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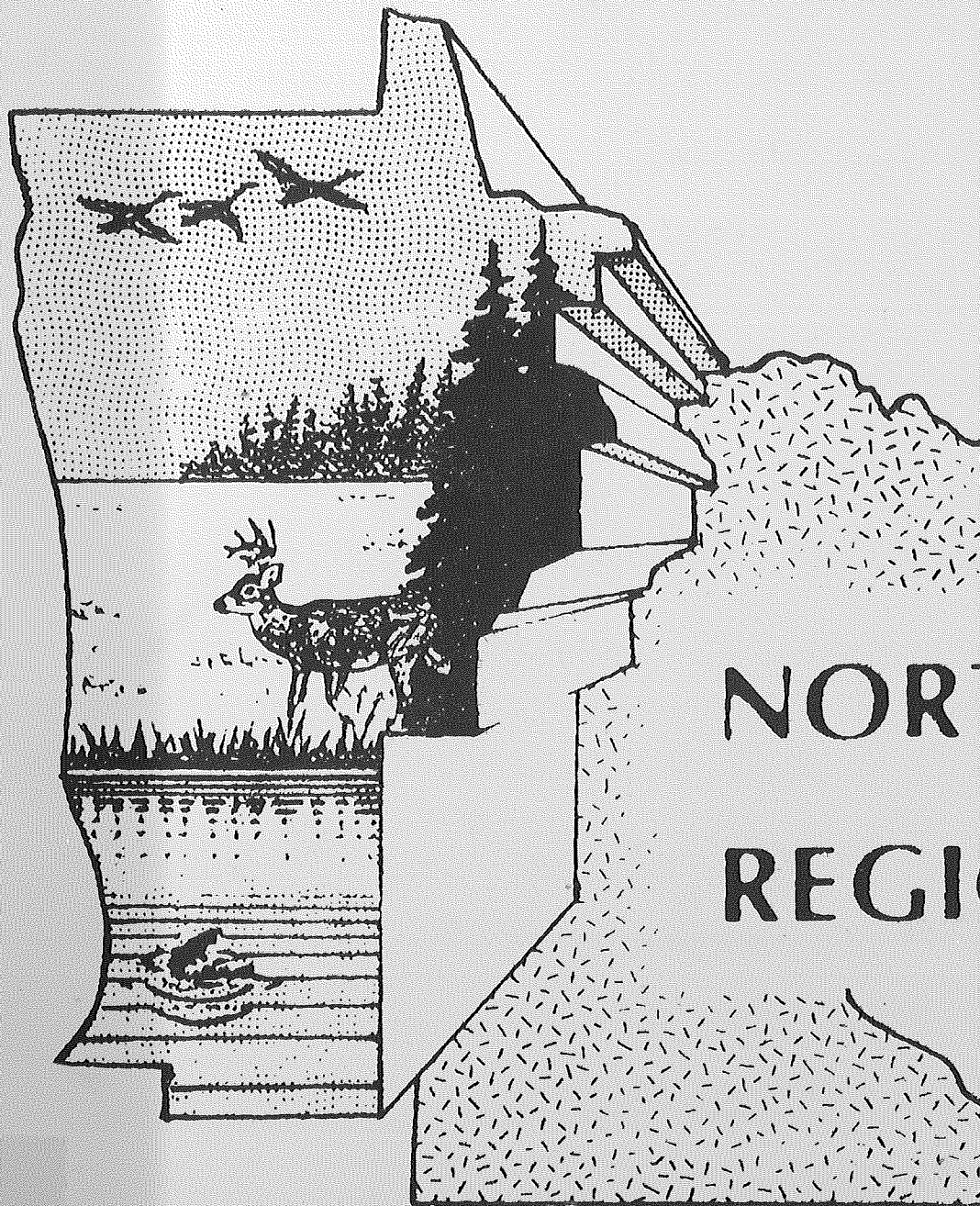
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- Northwest Region : DNR Region I :



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MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



NORTH
WEST
REGION I

DNR Region I: Open

Legislative Issues



STATE OF
MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PHONE NO. 218 755-3623

2115 Birchmont Beach Road NE
Bemidji, MN 56601

FILE NO.

December 1988

Dear Friend,

As we prepare for another legislative session and the first biennium of the 1990's, the broad range of challenges and responsibilities facing our department is more apparent than ever before.

In DIRECTIONS for Natural Resources--"A look at problems and opportunities facing Minnesota's resources into the 1990's", prepared nearly two years ago, our Commissioner asked DNR managers to pay particular attention to two overriding areas: The Department's responsiveness and service to the public; and the efficiency of our organization. The Commissioner further stated that more emphasis should be placed on "listening, caring, and providing information to the public."

To provide more information on current DNR programs and issues, we have prepared the enclosed document. It is bound in loose-leaf form so new information can be easily added in the future. The book is also meant to serve as a handy reference when you need answers to DNR questions, or when contacting DNR personnel in the Northwest Region.

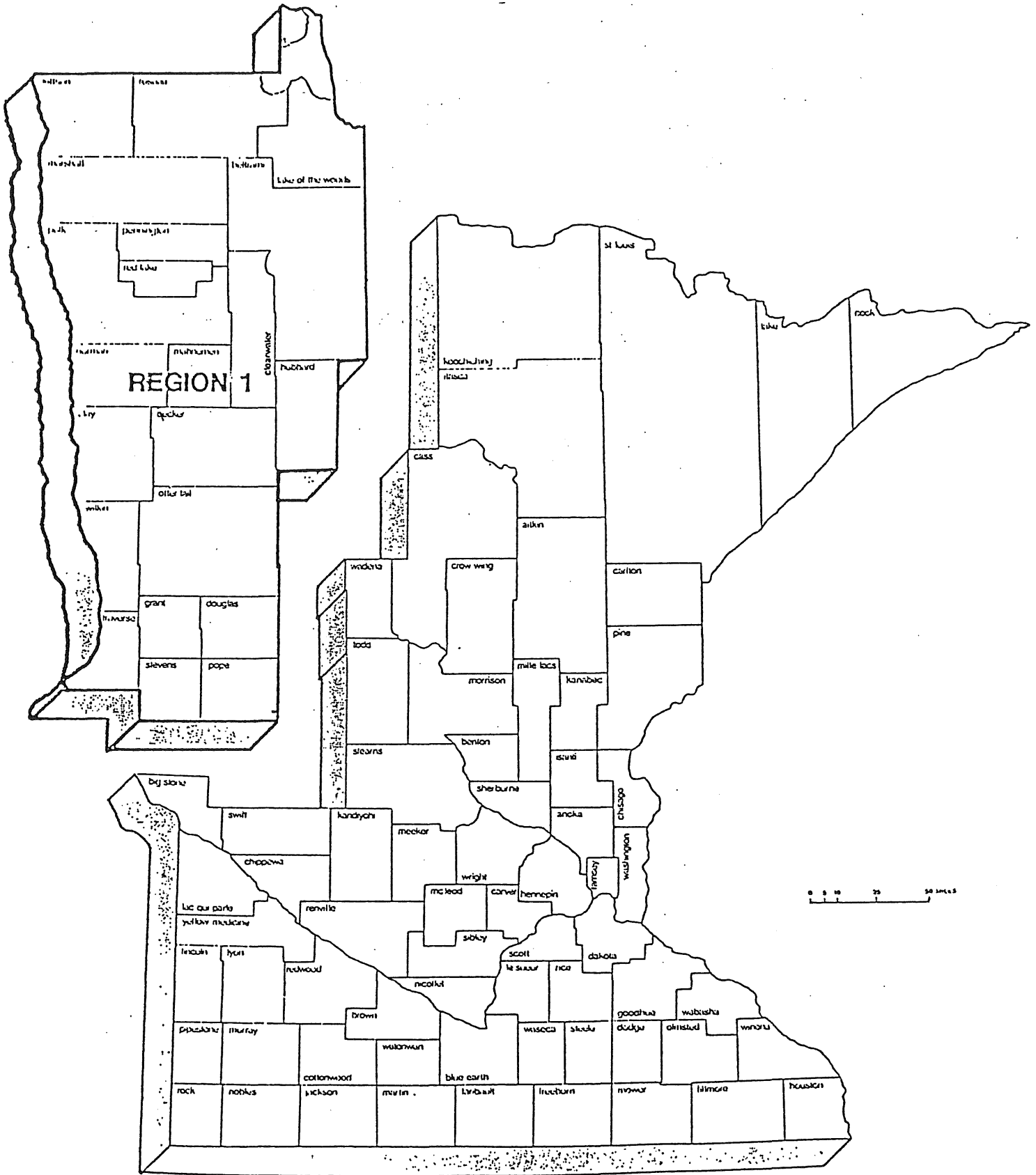
This document contains a great deal of background information on DNR program operations, as well as a discussion of issues that affect our efficiency, service, public responsiveness, and the department's ability to meet new challenges.

If you have any questions about this report or any other natural resource concern, please feel free to give me or any of the Northwest Region staff a call.

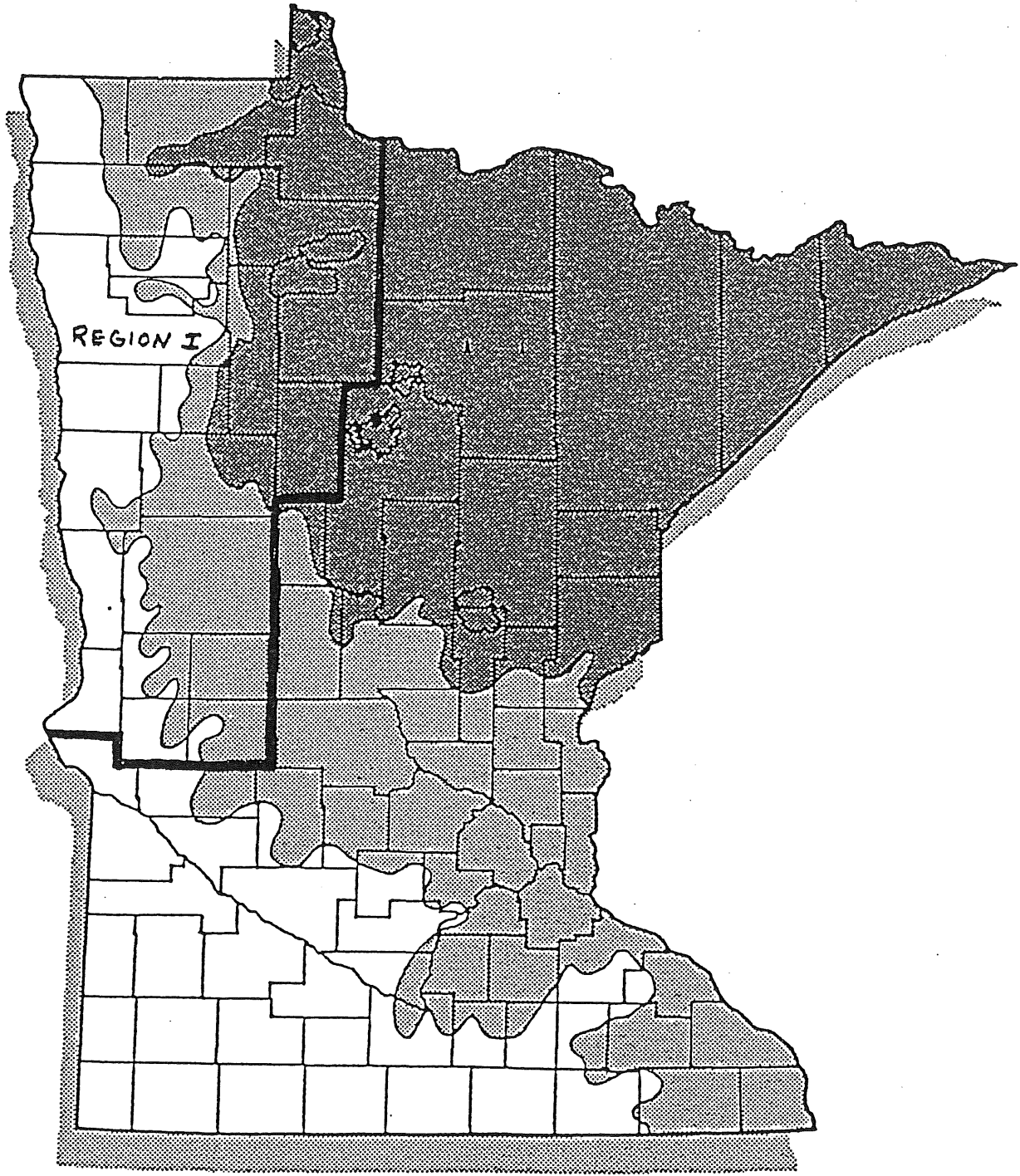
If we can be of assistance to you in any way, just let us know.

