

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

*Division of Enforcement
Special Investigations Unit*

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT - FISCAL YEAR 1994
November 14, 1994

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Division of Enforcement is directed by MS Chapter 335, Article 1, Section 21, Subdivision 8, to submit an annual financial report of funds expended by its Special Investigations Unit. This legislation was passed by the 1989 regular session of the seventy-sixth Minnesota Legislature. Pursuant to this requirement the following report is submitted to the House Appropriations Committee and the Senate Finance Committee.

LINE	DESCRIPTION	EXPENDITURE
1	Salaries, full-time classified with benefits. (two N.R. Spec III, one N.R. Spec IV)	\$165,773
	Unclassified and temporary assignments. (one Clerk Typist III, one N.R. Spec III on temporary assignment, and one contracted officer)	
2	Overtime Pay. (934.75 overtime hours for entire unit)	22,545
3	Fleet Management. Vehicle operational costs paid to DNR fleet management for insurance, maintenance and replacement of vehicles.	15,447
4	Rents and Leases. Lease of pagers for communication purposes, maintenance contracts for equipment.	467
5	Repairs. Equipment repair costs.	2,930
6	Printing. Printing costs for informational handouts for commercial licensees.	1,398
7	Professional and Technical Services. Laboratory costs and scientific research for the testing and verification of evidence for court purposes of all Enforcement Division wildlife evidence.	15,000
8	Purchased Services. Funds dedicated for the purchase of evidence and associated costs of investigations directed at commercialized resource crime.	23,785
9	Communications. Telephone charges, long distance tolls, etc.	6,925
10	Travel. Travel expenses.	6,853
11	Supplies and Materials. Gasoline, audio/video tapes, batteries, office supplies, etc.	6,834
12	Equipment.	12,780
	Total	\$280,737

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LINE	DESCRIPTION	ALLOCATION	EXPENDITURE
1	Salaries		
	* Full-time	\$161,595	161,595
	* Part-time	4,178	4,178
2	Overtime Pay	22,545	22,545
	Subtotal	\$188,318	\$188,318
3	Fleet Management	25,000	15,447
4	Rents and Leases	1,000	467
5	Repairs	3,000	2,930
6	Printing	500	1,398
7	Professional & Technical	15,000	15,000
8	Purchased Services	5,500	3,174
9	Claims, fines, etc.	23,000	20,611
10	Communications	7,800	6,925
11	Travel	2,500	6,853
	Subtotal	\$83,300	\$72,805
12	Supplies and Materials	12,000	6,834
13	Equipment	5,960	12,780
	Subtotal	\$17,960	\$19,614
	TOTAL	\$289,578	\$280,737

ANTICIPATED 1995 EXPENDITURES

LINE	DESCRIPTION	ALLOCATION
1	Salaries	
	* Full-time	\$200,764
	* Part-time	2,000
2	Overtime Pay	16,865
3	Fleet Management	25,000
4	Rents and Leases	1,000
5	Repair Service	3,000
6	Printing	500
7	Professional and Technical Services	15,000
8	Purchased Services	5,500
9	Claims, fines, etc.	23,000
10	Communications	7,800
11	Travel	2,500
12	Supplies and Materials	12,000
13	Equipment	5,960
	TOTAL	\$320,889

SUMMARY

In fiscal year 1994 the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Division of Enforcement, Special Investigations Unit accounted for the disbursement of approximately 1.09% of the Division's budgetary allotment. The Special Investigations Unit conducted all activities utilizing two Conservation Officer part time investigators and an Area Supervisor temporarily assigned the Unit Team Leader position. During this period:

- * An unprecedented nationwide application procedure and subsequent testing process resulted in the hiring of two specialized full time Investigators to fill vacancies created by retirement and voluntary resignation
- * The Special Investigations Unit conducted a two week training program providing twelve Conservation Officers the ability and authorization to conduct part time covert investigations
- * The Unit hosted the annual Midwest Natural Resources Covert Investigator's seminar providing three days of training and information to over seventy wildlife enforcement investigators

Enforcement related activities during fiscal year 1994 included but were not limited to the following:

- * Investigation into the illegal commercialization of perch by winter anglers on Lake Winnibigoshish resulting in fines exceeding \$20,000 for gross overlimiting and the issuance of fraudulent licenses
- * The conclusion of a two year cooperative covert investigation resulting in federal indictments filed on ten defendants for Lacey Act felony violations relating to the illegal sale of walleye. In addition, state and tribal complaints have been filed on twenty additional defendants for similar violations
- * A covert investigation and subsequent conviction of illegal taxidermy operations resulting in state/federal charges filed and fines exceeding \$5,000
- * Additional investigations of 43 cases involving unlawful natural resource commercialization. The Special Investigations Unit had a 98% conviction rate for the cases which were prosecuted.
- * Investigation of six cases involving license fraud, also resulting in a 100% conviction rate.
- * Receipt, review, maintenance and associated enforcement of commercial records statutes pertaining to commercial license holders. These included:

- 1255 Game Farm Dealers
- 50 Raw Fur Dealers
- 14 Raw Fur Tanners/Dressers
- 12 Wild Rice Dealers
- 92 Shooting Preserves
- 74 Bear Guides
- 415 Minnow Dealers

- * Administration of the Division's forensic research and forensic testing program. During the past year 110 samples associated with the securing of evidence in criminal cases were custodied from the Special Investigations Unit to University of Minnesota pathobiologists for forensic analysis. Research is continuing with DNA testing procedures on whitetail deer.
- * Performed 22 Division of Enforcement applicant background checks and 2 background checks for outside agencies.
- * Assisted many city, county, state and federal agencies in cooperative investigations. The Special Investigations Unit was instrumental in the recovery of four stolen snowmobiles, one watercraft and one automobile. Four felony arrests and convictions for possession of stolen property resulted.
- * Maintaining the Division of Enforcement's statewide intelligence information system.
- * Providing assistance on many occasions to Conservation Officers with specialized equipment, surveillance, investigations and interview techniques.

