

NATURAL RESOURCES

Budget Summary						FTE Position Summary				
Fund	2022-23 Adjusted Base	Act 19		2023-25 Change Over Base Year Doubled		2022-23	Act 19		2024-25 Over 2022-23	
		2023-24	2024-25	Amount	%		2023-24	2024-25	Number	%
GPR	\$94,500,100	\$124,693,100	\$96,764,700	\$32,457,600	17.2%	222.52	219.77	219.77	- 2.75	- 1.2%
FED	90,230,800	94,104,800	93,922,900	7,566,100	4.2	531.34	510.78	509.78	- 21.56	- 4.1
PR	35,129,100	33,982,900	33,958,600	- 2,316,700	- 3.3	241.89	231.89	231.89	- 10.00	- 4.1
SEG	<u>347,565,900</u>	<u>386,654,100</u>	<u>356,276,700</u>	<u>47,799,000</u>	6.9	<u>1,557.68</u>	<u>1,540.28</u>	<u>1,540.28</u>	<u>- 17.40</u>	- 1.1
TOTAL	\$567,425,900	\$639,434,900	\$580,922,900	\$85,506,000	7.5%	2,553.43	2,502.72	2,501.72	- 51.71	- 2.0%

Budget Change Items

Departmentwide

1. STANDARD BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS [LFB Paper 105]

Provide adjustments to the base budget as follows: (a) -\$6,465,300 annually for reductions due to staff turnover (-\$729,700 GPR, -\$997,100 FED, -\$208,700 PR, and -\$4,529,800 SEG); (b) -\$584,700 and -8.0 positions in 2023-24 (-\$270,800 and -4.0 FED positions, -\$158,300 and -2.0 PR positions, and -\$155,600 and -2.0 SEG positions) and -\$790,900 and -9.0 positions in 2024-25 (-\$452,700 and -5.0 FED positions, -\$182,600 and -2.0 PR positions, and -\$155,600 and -2.0 SEG positions) for removal of non-continuing elements from the base; (c) \$8,751,500 annually for full funding of continuing position salaries and fringe benefits (\$847,900 GPR, \$5,222,300 FED, -\$233,000 PR, and \$2,914,300 SEG); (d) \$31,900 annually for reclassification and semi-automatic pay increases (\$8,200 GPR, \$5,400 FED, \$9,300 PR, and \$9,000 SEG); (e) \$3,180,000 annually for overtime (\$8,000 PR and \$3,172,000 SEG); (f) \$224,000 SEG annually for night and weekend differential pay; and (g) -\$253,700 annually for full funding of leases and directed moves (-\$444,000 GPR, -\$85,800 FED, and \$276,100 SEG).

	Funding	Positions
GPR	-\$635,200	0.00
FED	7,566,100	- 5.00
PR	- 1,189,700	- 2.00
SEG	<u>3,820,000</u>	<u>- 2.00</u>
Total	\$9,561,200	- 9.00

2. LIMITED-TERM EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION [LFB Paper 570]

Provide \$1,008,700 (\$1,400 GPR and \$1,007,300 SEG) annually for limited-term employee (LTE) compensation, including \$804,500 (\$1,100 GPR and \$803,400

GPR	\$2,800
SEG	<u>2,014,600</u>
Total	\$2,017,400

SEG) for LTE salaries and \$204,200 (\$300 GPR and \$203,900 SEG) for fringe benefits, as shown in the table.

Limited-Term Employee Compensation

<u>Fund/Division/Program</u>	<u>Amount</u>
GPR	
<i>Environmental Management</i>	
Water Quality	\$1,400
 SEG	
<i>Fish, Wildlife and Parks</i>	
Wildlife Management	\$217,100
Southern Forests	60,600
Parks	157,200
Natural Heritage Conservation	71,500
Fisheries Management	273,500
Property and Recreation Management	57,900
 <i>Forestry</i>	
	\$101,700
 <i>Public Safety and Resource Protection</i>	
	\$7,000
 <i>Environmental Management</i>	
Remediation and Redevelopment	\$23,700
 <i>External Services</i>	
Customer Service	\$37,100
 SEG Subtotal	 \$1,007,300
 Total	 \$1,008,700

3. DEBT SERVICE REESTIMATE [LFB Paper 106]

GPR	\$6,831,000
SEG	- 73,800
Total	\$6,757,200

Provide \$2,811,300 (\$4,254,700 GPR and -\$1,443,400 SEG) in 2023-24 and \$3,945,900 (\$2,576,300 GPR and \$1,369,600 SEG) in 2024-25 to reestimate debt service payments on bonds issued for various DNR programs. The table shows debt service by fund source and program area under Act 19.

