



# Conservation Connection



**A Minnesota Legislative Outdoor Newsletter: Created by Kim Scott and Alexandra David**

**Sponsored by: Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, Fergus Falls Fish and Game Club,  
Fish Lake Conservation Club, Izaak Walton League, MN Musky and Pike Alliance,  
MN Sharptail Grouse Society, Outdoor News, Pheasants Forever, Sportsmen for the BWCA\***

**February 21, 2025**

**Important Dates:**

- March 6, 2025: February forecast to be released
- Monday, March 31, 2025: Legislative break for Eid
- Tuesday, March 11, 2025: District 40B Special Election
- April 11, 2025 at 12:00 PM - April 21, 2025 at 12:00 PM: Legislative break for Easter and Passover
- May 9-10: 77th Minnesota Governor's Fishing Opener in Crosslake
- May 19: Constitutional deadline for adjournment for the 2025 Legislative Session

**House Environment Committee discusses discounted fishing license fees for Minnesota's senior anglers:**

[Rep. Mary Franson](#) (R-Alexandria) proffers [HF413](#) that would let state residents aged 65 and older fish for free; [HF276](#) would reduce their annual license fees to \$15. [Rep. Jim Nash](#) (R-Waconia) sponsors that bill. Adult residents now pay \$25 annually for an angling license until they turn age 90, when fees are waived. The House Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee laid both over for possible inclusion in a committee bill . . . Eliminating licensing fees for residents 65 and older, as called for in the free fishing proposal, would cost the DNR an estimated \$4 million per year in lost fees, said Pat Rivers, deputy director of the department's Fish and Wildlife Division. An additional \$1.1 million would be lost annually because the DNR would also receive less money from an excise tax the state collects on fishing equipment purchases, which are distributed proportionally based on the number of fishing licenses purchased, he said. An annual reduction of \$5.1 million per year to the game and fish fund would need to be made up somehow, Rivers said, most likely by a fee increase to anglers under age 65. [Read more.](#)

**Counties alarmed about potential 50% state cut to aquatic invasive species prevention:** Gov. Tim Walz has proposed a 50% cut in Minnesota's \$10 million program to fight aquatic invasive species, and that has raised concerns among county officials . . . The money goes to counties to pay for education outreach and hands-on work, like boat cleaning stations and inspectors at public accesses, to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species like zebra mussels and starry stonewort . . . The state created the \$10 million AIS aid program and has been distributing it to counties for at least a decade . . . That money goes to counties based on a formula that involves the number of public boat launches and accompanying parking spaces there are in each county . . . [Read more.](#)

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**Minnesota lawmakers look at speeding up environmental permitting process:** The bills — [HF8](#) , introduced by Rep. Josh Heintzeman, R-Nisswa; [and SF570](#), introduced by Sen. Grant Hauschild, DFL-Hermantown, and Sen. Justin Eichorn, R-Grand Rapids — encapsulate several reform proposals for Minnesota’s environmental permitting process. Among them is a proposal to cap currently unlimited wetland permit extensions, to one extension of 60 days for local units of government to make permitting decisions under the Wetland Conservation Act. The bill also proposes that the commissioner of the Pollution Control Agency would oversee permits if the approval process exceeds 90 to 150 days, depending on the permit type. Additionally, the bills would restrict citizen petitions against projects to only those living within the county where the project is located, and allow permit applicants to request an expedited permit review . . . Environmentalists and concerned citizens met the bill with some resistance during its first hearing Thursday. Aaron Klemz, chief strategy officer for the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy, said he believes Minnesota’s permitting problem is with “a lack of enforcement and the inability to say no when proposals don’t meet our environmental standards, not the lack of a deadline . . . .” [Read more](#).

**How will job cuts to federal land agencies affect Minnesota?** The Forest Service, which is within the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), is firing 3,400 employees, about a 10% reduction of the agency’s workforce, according to a Reuters report. A USDA spokesperson said in a statement that the department “has made the difficult decision to release about 2,000 probationary, non-firefighting employees from the Forest Service.” Here is what is known and unknown about the workforce at federal land-management agencies in Minnesota and the region: An agency employee in Minnesota who requested anonymity out of fear of retribution said the cuts and fallout have SNF staff “in crisis mode.” More forest colleagues are worried they’ll lose their jobs, and some career employees feel pressured to resign or risk losing benefits, the worker added. The workforce that manages the 3 million-acre national forest “already is 100 employees down” to about 250, said the employee. They include a variety of jobs such as rangers, firefighters, biologists, and visitor services staff . . . Before the newest job cuts, the Forest Service nationally was facing an expected \$500 million budget shortfall. SNF managers had said 23 seasonal jobs would go unfilled, meaning routine work such as cleaning campsites and messy trails would take a back seat. [Read more](#) and [more](#).

