



Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Overview

Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Legacy Finance Committee

Sarah Strommen, Commissioner
Bob Meier, Assistant Commissioner

DNR Division Directors

February 7, 2022

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR)



The Mission

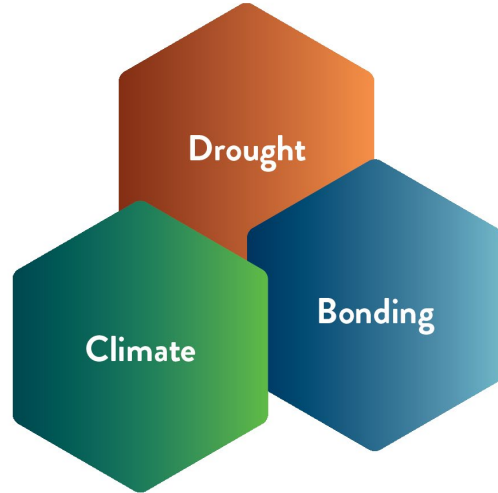
Work with Minnesotans to:

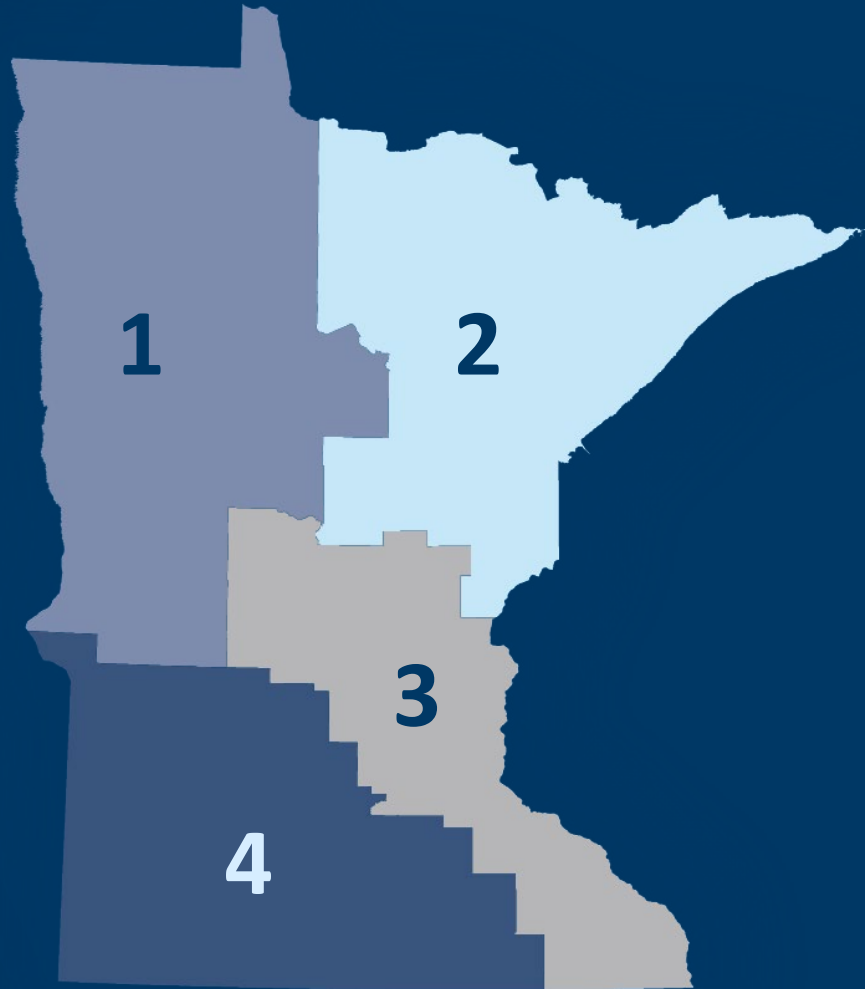
- Conserve and manage the state's natural resources,
- Provide outdoor recreation opportunities, and
- Provide for commercial uses of natural resources in a way that creates a sustainable quality of life.