Sincerely,

Marilyn L. Wesloh
Regional Administrator





Minnesota's Major Resource Zones



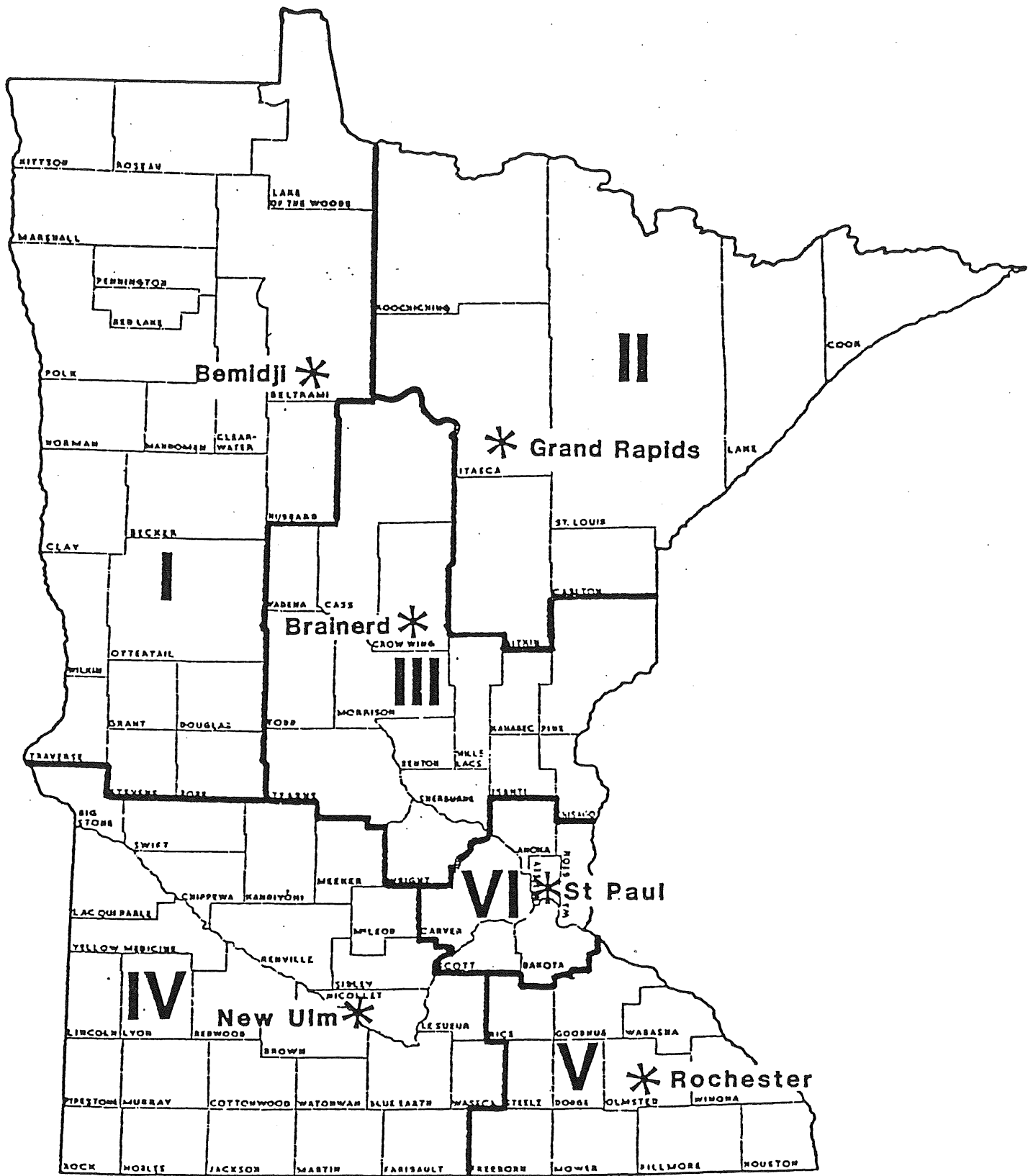
Key

 Forested - (40%)

 Agricultural - (28%)

 Transitional - (32%)

CURRENT DNR REGIONS



* Regional Headquarters

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Each region of the Department of Natural Resources has as its administrative head a person who has the title of Regional Administrator. Within each region, the Regional Administrator is responsible for providing support services for the field operations of all DNR divisions, subdivisions, and bureaus. Regional Administrators must also coordinate the field activities of all divisions and bureaus, monitor the implementation of department programs, and secure public and local government involvement.

To coordinate field activities among DNR divisions, or "disciplines" as they are often referred to, the Regional Administrator must promote communication, understanding, and cooperation between and among resource managers in all disciplines in the region.

The Regional Administrator functions as a neutral party in facilitating coordination among disciplines. Coordination is achieved through the following:

Regional Supervisor Staff Meetings: These meetings provide an opportunity for disciplines to share information on interdisciplinary management activities and to address differences as they arise. The Regional Administrator will also convene and chair Ad Hoc groups of area resource managers as needed to address coordination efforts on resource management issues.

Issue Resolution: The Regional Administrator can assist disciplines in resolving management issues arising from differences in management objectives between disciplines. For example, the Wesloh Line was established to demarcate spheres of management influence in Marshall, Roseau, and Kittson counties for the Division of Forestry and the Section of Wildlife.

Management Plan Review: In reviewing discipline management plans the Regional Administrator can identify areas where coordination between divisions is appropriate.

The Regional Administrator's coordination is both a formal and an informal undertaking. Its effectiveness is largely determined by the impartiality of the Regional Administrator and his (her) understanding of complex resource management issues.

1989 SERVICE PRIORITIES

IMPROVE AND COORDINATE DISCIPLINE PROGRAMS IN THE REGION

With many diverse programs within each region, there is considerable opportunity for cooperation and conflict. In order to maintain department objectives it is necessary that the following items be considered.

- Gather information from division work plans on programs that are in operation or planned for the region.
- Analyze these programs to determine where cooperation and/or conflict exists.
- Meet with regional supervisors and directors to brainstorm ideas and share information.

PROVIDE FOR IMPROVED UTILIZATION OF THE REGION'S EQUIPMENT

The region's inventory includes over 42,000 items, of which 550 are cars, trucks, tractors, dozers, and other pieces of motorized equipment. Because of the high cost of purchasing and maintaining these items, they must be properly operated, serviced and maintained.

- Review print-outs which show the extent that various items of equipment are being utilized and the cost of their operation and identify items to be purchased under the fleet and non-fleet equipment programs.
- Field inspect as many items of equipment as can be done each year.
- Meet with supervisors to determine if increased pooling of equipment can be accomplished and is cost effective.
- Follow up with supervisors on situations where equipment is under utilized, or not adequate to meet current needs.
- Make sure that supervisors provide adequate training to staff operating special equipment.
- Identify as surplus those items receiving little or no use.

PROVIDE MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS FOR ALL DEPARTMENT BUILDINGS

The Department of Natural Resources is the owner of over 1,600 buildings. Region I has an inventory of approximately 450 buildings. The Regional Administrator is responsible for the use, maintenance, and repair of many of these facilities in the field. Cost of maintaining, heating, and repairing those buildings makes it necessary that their use and need be periodically reviewed.

- Review utilization and condition of buildings at all locations in the region.
- Review possibilities of consolidation of department personnel at a single location particularly where there are multiple facilities in a town or adjacent towns.
- Review consolidation possibilities with regional supervisors and directors.
- If consolidation is not feasible using present facilities, determine if other alternatives will accomplish our goals.
- Recommend changes to the Commissioner's Office.
- Set up a schedule for maintenance of all department buildings needed for the operation of programs as funds are available. (See report from the Bureau of Field Services.)

SECURE ADEQUATE STAFFING FOR THE REGION OFFICE

During FY'88 the Department of Administration conducted a Regional Business Office/Clerical Study. In this study they identified the need for the following additional positions in Region I:

- ° Personnel Officer (handle personnel transactions, handle union contracts with 25% back-up on processing transactions).
- ° Clerk (process personnel transactions, work currently being handled by discipline clerks.)
- ° Payroll Clerk (upgrade to 100%--presently a 75% position).
- ° Receptionist (additional 100% position).
- ° Office Services Supervisor (conversion of Regional Secretary position)
- ° Two clerical pool positions (50% Information and Education; 50% Realty Office; 50% Forestry; 25% Fisheries; 10% Community Liaison; 15% other)
- ° Upgrading three existing clerical positions.

COMMUNICATION

The Regional Administrator must facilitate effective communication between disciplines, between the region and central office, and between the DNR and the public. Communication objectives include:

- maintaining close relations with regional media elements and to respond to their information needs;
- communicating regional perspectives at central office policy and program review forums and providing regional staff with current information on issues of interest to their management (central office initiatives, legislative actions, etc.); and
- promoting implementation of DNR public responsiveness efforts.

The communication functions are both external and internal.

- External: the Regional Administrator serves as a public DNR emissary in Region One. As such, the Regional Administrator represents the DNR in discussing DNR issues and priorities with the public. The public includes legislators, individual citizens, interest groups and local government.
- Internal: the Regional Administrator functions as a regional advocate in supporting Region One perspectives, issues and priorities within the DNR. The advocacy role occurs in a broad range of applications including budget review, PERT proceedings, issue management decision making, etc.

Regional Administrators implement communications services in several forums. These include:

- ° Public Information meetings.
- ° Local government and legislative contacts.
- ° DNR regional staff meetings.
- ° DNR Planning and Environmental Review Team deliberations.
- ° DNR Senior Manager's meetings.
- ° Media communications.
- ° Weekly conference calls with the Commissioner's Management team.

Communication services with the public are especially significant for the DNR as they serve as the "eyes and ears" of the DNR in their region. For example, the Region I Administrator serves that role as a regular participant in the Beltrami County Intergovernmental Agency group meetings. This group meets monthly to coordinate and communicate issues of mutual interest to the participating agencies.

1989 SERVICE PRIORITIES - LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

Establish contacts with all legislators in the region so that the broad issue of natural resources is better understood by them. Program would include:

- Annual letter to legislators explaining DNR programs and providing an update on progress being made.
- Develop a Regional Operations and Legislative Issues Report to inform legislators and others of Department programs and issues.
- Legislative tours and open houses scheduled by the region at various locations so Legislators will have first-hand knowledge of resource management programs in the region and within their districts.
- Legislative issue letter to be sent stating our position, special needs, and requesting that contact be made with the region office.

IMPROVE COORDINATION AND COMMUNICATION BETWEEN CENTRAL
OFFICE, REGION, AND AREA OFFICES

- ° Work with and provide input at Senior Managers and Regional Administration/Commissioner's staff meetings.
- ° Promote and encourage the development of area liaison and alliance groups similar to the one in place in the Detroit Lakes work area.
- ° Chair public information meetings in the region, i.e., public access information meetings, Fish and Wildlife regulation changes (special fishing regulations/lake designation programs).
- ° Serve in an advisory capacity on the Mississippi Headwaters Board.
 - Member of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).
 - Attend and participate in monthly meetings of the Board.
- ° Serve on the University of Minnesota Forestry and Itasca Biological Station Advisory Board.
- ° Serve on the Bemidji Technical Institute Advisory Committee.
- ° Serve on the Bemidji Lakefront Committee.

For more information, contact Merlyn Wesloh, Regional Administrator
2115 Birchmont Beach Road NE, Bemidji, MN 56601
218 755-3623

Supervisor: Max Hirt

Bureau of Business Management

The Regional Business Office pays all the bills for the region and provides support services to all other divisions and bureaus. Payroll, personnel transactions, and most contracts with outside vendors are also handled through the business office.

The business office staff includes three (3) full-time positions: the Regional Business Manager, a secretary, and one account clerk; and two (2) part-time positions: the payroll clerk at 90% time, and a cost-coding clerk at 20% time.

The Regional Business Manager is authorized to sign contracts for the DNR and for the Department of Administration, in order to expedite transactions with the local vendors and contractors.

There are approximately 275-to-300 full time employees in the region and a total of 250-to-300 seasonal employees. Seasonal positions are those which require the same person be called back to work each season (assuming the person is available and assuming there are funds available in that particular division's budget to fill the position).

The business office administers payroll and employee benefits for seven (7) different employee bargaining unit contracts. In addition, we also handle payroll and personnel transactions for the Minnesota Conservation Corps (MCC) Program workers in the region.

Our bill-paying performance generally averages 98-99% paid within 30 days, during most times of the year. In recent years, however, we've experienced some difficulties during July, the last month of the fiscal year, when the "year-end crunch" of bill paying comes at the same time that our account clerk must attend his two weeks of active duty training in the National Guard.

A Department of Administration study of the Region's Business Management Program, completed this past year, identified the need for additional positions in this unit. Presently, staffing levels are the same throughout the year, but the work load is much higher in the summer than in the winter. Additional employees are needed to match this workload.

For more information, contact Max Hirt, Business Manager
2115 Birchmont Beach Road, Bemidji, MN 56601
218 755-3950

Officer: Joe Day

Community Liaison Officer

The Community Liaison Officer position was created by the Department of Natural Resources in 1974 and was derived in order to maintain close liaison between the Indian Community of Minnesota and the Department so as to avoid conflict, identify and solve problems of mutual concern, and foster mutual understanding all for the ultimate benefit of sound natural resource management in Minnesota. The Community Liaison Officer is presently housed in the mobile unit at the Region I headquarters site, however, direct supervision is from the Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner. Secretarial assistance is offered through the Regional Administrator's secretary.

Clients served by the Community Liaison Office include the statewide population of 35,000 American Indians--including the Red Lake Reservation, Leech Lake Reservation, White Earth Reservation, Grand Portage Reservation, Fond du Lac Reservation, Bois Forte (Nett Lake) Reservation, Mille Lacs Reservations, Upper Sioux Community, Lower Sioux Community, Prairie Island, Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux, Minneapolis Regional American Indian Center, Minnesota Indian Affairs Council, Minneapolis Urban Indian Agency Directors, St. Paul Urban Indian Agency Directors, Duluth Urban Indian Agency Directors, and Division of Indian Work--Minneapolis and St. Paul.

Principal responsibilities include assisting the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner with the negotiation and administration of agreements concerning relationships between the DNR and Indian governments. Specifically these duties include the need to identify, research and evaluate issues which could be resolved by agreements and recommendations, to participate in negotiating sessions, to draft proposed agreements, to monitor the implementation of executed agreements, and to recommend amendments and remedial action as necessary.

The person in this position gives positive assistance to promoting the Department's Affirmative Action Program to insure equal employment opportunity and fairness in selections and promotions of qualified minority candidates. This is done by contacting reservation leaders to explain the Department's objectives toward affirmative action; to participate in Job Fairs and Career Days sponsored by minorities or where there is a large concentration of minorities; to work with vocational schools and technical schools that have natural resource courses and assist them in the recruitment of Indians and other minorities; to be familiar with the many careers available in DNR so that a positive recruitment program can be established; and to serve as a member of the department's Affirmative Action Committee.

At times, the person in this position acts as "trouble-shooter" on problems involving DNR and the Indian community. In this capacity, the Community Liaison Officer seeks to identify potential problem areas; researches and recommends appropriate action to resolve issues; maintains constant communication with both DNR disciplines and Indian governments to obtain "early warning" of possible conflict.

The Community Liaison Officer also serves as a contact and informational source for DNR staff concerning Minnesota's Indian citizens and conversely for Minnesota Indians so that they may establish contact and/or secure information from DNR. To do this he must:

- a. Keep abreast of population and demographic information on Minnesota Indians and Indian reservations.
- b. Become acquainted with all the Tribal leaders in the state.
- c. Become acquainted with the department and its various disciplines and how they relate to Minnesota Indians.
- d. Act as liaison between Minnesota Indians and the Department of Natural Resources.
- e. Seek input from Indian community on DNR programs, policies, and regulations with particular emphasis on game, fish and enforcement matters.

The Community Liaison Officer also disseminates information about DNR programs, policies, regulations, and agreements as they relate to Indians so that reservations are kept abreast of these matters on a regular and timely basis. This is done through informing tribal authorities of proposed hunting, fishing, trapping, and ricing seasons and regulations at the earliest possible time. The Liaison Officer also informs tribal authorities about existing DNR programs, policies and regulations by meeting with tribe and band governments, appearing at public meetings, writing articles in Indian newspapers and newsletters, by mailing out written materials on DNR to Indian people and organizing workshops and tours. There is a need to organize regular meetings between DNR personnel and the Indian community to develop effective supplementary means of communication.

The primary goal is to promote and encourage good community relations between Indians and non-Indians throughout the state so that a better understanding is established between Indians and non-Indians. This can be accomplished by representing the Department of Natural Resources at Reservation Business Committee meetings and Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and Tribal Executive Committee meetings; soliciting and accepting speaking engagements before community and civic organizations; and representing the department at Tribal ceremonial and cultural functions.

