

MINNESOTA OUTDOOR HERITAGE ALLIANCE

Legislative Update



Week ending January 15, 2021

Important Upcoming Dates

- May 17, 2021 – Regular Session adjourns

General Session News:

Lawmakers are facing a smaller-than-expected \$1.3 billion budget shortfall in the next two-year budget and a projected surplus of \$641 million in the current budget that runs through June 30, pending an updated forecast next month. The Legislature is required by law to come to terms on a balanced two-year budget, which is expected to total around \$50 billion. The legislative session ends in May. [Read more.](#)

The Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS) and the State Patrol are preparing for possible protest activity around the State Capitol over the next several days, ahead of the presidential inauguration in Washington, D.C. While the Capitol remains a safe place, officials are asking Minnesotans who do not have any planned activity or business at the Capitol to consider visiting at another time. Visitors will notice some, but not all, security measures that are intended to keep people safe and protect property on the Capitol Complex . . . State Patrol troopers, Department of Natural Resources conservation officers and National Guard soldiers will be visible and available to respond to various threats. Traffic restrictions will be in place around the Capitol. Foot traffic will be allowed; however, only state agency employees, contractors, deliveries and those with official state business will be able to drive in the restricted area around the Capitol. [Read more](#) via DPS Press Release.

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SCOTT GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

After spring concerns, budget officials say Legacy balances are healthy: When Minnesota Management and Budget projected last May that state sales tax revenues would likely plummet, there was a big ripple effect for Minnesota's artists, museums, libraries, zoos, parks, trails, wetlands, forests, prairies, and efforts to keep the state's waters clean... Working off of the May 2020 forecast, the decision was made in July that some of the Legacy funds appropriated for the current fiscal year would be held back until fiscal 2022, which begins July 1... The result is that \$16.5 million originally appropriated to the Clean Water Fund for this fiscal year will be added to the fiscal 2022 total. Similarly, available 2022 monies for the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund will grow by \$9.9 million, and the Parks and Trails Fund by \$4.5 million.

The revenue from the 0.375% in sales taxes for Legacy funds is divided up thus:

- 33% to the Clean Water Fund;
- 33% to the Outdoor Heritage Fund;
- 19.75% to the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund; and
- 14.25% to the Parks and Trails Fund.

For each fund, 5% of its balance is kept in reserve. Based upon the [November 2020 forecast](#), Minnesota Management and Budget projects that the following will be available to be appropriated to each fund in fiscal year 2022:

- \$133.2 million to the Outdoor Heritage Fund;
- \$122.6 million to the Clean Water Fund;
- \$70.6 million to the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund; and
- \$53 million to the Parks and Trails Fund. [Read more.](#)

Emergency powers, elections and violent rhetoric: Why it may be hard to get anything done at Minnesota Legislature this year: A heated media forum Monday with the governor and the four legislative leaders featured a back and forth about the invasion of the U.S. Capitol and whether lawmakers' rhetoric contributed to it. But it was sometimes hard to distinguish between anger over the attack and frustration over the state's response to COVID-19. [Read more.](#)

Column: via *Duluth Tribune*: **More of the same on the way for the Minnesota Legislature.** Minnesota is the only state in the country with split legislative control, which would be difficult enough to navigate in normal times. Having to reach a compromise consensus in the Democratic House and Republican Senate on every single bill has ground St. Paul to a halt many times over the past few years. The split Legislature is the tinder. Now, pour on the gasoline of the pandemic. And light the match that is the increasingly divisive language used by lawmakers since the start of the Donald Trump presidency. The flames of partisanship are roaring and alive in St. Paul in the new year, even as the smoke stands to choke more and more innocent citizens caught downwind. [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](#).

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- [Minnesotans fish free with kids Jan. 16-18](#): Take a Kid Ice Fishing Weekend is this Saturday, Jan. 16, through Monday, Jan. 18.
- [DNR seeks input on potential waterfowl hunting changes](#): The DNR is seeking public input as it updates the state's waterfowl hunting regulations.
- [Prairie habitat project underway at Lac qui Parle Wildlife Management Area](#): Contractors are removing invasive trees and brush along the north bank of Lac qui Parle Lake, which is south of Milan.

