



# 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 28, 2025**

**Important Dates:**

- March 6, 2025: February forecast to be released
- Tuesday, March 11, 2025: District 40B Special Election
- Monday, March 31, 2025: Legislative break for Eid
- April 4, 2025: first and second legislative deadlines: committees must act favorably on bills in the house of origin and act favorably on bills, or companions of bills, that met the first deadline in the other house
- April 11, 2025 at 12:00 PM: third legislative deadline: committees must act favorably on major appropriation and finance bills
- 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

**Coalition pushes legislation targeting waste left on Minnesota's frozen lakes:** Sponsored by [Rep. Andrew Myers](#) (R-Tonka Bay), it would require the Department of Natural Resources — in consultation with the Pollution Control Agency and Board of Water and Soil Resources — to develop and administer a statewide Keep it Clean program to prevent water pollution from garbage and human waste left on the ice of state waters during winter activities. Grants would be available for local units of government and non-governmental organizations to implement initiatives to support the program . . . The House Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee on Tuesday laid over the bipartisan bill — three of its eight co-sponsors are DFLers — for future consideration. The bill does not specify a desired funding request, something the committee will investigate when putting together its budget. [Read more.](#)

**House bill seeks to expand 'carbon-free' energy definition to include burning wood waste:** [Rep. Spencer Igo](#) (R-Wabana Township) . . . [is] sponsoring [HF249](#) [which] would amend the definition of “carbon-free” technology to include energy produced by a utility that combusts wood chips derived from timber harvesting operations. On Tuesday, the House Energy Finance and Policy Committee approved the bill, [as amended](#), by a voice vote and sent it to the House Floor. Legislation [enacted in 2023](#) requires municipal utilities and

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cooperatives to generate or procure 80% of their electricity sold to Minnesota customers from “carbon-free” technologies by 2030, 90% by 2035, and 100% by 2040 . . . Igo referred to burning waste wood as “renewable carbon-free power,” but more than one committee member took issue with that description, as well as Igo’s contention that it could be called “carbon-neutral.” One was [Rep. Larry Kraft](#) (DFL-St. Louis Park), who asked how a burning process that releases carbon into the atmosphere could be called “carbon-neutral.” [Read more.](#)

**Looming federal cuts complicate Minnesota budget:** Minnesota lawmakers will start crafting a budget next month without knowing the impact of funding cuts, tax law changes, tariffs and other sweeping fiscal policies promised by the Republicans controlling the federal government. Next week’s state budget forecast, which will tell state lawmakers how much money they have to work with for the next two-year budget, will not account for the massive spending cuts federal Republicans are targeting over the next decade, state budget director Ahne Minge said at a meeting of the Senate Finance committee Thursday . . . If those funding cuts come to fruition, however, the state would have to pay more for Minnesotans to maintain the same level of benefits. But the state is already spending more money than it’s bringing in, and there’s a [potential \\$5 billion deficit on the horizon](#) starting in 2027, according to the most recent economic forecast. [Read more.](#) Senators on both sides agree any cuts from the federal government would create complications for passing a state budget here in Minnesota . . . But it’s too early to say who would be affected until lawmakers receive more clarity from Congress. [Read more.](#)

**Trump administration locks MPCA out of \$200 million in federal grants awarded to the state** last year for [community-based climate projects](#), leaving projects in limbo and underscoring the uncertainty and disruption unleashed by Trump’s early budget cutting. Last July the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency awarded the money for initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including climate-friendly farm practices, peatland restoration, energy efficiency, vehicle electrification and more . . . Now, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency says the Trump administration has locked them out of those funds, and projects that had been planning on using the funding to get off the ground are scrambling to find alternatives. [Read more.](#)

**Nonprofit working on Mississippi River project loses federal funding:** Ellen Reed, executive director Mississippi Park Connection, said her organization already completed about \$200,000 of a more than \$2.5 million, four-year project funded by the Inflation Reduction Act and the Infrastructure bill. Reed said despite court orders directing the White House to release the funding allocated by Congress, her group still can’t access that money. [Read more.](#)