For more information, contact Joe Day, Community Liaison Officer
2115 Birchmont Beach Road NE, Bemidji, MN 56601
218 755-4028

The Region I Enforcement staff consists of a Regional Supervisor, three Area Supervisors, a DNR Pilot, a Regional Safety Training Specialist, one full-time secretary, one part-time (50%) clerk, and 31 Conservation Officers (CO's) in the field. There is currently one vacant station in the region, at Waskish; one of eight long-term vacancies, statewide, that have not been filled because of budget problems.

Region I Enforcement receives the majority of its operating monies out of the general fund (60%), with the remainder coming from the Game and Fish Fund (40%). Most other enforcement regions are funded entirely out of Game and Fish Funds. In addition, the division's regional equipment inventory (trucks, all-terrain vehicles, cars, boats, and other equipment) is valued at around \$600,000.

The area covered by the Region I Enforcement staff includes all 21 counties plus parts of Koochiching, Cass, and Itasca. This area includes nearly 16 million acres, from south of Alexandria, north to the Canadian border, and west to the North Dakota border. This area includes over 1.3 million acres of water, about 37 percent of all the surface water in Minnesota. Each officer covers from 400 to 1,400 square miles of territory.

All CO's are officially licensed by the Minnesota Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) Board and receive the same training that personnel in other law-enforcement agencies receive. In many instances, DNR officers are more highly trained than the average municipal police officer or county sheriff's deputy. As State Licensed Peace Officers, CO's are legally authorized to enforce all state laws and CO's routinely assist all city and county law-enforcement personnel and State Troopers in their home territories. Local authorities, in turn, provide back-up assistance to CO's when necessary. Some CO's are also deputy U.S. Fish & Wildlife agents and/or Bureau of Indian Affairs special officers.

The Conservation Officer's duties include the enforcement of natural resource laws; the coordination of firearms, snowmobile, and all-terrain vehicle (ATV) safety training; and public-relations duties such as attending sport shows, speaking at meetings of local sportsman's clubs and other civic organizations; and representing the DNR at school "career days" and other events.

Region I Conservation Officers are also responsible for law enforcement and user safety on 300 miles of canoe and boating routes; and 3,000 miles of snowmobile, cross-country skiing, and hiking trails. The area has a resident population of approximately 1/2 million people and receives about 3.3 million tourists each year.

Statewide, Minnesota's natural resources provide recreation for more than 2.3 million anglers, 400,000 firearms deer hunters, 69,000 bow-and-arrow deer hunters, 300,000 small game hunters, and 18,000 trappers each year. Minnesotans also own more than 677,000 registered water craft, 170,000 registered snowmobiles, and 35,000 registered all-terrain vehicles (ATV's). This is a very large clientele for 180 officers covering 84,000 square miles.

Conservation Officers are required to attend annual training sessions put on by the State of Minnesota in order to keep their licenses up-to-date. Current standards require at least 40 credited hours of training every three years. Much of this training is provided at two annual training workshops, one at Camp Ripley for three consecutive days in September, and one other session held each year at various locations around the state. Many officers also attend specialized training courses as they are available.

Region I Enforcement works very closely with three major Indian reservations--Red Lake, White Earth, and Leech Lake; plus BIA agents, and representatives from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. On the Leech Lake Reservation, DNR and Leech Lake officers are cross-deputized; officers from either jurisdiction can issue warnings and make arrests for violations of both state and tribal fish and game laws. This cooperative agreement has worked very well, providing more efficient use of enforcement resources and better protection for natural resources.

We continue to meet every two or three months with tribal officials from Red Lake and White Earth, but, as yet, they have not agreed to full cross-deputization.

Most officers work out of their homes and are on-call 24 hours per day. They schedule their own hours for the most part, but they're also subject to temporary duty outside their home territory when extra officers are needed for special assignment. Officers are paid a base salary plus overtime, which is currently limited to 320 hours per year.

Officers exercise a great deal of discretion in the field regarding individual cases. They have to consider the severity of the violation, and try to determine whether it resulted from ignorance or malicious intent, before deciding to issue a warning or make an arrest. In practice, about half of all observed violations result in warnings and half result in arrests.

The work is hazardous--the DNR has lost 16 CO's, killed in the line of duty.

Region I officers make over 2,300 arrests per year and are involved in 2,000 assists with other law enforcement agencies. They issue about 1,600 written warnings per year and 1,000-2,000 verbal warnings. They also provide firearms safety training for about 2,300 youngsters each year.

Statewide, officers also confiscate about 2,800 items per year, such as guns, fishing rods, spot lights, and, in more serious cases, boats and

vehicles. Sale of these confiscated items, plus the sale of confiscated game and fish (only that determined to be safe for human consumption) generates about \$400,000 for the State of Minnesota each year.

Our current goals are to improve the officers' responsiveness to the public; to increase ATV safety training for youth; and to make officer's more visible in the community, in an effort to deter violations.

Region I is currently experimenting with marked vehicles (with door signs and roof lights) to see if increased visibility will decrease violations. This fall, we were finally able to fill the Regional Safety Training Specialist's position, more than a year after the position was vacated by the previous incumbent. We can now concentrate on putting our firearms, snowmobile, and ATV safety training programs back on track.

Our biggest problem is the relationship between time and territory and manpower and money. We need either more officers or an increase in the overtime allowed, or both. At the very least, the division budget should be made sufficient to allow the eight field stations currently vacant to be filled.

Following is a list of the officers currently serving the region:

Regional Headquarters - 2115 Birchmont Beach Road NE, Bemidji 56601

Byron Dyrland	Regional Enforcement Supervisor	218 755-2966
Tim Peterson	Pilot	218 755-2966
Vic Koosman	Safety Training Specialist	218 755-3923

Jeff Thielen Area I Suprv., Thief River Falls 218 681-5695

Stuart Benson	Roseau	218 425-7304
Jeffrey Birchem	Thief River Falls	218 964-5828
Gene Borud	Moorhead	218 233-4560
Brian Buria	Hallock	218 843-3395
Allen Hansen	Crookston	218 281-2255
Gary Lefebvre	Warroad	218 386-1621
Paul Nelson	Red Lake Falls	218 253-2691
David Rasmussen	Detroit Lakes	218 847-3348
Cliff Sjolund	Twin Valley	218 584-5400
Ted Znajda	Warren	218 745-5229

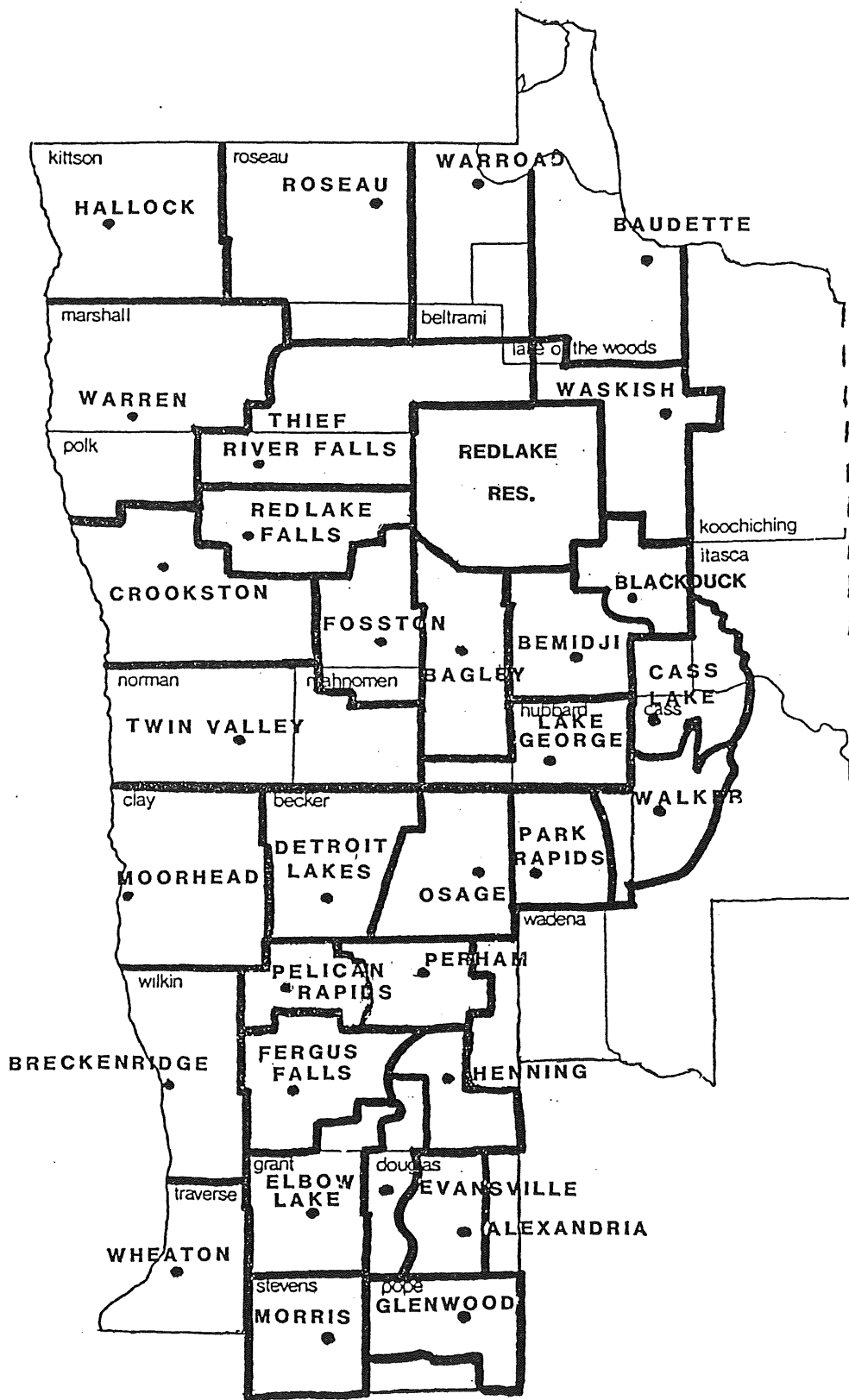
Dennis Huwe Area II Supervisor, Bagley 218 785-2332

Gordon Buchanan	Cass Lake	218 335-2467
James Devault, Sr.	Baudette	218 634-1666
VACANT	Waskish	
Jeffrey Granger	Bemidji	218 751-1590
Brian Gray	Osage	218 573-3955
Michael Hruza	Blackduck	218 586-2982
Mike Lawrence	Park Rapids	218 732-8037
Roger Lueth	Lake George	218 266-3436
Curt Nelson	Fosston	218 668-2020
David Smith	Walker	218 547-1973
Greg Spaulding	Bagley	218 785-2123

Jerry Matison	Area III Supervisor, Glenwood	612 634-3549
Richard Becker	Glenwood	612 634-3812
Tom Campbell	Henning	218 583-4193
Norman Floden	Perham	218 346-7837
Ray Jensen	Pelican Rapids	218 863-5296
James Loftness	Evansville	218 948-2842
Robert J. Marts	Wheaton	612 563-4409
James Myers	Elbow Lake	218 685-4528
Lonnie Schiefert	Fergus Falls	218 739-2691
Duane Shelden	Alexandria	612 763-6944
Lowell Skunberg	Breckenridge	218 643-1227
Mike Shelden	Morris	612-589-1936

For more information, contact Byron Dyrland, Enforcement Supervisor
2115 Birchmont Beach Road NE, Bemidji, MN 56601
218 755-2966

ENFORCEMENT



The Bureau of Engineering in St. Paul has five field offices located in Bemidji (Region 1), Grand Rapids (Region 2), Brainerd (Region 3), New Ulm (Region 4), and St. Paul (serving Regions 5 and 6).

The Regional Engineers are on the staff of the Regional Administrators and have the civil service classification of Principal Engineer. These positions require that the persons holding them be registered as Professional Engineers in the State of Minnesota which makes them eligible to independently prepare engineering plans and specifications for public-use facilities. Most Regional Engineers are now assisted by and supervise one full-time Engineering Aide, one full-time seasonal Engineering Aide, and one 3-month student worker (college or Vo-Tech student), and at least a part-time secretary.

Work assignments for the Regional Engineers are mostly through the St. Paul Bureau of Engineering. The bureau compiles a priority listing of potential projects requiring engineering assistance with the help of the various divisions of the department. This is done near the beginning of each fiscal year. Some work requests (usually involving a lesser time commitment) are received from the regional supervisors of the divisions and sometimes even more informally from Department of Natural Resources field personnel. The types of engineering work are as follows:

- 1) reconnaissance surveys
- 2) feasibility studies
- 3) topographic surveys
- 4) level surveys
- 5) engineering design (preliminary and final)
- 6) engineering calculations
- 7) quantity estimating
- 8) cost estimating
- 9) specification writing
- 10) miscellaneous technical consultation
- 11) minor building plans and building remodels

Most of the land surveys in Region I (northwest Minnesota) are done by a field crew headquartered in the Park Rapids area. This crew is supervised out of the St. Paul Bureau of Engineering and is one of three or four crews (about 12 persons) working statewide.

In recent years more and more development work is being planned and contracted for by the various divisions without any engineering assistance--hopefully only where it is judged to be unnecessary. In spite of this, the workload seems to increase for the Bureau of Engineering in Region I beyond what we can adequately administer during the May through September construction seasons with present

staff. Our inspection time (spot checks only) on construction projects must be far less rigorous than that provided by the Minnesota Department of Transportation, for example.

The regional engineer's office in Bemidji attempts to respond to all reasonable requests for technical assistance and with a minimal response time. This can be for a private individual if the request is judged to serve the public good as far as our natural resources are concerned.

At present, the regional engineer is paid from the regional administration budget, the full-time aide and seasonal aide are paid from Bureau of Engineering funds, and the student worker from Trails and Waterways funds. The appropriated sources for these funds are varied such as Resource 2000, bonding, game and fish, etc.

Most of the development work is designed by the Bureau of Engineering staff in St. Paul made up of:

- 5 engineers (four civil engineers and one mechanical engineer)
- 2 engineering aides or specialists
- 1 architect
- 2 architectural draftsmen
- 12 surveyors and surveyor technicians
- 4 landscape architects
- 5-6 support staff

A limited number of projects are designed using outside engineering/architectural consulting firms. This is mostly limited to larger building projects and other large sewer/water-type contracts. Also projects involving extensive mechanical or electrical engineering expertise are likely to be done by an engineering consulting firm.

Some of the larger projects completed in recent years in Region I are as follows:

Division of Forestry

- a. Reconstruct Dick's Parkway forest road south of Warroad.
- b. Thompson forest road reconstruction in Roseau County.
- c. Rapid River forest road reconstruction south of Baudette.
- d. Replace six bridges with new treated timber bridges.
- e. Reconstruct Spider Coon forest road with some Hubbard County funds and in cooperation with the County.
- f. Rehabilitate forestry campgrounds at Waskish.