DNR Debt Service Reestimates

	Base	2023-24		2024-25	
		Change to Base	Total	Change to Base	Total
GPR					
Stewardship and predecessors	\$52,670,000	\$4,463,500	\$57,133,500	\$2,881,000	\$55,551,000
Combined sewer overflow	278,500	- 79,700	198,800	- 237,600	40,900
Municipal clean drinking water grants	2,300	- 800	1,500	- 2,000	300
Administrative facilities	<u>537,200</u>	<u>- 128,300</u>	<u>408,900</u>	<u>- 65,100</u>	<u>472,100</u>
GPR Subtotal	\$53,488,000	\$4,254,700	\$57,742,700	\$2,576,300	\$56,064,300
SEG					
<i>Conservation Fund</i>					
Dam repair and removal	\$135,100	-\$72,600	\$62,500	-\$66,800	\$68,300
Administrative facilities	6,511,400	- 127,600	6,383,800	632,200	7,143,600
Land acquisition	100	- 100	-	- 100	-
Recreation development	<u>-</u>	<u>51,100</u>	<u>51,100</u>	<u>87,800</u>	<u>87,800</u>
Conservation Fund SEG Subtotal	\$6,646,600	-\$149,200	\$6,497,400	\$653,100	\$7,299,700
<i>Environmental Fund</i>					
Remedial action	\$1,346,900	\$80,800	\$1,427,700	\$410,700	\$1,757,600
Contaminated sediment cleanup	1,955,200	- 24,500	1,930,700	51,600	2,006,800
Rural nonpoint source grants - priority watershed program	3,473,300	- 812,400	2,660,900	- 1,365,900	2,107,400
Rural nonpoint source grants - targeted runoff management	2,676,600	313,800	2,990,400	2,190,500	4,867,100
Urban nonpoint source	3,219,800	- 171,400	3,048,400	696,200	3,916,000
Water pollution abatement	1,504,100	- 606,200	897,900	- 1,260,300	243,800
Administrative facilities	<u>1,199,800</u>	<u>- 74,300</u>	<u>1,125,500</u>	<u>- 6,300</u>	<u>1,193,500</u>
Environmental Fund SEG Subtotal	\$15,375,700	-\$1,294,200	\$14,081,500	\$716,500	\$16,092,200
SEG Total	\$22,022,300	-\$1,443,400	\$20,578,900	\$1,369,600	\$23,391,900
All Funds Total	\$75,510,300	\$2,811,300	\$78,321,600	\$3,945,900	\$79,456,200

4. SNOWMOBILE AUTOMATED REPORTING SYSTEM MAINTENANCE SEG \$20,000

Provide \$10,000 conservation SEG annually to fund routine maintenance to the Snowmobile Automated Reporting System (SNARS). SNARS provides publicly accessible, real-time data on the conditions and grooming status of the state's network of snowmobile trails. DNR relies on counties to report trail conditions and grooming activity and to provide geographic information systems (GIS) data on county trails to SNARS. Additionally, SNARS provides an interface for counties to report volunteer hours, grant expenses, and to seek reimbursement for trail maintenance and grooming. Act 19 increases base-level funding for snowmobile aids administration to fund estimated contract expenses to maintain the system and provide technical support.

5. OFF-HIGHWAY MOTORCYCLE REESTIMATE SEG \$39,800

Reestimate off-highway motorcycle (OHM) revenues by \$19,900 annually. All OHM registration revenues are deposited in the state transportation fund. An annual transfer equal to the

total amount of OHM registration fees received by the Department of Transportation (DOT) in the previous fiscal year is made from a sum sufficient GPR appropriation to the OHM account of the SEG conservation fund. The OHM transfer and other OHM revenues, such as nonresident trail passes, may be used to acquire, develop, and maintain OHM trails and recreation facilities. The provision estimates the transfer at \$80,000 in each year of the biennium.

6. TRANSFERS WITHIN APPROPRIATIONS

Transfer positions and funding between budgetary subprograms or budgetary purposes within the same appropriation as described in the following paragraphs to reflect current allocations of program funding and responsibilities in the division indicated.

Environmental Management. Move 0.46 petroleum inspection fund SEG position from drinking and groundwater to remediation and redevelopment to correct a discrepancy between the state human resources management and budget systems.

External Services. Move 1.0 GPR section leader position from waterways to external services leaders to align the position within division leadership. Transfer 1.0 PR position from waterways and wetlands to environmental analysis and sustainability.

7. RECREATIONAL VEHICLE REESTIMATES [LFB Papers 106 and 573]

SEG	\$752,100
-----	-----------

Reestimate DNR continuing appropriations for the ATV and snowmobile accounts of the SEG conservation fund under the recreational vehicle fuel tax formulas as shown in the table. By statute, transfers are made from the transportation fund based on the fuel tax rate and the count of registered recreational vehicles as of certain dates in the preceding fiscal year.

Recreational Vehicle Motor Fuel Tax Transfer Reestimates

	Base	Change to Base		Reestimate	
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2023-24	2024-25
Recreation aids - snowmobile trail areas	\$5,331,900	-\$25,100	-\$12,400	\$5,306,800	\$5,319,500
Recreation aids - all-terrain and utility terrain vehicle (UTV) project aids	\$2,842,400	\$116,600	\$255,300	\$2,959,000	\$3,097,700

Additionally, reestimate the DNR supplemental snowmobile trail aids appropriation by \$249,300 in 2023-24 and by \$135,200 in 2024-25. Snowmobile supplemental trail aids are based on the number of nonresident annual trail passes sold in the prior fiscal year, multiplied by \$47. Aids are estimated at \$1,231,600 in 2023-24 and \$1,117,500 in 2024-25.

Reestimate the ATV/UTV trail safety grant by \$9,400 in 2023-24 and \$23,800 in 2024-25. The value of the trail safety grant is set each year based on the greater of either \$297,000 or 80¢ multiplied by the ATVs and UTVs registered in the state on the last day of February in the prior fiscal year. In 2023-24, the trail safety grant will total \$306,400. It is estimated to be \$320,800 in 2024-25.

8. ATV AND UTV PROJECT AIDS

SEG	\$871,800
-----	-----------

Increase the per-mile reimbursement rate for local UTV trail aids from \$200 to \$400. Provide \$432,800 conservation SEG in 2023-24 and \$439,000 in 2024-25 to fund the increased reimbursement rate. Funding is available from the ATV account of the SEG conservation fund annually for ATV trail and project aids. For trail maintenance projects, DNR pays municipalities up to \$600 per mile for summer ATV trail maintenance and \$100 or \$200 per mile for winter ATV trail maintenance. If a trail supports both ATVs and UTVs, DNR reimburses municipalities an additional \$200 per mile for summer-use trails. Act 19 increases this to \$400. Therefore, summer-use trails that are open to both ATVs and UTVs would be eligible to receive \$1,000 per mile. Including estimated revenues from gas tax transfers described in the preceding item, funding available for these aids will increase from \$5,474,600 to \$5,907,400 in 2023-24 and from \$5,613,300 to \$6,052,300 in 2024-25.