Last Week in Review:

On Monday, [Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council](#) convened to discuss a number of items. The agenda can be found [here](#) and relevant meeting materials can be accessed here: [2021 Council Calendar](#); [Memo / ML2022/FY2023 Call for Funding Request](#); [Memo / Parcel List of Proposed Acquisition Projects with Existing Easements](#); [Memo - Metro Big Rivers Extension](#); [Memo - Protect and Restore IBAs within the Tallgrass Aspen Parklands Extension](#); [Memo - DNR Extensions](#); [Memo - Accelerated Prairie Restoration and Enhancement on DNR Lands Extension](#); [Memo - Roseau Lake Rehabilitation Extension](#); [Memo - Accelerated Native Prairie Bank Protection Extension](#); [Memo - MN Forests for the Future Extension](#); [U of M Outdoor Heritage Fund Outcomes Report PowerPoint](#); and [U of M Outdoor Heritage Fund Outcomes Report \(Full Report\)](#). The next meeting will be March 12, 2021 and can be viewed via Zoom [here](#).

Also, on Monday, the Senate [Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Legacy Finance](#) met to introduce new members, lay out remote committee expectations, and hear an overview of Legacy Funds.

On Tuesday, the House [Environment and Natural Resources Finance & Policy](#) committee convened to discuss [HF30](#) (Hansen) Environment and natural resources trust fund money appropriated, and previous appropriations modified. This is the 2020 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Bill and has been introduced during the 2020 Legislative Session and various subsequent Special Sessions. See [HF30 House Research Summary](#) and [spreadsheet](#). See also the following testimony: [Minnesota Forestry Association Letter](#); [Greater Minnesota Parks and Trails](#); [Partnership on Waste and Energy Letter](#); [Minnesota Shade Tree Advisory Committee Letter](#); and [MEP Letter](#).

On Wednesday morning, the House [Legacy Finance](#) met for member introductions and to hear an update from Minnesota Management and Budget. See the MMB spreadsheet [here](#).

On Thursday at 1:00, the House [Environment and Natural Resources Finance & Policy](#) convened to hear an overview of the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil 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 January 18, the Legislature will not be in session due to Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

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On Tuesday at 10:30am, the Senate [Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance](#) will hold an informational hearing on DNR, MPCA, and BWSR COVID expenditures.

Also on Tuesday, at 1:00pm, the House [Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy](#) will convene to discuss [HF133](#) (Becker-Finn) Conveying state land interests provisions modified, state parks added to and deleted from, and state land sales authorized and hear an overview by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

On Tuesday at 3pm, the House Committee [on Mining and Forestry Policy](#) will convene to hear an overview of school trust lands and mining.

On Wednesday at 10:30am, there will be a joint meeting of the Senate Committee on [Environment and Natural Resources](#) and the Committee on [Natural Resources Policy and Legacy Finance](#) will hold a hearing to discuss MPCA's proposed adoption of California Emissions Standards.

On Thursday at 1pm, the House [Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy](#) will hold a hearing on [HF91](#) (Hansen) Dry cleaner environmental response and reimbursement account expenditures prioritized, perchloroethylene banned, prior appropriation modified, cost-share program funding provide, and money appropriated.

Bills of Interest: Week Ending January 15, 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

Game and Fish:

Erickson introduced: [H. F. 48](#), A bill for an act relating to game and fish; requiring negotiation of safe harvest levels for walleye; requiring a report. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

Erickson introduced: [H. F. 49](#), A bill for an act relating to game and fish; adding requirements of 1837 Ceded Territory Fisheries Technical Committee. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

Swedzinski introduced: [H. F. 74](#), A bill for an act relating to game and fish; modifying muzzleloader provisions; amending Minnesota Statutes 2020, sections 97A.015, subdivision 51; 97B.031, subdivision 1. 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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Ecklund, Sundin and Lislegard introduced: [H. F. 100](#), A bill for an act relating to natural resources; directing commissioner of natural resources to reduce walleye limit. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

