

(a) Conservation Partners Grant Program

\$XXXXXXXX in fiscal year 2010 is from the outdoor heritage fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with AAAAAAAAAAAAAA foundation to provide competitive, matching grants of up to \$400,000 to local, regional, state and national organizations for enhancement, restoration, or protection of forests, wetlands, prairies and habitat for fish, game, or wildlife in Minnesota. The funds may be advanced in three equal sums, on or after November 1, 2009, February 1, 2010 and April 1, 2010. Grantees may protect land through acquisition of land. The program shall require a match of at least 1 private dollar to 10 state dollars. Private dollars match may be in-kind. The criteria for evaluating grant applications must include amount of habitat restored, local support, degree of collaboration, urgency, multiple benefits, habitat benefits provided, science incorporated, adjacency to protected lands, public access for hunting and fishing during the open season, and CCCCCCCCCCCCCC. All projects must conform to the Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan. Wildlife habitat plans must also conform to the state wildlife action plan. The program must be open for application year-round and grants must be evaluated and granted at least every three months. Up to 10 percent of this appropriation is available for grant program management expenses of the AAAAAAAAAAAAA foundation. The AAAAAAAAAAAAA foundation's administration and management must be consistent with Minnesota Statutes 2008, Chapter 16B.97 and 16B.98 and policies promulgated there under by the Minnesota department of administration, office of grants management. Subdivision 11 of this section applies to grants awarded. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2012, at which time all grant projects must be completed and final products delivered, unless an earlier date is specified in the grant agreement. No less than 15 percent of the amount of each grant must be held back from reimbursement until the grant recipient has completed a grant accomplishment report in the form prescribed by and satisfactory to the lessard outdoor heritage council.