Walz-Flanagan Administration Investments

THE WALZ-FLANAGAN BUDGET

TO MOVE MINNESOTA FORWARD





mn DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

Administrative Regions

Region 1: Northwest – Theresa Ebbenga, Director

Region 2: Northeast – Shelly Patton, Director

Region 3: Central – Grant Wilson, Director

Region 4: Southern – Scott Roemhildt, Director

DNR Divisions



Division of Lands and Minerals



Lands- Provide real estate services for 5.6 million acres of state-owned land.

Minerals- Manage 12 million acres of state-owned mineral resources.

Division of Lands and Minerals

Mineral Development

- Iron ore industry is strong
- USGS ranks Minnesota #3 for metallic mineral production
- Revenues from state mineral leases are benefitting K-12 education, the University, and local schools and government units.



Regulatory Oversight

- 2021 saw 10 year high in iron ore permitting work
- Permit to mine and water appropriation

Division of Ecological and Water Resources

- Division Overview
- Project Updates
 - Drought
 - Dakota Skipper Reintroduction
 - St. Louis River Restoration
 - Bait Harvest Pilot
 - Invasive Carp Management





Wildfire Prevention and Suppression

Sustainable Forest Management

Community and Landowner Assistance

Maintaining and Increasing Tree Cover



- Reforestation is the foundation for sustainable forest management
- Trees capture carbon, offsetting greenhouse gas emissions, and provide multiple other benefits
- Need for community shade tree grants continues to grow
- Private forest management assistance can also help private woodland owners manage their lands for climate mitigation and adaptation



DNR's parks and trails work falls into these major categories:

- Connecting people to the outdoors through state parks, trails, forest recreation areas and water recreation
- Acquiring land and creating new recreational and conservation opportunities
- Connecting with partners to provide a seamless outdoor recreation system

2021 Highlights

- Outdoor recreation is more important than ever to Minnesotans
- DNR Parks and Trails staff helped communities respond to wildfire and drought
- Acquired, developed, and restored outdoor places
- Parks and Trails continues to encourage new people to enjoy the outdoors



Division of Fish and Wildlife



- Monitor and manage fish and wildlife populations
- Protect, restore, and enhance key fish and wildlife lands
- Connect people to the outdoors through hunting, fishing, and engagement
- Administer hunting and fishing licenses and recreational vehicle titles and registrations

Managing Chronic Wasting Disease



CWD sampling station



Concurrent management

Helping Minnesotans Get Outdoors

Trout fishing in southeastern Minnesota



Southeastern trout streams that course through Minnesota's Driftless Area hold brown trout, brook trout and rainbow trout. Many of these streams are at or near all-time high fish populations. The area's bluffs, hills and coulees are home to 700 miles of naturally cold streams that offer some of the best trout fishing anywhere.



- Outdoor Skills and Stewardship Series
- Regulation book translations
- New streamfinder web maps
- NCLI grants
- Walk-in Access
- Aquatic & Wildlife Management Areas

Division of Enforcement



- Since 2019 MN added 16,619 motorized watercraft registrations and 2,028 non-motorized registrations, totaling 830,073 registrations.
- Worked with DNR Wildlife & BAH on concurrent authority for whitetail deer farms.
- Worked with DNR Fisheries staff concentrating work on special regulations lakes.
- Assisted with wildfires across the northern part of our state.
- Certified 49,206 students in firearms safety/hunter ed, recreational vehicles and watercraft.

Operations Support



- Asset management (Fleet, buildings, design and construction, material management)
- Finance, planning, and internal audit
- Communications, outreach, and data governance
- Human resources
- Safety and Emergency management

Operations Support

- Providing opportunities through the DNR's volunteer program to participate in natural resource management
- Making accessibility improvements to state parks and public lands
- Increasing our renewable energy capacity through solar arrays at DNR sites
- Providing emergency response support
- Managing DNR's capital assets



Questions?

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