Swedzinski, Lueck, Bliss and Daniels introduced: [H. F. 90](#), A bill for an act relating to game and fish; eliminating shotgun zone for taking deer; amending Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 97B.031, by adding a subdivision; repealing Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 97B.318. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

Outdoor Recreation:

Ecklund, Sundin, Sandstede, Lislegard, Igo and Lillie introduced: [H. F. 45](#), A bill for an act relating to natural resources; appropriating money for all-terrain vehicle trails; extending availability of certain appropriations for all-terrain vehicle trail construction. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

Becker-Finn; Hansen, R.; Gomez; Olson, L.; Jordan; Davnie; Kotyza-Witthuhn; Moller; Hollins; Reyer; Huot; Youakim; Feist; Lee and Berg introduced: [H. F. 76](#), A bill for an act relating to natural resources; establishing outdoor recreation grant account; appropriating money; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 84. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

Hertaus introduced: [H. F. 119](#), A bill for an act relating to public safety; designating a permit to carry as equivalent to a firearms safety certificate for hunting; amending Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 97B.020. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Public Safety and Criminal Justice Reform Finance and Policy.

Natural Resources/Conservation:

Hansen, R.; Davids; Ecklund; Urdahl; Hamilton; Swedzinski; Fischer; Lee and Becker-Finn introduced: [H. F. 99](#), 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. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Capital Investment.

Becker-Finn; Hansen, R., and Ecklund introduced: [H. F. 133](#), A bill for an act relating to state lands; modifying provisions for conveying state land interests; adding to and deleting from state parks and recreation areas; authorizing sales of certain state lands; amending Minnesota Statutes 2020, sections 84.63; 92.502. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

Senate:

Outdoor Recreation:

Senator Cwodzinski introduced--[S.F. No. 32](#): A bill for an act relating to natural resources; requiring feasibility study and report on state park fees. Referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Legacy Finance.

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Senators Bakk and Tomassoni introduced--[S.F. No. 54](#): A bill for an act relating to natural resources; appropriating money for all-terrain vehicle trails; extending availability of certain appropriations for all-terrain vehicle trail construction. Referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance.

Senator Clausen introduced--[S.F. No. 106](#): A bill for an act relating to natural resources; providing uniformity in enforcing driving under the influence provisions for certain recreational vehicles; providing criminal penalties; amending Minnesota Statutes 2020, sections 84.795, subdivision 5; 84.83, subdivision 5; 86B.705, subdivision 2; 97A.065, subdivision 2; 169A.20, subdivision 1; 169A.52, by adding a subdivision; 169A.54, by adding a subdivision; 171.306, by adding a subdivision; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapters 84; 86B; 171; repealing Minnesota Statutes 2020, sections 84.91, subdivision 1; 86B.331, subdivision 1; 169A.20, subdivisions 1a, 1b, 1c. Referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety Finance and Policy.

Natural Resources:

Senator McEwen introduced--

[S.F. No. 59](#): A bill for an act relating to natural resources; requiring certain determinations before issuing nonferrous mining permits; amending Minnesota Statutes 2020, sections 93.001; 115.03, subdivision 1; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 93. Referred to the Committee on Mining and Forestry Policy.

Senator Rarick introduced--[S.F. No. 60](#): A bill for an act relating to taxation; property; authorizing levy authority for certain soil and water conservation districts. Referred to the Committee on Taxes.

Senators Bigham, Johnson Stewart, and Osmek introduced--[S.F. No. 72](#): A bill for an act relating to environment; authorizing repair or replacement of subsurface sewage treatment systems to be financed through the agricultural best management practices loan program regardless of where in the state the subsurface sewage treatment system is located; amending Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 17.117, subdivision 4. Referred to the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development Finance and Policy.

Senators Weber and Frenz introduced--[S.F. No. 81](#): 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. Referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Legacy Finance.

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