[Act 19 Section: 195]

9. DELETE VACANT POSITIONS

Delete 36.71 positions vacant 18 months or greater. Act 19 does not delete funding associated with the positions in the 2023-25 biennium, but associated funding would be removed under standard budget adjustments for the 2025-27 biennial budget. The following table shows the number of positions by DNR program area and fund source.

	Positions
GPR	- 2.75
FED	- 16.56
PR	- 2.00
SEG	<u>- 15.40</u>
Total	- 36.71

DNR Long-Term Vacancy Deletions

<u>Program/Subprogram</u>	<u>Fund Source</u>				<u>Total</u>
	<u>GPR</u>	<u>FED</u>	<u>PR</u>	<u>SEG</u>	
Fish, Wildlife, and Parks					
Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Program Management				2.00	2.00
Fisheries Management		1.00		4.00	5.00
Property Management				1.00	1.00
Forestry					
Forestry Regional				1.00	1.00
Forestry Field Operations		1.00		1.00	2.00
Applied Forestry				1.00	1.00
Forestry Administration				1.00	1.00
Environmental Management					
Water Quality		2.00			2.00
Air Management		6.00			6.00
Environmental Leaders		2.00			2.00
Internal Service					
Facilities and Lands		0.50	1.00	2.00	3.50
Finance		0.25		0.10	0.35
Division Management	0.75				0.75
Technology Services	1.00		1.00	1.00	3.00
External Services					
Community Financial Assistance		2.00		0.30	2.30
Watershed Management	1.00	1.81			2.81
Waterways and Wetlands				<u>1.00</u>	<u>1.00</u>
Total	2.75	16.56	2.00	15.40	36.71

10. OPERATIONS APPROPRIATIONS REDUCTION

SEG	- \$3,608,800
-----	---------------

Delete annual funding for supplies and services from conservation fund SEG general program operations appropriations as follows: \$675,200 from forestry, \$780,500 from internal services, and \$348,700 from external services.

11. CONSERVATION POSITIONS REALLOCATION

Direct DNR to reallocate existing authorized positions and funding within DNR for a conservation purpose, at the DNR Secretary's discretion. Require the Department to report any positions reallocated under the provision for inclusion in the final appropriations schedule for the 2023-25 biennium. The Governor's veto message indicated reporting will be made to the Department of Administration (DOA) and the Legislative Fiscal Bureau.

[Act 19 Section: 9132(1)]

Parks

1. PARK AND FOREST DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE [LFB Paper 575]

SEG	\$29,121,900
-----	--------------

Provide \$13,432,900 SEG on a one-time basis in 2023-24 in continuing appropriations as follows: (a) \$3,950,400 for forest property development; (b) \$7,121,700 for parks property development; and (c) \$2,360,800 for general DNR facility and property development. Also, provide \$5,689,000 in 2023-24 as one-time funding for forest, park, and riverway road maintenance in the continuing appropriation for forest development.

Additionally, provide \$10,000,000 SEG as one-time funding in 2023-24 to the parks development and maintenance appropriation to fund projects in DNR's all agency capital budget request. [See "Building Program."]

2. CAMPSITE ELECTRIFICATION [LFB Paper 576]

SEG	\$1,500,000
SEG-REV	\$210,000

Repeal the statutory 35% cap on the number of state park campsites that may be electrified, and estimate additional parks account revenues of \$210,000 annually beginning in 2024-25. Provide \$1,500,000 SEG in 2024-25 on a one-time basis from the parks account of the conservation fund for campsite electrification.

Under prior law, no more than 35% of campsites in state parks may have electrical outlets. As of March 2023, there are 3,956 campsites in state parks; 34.8%, 1,378, are electrified. Campsite reservations for electrified sites cost between \$10 and \$15 more than for non-electrified sites. Act 19 retains the statutory provision that DNR may electrify no more than 50% of the campsites in

any given state park campground. Additionally, DNR is required to maintain at least 25% of state park campsites as rustic campsites, which lack modern amenities like flush toilets.

[Act 19 Section: 215]

3. PARKS LIMITED-TERM EMPLOYEE STAFFING [LFB Paper 577]

SEG	\$830,000
-----	-----------

Provide \$415,000 conservation SEG annually, including \$309,700 for LTE salaries and \$105,300 for fringe benefits. Funding is provided to the subprogram for property and recreation management to hire additional LTEs and custodial contractors to work on education initiatives, maintenance and operations, and customer service. DNR has experienced recruitment and retention issues in recent years as LTE funding and compensation have risen slower than market wage rates. Since 2020, state parks and recreation areas have seen rapid growth in attendance, putting stresses on existing staff and facilities.

4. PARKS UTILITY FUNDING [LFB Paper 577]

SEG	\$304,400
-----	-----------

Provide \$152,200 conservation SEG annually for utilities costs in state parks and forests. DNR reports that rising costs for water, gas, electricity, and cellular service have raised utility costs at state parks, which has required DNR to reallocate funding from other parks program areas.

5. PARKS MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT [LFB Paper 577]

SEG	\$700,000
-----	-----------

Provide \$700,000 SEG, including \$500,000 from the parks account and \$200,000 from the forestry account as one-time funding in 2023-24 for parks maintenance equipment. DNR reports that funding will be used to replace outdated lawnmowers, tractors, skid loaders, and ATVs used by parks personnel.

6. PARKS TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES

SEG	\$363,800
-----	-----------

Provide \$181,900 conservation SEG annually, including \$43,700 from the forestry account and \$138,200 from the parks account, to upgrade technology in parks and southern forests. Act 19 provides \$152,500 as one-time funding in each year, including \$36,600 from the forestry account and \$115,900 from the parks account, to acquire new credit card readers. Act 19 also increases the supplies and services allotment by \$29,400 annually, including \$7,100 from the forestry account and \$22,300 from the parks account, to fund security software licenses for the new credit card readers.

