



Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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Joint Committee on Finance

Paper #577

Reestimate DNR Appropriations (DNR -- Forestry and Parks)

CURRENT LAW

Currently, five continuing conservation fund SEG appropriations are listed in the Chapter 20 appropriations schedule at \$0 although significant expenditures are made from each.

The state provides interest-free loans to counties for the acquisition, development, preservation, and maintenance of county forest lands (county forest loans). Additional interest-free loans are provided to counties on a project basis for economically productive forestry operations (county forest project loans). The loans are repaid through forestry severance share payments (20% of sales from timber harvested on the lands). Funds received from county forest severance share repayments are available for the county forest and county forest project loans. There are two continuing appropriations in DNR for this purpose.

Also, DNR retains \$1 of each camping reservation fee collected by a private vendor. DNR contracts with a private company, ReserveAmerica, to manage the campground reservation system. ReserveAmerica collects all of the reservation fees and the general campsite fees and then remits the revenue from these fees to DNR, where they are deposited in the parks and forestry accounts of the conservation fund. The Department then returns \$9 of every \$10 reservation fee to ReserveAmerica from this appropriation.

In addition, there are two continuing appropriations in DNR supported by revenues received from the rental of DNR-owned property or equipment. One appropriation is specifically related to facilities utilized for land and wildlife management, the other is for all other DNR owned facilities. Funds are used for the maintenance of the property or equipment. This may include cropping and other land leases, concession stands at state parks, shared office space payments, and logging or other heavy equipment use. Both appropriations are split between the fish and wildlife, forestry, and parks accounts of the conservation fund.

GOVERNOR

No provision.

DISCUSSION POINTS

All of these appropriations are continuing appropriations and as such, DNR, with the approval of DOA, may expend all monies received by the appropriation. However, since the schedule under Chapter 20 of the statutes is intended to represent the best estimate of expenditures for a continuing appropriation, the Committee could provide expenditure authority in 2009-10 and 2010-11 to reflect anticipated expenditures under these appropriations.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Estimate annual expenditures as follows under the appropriations over the 2009-11 biennium:

<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Annual Estimated Expenditures</u>
County Forest Loans Severance Payments	\$100,000
County Forest Project Loans Severance Payments	350,000
Camping Reservation Fee	1,150,000
DNR Rental Property-Land and Wildlife Management Facilities	450,000
DNR Rental Property- General Facilities	180,000

2. Maintain current law (appropriations remain at \$0).

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