**DNR setting the table for a possible bigger walleye catch on Mille Lacs:** State Fisheries Chief Brad Parsons and members of his staff at the Department of Natural Resources said Tuesday night they will give consideration to suggestions for a two- or three-fish walleye bag limit this year. In 2024, state-licensed anglers weren’t allowed to keep a single walleye caught from Mille Lacs until August. The stringent regulation last year was borne out of concerns about overrunning last year’s safe harvest level of a total of 91,500 pounds. Confident that this year’s safe harvest level will be set significantly higher when negotiations conclude soon with Ojibwe tribes who share in management of Mille Lacs, Parsons and Brian Nerbonne of the DNR listened to hypothetical rule-setting suggestions from an 18-member advisory committee that met at Izatys Resort in Onamia and by teleconference. Members repeatedly vocalized a desire for the DNR to get aggressive with early-season harvest rules this year. [Read more](#).

**MPCA finalizes changes to feedlot general permits:** In January, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) finalized changes to the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and State Disposal System (SDS) feedlot general permits. The finalization came after a public comment period over the summer and subsequent revision by the agency. Like the draft permits, the finalized permits require farms that accept transferred manure from permitted facilities to follow the same land application and reporting requirements as permittees. That includes adhering to the MPCA’s list of nitrogen best management practices (BMPs)—practices that vary depending on the time of year and whether a farm is located in a [vulnerable groundwater area](#). Notably, in vulnerable groundwater areas, the only allowable nitrogen BMP from Oct. 1-14 is application to a growing perennial or row crop or planting a cover crop prior to or within 14 days of application. [Read more](#).

**Lawsuit derides ‘Frankenstein’s monster’ omnibus bill as unconstitutional,** but what says the Minnesota Supreme Court? The state constitution includes a “single-subject” rule for legislation, but omnibus bills remain omnipresent in Minnesota politics. The Minnesota Legislature’s love of the omnibus bill — and whether it will ever push the state Supreme Court to enforce the constitution’s “single-subject” rule — could get its biggest test in a lawsuit filed last week. In [Minnesota Gun Owners Caucus v. Tim Walz et al](#), the plaintiffs argue that if any bill violates the provision that bills only cover a single subject, the record-setting 1,400-plus-page bill that ended the 2024 session might be the one . . . The suit asks the courts to toss out the entire law. Short of that, it asks that the sections dealing with binary triggers be invalidated. [Read more](#).

**Study Examines the Age of Groundwater and Nitrate Trends in Southeast Minnesota:** A newly published study by researchers at the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA), the University of Minnesota’s Minnesota Geological Survey, and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources reveals new information about the age of groundwater in the state’s distinctive Driftless Area of southeastern Minnesota . . .The results showed that most monitoring sites with elevated nitrate had groundwater less than 20 years old. Nitrate levels in this water were either decreasing or relatively steady. Improved agricultural practices may have contributed to these results. [Read more](#).

#### **Select DNR News releases**

- [Public input needed on fisheries management plans for 151 Minnesota lakes](#): March is the month to connect with Minnesota Department of Natural Resources fisheries offices across Minnesota about 151 lakes in 40 counties that will have their fisheries lake management plans updated in 2025.
- [As deadlines approach, Minnesota DNR urges fish house owners to remove shelters from the ice](#): With warm weather in the forecast for much of Minnesota during the coming week, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources reminds anyone who still has a fish house on the ice to start planning for its removal.
- [Minnesota DNR to begin capturing and collaring elk for research project in northwest Minnesota](#): Research biologists from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and University of

Minnesota-Twin Cities will begin capturing and collaring elk for an in-depth elk research project in northwest Minnesota beginning early March 2025.

- [Minnesota DNR proposes bear permit area boundary revisions](#): The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is recommending changes to several bear permit area boundaries based on input from wildlife managers and Tribal requests, as well as an effort to align boundaries with consistent landscapes such as the edges between forested and agricultural lands, and reduce agricultural conflicts.