Section of Wildlife

- a. Nereson dike and control structure near Thief Lake Wildlife Management Area.
- b. Two control structures and three emergency spillways at Roseau River Wildlife Management Area.
- c. Roseau River diking and spillways south of Warroad.

Section of Fisheries

- a. Ida Lake rough fish barrier and Hoplin Creek rough fish barrier in Douglas County.
- b. Sand Hill dam near Fosston.

Division of Parks and Recreation

- a. Itasca State Park
 1. Major water line replacement in the Douglas Lodge area.
 2. Douglas Lodge kitchen remodel.
 3. Picnic ground sanitation building remodel.
- b. Dam modification at Lake Bronson State Park.
- c. Maplewood State Park Contact station.
- d. Lake Carlos upper campground rehabilitation.

Trails and Waterways Unit

- a. Heartland Trail rehabilitation work between Park Rapids and Walker.
- b. Cass Lake public access using Minnesota Department of Transportation right-of-way.
- c. Red River at Oslo, Minnesota in cooperation with the City of Oslo.
- d. Lake Hattie public access--with some funding and land from Hubbard County and in cooperation with the county and the local townships.

Upcoming Major Projects

1. Air conditioning of Douglas Lodge and Forest Inn at Itasca State Park.
2. Add electrical sites and general campground changes at Bearpaw Campground at Itasca State Park.
3. Bearpaw Campground sanitation building.
4. Rehabilitate swimming facilities at Buffalo River State Park.
5. Red River public access at Moorhead in cooperation with the City of Moorhead.
6. Red River public access at Highway 175 west of Hallock.
7. Pelican Lake public access in Otter Tail County.
8. Reconstruct seven miles of forest road in Hubbard County.
9. Replace Cyphers forest bridge near Warroad.
10. Resurfacing of 16 miles of the Moose River forest road.

For more information, contact Ramon Lind, Regional Engineer
2115 Birchmont Beach Road NE,
Bemidji, MN 56601
218 655-3640.

The Regional Field Services staff consists of five full-time and two part-time (90%) employees. Included are: the regional coordinator, the regional building-maintenance supervisor, a heavy equipment mechanic, a general repair worker, a building and grounds worker, and two clerical positions. All of these people work at the regional headquarters office and shop complex in Bemidji.

The Field Services Bureau is responsible for most of the building maintenance in the region, in addition to the acquisition and maintenance of motor vehicles and other pieces of motorized equipment. The bureau also maintains a detailed inventory of all state-owned office machines, office furniture, tools, equipment, and small items, etc. throughout the region.

The bureau is also responsible for the department's safety program; providing on-the-job safety training for employees, conducting safety inspections of department facilities, keeping all disciplines up-to-date on OSHA rules and regulations, and providing for the proper storage and disposal of hazardous materials.

Field Services also monitors the acquisition of goods and services from local contractors and vendors within the region. A great deal of time has been spent in recruiting and signing up Socially and Economically Disadvantaged (SED) vendors in the region and the effort has achieved a fair amount of success. The Legislature has mandated that ten percent (10%) of our dollars be spent in the SED Program, and we have met that obligation.

The region operates and maintains a fleet of approximately 550 cars, trucks, tractors, dozers, and other pieces of motorized equipment. Most of this equipment is now maintained through the new DNR Fleet Management Program, authorized by the '87 Legislature. This program has been working very well, providing for adequate maintenance and approximately one million dollars per year for equipment replacement.

The timely replacement of equipment afforded by the Fleet Management Program will help lower costs in the long run through improved efficiency on the job, avoiding excessive maintenance and repair costs on worn-out equipment, and reducing the frequency of equipment breakdowns at crucial times during busy seasons. Improved fleet maintenance and equipment should also provide for better safety on the job, thus reducing costs for medical care and worker's compensation.

While our vehicle and equipment program is going well, our building maintenance program is an entirely different story. The region has 450 buildings with an average building size of approximately 1,300 square feet. Many of our buildings, especially those in the parks, are in dire need of major repairs, and, in some cases, complete restorations.

Our maintenance budget is approximately \$150,000 per year. This budget has not kept pace with inflation, and has not been adequate, in terms of keeping up with all the work that should have been done, for several years. Not surprisingly, the situation has reached a point now where we are several years behind on both major repairs and routine, preventative maintenance.

At present, we are only able to do about one-third of the work that should be done each year. And, of course, the building maintenance budget does not begin to address the need for major repairs, restoration work, and the proposed office-consolidation and up-grade projects at several locations in the region that have also been put off for several years. This situation has proven very frustrating, both for Field Services staff and for the employees who have to work in deteriorating, substandard facilities. It has affected our public image, our efficiency and safety on the job, and employee morale.

Most maintenance projects, such as roofing, painting, plumbing, electrical, carpentry, and cement work, are put out for bids, and the work is done by local contractors, usually from within the region, and very often from the same area as the DNR facility being repaired. Thus, our maintenance dollars not only provide needed repairs, they also provide jobs and dollars to the local economy; and that, in-turn, buys a lot of good will with the local business community for the department and for state government in general.

One other factor that has had a big impact on our budget in the last year, (along with every other budget in the DNR and everywhere else in state government,) is the 6% sales tax we have to pay on practically everything we buy. Our Fleet Management budget alone has been lowered by \$60,000.

When half the DNR budget is derived from the general revenue fund, and the other half comes from direct user fees, it seems ridiculous for state government to be taxing itself, and it seems downright unfair to be taxing direct user fees (State Park vehicle permits, for example), and indirectly taxing those same funds by diminishing their buying power when we purchase supplies and materials for the benefit of DNR license and permit holders, or for the average Minnesota taxpayer. It's a slight-of-hand attempt at budget bolstering that doesn't actually raise one extra cent of state revenue, and makes all state agencies, especially the Legislature, look foolish for trying.

For more information, contact Tom Hovland, Field Services Supervisor
2115 Birchmont Beach Road NE, Bemidji, MN 56601
218 755-2009

Supervisor: Bob Strand **Fish and Wildlife: Fisheries Section**

The Region I administrative area for the Section of Fisheries includes 20 of the 21 counties in the Northwest Region, plus the northern portions of Wadena and Cass Counties. Fisheries programs in Traverse County are administered by Region 4, out of the DNR Fisheries station at Ortonville.

Regional headquarters are located in Bemidji and there are seven area management units in the region. Area management stations are located at Baudette, Bemidji, Park Rapids, Walker, Detroit Lakes, Fergus Falls, and Glenwood. The Fisheries construction crew is located in Region I, headquartered at Detroit Lakes, and functions on a statewide basis on Fisheries projects.

The region employs approximately 50 permanent personnel and 50-60 seasonal personnel, depending on programs. The annual operating budget from the Game and Fish fund, including salaries, approximates 2.3 million dollars. Revenue sources include fishing license and trout stamp sales, Fisheries surcharge, and federal reimbursement through the Dingle-Johnson, Wallop-Breaux program. An additional \$50,000-100,000 is received annually through the Reinvest-In-Minnesota (RIM) program for qualifying projects.

Region I manages approximately 38% of the state's fishery resource. Fisheries cooperates with three Indian reservations (Leech Lake, Red Lake, and White Earth), the Chippewa National Forest, the State of North Dakota (Red River), and the Canadian Province of Ontario (Lake of the Woods and Rainy River), on Fisheries issues of mutual interest.

Management effort in the Region is primarily directed at warm and cool water gamefish species. Waters suitable for coldwater species management are utilized to provide program diversity. This consists of trout streams and lakes managed for stream trout.

Warm and coolwater species most prevalent in Region I include walleye, northern pike, muskellunge, largemouth bass, and panfish. Yellow perch are also an important component of the sport catch from these waters. Walleye are prevalent throughout the region including well known locations such as: The Minnesota portion of Lake of the Woods, Upper Red Lake, Leech Lake, Cass Lake, and Ottertail Lake. Northern pike are abundant and present throughout the region. Much of the prime muskellunge waters of the state are located in Region I and consist of the well known Mississippi River headwater lakes such as Leech, Cass, Pike Bay, Big, Little Boy, Woman, Wabedo, and Inguadonna lakes. Muskellunge populations are also present in Mantrap Valley Lakes near Park Rapids and several other lakes where they have been introduced. Largemouth bass and panfish are important elements of the fishery, particularly in lakes of the Park Rapids, Detroit Lakes, Fergus Falls, and Glenwood areas.

Walleye management is a major component of the Fisheries program in the region. Walleye spawntaking stations are operated at Bemidji, Walker, Park Rapids, Detroit Lakes, Fergus Falls, and Glenwood. Walleye hatcheries are located and operated at all of these stations except Walker which utilizes the nearby Bemidji hatchery which has adequate capacity to serve the needs of both areas. Walleye fingerling production is an extensive program in the region, primarily utilizing natural lakes and ponds for rearing. The most productive waters are found in the prairie transition zone in the western and southern portion of the region. The program capitalizes on the high fertility and frequent winterkill of those waters to produce large, high quality fingerlings at minimal cost.

An annual large-lake monitoring program is in effect on the major walleye lakes in the region. The Minnesota waters of Lake of the Woods, Upper Red Lake, Cass, and Leech Lakes are included.

Region I plays a major role in the statewide muskellunge program. Bemidji, Park Rapids, and Walker area stations are active in spawntaking from Leech Lake as well as from three brood-stock lakes (Elk, Little Wolf, Plantaganette), where Mississippi-strain muskellunge were established in 1982. Park Rapids is also a muskie hatching station, and muskellunge rearing ponds are operated at Park Rapids and Bemidji. Each of these stations also collects sucker spawn to be hatched and used for muskie forage.

Northern pike production needs are primarily met through the use of controlled spawning areas and winter rescue of juveniles from natural marshes. Trout and salmon are not produced in the region and stocking needs are met by facilities in Regions 2, 3, and 5.

Additional programs include lake and stream habitat improvement, aeration of winterkill lakes, and commercial rough-fish harvest and utilization through contract removal by private operators. Various projects are undertaken with cooperating groups through the Cooperative Opportunities for Resource Enhancement (C.O.R.E.) program. Examples of these type of projects include fishing piers, voluntary walleye catch-and-release programs, and lake aeration.

The legislature recently granted the DNR authority to designate certain waters for experimental regulations. This authority allows Fisheries to tailor regulations for specific management objectives on a lake-by-lake basis. Examples of these type of regulations include expanded limits for northern pike, slot length limits for largemouth bass, and maximum size and reduced limits for trophy walleye.

The Regional Fisheries office also administers a number of regulatory programs which include issuing permits for aquatic plant management, lake aeration, fishing tournaments, private fish hatchery, and fish farming licenses.

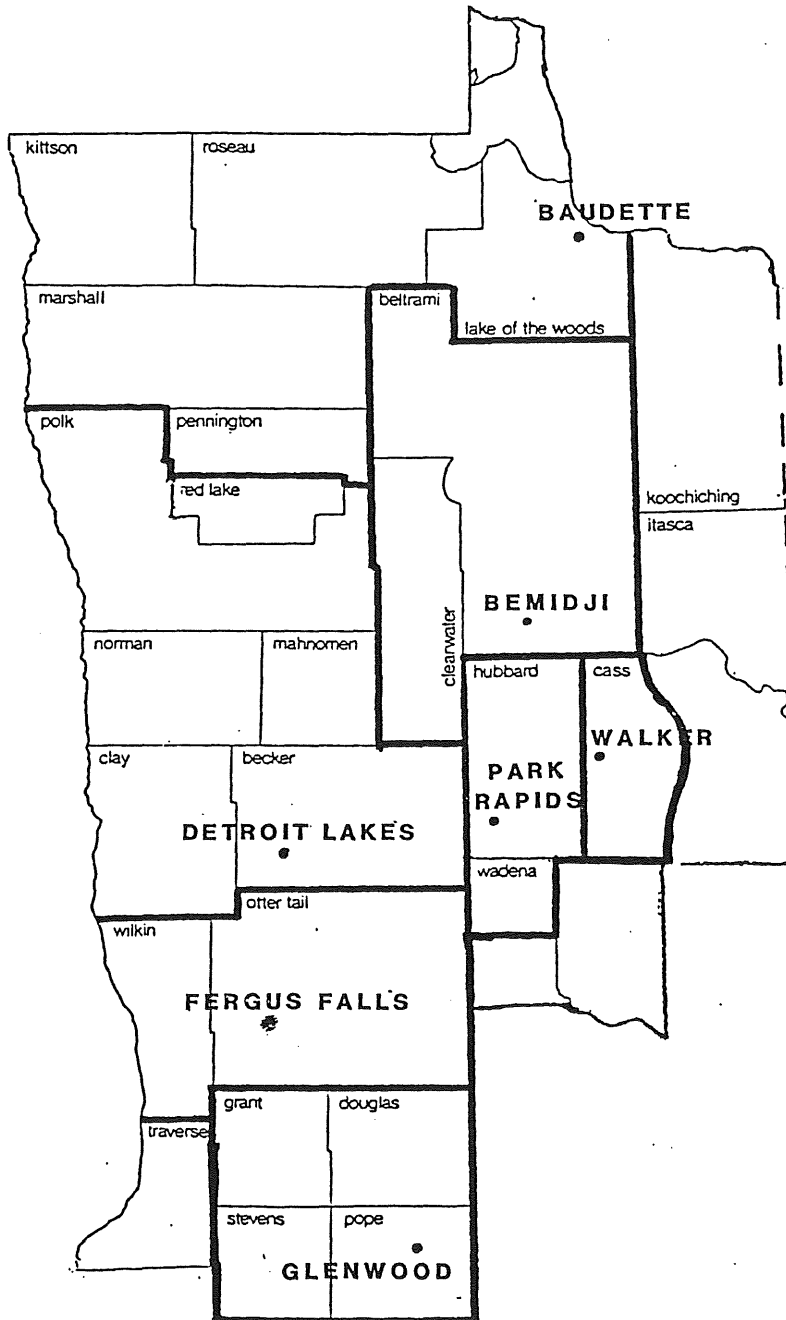
Three Fisheries biologists are stationed in the region, at Bemidji, Detroit Lakes, and Glenwood, to conduct and coordinate research projects. Current ongoing projects in Region I include muskellunge strain evaluation, walleye sex ratio alteration, new fish-tagging development and evaluation, high density walleye fingerling stocking, and compilation of economic data in Minnesota relevant to fishing.

Evaluation is an important element of all Fisheries programs. Activities, such as regular lake surveys, large-lake monitoring, and creel surveys, provide information necessary to determine when different management strategies have worked and when they have not; how well they have worked; and how managing for a specific species affects other fish species in a lake, river, or stream. Information gathering and evaluation also reveal angler expectations and desires, and how the resource is being used. This process allows refinement of techniques and gives future direction to the Fisheries program.