**Red Lake Nation continues to speak out against plan to reintroduce elk to NE Minnesota:** The Red Lake Nation feels overlooked by the DNR and the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, according to Red Lake Tribal Council member Allen D. Pemberton . . . He said they heard about the joint DNR and Fond du Lac plan to move elk from Red Lake Nation ceded territory in northwest Minnesota to northeast Minnesota at the same time as the public . . . Pemberton doubled down on his previous statement during a recent meeting on the issue that Red Lake will kill a moose in the Northland for every elk Fond du Lac takes from their territory where the band has rights to hunt. That land was given to the U.S. government in an 1863 treaty that

Pemberton says was forced upon them . . . DNR Elk Coordinator Kelsie LaSharr said Red Lake Nation was not part of the conversation initially because they weren't hunting elk in 2014 when Fond du Lac proposed the plan. [Read more.](#)

**Energy panel advances bill to recycle wind, solar waste:** [HF1040](#), a bill sponsored by [Rep. Peggy Scott](#) (R-Andover) . . would require producers of solar panels and wind energy conversion systems to implement a product stewardship program to collect and recycle discarded solar and wind materials. It would prohibit the retail sale of such infrastructure in Minnesota unless the producer is participating in a stewardship plan approved by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency . . . In 2023, the Legislature mandated a study from the Pollution Control Agency on how to deal with the issue, and the report was released this week. Kirk Koudelka, assistant commissioner of land policy for the Pollution Control Agency, said that many of its recommendations dovetail with what's in the bill, particularly the need for a solar waste recycling program. [Read more.](#)

**Avian flu surge, other issues prompts call for more emergency agriculture funding:** Avian influenza [is] infecting Minnesota's meat birds, breeder turkeys, egg layer chickens, and, since October 2023, cattle herds. Minnesota farmers need to be prepared to face these and future agricultural emergencies, says Rep. Paul Anderson (R-Starbuck), chair of the House Agriculture Finance and Policy Committee and sponsor of HF1101. The bill would make a one-time \$1.5 million appropriation in fiscal year 2026 from the General Fund to the agricultural emergency account. . . . The committee laid over HF1101 for possible inclusion into the committee's budget bill. [Read more.](#)

**Minnesota environmental groups sue state over nitrate pollution:** The lawsuit is an attempt to get state agencies to adopt new fertilizer regulation rules. It's filed against the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), which regulates manure spread as fertilizer, and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA), which regulates commercial fertilizer. Runoff from agriculture fertilizer has led to high nitrate levels in private wells. According to the Minnesota Health Department, consuming high levels of nitrate can lead to birth defects, thyroid problems and cancer. [Read more.](#)

**Minnesota bills would provide cheaper fishing opportunities for older anglers:** The House Environment and Natural Resources Committee forwarded two bills that would modify fishing licenses prices for people 65 and older. . . If anglers 65 and older weren't required to buy licenses, the state would lose about \$1 million from Sport Fish Restoration funding, as well as about \$4 million from the state's Game and Fish Fund. "An annual reduction of about \$5 million per year to the Game and Fish Fund will increase the urgency of a fee increase to ensure the solvency of the Game and Fish Fund," said Pat Rivers, deputy director of the DNR Fish and Wildlife Division. [Read more.](#)

**Responsible foraging on state lands subject of potential task force:** [Rep. Isaac Schultz](#) (R-Elmdale Township) sponsors [HF819](#), which he said came about when constituents learned in 2023 the DNR was considering severely limiting foraging in state parks without input from foragers . . . [The bill] would create a task force to study the issue and advise the Department of Natural Resources on how best to develop foraging regulations

that “balance the need for ecological sustainability with the right of Minnesotans to enjoy the state’s bountiful natural resources.” But the [DNR] is concerned because of reports from field staff who have seen 80-100 people at a time come to a single state park to gather food. That level of harvesting can have a “significant impact” on the food supply of other animals. [Read more.](#)

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

- [From trees to the breakfast table: learn to make maple syrup at Minnesota state parks](#): Five Minnesota state parks are offering programs to introduce people to the history of maple syrup and sugar making, as well as the equipment and procedures used.
- [Minnesota DNR adds angling limits for several species](#): Anglers will find these and other changes in the 2025 fishing regulations booklet.
- [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.

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

On Monday at 1:00 PM, House [Agriculture Finance and Policy](#) convened for 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’s [proposed budget](#). See also: [MN Corn Growers and MN Biofuels Letter](#).