### **Last Week at the Legislature:**

On Monday at 8:15 AM, House [Fraud Prevention and State Agency Oversight Policy](#) met to hear a presentation from the [Department of Administration's Office of Grants Management](#) regarding oversight of state grants, and the status of OGM implementation of recommendations received from the Office of the Legislative Auditor

At 1:00 PM, House [Agriculture Finance and Policy](#) heard a number of presentations from: Minnesota Agricultural Education Leadership Council, [Farm Business Management](#), Rural Mental Health, County Fairs, [GreenSeam](#), and Second Harvest Heartland. The committee will also discussed the following bills: [HF711](#) (Anderson): Agricultural education and leadership council grants funding provided, and money appropriated; and [HF653](#) (Nelson): Money transferred to the agricultural research, education, extension, and technology transfer (AGREETT) account; grant program and farm business management challenge grant funding provided; reports required; and money appropriated.

At 3:00 PM, Senate [Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband and Rural Development](#) convened for presentations from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture on [Federal Interactions with State Programs](#), Second Harvest Heartland on [Federal Interactions with state Hunger Relief programs](#), and Hunger Solutions on Federal Interactions with state Food programs, and an Update from Minnesota Pollution Control Agency on status of Federal CPRG Funds.

On Tuesday at 9:00 AM, Senate [Taxes](#) convened to hear a number of bills, [S.F. 0011 \(Rest\)](#): Exemption modification for firearm storage units. See: [Fiscal Note](#) and Letter of Support by [National Shooting Sports Foundation](#).

Also at 1:00 PM, House [Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy](#) heard budget overviews from the [Department of Natural Resources](#) and the [Board of Water and Soil Resources](#).

At 3:00 PM, Senate [Environment, Climate, and Legacy](#) convened to hear a number of bills and a presentation on the Clean Water Council FY26-27 Recommendations. See: [Clean Water Council FY26-27 Recommendations-Full Report](#), [Clean Water Council FY26-27 Recommendations](#), [Clean Water Council Recommendations for the Clean Water Fund](#).

On Wednesday at 12:30 PM Senate [Jobs and Economic Development](#) discussed a number of bills, including: [S.F. 0240 \(Draheim\)](#): Grants prohibition to nonprofit organizations with highly compensated officers or employees. Marie Ellis, Public Policy Director, Minnesota Council of Nonprofits, testified against this bill.

On Thursday at 9:00 AM , Senate [Taxes](#) heard a number of bills including: [S.F. 1089 \(Hauschild\)](#): Appropriation increase for soil and water conservation district aid. See also: [Bill Summary](#), [Proposed SWCD Aid under SF 1089](#), [Fiscal Note](#), and letters of support from: [Hennepin County](#), [MASWCD](#), and [MFU](#).

At 1:00 PM, House [Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy](#) will convene for a presentation on MPCA. The committee also heard two angling bills: [HF276 \(Nash\)](#): Fishing license fees reduced for persons 65 years of age and older, and money transferred ([Fiscal Note](#) and [Bill Summary](#)); and [HF413 \(Franson\)](#): Age to angle without a license modified ([Bill Summary](#)). See also testimony in support from [Conservation MN](#) and [Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation](#). See also: [Fishing licenses for seniors/price by state](#).

#### **Next Week at the Legislature:**

On Monday at 1:00 PM, House [Agriculture Finance and Policy](#) will hear a presentation from state FFA officers, an overview of the Office of the Legislative Auditor report on Bioincentive and Biofuel Infrastructure Grant Programs, and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture response, as well as an overview of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture proposed budget.

At 12:30 PM, the Senate [Labor](#) Committee will hear discussion on [S.F. 1346 \(Boldon\)](#): Permit holders harvesting or destroying aquatic plants safe usage of scuba diving equipment requirement provision and commercial diving operations requirements establishment provision.

At 1:00 PM, House [Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy](#) will meet to hear: [HF1120 \(Myers\)](#) Keep it Clean program established, and money appropriated and [HF1218 \(Heintzeman\)](#) Funding from the environment and natural resources trust fund, prior appropriations modified, and money appropriated. Other bills may be added.

At 3:00 PM, Senate [Environment, Climate, and Legacy](#) will convene to discuss, among other bills: [SF1375 \(Kupec\)](#) River watch program appropriation; [SF976 \(McEwen\)](#) Wilderness programs appropriation; and [SF1637 \(Hauschild\)](#) Lake County appropriation..