For more information, contact

- | | | |
|---|-------|--------------|
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| BAUDETTE - Route 1, Box 1001 | 56623 | |
| Mike Larson, Area Fisheries Supervisor | | 218 634-2522 |
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| Dean Ash, Area Fisheries Supervisor | | 218 847-1683 |
| FERGUS FALLS - 1221 Fir Avenue East | 56537 | |
| Don Reedstrom, Area Fisheries Supervisor | | 218 739-7576 |
| GLENWOOD - Route 3, Box 1A | 56334 | |
| Donald Schreiner, Area Fisheries Supervisor | | 612 634-4573 |
| PARK RAPIDS - P. O. Box 271 | 56470 | |
| Dennis Ernst, Area Fisheries Supervisor | | 218 732-4153 |
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| Harlan Fierstine, Area Fisheries Supervisor | | 218 547-1683 |

FISHERIES



The Division of Forestry's mission is to work with public and private entities to promote the conservation, protection, and enjoyment of Minnesota's forest resources through multiple use management, wildfire and pest protection, and technical forestry assistance.

The three main areas of work as indicated above are:

- 1) forest protection
 - 2) state land management
 - 3) technical forestry assistance to the private woodland owner.
-
- 1) Protection from wildfire, insects and disease are major parts of the program. This past year there were approximately 550 fires in the region, burning about 134,000 acres. The extreme drought across the state required intensified fire suppression efforts. The drought also affected tree plantations, causing thousands of acres of dead or weakened trees which are now susceptible to attack by insects and disease.
 - 2) There are 2.1 million acres of state forest land in the region. The division sells about \$1 million worth of timber, more than 8,000 acres, annually. Timber harvest has decreased slightly over the past few years due to the economy and cuts in the region's forestry budget. Expansions in the region's forest-products industries will require substantial increases in timber harvest within the next year or two.
 - 3) The third main area of work is providing technical forest management advice to private landowners. Last year, division personnel helped woodland owners sell 18,000 cords, valued at over \$200,000. The Red River project, a federally-funded program to salvage elm trees dying of Dutch elm disease, jointly administered by MN DNR Forestry and North Dakota Forest Service, assisted landowners with 53 additional timber sales worth \$64,000.

Tree planting on private land has increased greatly in the past few years due to the federal Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), designed to take erodible cropland out of agricultural production. Region I has had the bulk of Minnesota's CRP plantations: last year this region planted about six million trees on 8,000 CRP acres and 1,000 acres of non-CRP plantings. The drought killed a major share of these tree plantations, and most will require replanting. This will increase the workload of field personnel during the normally hectic spring planting season.

Within Region I, commercial forestland is divided among the following landowners:

- 38% owned by private individuals
- 20% owned by the state
- 17% owned by counties and municipal governments
- 17% owned by national forests and other federal land
- 9% owned by forest industry and other corporations

Forest industry is the second largest manufacturing industry in the state, producing goods worth \$3.9 billion annually. Through forestry, 54,000 people are employed, receiving a \$1.4 billion payroll, and paying \$85 million in income taxes.

Potlatch is the largest forest-resource consumer in Minnesota, using over 750,000 cords of wood annually for paper, lumber, and structural panelboard. The Potlatch waferboard plant near Bemidji announced an expansion recently, expected to double its consumption of wood as well as employ an additional 50 people. Other major forest products industries purchasing wood from Region I include Northwoods Panelboard, NuPly (a division of Georgia Pacific), Champion International, Blandin, and Boise Cascade. Boise Cascade recently announced a major expansion to their paper mill in International Falls, requiring a capital investment of \$525 million and employing 190 additional people. This will have a substantial impact on the timber markets all across the northern portions of the state. Over \$3 billion will have been invested by the state's forest products industries from 1979 to 1996, and the amount of wood processed in the state will have tripled in that time. Our current level of field staffing is not adequate to service the increasing demand for timber sales.

While not as visible to the public as the major pulp mills, there are several hundred sawmills and value-added processors throughout the region. However, the majority of Minnesota's value-added processors are still located in the Twin Cities-Metro area. Quantities of high-grade lumber, as well as thousands of high-value veneer logs are exported from the region annually, most destined for Pacific Rim countries. Minnesota is also a major producer of high quality, solid-wood cabinets.

REGION I LEGISLATIVE NEEDS

The greatest need in Region I is to restore funding that we have lost over the last four years. In 1984 the operating budget for the Division of Forestry was \$16 million from the general revenue fund. This fiscal year it is \$13.7 million. Salaries use 85%, and the balance is used for support: lights, telephone, utilities, and fire fighting. This region has lost a 20-person hot shot crew, two staff specialists, four 90 technicians, and six other positions are currently being held vacant for salary savings.

Personnel have had to be temporarily relocated to other administrative areas to help out with fire suppression, timber sales, Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts, and tree planting. It costs money to move people around and pay travel expenses, and work falls behind in their own work stations.

We need some of the revenue back that we have lost in the last several years. The state's economy is benefiting from the expanding timber industry, yet the state employees are falling behind in making the timber sales needed by the growing industry. If the timber is not available, the industry cannot expand.

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

The following are state-wide proposals for change level funding. However, each of these issues will also have a major impact on Region I Forestry operations.

Timber Supply

This change level will provide several specific opportunities to address the needs of a growing forestry economy, while maintaining and fostering concern for non-timber resources.

Specifically, funding 17 current vacant positions and providing 12 additional personnel would increase state timber sales, provide for improvements in hardwood timber supplies, further develop secondary markets for Minnesota products, maintain a quality reforestation program, and provide for specific research needs.

Other initiatives would be directed to support vegetation management and tree improvement cooperatives, develop specific forest road information and improve management sensitivity to non-timber resources and public acceptance of forestry activities.

Some of the specific objectives include:

- Accelerate timber stand improvement on high quality hardwood forestlands.
- Expand value-added secondary industry economic development effort.
- Increase hybrid aspen, oak and other high quality tree planting stock.
- Develop procedures, policy, and provide training on management sensitivity.
- Provide for research on hard-to-manage species and fiber production.

BWCA Conversion Biennial Change

The Federal-State BWCA forest intensification program has provided approximately \$3.5 million per year since 1979 to improve management on non-federal public and also private forest lands to offset timber supply losses due to wilderness classification. The program has been a huge success.

Twenty-six positions were created to provide the necessary staffing and expertise to carry out the program. The current request would fund retention of these critical positions to go forward with the expanded program and to fulfill the added demands caused by industrial expansion on state and private forest-management programs. The \$125,000 request coupled with the current \$570,000 program match will fully fund the staff through the biennium.

Wildfire Protection

The majority of this change level, \$1.5 million will be used to increase the Fire Fund to a level to fund an "average" fire year. The shortfall has necessitated deficiency appropriation requests nearly every year.

The remainder of the budget request would provide for conversion of four positions from federal to state funding and provide for a prevention specialist to lower fire incidence over time. The conversions are necessary because of shrinking federal funding participation for state programs.

County Forest Management

These funds are requested to increase the State's assistance to counties actively managing tax-forfeited forest lands. Additional grants will allow county land departments to intensify multiple-use resource management efforts including regeneration, timber stand improvement, road construction and maintenance, inventory, wildlife management, recreation, and pest management.

Current grant funding is \$1,375,000 per year in state general fund monies and \$250,000 in gasoline tax revenues.

Environmental Mediation Research

These monies would be used to implement provisions of a 1987 mediated agreement between the state, environmental group representatives, and forest industry interests concerning aerial application of herbicides for conifer regeneration on state lands.

The major areas of need addressed by this proposal are: acquisition of equipment necessary to reduce the need for aerial application techniques; and research monies to examine new spraying technology, non-chemical treatment alternatives, and herbicide application impacts.

A substantial forest road development program was also mediated. This request will be made in the capital budget proposal.

State Forest Recreational Maintenance

Substantial monies have been spent to upgrade the state forest campground facilities. These sites provide a primitive camping experience sought by many campers.

This request of \$68,000 per year would be used to augment campground receipts for the maintenance of these facilities and protect the state's investment. A majority of the funding would be used to contract for additional retirement-age maintenance workers through Greenview, Inc.

Prescribed Fire

This change request will provide equipment, training, and operation monies to implement the 1988 prescribed fire legislation. Funds will provide for one prescribed fire specialist.

Appropriately used, prescribed fire can be of immense benefit for forest site preparation, vegetation enhancement for wildlife benefit, maintenance of native grass cover, and fuel reduction in wildfire prone areas.

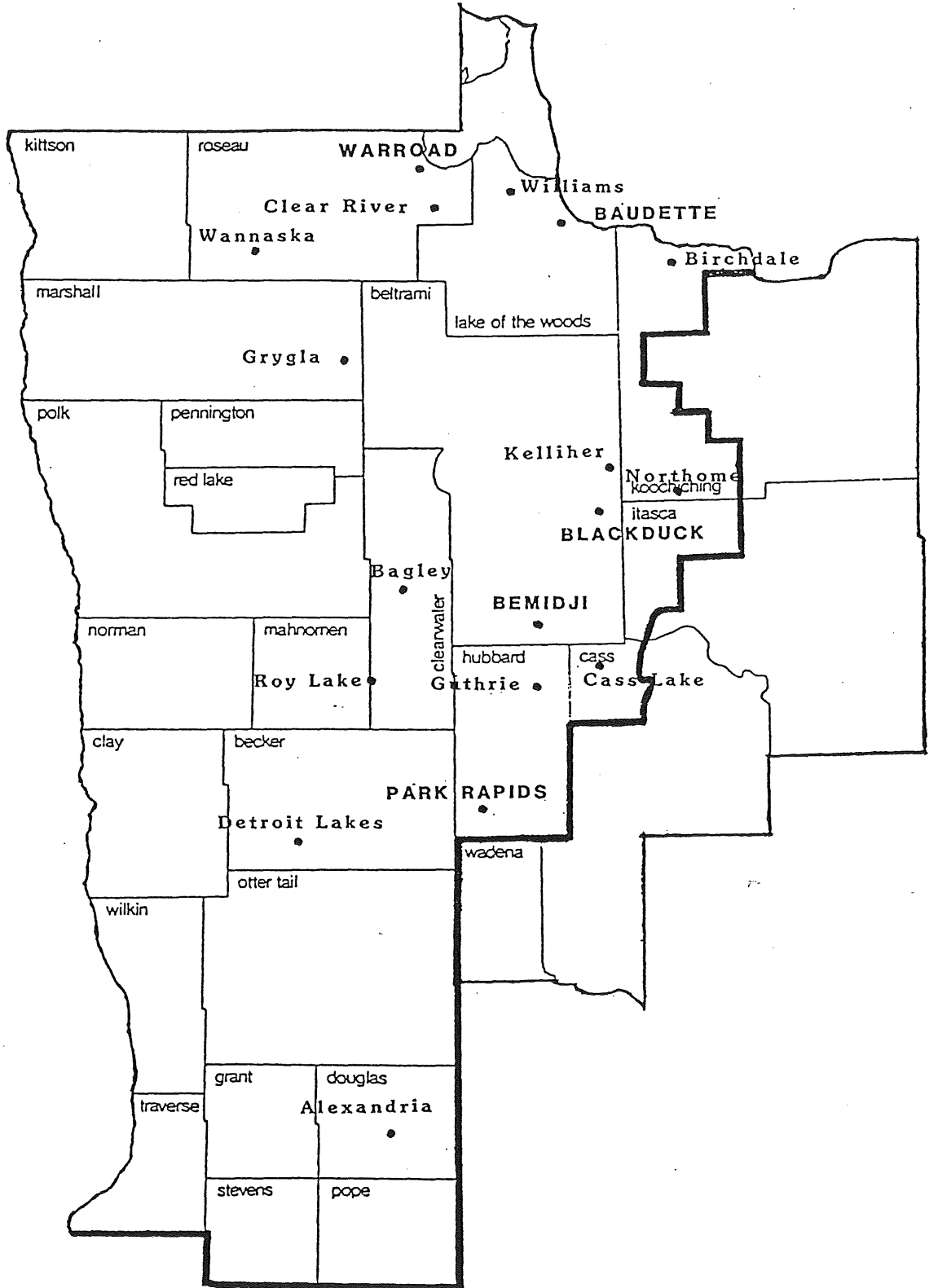
Other Issues

Maps for recreation, containerized tree-seedling greenhouse, land exchange, oak wilt, land acquisition, funds to step up the planning process, funds for economic development in the wood-products industry, Private Forest Management technical assistance, pest management, gravel deposit identification, white cedar regeneration research, geographic information systems (GIS), resource management operation system to handle timber sales and other land management, Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), and finally, operational studies to help fill in the aspen age-class imbalance.

For more information, contact:

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BLACKDUCK - Box L, Blackduck, MN	56630
Dan Casey, Area Forest Supervisor	218 835-6684
PARK RAPIDS - Box 113, Park Rapids	56470
Ken Baumgartner, Area Forest Supervisor	218 732-3300

DIVISION OF FORESTRY



NORTHWEST NEWS

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES NORTHWEST REGION

2115 Birchmont Beach Road N.E.
Bemidji, Minnesota 56601
Jim Reil - Regional Information Officer
(218) 755-3645



Specialist: Jim Reil

BUREAU OF INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

A PROGRAM FOR PUBLIC RESPONSIVENESS

As part of its overall effort to improve public responsiveness, the DNR has added an information officer, or Information and Education (I & E) Specialist, to the Regional Administrator's staff in all six regions. The first regional information officer started work in December, 1986, and the last one was hired in January, 1988. The Northwest Region's I & E Specialist was hired in April, 1987.

The basic mission of regional information officers is to inform and educate the public about DNR policies and programs. This has been accomplished primarily through the news media serving each region. A steady supply of news releases and feature articles is produced and distributed on a regular basis to 104 media outlets serving Region I, including 68 newspapers and outdoor publications, 25 radio stations, eight TV stations, and three news wire services. If a particular news story might be of special interest to state legislators in Region I, it will be mailed to them as well. This page has been printed on Region I's news-release letterhead.

The regional information officer also provides story ideas and information directly to newspaper, radio, and TV reports on a one-to-one basis, and assists reporters in finding "experts" to interview from within the various disciplines in the DNR.

As the I & E Specialists have become more knowledgeable about the department, they have also begun to serve directly as DNR spokespersons; doing interviews, going on radio talk shows, representing the department at job fairs and sport shows, and speaking to school groups and civic organizations.

Regional Information Officers have been traveling extensively in the regions, getting to know the areas, the resources, DNR offices and people, and the work that they do. All the while, they have been looking and learning, and writing the DNR story from a local perspective, for local media. This is something that, for the most part, just couldn't be done before by the DNR central I & E office in St. Paul. The program has begun to pay off with an increased public awareness and understanding of DNR programs within the region.

In addition to writing for the news media, regional information officers also write for a variety of internal DNR publications; again, providing balance by adding an "outstate" perspective to material produced in St. Paul.