7. PROPERTY-SPECIFIC FUNDING [LFB Paper 577]

SEG	\$190,600
-----	-----------

Increase SEG general operations funding for state parks and recreational areas, southern forests, and wildlife management areas by \$97,200 in 2023-24 and \$93,400 in 2024-25 to provide additional base funding for specific properties. Act 19 increases funding for LTE salary, fringe

benefits, and supplies and services allotments for four properties and provides one-time financing to construct an entrance sign at Lizard Mound State Park. The following table shows how funding is allocated to each property.

Property-Specific Funding

<u>Property</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>
Lizard Mound State Park	\$21,000	\$17,500
Mazomanie Bottoms State Natural Area	28,100	28,100
Brule River State Forest	17,900	17,900
Ice Age Trail	<u>30,200</u>	<u>29,900</u>
Total	\$97,200	\$93,400

8. ONLINE VEHICLE ADMISSION FEES [LFB Paper 578]

SEG	\$490,000
-----	-----------

Authorize DNR to collect a transaction fee on online parks admission sticker and trail pass sales. Deposit fees into the existing appropriation for campsite reservation fees and modify the appropriation to allow DNR to pay contractual transaction costs for online admission sticker and trail pass sales. Reestimate the campsite reservation fee appropriation by \$245,000 annually.

Beginning in May, 2020, DNR began offering annual state park admission stickers online through a website called Your Pass Now. Your Pass Now offers resident annual admission stickers, nonresident annual admission stickers, senior citizen annual admission stickers, and reduced-rate admission stickers to persons who also purchase a full-priced admission sticker in the same transaction. Your Pass Now was developed by NIC Wisconsin at no upfront cost to the state. Rather, NIC Wisconsin receives \$1.50 for each transaction processed by the Your Pass Now system. These fees must otherwise be paid by DNR through its general operations appropriations. Prior law did not dedicate revenues, such as statutory issuing fees, for this purpose. In addition to transaction costs, DNR must pay fulfillment fees to DOA for printing and mailing stickers to purchasers.

[Act 19 Sections: 70, 212, and 213]

9. NONRESIDENT CAMPING FEE

SEG	\$690,000
SEG-REV	\$690,000

Increase the cap on nonresident overnight camping fees by \$10, from \$35 to \$45. Reestimate the increase in annual revenue to the parks account of the SEG conservation fund by \$690,000, beginning in 2024-25. Provide \$690,000 SEG as base-level funding to the parks property development and maintenance appropriation in 2024-25.

The statutes authorize DNR to set camping fees within specified limits based on local market conditions, the types of conveniences offered at the campground, and the level of use. Base fees for a campsite in Wisconsin must be not less than \$15 but not more than \$30 per night for residents

and not less than \$19 but not more than \$35 per night for nonresidents; Act 19 increases the maximum fee for nonresidents to \$45 per night. Fees are determined by the DNR Secretary. Further, DNR charges an additional \$15 nightly camping fee for sites with electric access in five high-demand parks: Devil's Lake, High Cliff, Kohler-Andrae, Peninsula, and Willow River.

[Act 19 Section: 214]

10. MIRROR LAKE DREDGING

SEG	\$449,200
-----	-----------

Provide a one-time grant of \$449,200 conservation SEG in 2023-24 from the parks account to the Mirror Lake Management District for a project to dredge Mirror Lake and rehabilitate a gully near Mirror Lake State Park.

[Act 19 Section: 9132(2)]

Forestry and Stewardship

1. URBAN FORESTRY GRANTS [LFB Paper 581]

SEG	\$350,000
-----	-----------

Increase base funding for urban forestry grants by \$175,000 forestry SEG each year. Act 19 raises the amount available for urban forestry grants from \$524,600 to \$699,600 each year. Under the urban forestry grant program, the Department awards grants to cities, villages, towns, counties, tribal governments and nonprofit organizations for up to 50% of the cost of various projects, including tree management plans, tree inventories, brush residue projects, the development of tree management ordinances, tree disease evaluation, public education relating to trees in urban areas and other related projects. DNR may also award grants under the urban forestry grant program to counties, cities, villages, towns, nonprofit organizations, and tribal governments for the costs of removing, saving, and replacing trees that have been damaged by catastrophic storm events in urban areas.

2. COUNTY SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY AND COUNTY FOREST ADMINISTRATOR GRANTS [LFB Paper 583]

SEG	\$500,000
-----	-----------

Provide \$50,000 in each year of the biennium for county forest sustainability grants and \$200,000 in each year for county forest administrator grants. Base funding for sustainability grants is increased from \$328,000 to \$378,000. County sustainable forestry grants provide counties with funding to implement sustainable forestry projects on county forestland. Base funding for administrator grants is increased from \$1,285,900 to \$1,485,900. County forest administrator grants provide aids to counties for up to 50% of the salary and fringe benefit costs of a county forest administrator or assistant administrator. Aids for both programs are funded through the same appropriation.

3. FORESTRY PUBLIC SAFETY

SEG	\$957,600
-----	-----------

Provide \$807,600 forestry SEG in 2023-24 and \$150,000 in 2024-25 to acquire and upgrade fire suppression equipment. Act 19 increases the forestry general operations base budget allotment for supplies and services by \$150,000 annually, and provides \$657,600 in one-time funding in 2023-24 to purchase public safety equipment for DNR Forestry Division employees. Funding would be used to acquire fire shelters, boots, hard hats, automated external defibrillators (AEDs), and other safety equipment.