On Tuesday at 12:30 PM, the Senate [Labor](#) Committee met for a 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. See [Bill Summary](#) and [written testimony](#) to the committee from: David and Laurie Anderson and Bill and Dina Aune and Link to recent KARE 11 Investigative story: [Murky rules lead to scuba diving deaths](#): Families fight for tougher training and equipment regulations after their sons died clearing weeds on Minnesota lakes.

At 1:00 PM, House [Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy](#) met to hear the following bills: [HF1120](#) (Myers) Keep it Clean program established, and money appropriated (see: [House Research Summary](#), and [Letters of Support](#)); and [HF1218](#) (Heintzeman) Funding from the environment and natural resources trust fund, prior appropriations modified, and money appropriated. (see also: [House Research Summary](#), [Spreadsheet](#), [LCCMR Pie chart](#), [LCCMR Acquisition Map](#), [LCCMR Members](#), written testimony: [Coalition Support Letter](#), [Greater Minnesota Parks and Trails \(GMPT\)](#), and [Ramsey/Washington](#)).

At 3:00 PM, Senate [Environment, Climate, and Legacy](#) convened to discuss, among other bills: [SF1375](#) (Kupec) River watch program appropriation (see: [Factsheet - River Watch Program](#) and [Red River Watershed](#)

[Management Board](#) support letter); [SF976](#) (McEwen) Wilderness programs appropriation (see: [Wilderness-Inquiry Proposal Overview](#) and [Wilderness-Inquiry Legacy Maps and Service Details](#)); and [SF1637](#) (Hauschild) Lake County appropriation.

On Wednesday at 10:15 AM, House [Legacy Finance](#) met to hear presentations from [DNR Parks and Trails](#), Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission, and Met Council Parks. See also: [Outdoors for Everyone Booklet](#).

At 1:00 PM, [Agriculture Finance and Policy](#) had a number of items on its agenda: the Committee heard a presentation from the Poultry Industry and the Board of Animal Health Budget Presentation and status [update on livestock and poultry diseases](#). The Committee also heard presentation by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture reports on depredation programs and discussed the following bills: [HF601](#) (Burkel): Depredation compensation payment funding provided, and money appropriated ([Bill Summary](#)); [HF271](#) (Burkel): Wolf and elk depredation compensation payments funding provided, and money appropriated ([Bill Summary](#)); [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. See also: [MDA Elk Damage Report](#), [Wolf Depredation Report](#), [Cervidae Depredation Report](#), [MDA Depredation Reports](#), and [BAH Update](#).

At 3:00 PM, Senate [Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband, and Rural Development](#) met to hear several bills: [S.F. 0469](#) (Johnson): Wolf and elk depredation payments appropriation; [S.F. 1839](#) (Putnam): Program establishment to provide grants to prevent the spread of avian influenza; [S.F. 0304](#) (Lang): Minnesota Made Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) alternative grants appropriation; and [S.F. 0302](#) (Lang): CelluComp grant appropriation.

On Thursday at 8:15 AM, House [Workforce, Labor, and Economic Development Finance and Policy](#) met to hear discussion on [H.F. 8](#) (Heintzeman) - expedited permitting process modified (Wetland Conservation Act determination efficiency improved, permitting efficiency reporting requirements modified, permit application process improved, Pollution Control Agency required to issue separate permits, expedited permitting process modified, petitioners required to reside in affected or adjoining counties, scoping environmental assessment worksheet requirements eliminated, local review clarified, state implementation plan modification required, reports required, and money appropriated). See written testimony to the committee from the following: [Clean Energy Economy](#), [Red River Watershed Board](#), [Fargo Moorhead West Fargo](#), [MN Pork Producers](#), [ACEC](#), [CURE MN](#), [MN Environmental Partnership](#), and [MN Biofuels Assc.](#)

At 9:00 AM, Senate [Finance](#) heard a [presentation](#) from Minnesota Management and Budget on Federal Interactions with the State Budget.