A COOPERATIVE STATEWIDE EFFORT

The Regional I & E Specialists also work in cooperation with the DNR central Information and Education Bureau office in St. Paul. Publicity on issues and events, that are of statewide importance or that cut across regional boundaries, is coordinated through the St. Paul office or by the regional information officers themselves.

In 1987, for example, the DNR central I & E office coordinated with the Governor's office and the regional information officers to publicize the Governor's public hearings on the environmental trust fund proposal. The I & E Specialists arranged for local media coverage of the hearings in each region and helped identify local government officials and interest groups, so they could be informed of the hearings and invited to attend. The hearings were well-attended and, from that early show of interest and support, the Governor felt it worthwhile to continue his support for the proposal. Eventually, citizen support carried right through to election day, even though the trust-fund was often overshadowed by the lottery issue.

SERVING ACROSS DIVISION LINES

Information officers serve virtually all the DNR divisions and bureaus that operate within their region; providing assistance and services to regional supervisors, area managers, and field staff with publicity-related activities; such as writing and editing services, taking photographs for use in slide shows and printed material, designing and producing brochures, advising on media relations, and, of course, assisting their own bosses, the Regional Administrators.

Most of the information officers, including the officer in Region I, have also been trained through the Minnesota Incident Command System as Public Information Officers and have served on multi-agency, Incident Command System overhead teams that manage large wildfire incidents in the state.

The regional information officers are also participating members of the DNR Marketing Advisory Committee, assisting with the current LCMR-funded project to create a marketing plan for the whole department. The marketing project is administered by the DNR Central I & E office. In Region I, the information officer is also quite actively involved with the DNR Affirmative Action Committee, one of three employees from the region appointed to the committee by the Regional Administrator.

CLERICAL SUPPORT IS NEEDED

The greatest need within the Northwest Region's Information and Education program is for an increased level of clerical support. Naturally, the program is heavily involved with clerical activities including word processing, Xeroxing, mailing, telephone calls, and filing information so it can be retrieved. Most other regions have already been able to provide at least a half-time clerical position to support their I & E Specialist, but that is not the case in Region I.

The only clerical help available for the I & E Specialist has been the Regional Administrator's secretary. Because of the location of the Regional Administrator's office within the headquarters building, that secretary also serves as the main receptionist for the building and as principal switchboard operator for incoming calls. That one position serves as the only clerical support for five professional staff: The Regional Administrator, the Community Liaison Officer, the Regional Realty Specialist, the Assistant Realty Specialist, and the Regional Information Officer.

This situation is the result of a number of years of added program responsibility without adequate funding for support personnel. It cuts into program effectiveness when work gets delayed, minor tasks go undone, and professional staff get bogged down in their own paperwork at the expense of the work they were hired to do. A top priority for Region I staffing in the next biennium must include additional clerical help for these programs.

For more information, contact Jim Reil, Regional Information Officer
2115 Birchmont Beach Road NE, Bemidji, MN 56601
218 755-3645

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE OBJECTIVES

The mission of the Regional Realty Office is to provide technical advice and guidance to region and field personnel. Assistance is provided in the areas of land sales, exchanges, leases, trespass, utility licenses, easements, acquisition, classification, and records.

The Realty Office negotiates or advises field personnel in negotiations with private landowners, corporations, or other government agencies on land acquisition and exchange projects. All programs for leases, exchanges, licenses, acquisitions, sales, and easements are administered by the Regional Realty Office. Regional land ownership records and land- use classification records are maintained by the Regional Realty Office. This office advises field personnel on matters involving trespass and takes necessary action when the situation warrants.

The Regional Realty Office has fiduciary responsibility to insure that State Trust Fund Lands yield the highest possible monetary return to the Trust Fund.

LAND ADMINISTERED

The Department of Natural Resources has acquired land through Federal grants and State laws. Most of the DNR-administered land in Region I is north of Bemidji. Consolidated Conservation lands are the most prevalent type of State land in Region I.

ADMINISTRATION AND OWNERSHIP

1,745,161 Acres - DNR Administered Lands
470,334 Acres - County Administered Lands
84,603 Acres - Leased from U.S. Government
6,633 Acres - Leased from Nature Conservancy

LAND CLASSIFICATIONS

School Trust Fund land was land set aside by the U.S. Congress in 1849 when the territorial government was established. The Organic Act set aside lands in Sections 16 and 36 in each township for the education of the citizens of the territory. The Enabling Act of 1857 also established provisions for lands to be set aside in lieu of lands in these sections when they had been previously disposed of or were under meandered waters. The Constitutional Convention of 1857 established that School Trust Fund lands must be sold at public auction and for no less than \$5.00 per acre. Proceeds were to be put into a fund to earn interest, and the interest earned by the fund would be distributed to school districts in proportion to their enrollment.

Swamp lands were granted to the State in 1860 by the U.S. Congress to be sold to raise money for construction of levees and drainage structures. Land had to be at least 50% uncultivable swamp to qualify. The State did not use proceeds for such purposes, however. Some of the land was deeded to railroad, the rest was put into the School Trust Fund by a constitutional amendment in 1881.

Internal Improvement lands were granted to the State by the U.S. Congress in 1841. Each state with public land received 500,000 acres. From 1866 to 1898, the money derived from the sale of these lands was used for railroad bonds. A constitutional amendment passed in 1898 dedicated all future revenues to the State Road and Bridge Fund.

Volstead lands were purchased from the Federal government by the State after the passage of the Volstead Act of 1908. This act of Congress gave the states authority to establish drainage districts and to assess all landholders for costs incurred by drainage projects. When the Federal government refused to pay the taxes assessed against its lands, the State purchased the land for the appraised value less the amount of the taxes and interest. Money generated by these lands is deposited into the State Forest Fund.

50/50 lands are county lands that, under Chapter 89 of the Minnesota Statutes, may be turned over to the State by the counties for management. If the DNR Commissioner chooses to accept these lands, they must be dedicated for conservation purposes. The county receives 50% of the gross income from these lands when they are dedicated to State forests. If these lands are deemed to be more appropriate for farm or industrial lands, they can be released from State Forest status by a resolution of the county board with the approval of the DNR Commissioner. Counties in Region I that have 50/50 agreements are Becker, Beltrami, Cass, Clearwater, Hubbard, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, Mahnommen, Marshall, Red Lake, and Roseau.

Consolidated Conservation lands are lands that were tax forfeited to the State in the early part of the century. As timber activity dwindled in the northern part of the state, laws were changed to accommodate public pressure for more agricultural lands. Attempts were made to drain northern Minnesota swampland to make it suitable for agricultural purposes. Costs of these drainage projects were assessed against all landowners in the drainage districts. Most of these areas proved unsuitable for agriculture. When private landowners were unable to pay the assessments, they forfeited their lands. Neither the local drainage districts nor the counties were able to assume the burden left behind by these projects. From 1929 to 1933 the State passed several laws assuming the financial burden for these assessments in return for absolute title to the lands. These laws are incorporated in Chapter 84 of the Minnesota Statutes. In 1949 the Minnesota Legislature combined receipts of lands acquired by the Chapter 84 laws of 1929-33 into the Consolidated Conservation Area Fund. Counties in the Consolidated Conservation area include Beltrami, Lake of the Woods, Mahnommen, Marshall, and Roseau. These counties receive 50% of the revenues generated by the lands.

Land Utilization Projects (LUP) lands were purchased by the federal government as an attempt to move settlers from submarginal agricultural lands to more profitable areas. The land purchases were originally administered by the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA) under the National Industrial Recovery Act of 1933. The program has been in the hands of many different agencies since then. The lands were leased to the State with the federal government reserving 75% of the mineral rights and 100% of fissionable materials. The Beltrami Island Project was initiated in 1934. Lands were leased to the state for 50 years in 1940. In 1942, these lands were designated as the Beltrami Wildlife Management Area. Federal oversight of the lease was given to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The land is managed by the DNR Section of Wildlife and Division of Forestry. The U.S. Forest Service was given oversight of the lands in the Pine Island Project. This land was later deeded to the state. It is administered by the DNR Division of Forestry.

Other Acquired lands are generally areas that have been purchased for administrative sites or other special uses such as State Parks, Public Water Access Sites, and Wildlife Management Areas.

Tax-Forfeited lands are lands that have returned to the state through the failure of private citizens or businesses to pay property taxes. These lands are held in trust for local governments and are administered by the counties.

BUDGETS AND REVENUES GENERATED

The Regional Realty Office has no discretionary budget. Operational expenses are paid out of the Regional Administrator's budget.

Realty Office activities generate substantial income for the state through the land sale, lease, license, and easement programs. Realty Office activities statewide will generate approximately \$500,000 in revenues for fiscal year 1989. The Realty Office also coordinates the expenditure of state monies for ditch and special assessments, and in-lieu of tax payments to local governments. These expenditures will amount to approximately \$2.3 million in FY'89.

The Realty Office is comprised of a Realty Manager and a Realty Specialist. Approximate salary and benefit costs are \$77,000 per year. Change level requests are anticipated for an additional Realty Specialist and a clerical support position. Clerical assistance is presently provided through the Regional Administrator's secretary.

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

Leases and Licenses

The Regional Realty Office administers 1100 to 1500 leases, licenses and cooperative agreements annually. Appraisals are completed for both new leases and renewals. Most leases are routine in nature and the appraisals are completed by the field manager involved. However, some leases and licenses, such as commercial, lakeshore, and wild rice

leases, are complex and difficult to appraise and may have political considerations. In these situations, the Realty Manager or Realty Specialist take an active role in the appraisal.

Exchanges and Transfers

The Regional Realty Office administers 25 to 50 exchange proposals annually. Exchanges may be proposed by DNR managers, private citizens and businesses, and other governmental agencies. A large-scale proposed exchange with the Chippewa National Forest is being evaluated. This exchange may dictate the need for extra personnel to complete appraisal assignments.

One major project in FY'89 is the Potlatch exchange. This project involves 1040 acres of State and Potlatch land in Becker and Hubbard counties. The primary objective of the exchange is to consolidate ownerships for more efficient management. State lands involved in this exchange were identified by the Unit Management Plan for the Park Rapids Forestry Area. Two other projects identified by the Unit Plan are exchanges involving Becker and Hubbard counties. These exchanges will involve 560 acres of State land and will be proposed in small parcels. The Becker county proposal is currently being delayed until the White Earth land transfer is completed.

The White Earth land transfer will involve 10,000 acres, one-third of which is DNR-administered land. It is estimated that approximately 22 parcels of School Trust Fund land will have to be appraised for condemnation to complete this transfer.

Sales, Easements, and Condemnations

The Regional Realty Office administers 60 to 80 land-disposal activities annually. These include State land sales, easements, condemnations, and county land sales. Recent legislation allows the state to process two types of transfers previously not permitted: selling surplus land directly to other government agencies, and granting easements to private citizens. A major workload concern for FY'89 and the future is the lakeshore lease sales.

Another major issue that is developing is the use of School Trust Fund for non-income generating purposes. Examples include State Parks and Wildlife Management Areas. This land should be condemned to generate revenue for the Trust Fund as identified in the 1983 School Trust Management Report.

Acquisition

The Regional Realty Office is involved in 15 to 25 requests for land acquisition annually. Although the bulk of acquisition work is handled by the St. Paul staff, regional personnel are becoming more involved in this aspect of real estate management work. The change level Realty Specialist position requested is to handle acquisition work in a more decentralized manner.

Ownership, Classification, and Assessment

The Regional Realty Office coordinates land ownership records with 24 counties and the St. Paul Real Estate Management Bureau.

Land classification is done in Beltrami, Hubbard, and Lake of the Woods counties on at least a biennial basis.

The Regional Realty Office will establish and coordinate a ditch assessment committee within the five counties in the Consolidated Conservation area. The committee will classify lands for potential uses. This classification will be the basis for payment made to counties on ditch assessments.

Trespass

In many instances, landowners use State land without any contractual agreement from the State. Penalties and procedures for dealing with these trespass situations are found in Chapter 90 of the Minnesota Statutes. Damages are assessed and, depending on the nature of the trespass (casual or willful), double or triple damages are charged. Many times a survey is required to establish the true boundary lines. This process can be very costly and time consuming. A trespass bill has been proposed by the DNR to give citation authority to selected law enforcement authorities when small trespasses occur. This would allow these situations to be handled locally without involving the state survey crews or the Attorney General's office. Major trespass problems would still be handled with the assistance of the St. Paul offices.

For more information, contact Ted Wilde, Regional Realty Specialist
2115 Birchmont Beach Road NE, Bemidji 56601
218 755-2264

State Park properties administered in the DNR Northwest Region:

Buffalo River State Park	Clay County, east of Moorhead
Glacial Lakes State Park	Pope County, south of Starbuck
Hayes Lake State Park	Roseau County, east of Wannaska
Itasca State Park	Clearwater & Hubbard, No. of Park Rapids
Lake Bemidji State Park	Beltrami County, north of Bemidji
Lake Bronson State Park	Kittson County, north of Karlstad
Lake Carlos State Park	Douglas County, north of Alexandria
Maplewood State Park	Otter Tail County, east of Pelican Rapids
Old Mill State Park	Marshall County, east of Argyle
Zippel Bay State Park	LOW County, on the Lake at Zippel Bay
Inspiration Peak Wayside	Otter Tail County, SE of Battle Lake
Joseph Brown Monument	Traverse County, near Browns Valley

Region I State Parks employ 32 full-time and 200 seasonal people, over half of these at Itasca. This staff maintains 900 campsites, over 200 buildings, a dozen picnic areas, ten swimming areas, numerous boat landings, over 300 miles of trails, and many other facilities.

The annual budget for operating all 64 Minnesota State Parks is approximately \$13.5 million. The general revenue fund contributes two-thirds of this amount, and the other one-third comes from the Parks dedicated account; funds derived from the sale of park vehicle permits, camping fees, gift sales, and other user fees. Itasca produces about twenty-five (25%) of the total dedicated account revenue through user fees, lodging, food services, and gift sales. Itasca State Park consumes nearly fifteen percent (15%) of the entire State Park system's operating budget and approximately two-thirds of the Region I Parks budget.

The emphasis in State Parks is on public service. This aspect of park operation consumes over 90% of park employees' time. In many ways, operating a state park is like managing a small city. Park staff provide police protection, medical services, sales, education, maintenance and many other services similar to a small city. At Itasca alone, there are over 1,000 people staying overnight each day during the summer.

As we approach our 100th anniversary, the most serious problem facing Minnesota State Parks is maintenance, rehabilitation, and, in some cases, complete restoration of historic facilities. Because nearly all of our resources are spent on services, maintenance has suffered greatly. More state park buildings were constructed during the 1930's than in any other decade. The majority of these exceptional buildings are constructed of log or stone, are irreplaceable, and are the foundation of the character and image of our state parks. Most of these 50+-year-old buildings are now in need of major repairs, or complete restoration, to preserve them for the future. Accelerated construction

during the 1930's has created the need for an accelerated rehabilitation/restoration fund in the 1990's. It is hoped to accomplish a great deal in time for the 100th anniversary in 1991.