On Wednesday at 10:15 AM, House [Legacy Finance](#) will meet to hear presentations from DNR Parks and Trails, Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission, and Met Council Parks.

At 1:00 PM, [Agriculture Finance and Policy](#) has a number of items on its agenda: the Committee will hear a presentation from the Poultry Industry and the Board of Animal Health Budget Presentation and status update on livestock and poultry diseases. The Committee will also hear a presentation by the Minnesota

Department of Agriculture reports on depredation programs. The Committee will also discuss the following bills: [HF601](#) (Burkel): Depredation compensation payment funding provided, and money appropriated; [HF271](#) (Burkel): Wolf and elk depredation compensation payments funding provided, and money appropriated; [HF1101](#) (Anderson): Money transferred from the general fund to the agricultural emergency account; and [HF979](#) (Anderson): Board of Animal Health funding provided, and money appropriated.

On Thursday at 3:00 PM, Senate [Environment, Climate, and Legacy](#) will convene; agenda to be announced.

At 1:00 PM, House [Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy](#) will meet to hear: [HF944](#) (Gillman) Trespass law modified to allow purple markings and [HF819](#) (Schultz) Minnesota Sustainable Foraging Task Force established.

### **Bills Introductions of Interest:**

#### **Environment and Natural Resources:**

##### **Bipartisan Legislation:**

**Hollins and Scott introduced: [H. F. 793](#).** A bill for an act relating to environment; establishing certified salt applicator program; limiting liability; requiring a report; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 116. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

**Jacob; Anderson, P. H., and Vang introduced: [H. F. 821](#).** A bill for an act relating to agriculture; appropriating money for nitrate private well mitigation. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Agriculture Finance and Policy.

**Olson, Koegel, Skraba, Murphy, Tabke and Kraft introduced: [H. F. 983](#).** A bill for an act relating to capital investment; appropriating money for the local road wetland replacement program; authorizing the sale and issuance of state bonds. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Capital Investment.

**Nelson; Vang; Harder; Frederick; Anderson, P. H.; Pursell and Allen introduced: [H. F. 985](#).** A bill for an act relating to agriculture; appropriating money for the soil health financial assistance program. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Agriculture Finance and Policy.

**McDonald, Hudson, Rarick, Gillman, Dotseth and Lillie introduced: [H. F. 1024](#).** A bill for an act relating to environment; defining animal feedlots; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 116.06, 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.

**Reyer; Heintzeman; Norris; Davids; Anderson, P. H.; Torkelson and Youakim introduced:** [H. F. 1066](#). A bill for an act relating to taxation; local government aids; increasing the appropriation for soil and water conservation district aid; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 477A.23, subdivision 6. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Taxes.

**Hansen, R.; Lee, F.; Koznick and Fischer introduced:** [H. F. 1071](#). A bill for an act relating to natural resources; implementing recommendations of Aggregate Resources Task Force; requiring a report; appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 84.94, subdivision 4; 473.859, subdivision 2. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

**Senators Pha, Hawj, Wesenberg, Kunesh, and Bahr introduced--**[S.F. No. 1464](#): A bill for an act relating to natural resources; establishing the Minnesota Sustainable Foraging Task Force; providing appointments; requiring a report. Referred to the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy.

**Senators Putnam, Weber, Draskowski, and Hauschild introduced--**[S.F. No. 1498](#): A bill for an act relating to taxation; property; modifying the definition of agricultural land for agricultural property classification; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 273.13, subdivision 23. Referred to the Committee on Taxes.

**Senators Hawj, Johnson Stewart, Eichorn, and Lang introduced--**[S.F. No. 1535](#): A bill for an act relating to capital investment; appropriating money for the local road wetland replacement program; authorizing the sale and issuance of state bonds. Referred to the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy.

**Myers, Jordan, Heintzeman, Lillie and Witte introduced:** [H. F. 1120](#). A bill for an act relating to natural resources; establishing Keep it Clean program; appropriating money; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 97C. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

**Fischer and Heintzeman introduced:** [H. F. 1206](#). A bill for an act relating to environment; appropriating money for the upper Mississippi River basin priority lakes and streams initiative. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

**Fischer and Heintzeman introduced:** [H. F. 1209](#). A bill for an act relating to health; appropriating money for a voluntary well water testing program. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Health Finance and Policy.