4. FORESTRY MILL RATE REESTIMATE [LFB Paper 106 and 580]

Reestimate the transfer from the general fund to the forestry account of the conservation fund by \$25,958,700 in 2023-24 and by \$19,958,700 in 2024-25. 2017 Wisconsin Act 59 replaced the state forestry mill tax with a sum-sufficient appropriation from the general fund equal to the value of the tax, or 0.1697 mills for each dollar of the assessed valuation of taxable property in the state (16.97¢ per \$1,000). Funds are transferred to the forestry account for the purposes of acquiring, preserving and developing the forests of the state. Act 19 budgets the transfers at \$141,500,000 in 2023-24 and at \$135,500,000 in 2024-25. [See "Shared Revenue and Tax Relief -- Forestry Mill Rate."]

5. LAPHAM PEAK LODGE GRANT

SEG	\$250,000
-----	-----------

Provide a grant of \$250,000 conservation SEG in 2023-24 to the Friends of Lapham Peak to build a ski lodge in the Lapham Peak Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest. Specify that any grant funds remaining after construction of the lodge may be used by the Friends of Lapham Peak to furnish the lodge and purchase snowmaking equipment.

[Act 19 Section: 9132(5)]

6. MANAGED FOREST LAND AND COUNTY FOREST AIDS REESTIMATE [LFB Paper 106]

SEG	\$59,400
-----	----------

Reestimate aids paid to towns with lands enrolled in the forest croplands (FCL), managed forest land (MFL) and county forest programs by \$29,700 forestry SEG annually. DNR pays aids to local governments each year to partially offset the loss in property tax revenue from properties enrolled in each program. DNR pays municipalities 20¢ per acre of land enrolled in MFL and FCL, and 63¢ per acre of county forest land located in the town. In each year of the 2023-25 biennium, these aids are estimated at \$2,230,000.

7. NURSERY SEEDLING SURCHARGE

SEG-REV	- \$150,000
---------	-------------

Repeal the 3¢ surcharge applied to each seedling sold by the state tree nursery. DNR operates three tree nurseries, which produce and distribute seedlings (trees and wildlife shrubs) used for reforestation and conservation purposes. Nursery stock is sold to the public at prices that

reflect costs to administer the forest nursery program. It is estimated that the provision would reduce forestry SEG revenue by \$75,000 annually.

[Act 19 Section: 216]

8. UNOBLIGATED STEWARDSHIP BONDING

Require DNR to obligate lapsed funding from the Warren Knowles-Gaylord Nelson Stewardship program to projects such as drilling wells, facility improvements and renovations, and construction of new buildings.

Under the stewardship program, DNR may obligate up to \$33.25 million annually to projects that expand and enhance outdoor recreational opportunities. Funding from the stewardship program is used to purchase land and conservation easements, to develop recreational facilities on DNR-owned lands, and to provide aids to local governments and nonprofit conservation organizations for conservation land acquisition and recreational property development. Under prior law, if DNR obligated less than \$33.25 million in any given year, underspent funds would lapse and would be unavailable without further legislative authorization. Act 19 authorizes DNR to obligate any funding that lapses from the stewardship program to a variety of projects.

[Act 19 Section: 194]

Fish, Wildlife, and Natural Heritage Conservation

1. GREAT LAKES RESEARCH VESSEL MAINTENANCE

SEG	\$196,000
-----	-----------

Provide one-time funding of \$196,000 fish and wildlife SEG in 2023-24 for maintenance of DNR's Great Lakes research vessels. The Department owns three research vessels, located in Lake Michigan, Lake Winnebago, and Lake Superior. The vessels were built in 2010, 1975, and 1946, respectively. They are used to collect data on Great Lakes fish populations that informs DNR's fish stocking efforts. The funding would be used to upgrade electronics, rebuild engines, and perform other maintenance and reconstruction on the ships' bodies. DNR estimates that the funding would extend the useable lives of the ships by between 25 and 40 years.

2. NONRESIDENT DEER HUNTING LICENSE [LFB Paper 590]

SEG-REV	\$4,948,000
SEG-Transfer	\$25,000,000

Raise the fee for the nonresident deer hunting license by \$40, from \$160 to \$200, beginning on July 7, 2023, the effective date of Act 19. Additionally, increase nonresident hunting and fishing license fees by \$5 and nonresident combination licenses by \$20, as shown in the table. (Amounts shown include a \$0.75 issuing fee, and for hunting or combination licenses, a wildlife damage surcharge; the surcharge is \$2 for all

hunting authorizations except the conservation patron license, which has a \$4 surcharge.)

Fish and Wildlife Fee Increases

	<u>Previous Fee</u>	<u>Act 19</u>		<u>Estimated Annual Revenue Increase</u>
		<u>Fee Increase</u>	<u>New Fee</u>	
Nonresident Hunting				
Annual Small Game	\$85.00	\$5.00	\$90.00	\$33,000
Five-Day Small Game	55.00	5.00	60.00	8,000
Deer	160.00	40.00	200.00	1,010,000
Archery and Crossbow	160.00	5.00	165.00	54,000
Turkey	60.00	5.00	65.00	21,000
Furbearing Animal	160.00	5.00	165.00	Minimal
Nonresident Fishing				
<i>Individual</i>				
One-Day	\$10.00	5.00	15.00	\$305,000
Annual	50.00	5.00	55.00	427,000
Fifteen-Day	28.00	5.00	33.00	121,000
Four-Day	24.00	5.00	29.00	251,000
<i>Family</i>				
Annual	65.00	5.00	70.00	162,000
Fifteen-Day	40.00	5.00	45.00	60,000
Nonresident Combination Licenses				
Conservation Patron	\$600.00	20.00	620.00	\$6,000
Sports License	275.00	20.00	295.00	<u>16,000</u>
Total				\$2,474,000

Further, make a one-time transfer of \$25 million from the forestry account of the conservation fund to the fish and wildlife account in 2023-24.

