

2022 SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET: CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION

Governor Walz and Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan’s Budget to Move Minnesota Forward includes \$81.5 million in investments for DNR-managed public lands, facilities and infrastructure to reduce carbon in the atmosphere and adapt to current and future climate change impacts.

You can read more on the climate adaptation and mitigation investments below.

CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION

Climate Adaptation for Natural Lands and Waters

Climate change is already impacting our natural lands and waters as well as Minnesotans’ ability to access and enjoy the benefits they provide. The budget includes a \$42 million General Fund investment to help ensure the continued health of, and public access to, natural lands and waters in the face of current and future climate change. The funding will address the following:

- Rehabilitating public water accesses to repair climate-driven flood and ice damage and to reconfigure the sites to ensure they are still functional in the face of future climate change.
- Modernizing and adapting fish hatcheries so they are resilient to climate impacts and can support healthy, climate-adapted fisheries.
- Upgrading state park roads and trails to withstand more intense rainfall if they are to remain useable into the future.
- Restoring plant communities in state parks to maintain the beauty of these landscapes for current and future visitors to enjoy.
- Replacing culverts and restoring streams to enhance the resiliency of Minnesota fisheries, waterfowl production wetlands and lakes to climate change impacts.



Restoring Grasslands and Wetlands on Wildlife Management Areas for Carbon Capture and Resiliency

Grasslands and wetlands will capture and store increased carbon following enhancement or restoration. For grasslands, carbon accumulates in the soil very quickly after enhancement and stays there unless the soils are heavily disturbed. Over time, restored wetlands also become a carbon “sink.” Grassland and wetland enhancement and restoration also advance climate resiliency by increasing water storage and groundwater and aquifer recharge, thereby reducing flooding potential during extreme weather events.



The budget includes a \$10 million General Fund investment to enhance grasslands and restore wetlands on existing state-owned wildlife management areas to sequester increased carbon and enhance climate resiliency, while also providing better pollinator and wildlife habitat.

Throughout the 2022 legislative session, go to the DNR website for updates on this climate adaptation and mitigation proposal as well as investments in DNR’s work on drought relief and local jobs and projects.

Enhanced Forest Management Assistance to Private Woodland Owners

Climate change and forest pests are creating greater need for proactive forest planning and management of private woodlands. The DNR provides forest management assistance to woodland owners, who collectively own 6.8 million acres (49%) of Minnesota’s forests. Assisting woodland owners to sustainably manage their forest is key to increasing carbon capture and storage while assuring healthy forests in the face of climate change.

This budget includes a \$5.5 million General Fund investment to meet the increased demand for planning assistance and cost-share funding to assist private woodland owners whose lands are powerful resources for climate mitigation and adaptation.

Acquisition of Public Lands

Public lands capture and store carbon; and will provide increased climate resiliency by increasing water storage and thereby reducing flooding risk; and provide habitat for wildlife, pollinators, and other species which will also help plant and animal communities adapt to future climate conditions. In addition to providing climate and conservation benefits, public lands support outdoor recreation. Time outdoors strengthens family bonds and promotes health and wellness, and access to outdoor experiences on public lands has been particularly invaluable for children and families during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This budget includes a \$24 million General Fund investment to acquire new public lands to support recreation and conservation, with the goal of decreasing the state’s net greenhouse gas emissions.



“Preserving our environment and mitigating the effects of climate change creates more resilient communities today and protects our state’s natural resources and maintains access for the generations of tomorrow.”

–DNR Commissioner Sarah Strommen