**Senators Kupec and Rasmusson introduced--** [S.F. No. 1569](#): A bill for an act relating to natural resources; appropriating money for Red River mediation agreement. Referred to the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy.

**Senators Farnsworth, Hauschild, Eichorn, Hoffman, and Duckworth introduced--**[S.F. No. 1702](#): A bill for an act relating to state lands; prohibiting sale of state-owned land in Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness;

proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 92; repealing Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 92.82. Referred to the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy.

**Senators Weber, Kupec, Hauschild, Lang, and Hoffman introduced--[S.F. No. 1715](#):** A bill for an act relating to natural resources; modifying the definition of public waters; eliminating appropriation for public waters inventory; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 103G.005, subdivision 15; 103G.201. Referred to the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy.

**DFL Legislation:**

**Hanson, J.; Falconer and Feist introduced: [H. F. 954](#),** A bill for an act relating to natural resources; requiring certain determinations before conducting environmental review and issuing permits relating to proposed nonferrous sulfide ore projects; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 93.001; 115.03, subdivision 1; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 93. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

**Hanson, J.; Falconer and Feist introduced: [H. F. 955](#),** A bill for an act relating to natural resources; modifying financial assurance requirements for nonferrous permit to mine; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 93.481, subdivision 1; 93.49. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

**Pursell; Elkins; Hansen, R.; Hollins and Kraft introduced: [H. F. 1012](#),** A bill for an act relating to natural resources; requiring the commissioner of natural resources to consider decommissioning a road or trail designated for off-highway vehicle use under certain circumstances; protecting land, water quality, aquatic life, and wildlife from effects of using certain motorized recreational trails; requiring environmental assessment worksheet to construct or expand off-highway vehicle trails; requiring rulemaking; appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 84.777; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 84; repealing Laws 2003, chapter 128, article 1, section 167, subdivision 1, as amended; Minnesota Rules, part 6100.0500, subpart 8d. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

**Hansen, R.; Lee, F., and Perez-Vega introduced: [H. F. 1073](#),** A bill for an act relating to pipelines; providing for the disposition of abandoned pipelines; requiring a pipeline abandonment plan; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 216G.02, by adding subdivisions; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 216G. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Transportation Finance and Policy.

**Senators Hoffman and Hawj introduced--[S.F. No. 1447](#):** A bill for an act relating to state government; appropriating money from clean water and parks and trails funds. Referred to the Committee on State and Local Government.



**Pursell, Finke and Falconer introduced:** [H. F. 1150](#), A bill for an act relating to environment; requiring study of environmental impacts of artificial intelligence; 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.

**Feist; Fischer; Hanson, J.; Pursell; Jordan; Greene; Gomez; Sencer-Mura; Clardy; Kraft; Falconer; Agbaje; Xiong; Rehm; Mahamoud and Momanyi-Hiltsley introduced:** [H. F. 1197](#), A bill for an act relating to mining; prohibiting environmental review and the issuance of nonferrous sulfide ore mining permits, licenses, or leases to bad actors; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 93. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

**Fischer introduced:** [H. F. 1204](#), A bill for an act relating to environment; modifying provisions to petition for preparation of environmental assessment worksheet; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 116D.04, subdivisions 2a, 5a; 116D.045, subdivision 1. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

**Fischer introduced:** [H. F. 1205](#), A bill for an act relating to natural resources; modifying reporting requirements; modifying state trail pass provisions for off-road vehicles; modifying invasive species provisions; providing for burbot commercial fishing on Lake Superior; modifying provisions of public waters inventory; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 84.03; 84.8035, subdivision 1; 84D.01, by adding a subdivision; 84D.05, subdivision 1; 97C.835, subdivision 2; 103G.201. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

**Fischer introduced:** [H. F. 1207](#), A bill for an act relating to environment; facilitating use of artificial aquifer recharge where appropriate; appropriating money for groundwater storage and recovery; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 103A.204. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Health Finance and Policy.

**Fischer introduced:** [H. F. 1208](#), A bill for an act relating to environment; modifying provisions for permitting efficiency; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 115.542; 116.03, subdivision 2b; 116.07, subdivision 4a. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

**Senators Kupec, Frentz, and Putnam introduced--**[S.F. No. 1575](#): A bill for an act relating to agriculture; establishing the biofertilizer water preservation program; requiring rulemaking; appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 18C.005, by adding a subdivision; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 18C. Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband, and Rural Development.