Hunting and fishing licenses are a primary source of revenue to the fish and wildlife account. Licenses shown in the table are deposited in the balance of the fish and wildlife account and fund general account expenditures, such as wildlife program operations and county conservation aids. In total, revenue to the fish and wildlife account is expected to increase by \$27,474,000 in 2023-24 and by \$2,474,000 in 2024-25, relative to current law.

[Act 19 Sections: 217 thru 231 and 9232(1)]

Law Enforcement

1. WARDEN SAFETY EQUIPMENT AND BODY-WORN CAMERAS [LFB Paper 595]

GPR	\$9,000
SEG	<u>384,200</u>
Total	\$393,200

Provide \$196,600 as one-time funding in each year of the 2023-25 biennium, including \$4,500 GPR, \$4,100 environmental SEG, and \$188,000 conservation SEG, to purchase and operate safety equipment for DNR law enforcement wardens.

Of the funding provided, \$76,500 (\$4,500 GPR, \$4,100 environmental SEG, and \$67,900 conservation SEG) each year would be used to acquire AEDs. Additionally, \$120,100 conservation SEG annually would be used to replace obsolete electroshock stun guns (Tasers). The following table shows law enforcement equipment funding each year, by funding sources and functions in the Division of Public Safety and Resource Protection.

Annual Warden Safety Equipment Funding Summary

<u>Fund Source/ Resource Area</u>	<u>AEDs</u>	<u>Tasers</u>	<u>Subtotal</u>
GPR	\$4,500		\$4,500
SEG			
Environmental Fund	\$4,100		\$4,100
<i>Conservation Fund</i>			
Boat Enforcement	\$9,900		\$9,900
Fish and Wildlife	45,300	\$100,100	145,400
ATV/UTV	3,000		3,000
Water Resources	700		700
Parks	6,100	13,500	19,600
Forestry	<u>2,900</u>	<u>6,500</u>	<u>9,400</u>
<i>Conservation Subtotal</i>	\$67,900	\$120,100	\$188,000
SEG Total	\$72,000	\$120,100	\$192,100
All Funds Total	\$76,500	\$120,100	\$196,200

2. WARDEN OVERTIME

SEG	\$207,600
-----	-----------

Provide \$68,700 (\$6,700 environmental SEG and \$62,000 conservation SEG) in 2023-24 and \$138,900 (\$13,500 environmental SEG and \$125,400 conservation SEG) for overtime costs for DNR wardens. Under standard budget adjustments each budget cycle, funding associated with overtime and night and weekend differential is removed in the calculations of full funding of salaries and fringe benefits. The budget instructions related to overtime specify that the same dollar amounts only be restored through the standard budget adjustment for overtime. The bill would provide sufficient funding for 42,100 hours of warden overtime, paid at wage rates that will be earned by DNR wardens in the 2023-25 biennium.

3. LAW ENFORCEMENT OFF-ROAD VEHICLE MODERNIZATION [LFB Paper 595] SEG \$388,600

Provide \$194,300 from the forestry account of the conservation fund annually to acquire and upgrade off-road vehicles for DNR wardens. DNR reports that the funding will enable the Department to purchase seven snowmobiles and eight ATVs each year, based on 2023 prices. DNR wardens share responsibility for enforcing snowmobile and ATV laws with local snowmobile and ATV patrols. As of March, 2023, PSRP owned 102 snowmobiles and 88 ATVs. Of these, 44 snowmobiles and 42 ATVs were acquired before 2015. DNR allots \$130,000 annually from law enforcement base budgets to replace outdated off-road vehicles. DNR reports that the cost of replacing these vehicles has grown significantly in recent years.

4. ATV AND UTV ENFORCEMENT SEG \$1,100,000

Increase funding for county ATV enforcement aids by \$550,000 annually, from \$750,000 to \$1,300,000. Funding from the ATV account of the SEG conservation fund is provided for aids to counties for up to 100% of the eligible costs of ATV/UTV enforcement activities. Aids are prorated if eligible claims exceed the appropriation level.

5. SNOWMOBILE COUNTY ENFORCEMENT AIDS SEG \$400,000

Increase funding for county snowmobile enforcement aids by \$200,000 annually, from \$396,000 to \$596,000. Funding from the snowmobile account of the conservation fund is available annually for aids to counties for up to 100% of eligible costs of enforcing snowmobile laws. Aid payments are prorated if claims exceed the appropriation level.

Waste, Remediation, and Air

1. FUNDING FOR GREAT LAKES CONTAMINATED SEDIMENT REMOVAL [LFB Paper 605] GPR \$7,500,000

Provide \$7,500,000 GPR in 2023-24 in a new, continuing appropriation for removing contaminated sediments in Lake Michigan, Lake Superior, and their tributaries. Since 2007, DNR has been authorized \$40 million in contaminated sediment bonding authority, including \$4 million provided by 2021 Act 58. Act 19 amounts provide GPR funding in lieu of additional bonding authority during the 2023-25 biennium, but for the same purposes as authorized by statute. Funding would support a portion of approximately \$40.3 million in additional priority state funding obligations identified for remediation in the Portage Canal, Milwaukee Estuary, Sheboygan River, St. Louis River, and Lake Superior.

[Act 19 Section: 71]

2. AIR MANAGEMENT PROGRAM POSITIONS [LFB Paper 606]

	Funding	Positions
PR	- \$1,127,000	- 6.00

Delete 6.0 vacant air management positions and \$563,500 PR annually in associated funding. Deleted positions include 4.0 classified positions from air management and 2.0 classified positions from customer services. Additionally, delete funding for 1.0 vacant division administrator position, which has been vacated as a result of past agency reorganization activities.

Vacant positions deleted under Act 19 had been funded by operation permit fees for federally-regulated (Title V) stationary air pollution sources. DNR indicates permit fee revenues from federally-regulated sources have been insufficient in recent years to fund all authorized positions.