Pine restoration at Itasca State Park, and resource restoration at all other parks, is another major problem facing us now. After 97 years, we are just beginning forest and pine restoration at Itasca using LCMR money. For example, a program to fence the deer "out" of certain areas is essential to allow pine shoots to get started, and much research and planning are necessary before site work can begin. To assist us with this serious problem, an outstanding citizen resource advisory committee was formed from disciplines in the Department of Natural Resources, from the University of Minnesota Forest and Biology Departments, from the Itasca Park Advisory Board, the Forest Experimental station, and others. All parks are only as good as the resources they revolve around, and the facilities developed for public use.

A major emphasis of the staff in Region I parks is to greatly increase park involvement with, and service to, communities surrounding the parks; by organizing and helping to promote cooperative projects and activities to improve the local tourism economy. The "Land of Legends", a multi-community organization around the Itasca State Park area, is one example of our efforts. Others include Grinding Days at Old Mill; the Rocky Point Regatta, Volkslauf races, and the Upper Mississippi River Revival at Lake Bemidji; the International Woodcarvers Festival at Lake Bronson; the annual Volksmarch and Clay County Conservation Days at Buffalo River; and the American Scholarship Foundation Bass Tournament at Lake Carlos. (You may contact the park manager(s) in your district for more information or to help implement this important service.)

In 1991, the Minnesota State Park System will celebrate its centennial in conjunction with the 100th anniversary of Itasca State Park. In order to enter our second hundred years with a firm grasp on our capabilities to preserve our precious lands and facilities, and to serve Minnesotans well into the future, we need major improvement funds through a bonding proposal. The division has identified over \$40 million needed for major improvements; including major handicapped accessibility projects throughout the system, a new Visitor Center for Itasca's centennial, and many other improvements in each park statewide.

It is important to remember, that while parks contain and preserve some of Minnesota's most precious and beautiful treasures, park land is only a tiny fraction, less than four-tenths (.4%) of one percent of Minnesota, and less than two percent (2%) of all public lands in the state. To make our parks useable for 7 million visitors each year has required intensive development of facilities. Wells, sewers, toilet buildings, campgrounds, roads, trails, parking areas, shelters, cabins, and restaurants are only some of the essential facilities that, together with the real estate, have an estimated value of several hundred million dollars today. Once built, heavy public use and abuse plus natural decay, results in the immediate need for maintenance and/or rehabilitation. Lack of maintenance means serious deterioration and excessive replacement costs. This is the current picture, which applies equally to the resources on which the parks are built. This situation is critical.

State Park issues, problems, and the need for your help and support are explained in more detail in the Minnesota State Parks Status Report, published in September, 1988. A copy of the State Parks Status Report and the MNaturally Guide to Minnesota State Parks is included in the material at the end of this booklet.

Please contact Merle DeBoer, at 218 755-3976, at your convenience for more information, or to discuss any local concerns you have involving state parks. We look forward to working with you and the people in your community to become more involved with "your" state park.

Minnesota State Park

1891 - Centennial - 1991

MISSION: To celebrate the centennial of the Minnesota State Park system
with the establishment of Itasca State Park in 1891.

SLOGAN: A century of recreation and preservation

On April 20, 1991, the Minnesota State Park System will begin its second 100-years of service to the citizens of Minnesota. A committee of Park staff and a representative from the Minnesota Historical Society has begun the task of organizing events, activities and projects to interpret and celebrate the 100 year history of our Park system. It will also be a time to let Minnesotans know about the problems we all will face in preserving our Parks for the next 100 years. Projects currently proposed include:

- * Centennial Parks Newspaper
- * Centennial Pageant
- * Minnesota State Fair Exhibit
- * Traveling History Display
- * Centennial Trail promotion
- * One Special Event in each of
Minnesota's 64 State Parks

*Plus other Centennial ideas including fund drives for historic building restorations

Jacob Vradenberg Brower 1844 - 1905

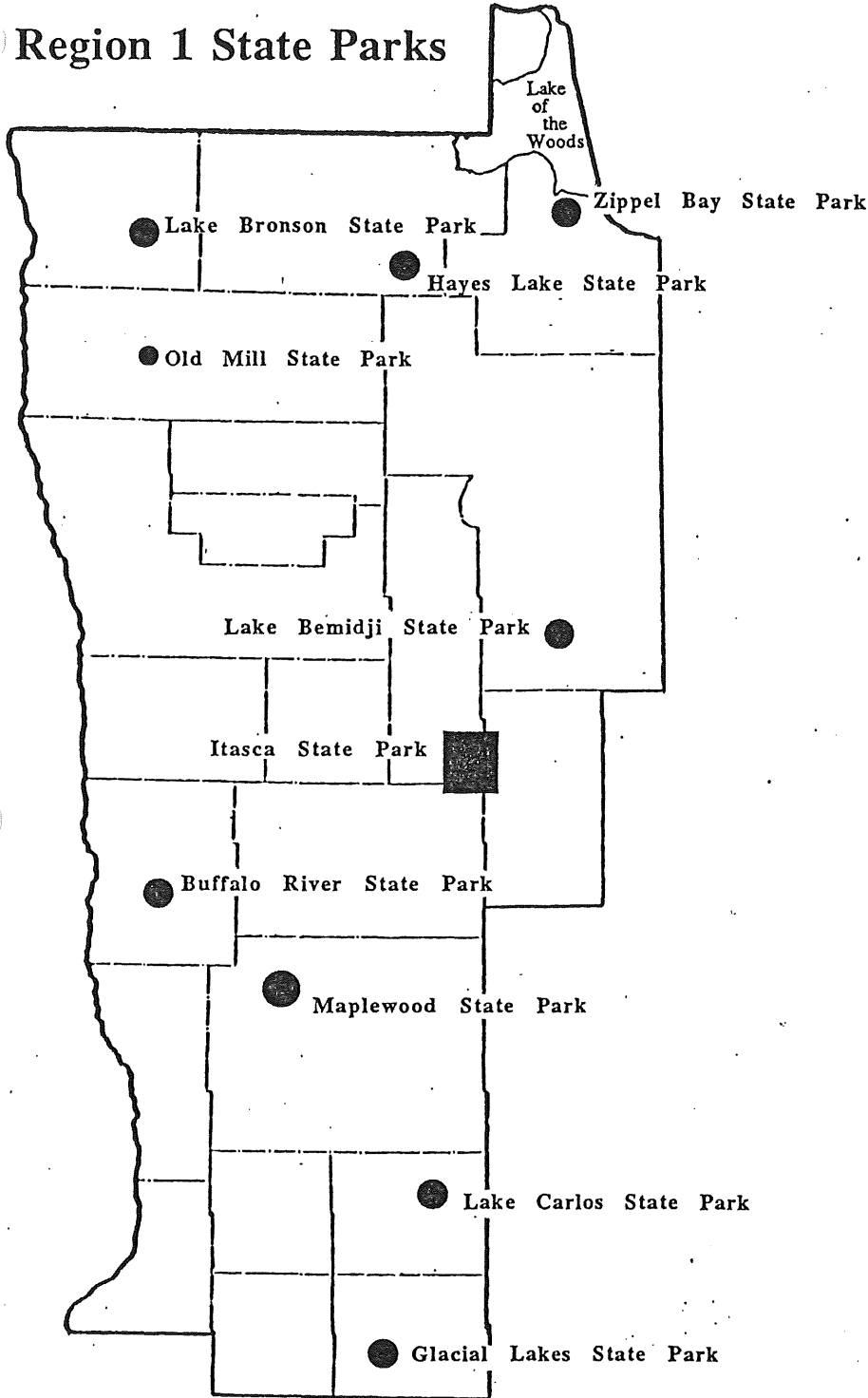
If you were to look for one individual responsible for preserving the headwaters, it would be an easy task. Jacob Vradenberg Brower, a Civil War veteran, politician, surveyor, author, historian, lawyer, naturalist, and self taught archaeologist became interested in Itasca in 1888. He was commissioned by the Minnesota Historical Society in 1889 to survey and map the Itasca basin, putting an end to the controversy over the true source of the Great River. He foresaw that this river and surrounding magnificent white and red pine forests were doomed to the lumbering interests unless actions were taken immediately to preserve the source as a true, wild park.

As the first park commissioner with little salary and nothing for expenses, Brower continued his fight to preserve the headwaters until his death in 1905. Before his death, he predicted: "The park will soon contain the only tract of standing pine within the borders of the state and this forest reservation will become easily accessible and of great value as a public resort."

The 100th anniversary of Itasca State Park in 1991 will be a time for reflecting on the foresight of Mr. Brower, and the enjoyment shared by so many millions of people who have visited this tiny stream and returned home to say they have "jumped across the Mississippi."

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Region 1 State Parks



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Garry Barvels, Manager
 Richard Bruns, Asst. Manager
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 Lake Bronson, MN 56734
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LaMonte Gross, Manager
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Victor Vathauer, Manager
Glacial Lakes State Park
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Merle DeBoer, Regional Parks Manager
 Regional Parks Office
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 (218) 755-3976

ORGANIZATION

The organization of the Trails and Waterways (T & W) Unit in Region I was changed in early 1987 to more effectively manage program responsibilities and to respond to public needs and requests in a more timely manner. The Region is now divided into two areas--North and South.

The North Area is housed in the Regional Headquarters Office in Bemidji with a staff consisting of the Area Manager, Assistant Area Manager, two District Technicians and a seasonal work crew. North Area staff have program responsibilities in the following 15 counties: Becker, Beltrami, Cass (Leech Lake and North), Clay, Clearwater, Hubbard, Kittson, Lake of the Woods, Mahnommen, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake, and Roseau.

The South Area is headquartered in Fergus Falls. The staff includes the Area Manager, an Area Technician, and a seasonal work crew. The South Area has program responsibilities in the following 7 counties: Douglas, Grant, Otter Tail, Pope, Stevens, Traverse, and Wilkin.

Both areas are supervised by the Regional Trails and Waterways Coordinator at the Regional Office in Bemidji. Clerical assistance to the areas is provided by different methods. The Regional T & W clerk doubles as the North Area T & W clerk. This position is presently 80%. The clerk position for the South Area is shared and funded by T & W, Wildlife, and Waters. This position is 50%.

PROGRAM RESPONSIBILITIES - GENERAL

Trails and Waterways programs are divided into two major programs, Water Recreation and Trail Recreation. Since their inception, these programs have grown, both in magnitude and in terms of public acceptance and expectations. Responsibilities within the two major programs include acquisition, development, and maintenance. The programs are subdivided as follows:

Water Recreation: Water Access, River Recreation, Fishing Piers, Boat and Water Safety

Trail Recreation: State Trails (including Heartland and Paul Bunyan), State Park Trails, State Forest Trails, Trail Assistance Program (Grant-in-Aid)

SPECIFIC PROGRAM RESPONSIBILITIES

Water Recreation Program:

A majority of the effort in this program is directed toward water-access acquisition, development, and maintenance. This effort is demanded because of the numbers of water-access facilities under the jurisdiction of Trails and Waterways in Region I. In the North Area, there are 342 public water-access facilities, of which 179 are managed by the DNR.

The South Area has 210 public water-access facilities, with 168 under the jurisdiction of the DNR. The Minnesota Department of Transportation maintains nine access sites in the Region, and the rest belong to federal and local government agencies. The number of sites administered by each unit of government is as follows:

Department of Natural Resources	347
County	90
City	46
Federal	43
Township	14
MN Department of Transportation	9
Tribal	3

Total Public Water Accesses in Region I 552

Region I Trails and Waterways staff also have responsibility for 309 miles of designated canoe routes (upper Mississippi River, upper Crow Wing River, and Red Lake River), twelve fishing piers (cooperatively with local units of government), and certain boat and water safety concerns as they relate to water access and river recreation.

Trail Recreation Program:

The structure of this program requires T & W staff to work with and through other DNR Divisions, local units of government, and trail organizations. Region I Trails and Waterways staff has the responsibility for the 50-mile Heartland Trail (including 5 major rest-area facilities), 363 miles of State Forest Trails (including winter grooming for snowmobile use), and 300 miles of State Park Trails. Through the Trail Assistance Program (grant-in-aid), Region I Trails and Waterways staff administer the development, operation, and maintenance of 2,355 miles of snowmobile trails and 76 miles of cross-country ski trails. Additionally, when rights to the Paul Bunyan Trail are acquired, 31 miles of that new State Trail will be Region I's responsibility.

NORTH AREA SUMMARY

Acquisition: This is an on-going portion of both the Trail Recreation and Water Recreation programs. The acquisition of new facilities, expansion of existing facilities, easements, and leases are the most frequently dealt with items. During the past biennium, acquisition was completed for four new water-access sites, including Big Sand Lake (Hubbard), Big Detroit Lake (Becker), and Big Floyd Lake (Becker). The top Water Recreation acquisition priorities are:

- Lake of the Woods - Northwest Angle (Lake of the Woods County)
- Lake Bemidji - Northwoods (Beltrami)
- Dellwater Lake (Beltrami)
- Pearl Lake (Becker)
- Recreational easements for shore fishing and additional access on the Red River

The top Trail Recreation acquisition priorities are:

- The connecting link between the two sections of the Heartland Trail near Walker
- The new Paul Bunyan Trail between Walker and Bemidji

Development: Water Recreation project development can be divided into two distinct phases: major projects and crew projects. Major project developments are of such a magnitude that the project design, through completion, is controlled by the DNR Bureau of Engineering.

Eight major projects were completed in the North Area during 1988:

- Cass Lake - Highway #2 Rest Area (Cass County)
- Gilstad Lake - cooperative project with U.S. Forest Service (Beltrami County)
- Lake Hattie (Hubbard County)
- Island Lake (Hubbard County)
- Eagle Lake (Hubbard County)
- Big Floyd Lake (Becker County)
- Long Lake - Airport Park (Becker County)
- Lake Melissa - Mac's Landing (Becker County)

Crew-completed projects are those which involve minor rehabilitation work on an existing facility. Typical crew work includes concrete plank installation, and parking lot and road improvements. North Area crews completed nine projects during the 1988 season, including four ramp installations, one fencing project at Pine Lake in Clewarwater County, and 420 hours of snag removal (trees in the channel) on the Mississippi River.

Only one Trail Recreation project was completed during the 1988 season, although other trail work was done. The Beaver Lakes Snowmobile Trail in the Paul Bunyan State Forest provides the trail user a safe new trail, completely separate from all logging-vehicle traffic. At this time, Trail-Recreation projects are mostly maintenance-oriented with an occasional development project in a State Forest or State Park. When rights to the Paul Bunyan Trail are acquired, major development will be the responsibility of the North Area staff.