**Senator Kunesh introduced--**[S.F. No. 1628](#): A bill for an act relating to agriculture; requiring additional information from bioincentive payment recipients; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 41A.19. Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband, and Rural Development.

**Senator Hauschild introduced--[S.F. No. 1633](#):** A bill for an act relating to taxation; property; clarifying eligibility for class 2c managed forest lands classification; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 273.13, subdivision 23. Referred to the Committee on Taxes.

**Senator Hauschild introduced--[S.F. No. 1635](#):** A bill for an act relating to state lands; adding to Carley State Park. Referred to the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy.

**Senator Kunesh introduced--[S.F. No. 1736](#):** A bill for an act relating to environment; modifying the membership and structure of the Clean Water Council; modifying duties; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 114D.20, subdivision 5; 114D.30, subdivisions 1, 2, 4, 6, 7; repealing Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 114D.30, subdivision 5; 114D.35, subdivision 3. Referred to the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy.

**Senators McEwen and Kunesh introduced--[S.F. No. 1744](#):** A bill for an act relating to mining; prohibiting environmental review and the issuance of nonferrous sulfide ore mining permits, licenses, or leases to bad actors; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 93. Referred to the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy.

**Hollins introduced: [H. F. 1314](#),** A bill for an act relating to capital investment; appropriating money for state park and recreation area acquisition; authorizing the sale and issuance of state bonds. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Capital Investment.

#### **Republican Legislation:**

**Myers introduced: [H. F. 788](#).** A bill for an act relating to natural resources; establishing Keep it Clean program; appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 97A.475, subdivisions 11, 12; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 97C. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

**Wiener introduced: [H. F. 813](#),** A bill for an act relating to natural resources; requiring the commissioner of natural resources to provide unimpeded access to state forest roads for certain commercial purposes; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 89.002, subdivision 3. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

**Wiener introduced: [H. F. 817](#),** A bill for an act relating to natural resources; requiring a study and report of the impact of eagles on loons. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

**Schultz, Heintzeman, Schomacker, Nelson, Skraba, Reyer, Nadeau, Franson, Rarick, Carroll and Bierman introduced: [H. F. 819](#),** A bill for an act relating to natural resources; establishing the Minnesota Sustainable

Foraging Task Force; providing appointments; requiring a report. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

**Torkelson and Swedzinski introduced:** [H. F. 939](#). A bill for an act relating to natural resources; appropriating money for floodplain management. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

**Gillman; Torkelson; Anderson, P. H.; Heintzeman and McDonald introduced:** [H. F. 944](#). A bill for an act relating to natural resources; modifying trespass law to allow purple markings; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 97B.001, subdivisions 4, 5, 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.

**Gillman introduced:** [H. F. 945](#). A bill for an act relating to clean water; appropriating money for Phase 2 of lake restoration in Hutchinson. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Legacy Finance.

**Schultz, Burkel, Nelson and Anderson, P. H. introduced:** [H. F. 1008](#). A bill for an act relating to natural resources; modifying the definition of public waters; eliminating appropriation for public waters inventory; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 103G.005, subdivision 15; 103G.201. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

**Scott, Heintzeman, Igo, Mekeland and Harder introduced:** [H. F. 1040](#). A bill for an act relating to solid waste; requiring product stewardship program for wind and solar infrastructure; providing for fee on retail sales of wind and solar infrastructure; establishing moratorium on disposal of wind and solar energy infrastructure in landfills; requiring a report; appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 13.7411, subdivision 4; 115A.142; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 115A. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Energy Finance and Policy.

**Kresha introduced:** [H. F. 1191](#). A bill for an act relating to state lands; authorizing private sale of certain tax-forfeited land. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

**Igo introduced:** [H. F. 1199](#). A bill for an act relating to state lands; authorizing private sale of certain tax-forfeited land in Aitkin County. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

**Senators Anderson and Eichorn introduced--**[S.F. No. 1658](#): A bill for an act relating to environment; modifying disclosure requirements for subsurface sewage treatment systems; requiring rulemaking; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 115.55, subdivisions 1, 5, by adding a subdivision; repealing Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 115.55, subdivision 6. Referred to the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy.

**Senator Farnsworth introduced--[S.F. No. 1680](#):** A bill for an act relating to state lands; authorizing private sale of certain tax-forfeited land. Referred to the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy.

**Senators Johnson, Utke, and Eichorn introduced--[S.F. No. 1647](#):** A bill for an act relating to agriculture; appropriating money for depredation compensation payments. Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband, and Rural Development.