At 1:00 PM, House [Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy](#) discussed: [HF944](#) (Gillman) Trespass law modified to allow purple markings; [HF819](#) (Schultz) Minnesota Sustainable Foraging Task Force established ([House Research Summary](#) and [testimony](#) from: Friends of Minnesota Scientific and Natural

Areas, Minnesota Conservation Federation, Minnesota Mycological Society, Minnesota Foraging Alliance (MNFA), North American Traditional Indigenous Food Systems (NATIFS), Izaak Walton League of America, and other stakeholders); and [HF28](#) (Mekeland): Data center energy generation redundancy provided ([Fiscal Note](#) and testimony from [Fresh Energy](#), [CURE](#), and [Carpenters/49ers](#)).

At 1:00 PM, House [Energy Finance and Policy](#) discussed [HF1040](#) (Scott) - Wind and solar infrastructure product stewardship program required, retail sales fee provided for wind and solar infrastructure, wind and solar energy infrastructure moratorium established in landfills, report required, and money appropriated. See testimony from: [City Administrator, Grand Meadow](#), [Conservation Minnesota](#), [Elders Climate Action, Twin Cities Chapter](#), and [LIUNA](#).

At 3:00 PM, Senate [Environment, Climate, and Legacy](#) convened for presentations on the Governor's Budget Proposal for [Minnesota Department of Natural Resources](#), [Minnesota Pollution Control Agency](#), [Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources](#), and [MPCA Clean Water Fund recommendations](#).

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

On Monday at 1:00 PM, House [Agriculture Finance and Policy](#) will hear presentations on the Minnesota Department of Agriculture Rural Finance Authority Presentation and the Agriculture, Growth, Research, and Innovation (AGRI) grant program. The committee will also hear a number of bills: [HF770](#) (Anderson): Rural Finance Authority funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated; [HF857](#) (Nelson): Agricultural Utilization Research Institute funding provided, and money appropriated; [HF38](#) (Gander): Agricultural Utilization Research Institute funding provided, and money appropriated; [HF1500](#) (Anderson): Advanced biofuel production incentive modified; and [HF43](#) (Anderson): Biofuel infrastructure grant funding provided, reports required, and money appropriated.

On Tuesday at 9:00 AM, Senate [Finance](#) will meet to discuss [S.F. 0506](#) (Hawj): Environmental and natural resources trust fund appropriation. See also: [2025 ENRT Acquisition Map](#), [2025 ENRTF LCCMR Proposals Chart](#), [ENRTF LCCMR Recommendations](#), [LCCMR Members](#), [Coalition Support Letter](#).

At 1:00 PM, House [Energy Finance and Policy](#) will discuss [HF1738](#) (Swedzinski) - Renewable development account repealed, conforming changes made in associated statutes, utility solar production incentive program sunset, accounts established, and money appropriated.

Also at 1:00 PM, House [Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy](#) will hear the following bills: [HF81](#) (Heintzeman) - Off-highway vehicles, snowmobiles, and electric-assisted bicycles exempted from prohibitions on PFAS in certain juvenile products; [HF1627](#) (Heintzeman) - Commercial and industrial products exempted from PFAS restrictions, and PFAS reporting requirements modified; [HF1382](#) (Heintzeman) - Obsolete provisions related to Environmental Quality Board removed; and [HF1362](#) (Heintzeman) - Reporting requirements for certain environmental reviews modified.

On Wednesday at 8:30 AM, Senate [Taxes](#) will discuss a number of proposed bills, including: [S.F. 0755 \(Anderson\)](#): Shareholder limit increase for entity-owned agricultural homestead property; [S.F. 1579 \(Mohamed\)](#): Certain Indian Tribe owned property tax exemption establishment provision; [S.F. 1587 \(Wiklund\)](#): Property tax exemption extension for property held for economic development; [S.F. 1269 \(Drazkowski\)](#): Minnesota agricultural water quality certification program credit for certain acres establishment and appropriation; [S.F. 1419 \(Putnam\)](#): Agricultural assets owners available credit cap elimination provision; [S.F. 1498 \(Putnam\)](#): Definition modification of agricultural land for agricultural property classification; and [S.F. 1633 \(Hauschild\)](#): Class 2c managed forest lands classification eligibility clarification provision.

At 10:15 AM, House [Legacy Finance](#) will convene for a hearing on [HF1250](#) (Burkel) Outdoor heritage fund; leveraging of certain land for federal grant funds provided, and money appropriated.