3. WASTE MANAGEMENT POSITIONS TRANSFER

Transfer 3.0 waste management positions and \$360,500 SEG annually from recycling administration to general operations to better align position funding with assigned duties.

4. PFAS TRUST FUND

GPR-Transfer	\$110,000,000
SEG-Transfer	<u>15,000,000</u>
Total	\$125,000,000

Create a segregated PFAS trust fund. Create from the fund a continuing appropriation as the amounts in the schedule for addressing and preventing perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances contamination in this state. Transfer \$110,000,000 GPR and \$15,000,000 environmental management SEG in 2023-24 to the fund. Specify that fund revenues include: (a) transfers to the PFAS trust fund under the bill or other acts; (b) all monies, other than fines and forfeitures, received under settlement agreements or orders in settlement of actions or proposed actions for violations of Chapters 280 to 299 that relate to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances; (c) all donations, gifts, and bequests; and (d) all income and interest earned by the fund. Specify that the unencumbered balance of the PFAS-containing firefighting foam cleanup appropriation, s. 20.370 (4)(ps), be transferred to the fund.

PFAS are synthetic chemicals commonly found in nonstick surfaces, paint, other consumer products, and firefighting foam. Research and studies indicate that PFAS are toxic to humans. PFAS do not easily degrade and tend to accumulate in humans and the environment. Since 2013, numerous sites in Wisconsin have shown to have PFAS contamination in groundwater, drinking water, surface water, sediment, or soil as a result of various private and governmental uses of the chemicals. Under the provision, the PFAS fund would have no amounts appropriated in the 2023-25 biennium. Transfers and other revenues would be available for DNR to request for release by the Joint Committee on Finance, or the fund balance could be further directed or appropriated in separate legislation.

[Act 19 Sections: 79, 197, 210, and 9232 (2) thru (4)]

5. REAUTHORIZE FUNDING FOR CLEANUP OF ELECTRONIC WASTE [LFB Paper 607]

SEG	\$3,450,000
-----	-------------

Modify the statutory language of s. 20.370 (4)(hs), the annual appropriation for electronic waste cleanup related to 5R Processors, to be continuing. Reauthorize the unencumbered, unexpended balance of the appropriation (\$1,450,000) to allow continued funding for the intended cleanup initiatives in the 2023-25 biennium, and authorize an additional \$2,000,000 for increased cleanup costs in the 2023-25 biennium.

5R Processors, now defunct, operated as an electronics and appliance recycling firm with several sites in Wisconsin, including Ladysmith (Rusk County), Glen Flora (Rusk County), Catawba (Price County) and West Bend (Washington County). 2021 Wisconsin Act 234 intended to create a continuing appropriation for state-funded cleanup of company sites containing toxic or hazardous wastes. Monies in continuing appropriations do not lapse to the balance of the source fund, and Act 234 intended to allow DNR to expend all monies appropriated for the cleanup purposes until exhausted. The provision is intended to conform the appropriation to the intent of Act 234 and provide additional funding based on updated cost estimates. Total funding under the appropriation is \$3,450,000 environmental management SEG in 2023-24.

[Act 19 Sections: 72 and 452]

Water Quality

1. WELL COMPENSATION GRANT PROGRAM [LFB Paper 610]

Create a new GPR continuing appropriation under DNR for well compensation and well abandonment grants under s. 281.75 of the statutes. Specify that funding of \$1,000,000 be placed in the Joint Committee on Finance supplemental appropriation in 2023-24. [See "Program Supplements."]

The well compensation grant program provides funding to eligible landowners or renters to replace, reconstruct, or treat contaminated private water supplies that serve a residence or provide water to livestock. Under Act 19, DNR is appropriated \$200,000 environmental management SEG each year in a continuing appropriation for well compensation grants. The program also has available SEG carryover balances of approximately \$3.1 million. In 2022, the Governor allocated additional federal funding of \$10 million that may be awarded until December 31, 2024.

[Act 19 Section: 81]

2. WATER RESOURCES ACCOUNT LAPSE

Lapse \$350,000 from the DNR river management appropriation to the balance of the water

resources account of the conservation fund in 2023-24. The river management appropriation supports management activities for habitat and recreational projects and environmental and resource management studies on the Mississippi and Lower St. Croix Rivers. The continuing appropriation had an available balance of \$902,000 as of June 30, 2022. The provision is intended to increase the available balance of the water resources account, which had an available balance of approximately \$1 million on June 30, 2022.

[Act 19 Section: 9232(5)]

3. DAM SAFETY FUNDING [LFB Paper 612]

GPR	\$4,000,000
-----	-------------

Provide \$4,000,000 GPR in a biennial appropriation for dam safety grants. DNR administers the municipal dam safety grant program under s. 31.385 of the statutes. The program provides matching grants to counties, cities, villages, towns, public inland lake protection and rehabilitation districts, and other dam owners for the repair, reconstruction, or removal of dams. To qualify for a grant, a dam must be inspected and be under a DNR directive to repair or remove the dam. A total of \$46.1 million in bonding revenues for dam safety grants has been authorized by the Legislature for this program, including \$4 million in each biennium since 2009-11 and \$10 million in 2021-23. The appropriation under Act 19 provides GPR funding in lieu of additional bonding authority for the same purposes in the 2023-25 biennium.

[Act 19 Sections: 73 and 232 thru 234]

4. SHEBOYGAN MARSH DAM

Provide \$500,000 GPR in 2023-24 to Sheboygan County for removal and reconstruction of the dam on the Sheboygan River at Sheboygan Marsh. 2021 Act 58 directed DNR to award a \$1 million dam safety grant to Sheboygan County for the project. DNR reports that those funds have been encumbered, and Sheboygan County has submitted plans that are under review.