**Heintzeman and Backer introduced: [H. F. 1218](#),** A bill for an act relating to environment; appropriating money from the environment and natural resources trust fund; modifying prior appropriations; amending Laws 2024, chapter 83, section 2, subdivisions 3, 8. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

**Duran introduced: [H. F. 1231](#),** A bill for an act relating to environment; prohibiting the commissioner from adopting rules that apply only to construction and demolition landfills; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 115A.06, subdivision 2. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

**Jacob introduced: [H. F. 1249](#),** A bill for an act relating to state lands; adding to Carley State Park. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

**Burkel introduced: [H. F. 1250](#),** A bill for an act relating to natural resources; appropriating money from the outdoor heritage fund; providing for leveraging certain land for federal grant funds; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 97A.056, by adding a subdivision.

**Warwas, Repinski, Gordon, Igo, Mekeland, Dippel, Schultz, Zeleznikar and Davis introduced: [H. F. 1285](#),** A bill for an act relating to environment; declaring Minnesota to be a mining-friendly state; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 93.001. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

**Roach introduced: [H. F. 1303](#),** A bill for an act relating to natural resources; authorizing the use of purple paint in lieu of signage prohibiting trespassing; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 97B.001, subdivision 4. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

#### **Game and Fish:**

##### **Bipartisan Legislation:**

**Skraba and Kozlowski introduced: [H. F. 820](#),** A bill for an act relating to natural resources; authorizing certain

Chippewa Bands to establish open seasons for big game in accordance with 1854 treaty; appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 97A.157, subdivision 4; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 97B. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

**Anderson, P. H.; Hansen, R., and Allen introduced:** [H. F. 979](#). A bill for an act relating to agriculture; appropriating money for the Board of Animal Health. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Agriculture Finance and Policy.

**Senators Hauschild, Lang, and Housley introduced--**[S.F. No. 1420](#): A bill for an act relating to natural resources; authorizing certain Chippewa Bands to establish open seasons for big game in accordance with 1854 treaty; appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 97A.157, subdivision 4; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 97B. Referred to the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy.

**Senators Putnam and Westrom introduced--**[S.F. No. 1540](#): A bill for an act relating to agriculture; appropriating money for the Board of Animal Health. Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband, and Rural Development.

#### **DFL Legislation:**

**Senators McEwen and Mann introduced--**[S.F. No. 1595](#): A bill for an act relating to environment; prohibiting the use of lead ammunition when hunting; prohibiting the sale, manufacture, and use of lead tackle; establishing a nontoxic ammunition performance standard for shooting sports facilities; requiring nontoxic ammunition in school shooting sports; requiring reports; appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 38.33; 38.331, subdivision 1; 87A.02, subdivision 2; 87A.10; 97A.045, by adding a subdivision; 128C.02, by adding a subdivision; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapters 38; 97B; 97C; 325E. Referred to the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy.

#### **GOP Legislation:**

**Wiener introduced:** [H. F. 818](#). A bill for an act relating to game and fish; allowing accumulation of bear hunter preference points for youth; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 97B.405. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

**Kresha introduced:** [H. F. 909](#). A bill for an act relating to arts and cultural heritage; appropriating money for the Minnesota Fishing Museum and Hall of Fame in Little Falls. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Legacy Finance.

**Senator Lang introduced--[S.F. No. 1551](#):** A bill for an act relating to game and fish; allowing anglers with a walleye stamp validation to use additional lines; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 97C.315, subdivision 1. Referred to the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy.

**Johnson, P.; Kozlowski; Skraba and Zeleznikar introduced: [H. F. 1281](#).** A bill for an act relating to arts and cultural heritage; appropriating money for a Great Lakes Aquarium lake sturgeon project. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Legacy Finance.

**Roach, Davis and Van Binsbergen introduced: [H. F. 1298](#).** A bill for an act relating to game and fish; authorizing taking feral swine causing damage; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 97A.56, subdivision 2; 97B.655, subdivision 1. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

**Roach, Davis and Van Binsbergen introduced: [H. F. 1301](#).** A bill for an act relating to natural resources; authorizing the use of unmanned aircraft to assist in locating and recovering deceased big game; requiring a report; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 97B.115. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

**Schultz, Fischer, Heintzeman, Dotseth, Myers, Gander, Burkel, Jacob, Duran, Joy, Knudsen, Skraba, Van Binsbergen, Murphy, Nelson and McDonald introduced: [H. F. 1331](#).** A bill for an act relating to game and fish; requiring statewide wolf population survey; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 97B.646. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

## Outdoor Recreation

### Bipartisan Legislation:

**Senators Howe, Carlson, Bahr, Jasinski, and Lang introduced--[S.F. No. 1526](#):** A bill for an act relating to natural resources; eliminating the all-terrain vehicle registration fee for veterans with a total service-connected disability; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 84.922, subdivision 5. Referred to the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy.