At 1:00 PM, House [Agriculture Finance and Policy](#) will discuss, among other bills: [HF434](#) (Franson): Live Cervidae importation to certain accredited facilities allowed; and [HF1503](#) (Burkel): Program established to provide grants to prevent the spread of avian influenza, and money appropriated.

On Thursday at 1:00 PM, House [Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy](#) will hear the following bills: [HF566](#) (Skraba) - Provisions for operating all-terrain vehicles on public roads modified; [HF274](#) (Skraba) - C.J. Ramstad/North Shore State Trail Master Plan update to allow for all-terrain vehicle use on a portion of the trail funding provided, and money appropriated; [HF278](#) (Heintzeman) - Grant-in-aid surcharge added to the all-terrain vehicle registration fee, and fee increased for nonresident all-terrain vehicle state trail passes; [HF281](#) (Heintzeman) - All-terrain vehicle trails funding provided, and money appropriated; [HF279](#) (Warwas) - All-terrain vehicle trails and studies funding provided, and money appropriated and [HF1327](#) (Burkel) - Definition of all-terrain vehicle modified.

At 3:00 PM, Senate [Environment, Climate, and Legacy](#) will discuss the following bills: [S.F. 1346 \(Boldon\)](#): Brady Aune and Joseph Anderson Safety Act; [S.F. 1690 \(Kupec\)](#): Stewardship program establishment for circuit boards, batteries, and electrical products; and [S.F. 1751 \(Johnson Stewart\)](#): Recommendations of Aggregate Resources Task Force implementation.

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

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

#### **Bipartisan Legislation:**

**Senators Johnson Stewart, Eichorn, Hauschild, and Hawj introduced--[S.F. No. 1751](#):** 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. Referred to the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy.

**Senators Pappas, Lang, and Housley introduced--[S.F. No. 1754](#):** A bill for an act relating to state government; transferring certain state-owned land in the Cloquet Forestry Center to the University of Minnesota; appropriating money for defeasance of outstanding debt on certain state bond financed property. Referred to the Committee on State and Local Government.

**Senators Kupec and Johnson introduced--[S.F. No. 1770](#):** A bill for an act relating to agriculture; appropriating money for grants to the Northern Crops Institute. Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband, and Rural Development.

**Senators Dibble, Eichorn, Hauschild, Johnson Stewart, and Hawj introduced--[S.F. No. 1833](#):** A bill for an act relating to capital investment; appropriating money for forests and forestry capital projects; authorizing the sale and issuance of state bonds. Referred to the Committee on Capital Investment.

**Baker, Koznick, Kotyza-Witthuhn and Her introduced: [H. F. 1355](#).** A bill for an act relating to occupational safety; requiring holders of permits to harvest or destroy aquatic plants to safely use scuba diving equipment; establishing requirements for commercial diving operations; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 103G.615, subdivisions 1, 3; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 182. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Workforce, Labor, and Economic Development Finance and Policy.

**Kozlowski; Heintzeman; Hansen, R., and Franson introduced: [H. F. 1389](#).** A bill for an act relating to state government; transferring certain state-owned land in the Cloquet Forestry Center to the University of Minnesota; appropriating money for defeasance of outstanding debt on certain state bond financed property. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on State Government Finance and Policy.

**Freiberg; Anderson, P. H., and Klevorn introduced: [H. F. 1478](#).** A bill for an act relating to local government; amending priority criteria for public land survey system monument grant program; appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 381.125, subdivision 1. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Elections Finance and Government Operations.

**Stephenson and Bliss introduced:[H. F. 1587](#).** A bill for an act relating to state lands; appropriating money to condemn certain land in Cass County and authorizing its transfer for no consideration. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

**Senators Green, Hoffman, and Utke introduced--[S.F. No. 1887](#):** A bill for an act relating to state lands; requiring approval of the use of state money to acquire real property in fee; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 16B. Referred to the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy.



**Senators Hawj, Eichorn, Utke, Housley, and Pappas introduced--[S.F. No. 1960](#):** A bill for an act relating to capital investment; appropriating money for construction of a new National Loon Center in the city of Crosslake; authorizing the sale and issuance of state bonds. Referred to the Committee on Capital Investment.

