator Mathews introduced--[S.F. No. 294](#): A bill for an act relating to game and fish; adding requirements of 1837 Ceded Territory Fisheries Technical Committee. Referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Legacy Finance.

Senators Bigham and Hawj introduced--[S.F. No. 374](#): A bill for an act relating to agriculture; requiring depopulation of farmed Cervidae herd when an animal is infected with chronic wasting disease; amending Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 35.155, subdivision 11. Referred to the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development Finance and Policy.

Senators Bigham and Hawj introduced--[S.F. No. 375](#): A bill for an act relating to agriculture; modifying provisions pertaining to the escape of farmed Cervidae; modifying identification requirements for farmed Cervidae; amending Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 35.155, subdivisions 1, 6. Referred to the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development Finance and Policy.

Natural Resources:

Senators Mathews and Draheim introduced--[S.F. No. 357](#): A bill for an act relating to natural resources; modifying wetland replacement ratios; amending Minnesota Statutes 2020, sections 103G.222, subdivision 1; 103G.2242, subdivision 12; 103G.2243, subdivision 2. Referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Legacy Finance.

Senators Ruud, Duckworth, Ingebrigtsen, and Dahms introduced--[S.F. No. 369](#): A bill for an act relating to capital investment; appropriating money for RIM and other conservation purposes; authorizing the sale and issuance of state bonds. Referred to the Committee on Capital Investment.

Senator Bigham introduced--[S.F. No. 373](#): A bill for an act relating to environment; regulating use of certain chemicals in food packaging; requiring rulemaking; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 116. Referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Legacy Finance.

Senators Lang, Ingebrigtsen, and Ruud introduced--[S.F. No. 388](#): A bill for an act relating to natural resources; appropriating money from outdoor heritage fund. Referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Legacy Finance.

Senator Ruud introduced--[S.F. No. 451](#): A bill for an act relating to natural resources; modifying wild rice harvesting provisions; amending Minnesota Statutes 2020, sections 84.091, subdivision 2; 84.111, subdivision 4. Referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Legacy Finance.

Senator Draheim introduced--[S.F. No. 466](#): A bill for an act relating to water; creating Department of Water Resources; transferring duties from various state agencies; abolishing Board of Water and Soil Resources and Environmental Quality Board; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 103A. Referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Legacy Finance.

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Senators Eichorn, Ruud, Ingebrigtsen, Utke, and Tomassoni introduced--[S.F. No. 476](#): A bill for an act relating to natural resources; appropriating money for reforestation. Referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance.

Miscellaneous:

Senator Housley introduced--[S.F. No. 391](#): A bill for an act relating to state government; allowing debit cards to be used for purchasing raffle tickets over the telephone. Referred to the Committee on State Government Finance and Policy and Elections.

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