**Burkel, Heintzeman, Koegel and Igo introduced: [H. F. 1327](#).** A bill for an act relating to natural resources; modifying definition of all-terrain vehicle; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 84.92, subdivision 8. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

### Republican Legislation:

**Skraba, Warwas and Bliss introduced:** [H. F. 1225](#), A bill for an act relating to natural resources; eliminating the all-terrain vehicle registration fee for veterans with a total service-connected disability; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 84.922, subdivision 5. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Veterans and Military Affairs Division.

#### **Firearms:**

##### **Bipartisan Legislation:**

**Senators Limmer and Latz introduced--**[S.F. No. 1653](#): A bill for an act relating to public safety; requiring permit to carry holders to provide notification of a change of legal name; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 624.714, subdivision 7a. Referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety.

##### **Republican Legislation:**

**Wiener introduced:** [H. F. 815](#), A bill for an act relating to public safety; requiring a person who steals a firearm to report the theft promptly to law enforcement; appropriating money; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 624. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Public Safety Finance and Policy.

**Knudsen, Nash, Rymer, O'Driscoll, Joy, Davis, Engen, Altendorf, Igo, Stier, Backer, Zeleznikar, Harder and Fogelman introduced:** [H. F. 893](#), A bill for an act relating to firearms; clarifying law on use of force in defense of home and person; codifying and extending Minnesota's self-defense and defense of home laws; eliminating the common law duty to retreat in cases of self-defense outside the home; expanding the boundaries of dwelling for purposes of self-defense; creating a presumption in the case of a person entering a dwelling or occupied vehicle by stealth or force; extending the rights available to a person in that person's dwelling to a person defending against entry of that person's occupied vehicle; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 609.065. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Public Safety Finance and Policy.

**Knudsen, Joy, Davis, Altendorf, Stier, Backer and Zeleznikar introduced:** [H. F. 896](#), A bill for an act relating to public safety; permitting certain retired law enforcement officers to carry firearms in schools; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 609.66, subdivision 1d. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Public Safety Finance and Policy.

**Nash, Novotny, Stier, Duran, Witte and Johnson, W. introduced:** [H. F. 924](#), A bill for an act relating to public safety; authorizing certain retired peace officers to possess firearms in the Capitol complex; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 609.66, subdivision 1g. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Public Safety Finance and Policy.

**Warwas and Davis introduced:** [H. F. 1283](#), A bill for an act relating to public safety; providing that the discharge papers of a veteran are considered the legal equivalent of a permit to carry a firearm; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 624.714, by adding a subdivision. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Public Safety Finance and Policy.

**DFL Legislation:**

**Gomez introduced:** [H. F. 1203](#), A bill for an act relating to taxation; sales and use; modifying the exemption for firearm storage units; providing an exemption for firearm safety devices; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 297A.67, subdivision 40. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Taxes.

**Senators McEwen, Fateh, Mann, and Johnson Stewart introduced--**[S.F. No. 1596](#): A bill for an act relating to public safety; prohibiting the sale or transfer of a semiautomatic military-style assault weapon; authorizing a buyback program for semiautomatic military-style assault weapons; appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 624.712, subdivision 7; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 624. Referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety.

**Hussein introduced:** [H. F. 1313](#), A bill for an act relating to public safety; authorizing local governmental units to prohibit or restrict the possession of dangerous weapons, ammunition, or explosives in local government-owned or leased buildings and land; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 609.66, by adding a subdivision. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Elections Finance and Government Operations.

**Her; Lee, K.; Pinto; Frazier; Cha; Berg; Reyer; Agbaje; Greenman and Moller introduced:** [H. F. 1318](#), A bill for an act relating to public safety; requiring that persons purchasing a firearm be trained in firearm safety; requiring the retention of records relating to firearm sales; providing criminal penalties; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 624. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Public Safety Finance and Policy.