**Koegel, Her, Heintzeman, Schultz, Lillie, Skraba, Gillman and Fischer introduced: [H. F. 1633](#),** A bill for an act relating to capital investment; appropriating money for capital improvement at public water access and boating facilities on public waters and at state fish hatcheries; authorizing the sale and issuance of state bonds. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Capital Investment.

**Dauids, Her, Cha, Myers and Robbins introduced: [H. F. 1687](#),** A bill for an act relating to taxation; sales and use; providing an exemption for sales to nonprofit bird preservation organizations; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 297A.70, by adding a subdivision. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Taxes.

**Warwas, Skraba and Kozlowski introduced: [H. F. 1729](#),** 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.

#### **DFL Legislation:**

**Senators Pha, Rest, and Hoffman introduced-- [S.F. No. 1755](#):** A bill for an act relating to environment; appropriating money to improve water quality in Upper Twin Lake.

**Senator Putnam introduced-- [S.F. No. 1839](#):** A bill for an act relating to agriculture; establishing a program to provide grants to prevent the spread of avian influenza; appropriating money. Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband, and Rural Development.

**Senators Kupec and Putnam introduced--[S.F. No. 1840](#):** A bill for an act relating to agriculture; establishing a grant program to promote certain nutrient management practices; appropriating money; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 17. Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband, and Rural Development.

**Hansen, R. introduced: [H. F. 1482](#),** 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.

**Jordan introduced: [H. F. 1564](#),** A bill for an act relating to natural resources; appropriating money for regional parks and trails. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

**Hansen, R. and Lee, F. introduced:** [H. F. 1611](#). A bill for an act relating to natural resources; appropriating money for lawns to lunch pilot program. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

**Hansen, R. introduced:** [H. F. 1612](#). A bill for an act relating to natural resources; appropriating money for aggregate resource inventory. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

**Hansen, R. introduced:** [H. F. 1613](#). 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.

**Senator Hauschild introduced--**[S.F. No. 1944](#): A bill for an act relating to legacy; extending a clean water fund appropriation for the Ash River Sanitary Sewer Collection and Treatment System. Referred to the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy.

**Senators McEwen and Hauschild introduced--**[S.F. No. 2003](#): A bill for an act relating to arts and cultural heritage; appropriating money for a Great Lakes Aquarium lake sturgeon project. Referred to the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy.

**Lee, F. introduced:** [H. F. 1636](#). A bill for an act relating to agriculture; modifying the scope of certain local plant pest control resolutions and ordinances; requiring the modification of certain existing ordinances; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 18G.13, subdivision 7. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Agriculture Finance and Policy.

**Nelson, Frederick and Burkel introduced:** [H. F. 1677](#). A bill for an act relating to agriculture; appropriating money for the developing markets for continuous-living cover crops program; requiring reports. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Agriculture Finance and Policy.

#### **Republican Legislation:**

**Senators Kreun, Coleman, Limmer, and Nelson introduced--**[S.F. No. 1753](#): A bill for an act relating to agriculture; transferring money for the agriculture best management practices loan program. Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband, and Rural Development.

**Senators Wesenberg and Mathews introduced--**[S.F. No. 1816](#): A bill for an act relating to natural resources; requiring rulemaking to delist Little Rock Creek in Morrison County as a trout stream and to prohibit trout stocking in the stream. Referred to the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy.

**Igo; Johnson, P.; Skraba; Heintzeman and Reyer introduced:** [H. F. 1332](#). A bill for an act relating to capital investment; appropriating money for forests and forestry capital projects; authorizing the sale and issuance of state bonds. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Capital Investment.

**Heintzeman introduced:** [H. F. 1362](#). A bill for an act relating to environment; modifying reporting requirements for certain environmental review; repealing Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 116D.04, subdivision 5b. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

**Heintzeman introduced:** [H. F. 1363](#). A bill for an act relating to environment; prohibiting the Pollution Control Agency from banning the purchase or use of motor vehicles powered by internal combustion engines; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 116.07, subdivision 2, by adding a subdivision; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 471. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

**Heintzeman introduced:** [H. F. 1364](#). 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.

**Heintzeman introduced:** [H. F. 1370](#). A bill for an act relating to state government; appropriating money from clean water and parks and trails funds. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Legacy Finance.