Sheboygan County estimated total project costs of \$2.7 million in 2021, but is anticipating a \$300,000 increase would be necessary to fulfill original project goals. An additional \$200,000 would provide improvements to fishing and water access. Total anticipated project costs are currently \$3.2 million. Further discussion, and the provision's fiscal effect, is under a subsequent item entitled "Dam Project Earmarks."

[Act 19 Section: 74]

5. URBAN NONPOINT SOURCE FUNDING [LFB Paper 614]

GPR	\$4,000,000
-----	-------------

Provide \$4,000,000 GPR in 2023-24 in a new, biennial appropriation for the urban nonpoint source and storm water management (UNPS) and municipal flood control and riparian restoration (MFC) programs.

The UNPS program supports projects that manage storm water runoff in urban settings. The

MFC program supports flood-control and flood-proofing projects in urban settings, including property acquisition and structure removal. Grants generally support cost-sharing of up to 50%. The program typically allocates bonding authority and nonpoint SEG provided to DNR for these purposes. Additional bonding authority of \$4 million was provided in each of the 2019-21 and 2021-23 biennia, as well as \$500,000 nonpoint SEG each year. Act 19 amounts provide GPR funding in lieu of additional bonding authority during the 2023-25 biennium, but for the same purposes as authorized by statute.

[Act 19 Section: 82]

6. RURAL NONPOINT SOURCE FUNDING [LFB Paper 615]

GPR	\$6,500,000
-----	-------------

Provide \$6,500,000 GPR in 2023-24 for rural nonpoint source water pollution abatement grants. Funding supports the targeted runoff management (TRM) program and provides the required 70% state cost-share for the installation of structures in rural settings to improve water quality by preventing soil erosion and animal waste runoff. Funding also may be disbursed as grants under a separate program to address runoff only from animal feeding operations that have been issued a notice of discharge or notice of intent to issue a notice of discharge for impermissible runoff to state waters. Bonding authority of \$6.5 million was provided in each of the 2019-21 and 2021-23 biennia. Act 19 amounts provide GPR funding in lieu of additional bonding authority during the 2023-25 biennium, but for the same purposes as authorized by statute.

[Act 19 Section: 80]

7. TARGETED RUNOFF MANAGEMENT [LFB Paper 615]

SEG	\$400,000
-----	-----------

Provide \$200,000 nonpoint SEG each year on a one-time basis for additional funding for primarily nonstructural practices or staff costs under targeted runoff management (TRM) grants. TRM grants provide financial assistance to projects addressing water quality concerns or impairments, primarily in rural and agricultural settings, and support the implementation of total maximum daily load (TMDLs) in Wisconsin. Funds come from general obligation bonding, nonpoint SEG, and federal funding under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act. Since the 2017-19 biennium, the TRM program has been provided \$100,000 nonpoint SEG each year on an ongoing basis for certain costs not supportable by bonding or federal funds. DNR awarded TRM grants to 16 projects for \$3,859,700 in 2022 and 11 projects for \$3,429,300 in 2023.

8. PERMIT PRIMER UPDATE

SEG	\$80,000
-----	----------

Provide \$80,000 in 2023-24 from environmental management SEG in the Division of External Services' general program operations appropriation for updating the Department's interactive environmental permitting platform, Permit Primer. The goal of the platform is to assist small business owners, local governments, or others in determining permits they may need and how to acquire them to comply with state environmental laws. Funding is provided on a one-time basis in 2023-24 and would fund approximately 1,000 hours of IT development work.

The Permit Primer was developed by DNR in 2002 and has lost functionality and interoperability with the Department's current web design protocols, causing webpage traffic to decrease. The Department intends for modernization of the Permit Primer to increase use of the platform, improve permit compliance, and reduce permitting staff workload.

9. DAM PROJECT EARMARKS

GPR	\$2,250,000
-----	-------------

Provide \$2,250,000 in 2023-24 in new, continuing appropriations for each of three dam projects. Specify that: (a) \$500,000 is provided to Sheboygan County for removal and reconstruction of the dam on the Sheboygan River at Sheboygan Marsh; (b) \$750,000 is provided to Price County for repairs to the dam on Steve Creek; and (c) \$1,000,000 is provided to the City of Plymouth for removal and restoration of the dam on Mill Pond.

[Act 19 Sections: 74, 76, and 77]

10. LAKE MALLALIEU DREDGING PROJECT

GPR	\$2,000,000
-----	-------------

Provide \$2,000,000 in 2023-24 in a new, continuing appropriation to the Lake Mallalieu Lake Association for dredging Lake Mallalieu, an impoundment of the Willow River in St. Croix County. Specify that funding may also be used for any additional costs incurred by the project, such as additional studies or permitting requirements.

[Act 19 Section: 78]

11. LAKE ALTOONA SEDIMENT DREDGING

SEG	\$500,000
-----	-----------

Provide \$500,000 environmental management SEG in 2023-24 for a grant to the Lake Altoona Rehabilitation and Protection District (Eau Claire County) for costs related to the acquisition and transport of a bed load sediment collector, and for sediment dredging activities.

[Act 19 Section: 9132(6)]

12. STUDIES ON BUFFALO LAKE

SEG	\$100,000
-----	-----------

Provide \$100,000 water resources SEG (conservation fund) in 2023-24 to the Buffalo Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District to assist with permitting and study requirements in Buffalo Lake in Marquette County.

[Act 19 Section: 9132(4)]

13. ARCADIA MUNICIPAL FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT

Extend the time during which funding for the Arcadia municipal flood control stewardship earmark is available through the 2023-25 biennium. Further, allow funding to be awarded if the project is designed, authorized, approved, or supervised by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

2017 Act 59 provided a matching grant of up to \$14,600,000 to support a municipal flood control project in the City of Arcadia executed by the Army Corps of Engineers under the federal Flood Control Act. DNR and the Joint Committee on Finance have approved state funding for the project under Act 59 provisions. Construction is expected to begin in 2024.

[Act 19 Section: 451]