**Heintzeman introduced:** [H. F. 1371](#). A bill for an act relating to solid waste; exempting paper products from the extended producer responsibility program managing solid waste; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 115A.1441, subdivisions 10, 16, 26; 115A.1442; 115A.1450, subdivision 4; 115A.1451, subdivision 7; 115A.1454, subdivision 1. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

**Heintzeman introduced:** [H. F. 1382](#). A bill for an act relating to environment; removing obsolete provisions related to Environmental Quality Board; repealing Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 116C.04, subdivision 11; 116C.991. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

**Skraba, Igo, Warwas, Heintzeman and Dotseth introduced:** [H. F. 1425](#). 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. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

**Gander and Burkel introduced:** [H. F. 1497](#), A bill for an act relating to agriculture; appropriating money for grants to the Northern Crops Institute. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Agriculture Finance and Policy.

**Burkel introduced:** [H. F. 1503](#), A bill for an act relating to agriculture; establishing a program to provide grants to prevent the spread of avian influenza; appropriating money. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Agriculture Finance and Policy.

**Harder; Anderson, P. H., and Burkel introduced:** [H. F. 1524](#), A bill for an act relating to agriculture; establishing a grant program to promote certain nutrient management practices; appropriating money; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 17. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Agriculture Finance and Policy.

**Skraba introduced:** [H. F. 1570](#), A bill for an act relating to natural resources; authorizing sale or lease of boathouse sites at Soudan Underground Mine State Park; amending Laws 2000, chapter 486, section 4, as amended. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

**Murphy and Heintzeman introduced:** [H. F. 1591](#), A bill for an act relating to natural resources; prohibiting acquiring state land at auction; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 94. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

**Murphy and Heintzeman introduced:** [H. F. 1592](#), A bill for an act relating to natural resources; modifying provisions and requiring definition for calcareous fens; requiring rulemaking; requiring a report; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 103G.223. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

**Murphy and Backer introduced:** [H. F. 1594](#), A bill for an act relating to natural resources; prohibiting conservation officers from conducting searches or seizures without a warrant or court order; requiring receipts to be provided to persons from whom property is seized; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 84.7741, subdivision 2; 84.89; 97A.221, subdivision 1; 97A.223, subdivision 1; 97A.225, subdivision 1; 97B.021, subdivision 2; 97C.355, subdivision 7; 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.

**Murphy and Backer introduced:** [H. F. 1595](#), A bill for an act relating to natural resources; requiring conservation officers to coordinate investigation and enforcement activity with sheriffs; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 84.028, subdivision 3, by adding a subdivision; 84.0835, subdivision 2; 84.0895, subdivision 6; 86B.801, by adding a subdivision; 97A.205; 97A.215, subdivision 1; 97A.221, subdivision 1; 97A.223, subdivision 1; 97A.225, subdivision 1; 97A.241, subdivision 1; 97B.002, subdivision 1; 97B.065,

subdivision 2. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

**Senator Westrom introduced--[S.F. No. 1864](#):** A bill for an act relating to environment; exempting certain zoos from fur farm requirements; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 97A.106, by adding a subdivision. Referred to the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy.

**Senator Gruenhagen introduced--[S.F. No. 1875](#):** 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. Referred to the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy.

**Davids; Anderson, P. H.; Burkel; Nelson; Gander and Harder introduced: [H. F. 1680](#).** A bill for an act relating to taxation; property; establishing the agricultural riparian buffer property tax exemption; requiring reimbursement to taxing jurisdictions; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 272.02, by adding a subdivision; 273.1392; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 272. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Taxes.

**Anderson, P. H.; Lawrence and Gander introduced: [H. F. 1698](#).** A bill for an act relating to taxation; property; allowing an exemption for certain leased land; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 272.01, subdivision 2. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Taxes.

**Anderson, P. H. introduced: [H. F. 1699](#).** A bill for an act relating to environment; exempting certain zoos from fur farm requirements; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 97A.106, 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.

**Nelson and Anderson, P. H. introduced: [H. F. 1701](#).** A bill for an act relating to agriculture; establishing the Minnesota-made fertilizer grant program; appropriating money. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Agriculture Finance and Policy.

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

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

**Skraba; Heintzeman; Hansen, R., and Kozlowski introduced: [H. F. 1390](#),** A bill for an act relating to natural resources; appropriating money to the 1854 Treaty Authority for a bear population study. 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. 1527](#),** A bill for an act relating to game and fish; appropriating money for the fishing in the neighborhood program. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the

Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

**Heintzeman, Vang, Skraba, Kozlowski, Cha, Swedzinski and Lillie introduced:** [H. F. 1531](#). A bill for an act relating to game and fish; removing expiration of crossbow hunting and fishing allowance; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 97B.037. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

**DFL Legislation:**

**Senators Johnson Stewart, Kunesh, and McEwen introduced--**[S.F. No. 1802](#): A bill for an act relating to game and fish; prohibiting sale, manufacture, and use of lead tackle; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapters 97C; 325E. Referred to the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy.

**Curran, Freiberg and Fischer introduced:** [H. F. 1387](#). A bill for an act relating to game and fish; prohibiting sale, manufacture, and use of lead tackle; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapters 97C; 325E. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy.

**GOP Legislation:**

**Senator Farnsworth introduced--**[S.F. No. 1782](#): A bill for an act relating to veterans; appropriating money for a grant to Fishing with Vets; requiring reports. Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband, and Rural Development.

**Senators Wesenberg, Bahr, Green, and Johnson introduced--**[S.F. No. 1825](#): A bill for an act relating to game and fish; authorizing the taking of elk causing damage without a permit; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 97B.655, subdivisions 1, 2. Referred to the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy.

**Senator Eichorn introduced--**[S.F. No. 1848](#): A bill for an act relating to game and fish; requiring statewide wolf population survey; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 97B.646. Referred to the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy.

**Schultz, Nelson, Warwas, Burkel, Van Binsbergen, Gander, Skraba, Swedzinski, Igo, Duran and Bliss introduced:** [H. F. 1333](#). A bill for an act relating to game and fish; requiring moose license lottery and auction; establishing a moose research account; establishing fees; appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 97A.431; 97A.475, subdivision 3; 97B.505. 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. 1402](#). A bill for an act relating to agriculture; modifying wolf depredation compensation program; modifying compensation program for crop or fence damage caused by elk; appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 3.737, subdivisions 1, 3, 5; 3.7371,

subdivisions 1a, 2a, 2b, 3, 5; repealing Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 3.737, subdivision 4; 3.7371, subdivision 6. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Agriculture Finance and Policy.

**Senator Westrom introduced--[S.F. No. 1866](#):** A bill for an act relating to agriculture; appropriating money to the Board of Animal Health. Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband, and Rural Development.

**Senator Lang introduced--[S.F. No. 2013](#):** A bill for an act relating to game and fish; appropriating money for the fishing in the neighborhood program. Referred to the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy.

**Burkel, Heintzeman and Nelson introduced: [H. F. 1676](#).** A bill for an act relating to agriculture; modifying farmed Cervidae provisions; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 35.155, subdivision 11. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Agriculture Finance and Policy.

**Anderson, P. H.; Lawrence and Gander introduced: [H. F. 1704](#).** A bill for an act relating to agriculture; appropriating money to the Board of Animal Health. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Agriculture Finance and Policy.

**Mekeland and Anderson, P. H. introduced: [H. F. 1707](#).** A bill for an act relating to energy; requiring local government and Tribal approval for all solar projects; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 216I.05, subdivision 5; 216I.10, subdivision 1. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Energy Finance and Policy.

### Outdoor Recreation

#### Bipartisan Legislation:

**Senators Hauschild and Weber introduced--[S.F. No. 1969](#):** A bill for an act relating to taxation; sales and use; expanding the exemption for purchases by nonprofit snowmobile clubs; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 297A.70, subdivision 19. Referred to the Committee on Taxes.

#### Republican Legislation:

**Gillman introduced: [H. F. 1421](#).** A bill for an act relating to public safety; prohibiting the closure of shooting ranges during a state of emergency; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 624.7192. The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on State Government Finance and Policy.

### Firearms:

#### DFL Legislation:

**Hussein and Perez-Vega introduced:** [H. F. 1601](#), 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 Public Safety Finance and Policy.