Maintenance: In 1988, the North Area of Region I had maintenance responsibilities for the following:

- ° 117 water-access facilities
- ° 309 miles of designated canoe routes (including 9 campsites)
- ° 50 miles of the Heartland Trail (including 5 major rest areas)
- ° 363 miles of State Forest Trails (including winter grooming for snowmobile use).

Area staff completed four major trail-maintenance projects during 1988:

- ° Re-decked two of the six trestles on the Heartland Trail
- ° Re-stained all of the trestles on the Heartland Trail
- ° Replaced railings on four of the Heartland Trail trestles
- ° Placed grouted rip-rap to prevent erosion at the Heartland Trail trestle in Park Rapids.

Maintenance responsibilities in the North Area are completed either by the T & W work crew or through contracts with local vendors.

Grant-in-Aid (Trail Assistance Program): The North Area of Region I is responsible for the administration of the Trail Assistance Program in eleven counties, dealing with 20 organizations. The program provides funding for the development, operation, and maintenance of 1,820 miles of snowmobile trails and 60 miles of cross-country ski trails. Trail mileage per county is as follows:

COUNTY	SNOWMOBILE	CROSS COUNTRY SKI
Becker	220	24
Beltrami	444	36
Clearwater	120	
Hubbard	172	
Kittson	214	
Lake of the Woods	110	
Mahnomen	200	
Marshall	114	
Pennington	40	
Polk	14	
Roseau	172	

Cooperative Agreement Program: These projects are completed in cooperation with local units of government. Projects done through this program include complete access facilities, boat ramps, and fishing piers. For 1989, the North Area will be working on six cooperative projects:

- Florian Reservoir Fishing Pier (Marshall County)
- Cross Lake Fishing Pier (Polk County)
- Fish Hook River Fishing Pier (Hubbard County)
- Detroit Lakes Fishing Pier Extension (City of Detroit Lakes)
- Red River - Moorhead Access (City of Moorhead)
- Red Lake River - Old Crossing Treaty County Park Access (Red Lake County)

North Area staff also provide technical assistance to groups proposing water-recreation and trail projects where our expertise is requested.

SOUTH AREA SUMMARY

Acquisition: Primary emphasis in the South Area is on the acquisition of water-recreation facilities, because trail development is accomplished mainly through the grant-in-aid program and within State Parks. During the past biennium, acquisition was completed on three new water-access facilities, including Rice Lake (Otter Tail County), Pelican Lake (Otter Tail County), and Big Pine Lake - Grandview Heights (Otter Tail County). The top acquisition priorities for Water-Recreation are:

- Lake Darling (Douglas County)
- West Battle Lake - East Shore (Otter Tail County)
- Reno Lake (Pope County)
- Cowdry Lake (Douglas County)

Development: During the 1988 construction season, improvements were made on 58 water-access facilities, including ten cooperative projects and 16 sites where low-water levels, caused by the drought, restricted boat launching. South Area staff worked very closely with a number of local resorts, lake associations, and area residents.

Some of the projects completed by the South Area crew include:

- Rice Lake - Flynn's Landing - cooperative project with Hobart Township (Otter Tail County)
- West Battle Lake - cooperative project with City of Battle Lake (Otter Tail County)
- Fish Lake (Otter Tail County)
- Lake Christina (Grant County)

Even though only one major project was completed during the 1988 season, that project, Otter Tail Lake-Riverside, provided a convenient, much needed access facility for the west side of the lake. Not only will the facility provide boater access to the lake, it also provides parking and easy access to the river bank, below the dam, for shore-based fishing.

Maintenance: In 1988, the South Area had maintenance responsibilities for 159 water-access facilities. In addition to the summer maintenance performed at each site (mowing and litter removal), South Area personnel repaired ice damage on 51 DNR-controlled water-access facilities during April and May of 1988, to get them in shape for the fishing opener. The lack of snow cover during the 1987-88 winter is thought to have been a major cause of the damage to the ramps and shoreline of these facilities. The South Area work crew proved to be very capable and cost-effective in handling this unexpected problem. Because trail recreation facilities are limited in number, trail maintenance in the South Area is limited to an occasional project within one of the three State Parks (Maplewood, Lake Carlos, and Glacial Lakes) in the South Area.

Grant-in-Aid (Trail Assistance Program): The South Area of Region I is responsible for the administration of the Trail Assistance Program in three counties, dealing with four organizations. The program provides funding for the development, operation and maintenance of 535 miles of snowmobile trails and 16 miles of cross-country ski trails. Trail mileage per county is as follows:

COUNTY	SNOWMOBILE	CROSS COUNTRY SKI
Douglas	435	16
Otter Tail	50	
Pope	50	

Cooperative Agreement Program: In 1988, the South Area staff completed 12 cooperative projects with local units of government. Some of the projects completed during the 1988 season were:

- ° Lake Geneva Fishing Pier (Alexandria Township)
- ° Pebble Lake Fishing Pier (City of Fergus Falls)
- ° Rice Lake - Flynn's Landing - complete access facility (Hobard Township)
- ° West Battle Lake - double concrete ramp (City of Battle Lake)
- ° Orwell Reservoir - road and parking area improvements and ramp (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)
- ° Mud Lake - channel dredging from access to main channel (Traverse County)

ISSUES AND CONCERNS

Compliment Clerical Positions for T & W: The unit is proposing full-time clerical positions. One of these positions will be at the Bemidji Regional Office. This position also provides clerical assistance to the North Area Programs and fiscal organization to the Regional and both Area offices.

Increase in Maintenance Funding in the Water Recreation Program: User surveys indicate a desire for toilets, docks, and lighting at more water accesses. In addition, we will be providing boater information at the most popular sites, such as lake-depth maps.

Funds for Paul Bunyan Trail: The last Legislature authorized the establishment of the Paul Bunyan Trail on the abandoned rail line from Brainerd to Bemidji. It is hoped that the next session will authorize funds for acquisition, planning, and development of this trail.

For more information, contact:

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Ardon "Butch" Belcher, Trails Coordinator 218 755-3969
Dick Kimball, Area Manager 755-3972

HEARTLAND TRAIL - P. O. Box 112, Nevis 56467
Herman Dudley, Specialist 652-4054

FERGUS FALLS - 1221 Fir Avenue East 56537
Bruce Winterfeldt, Area Manager 739-7576

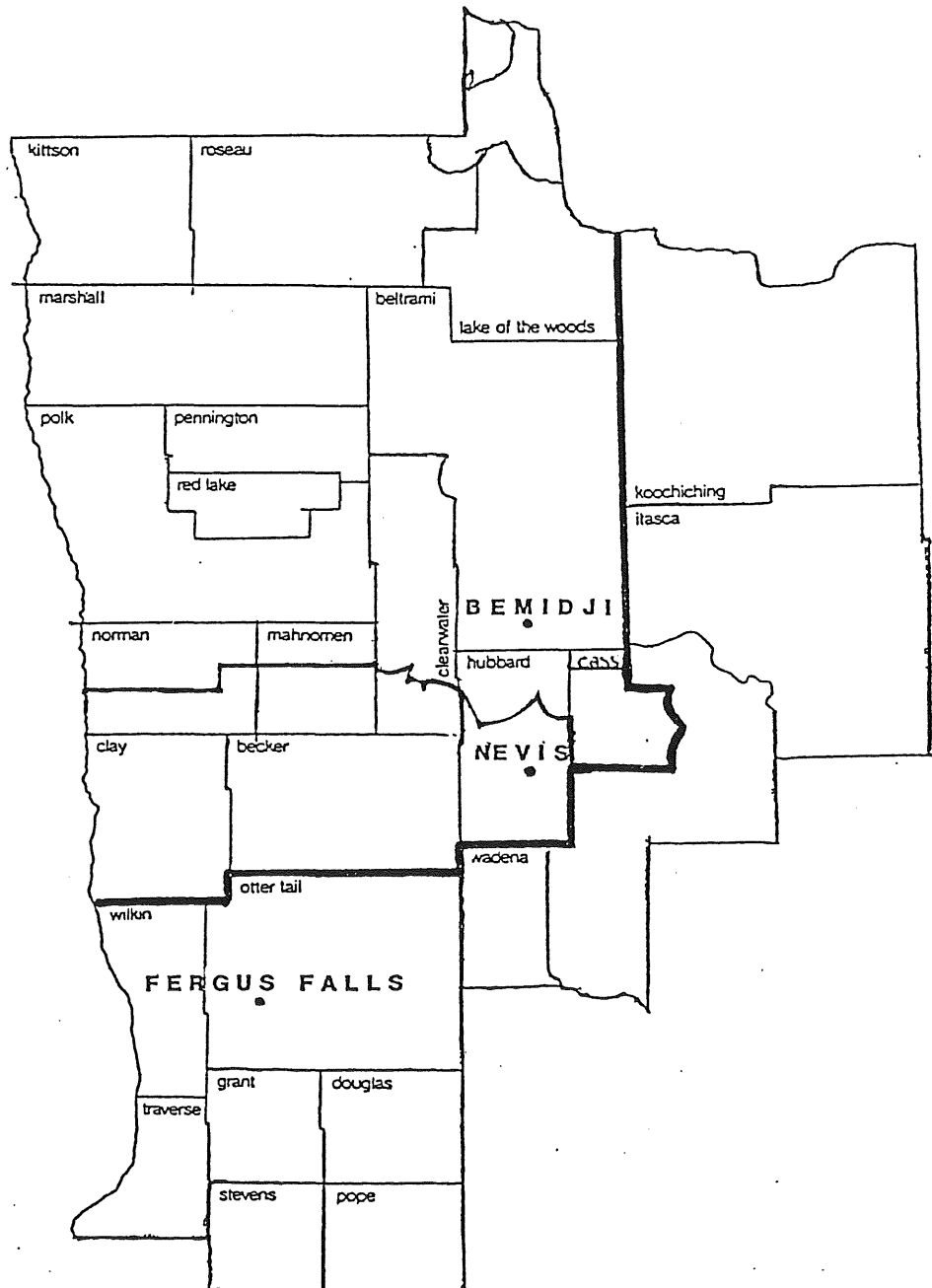
TRAILS & WATERWAYS

NORTH AREA

DISTRICT 1

DISTRICT 2

SOUTH AREA



The Division of Waters (DOW) is unlike most other Divisions in the Department of Natural Resources in that it deals with a finite, non-renewable resource, the waters of the State of Minnesota. There are thousands of lakes and wetlands and thousands of miles of streams. The charge of the Division of Waters is to protect them. Responsibilities involve highly regulatory work that often finds our staff dealing directly with the public in many adverse situations that may be tense and difficult to cope with, i.e., flooding, droughts, high water levels, and riparian rights. Every waters project (large or small, whether sponsored by a community, agency, or private person) is regulated or controlled by the DOW to ensure compliance with state standards established by the Legislature.

On a national scale, Minnesota's water regulation programs are highly regarded. An independent research project conducted in Washington, D.C. a year ago rated Minnesota as the top state for best environmental laws; and we in the Division of Waters are proud to have programs directed toward protecting our waters. Personnel in our division work with individual property owners in managing shoreland usage. We help guide development in shoreland and flood plain areas and frequently work with various local units of government.

The Waterbank Program is a special wetland preservation effort that compensates landowners who agree not to drain protected wetlands. This year, February 1-12, there was a sign-up period for property owners to apply for waterbank dollars to preserve nonprotected wetlands.

The Flood Damage Reduction Program is another new program which seeks to reduce losses from recurring flood waters. In its first grant-assistance year, only \$420,000 was available statewide. In this region alone, we received applications for \$4.76 million. The Waterbank and Flood Damage Reduction programs are good examples of direct public service. But, in a sense, all of the work DOW does is a public service directed towards water resource preservation. Often in our work, we are seeking solutions to serious problems, i.e., flooding, high lake levels, violations, adverse effects from appropriating water, dam safety--and all of these things consume much time, but we are glad to see these programs in effect, and also look forward to new programs. Overall, we view our regulatory work as helpful to the public and also helpful to all the other divisions of DNR.

DIVISION OF WATERS REGIONAL ORGANIZATION

Regional Hydrologists are located in six cities throughout the state, each responsible for water resource program operations in major subdivisions of the state (i.e., the Bemidji Regional Office serves 21 counties in northwest Minnesota). These six offices are tied, administratively, to the Division's Central Office in St. Paul. In

addition, each region is further subdivided into "areas" or field offices. The Northwest Region DOW has offices in Bemidji, Detroit Lakes, Fergus Falls, and Thief River Falls. Because of the wide variety and magnitude of activities involving waters of the state, all of these offices frequently work with agencies at all levels of government, as well as with private individuals and businesses. Computerization is helping to link offices together. It is noteworthy that the Fergus Falls area office was the first area office established in the state (1975), and that in 1988, another "first", a sub-area office opened in the courthouse at Alexandria. This move was designed to bring DOW services closer to the public. The Regional Office is the headquarters of the region and has the most employees. The DOW has five people here and only one or two at each area office.

The Regional Hydrologist is responsible for all DOW field operations within his region and for the supervision of his area employees, but it is the area office personnel that carry out the bulk of the various program services. Over-all program activities include:

- processing permits for construction projects in lakes, streams, and wetlands
- regulating development in shoreland areas of public waters
- furnishing service to the public to solve water related problems
- processing permits for the use of water for irrigation, and non-irrigation purposes
- prosecute violators of water laws
- help resolve disputes, i.e., high water problems, low water, drainage, etc.
- enforcing dam safety procedures
- implementing floodplain regulations and assisting communities during flood disasters, and planning for flood damage reduction measures
- review documents and plans for all sources, concerning proposed water projects, i.e. bridges, dams, reservoirs, ditching, wetland drainage, etc., and
- many others, i.e., waterbank, environmental quality, etc.

The Division Director has an advisory Water Management Committee that helps him make decisions and plan for future program efforts and direction. The Director also assigns special committees or task forces to gather facts and information and make recommendations, as may be needed to address special issues, or to respond to legislative inquiries.

Short-range planning is usually accomplished by these committees and is supplemented by annual work plans that outline projected goals. Long-range programs are usually the result of legislative mandates resulting from some perceived need or anticipated problem.

In addition, the department has an Office of Planning which functions as a support unit. Planning can include, in their own work plan, elements requested from the Division of Waters.

On a broader scale there is the State Planning Agency which provides services which cross agency lines, i.e., statewide mapping, computerized data, etc.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

The following summary lists a few of the DOW's significant achievements in Region I:

The Straight River aquifer project represents a new investigation supported by the LCMR. It involves water users and examines the effects of irrigation on a trout stream. There is concern for the change in temperature and water quality, and that the resulting impact could be significant enough to eliminate certain trout species from the stream. This project is also a good example of interagency participation involving the DNR, PCA, USGS, and local government.

Flood Damage Reduction

Eleven projects were funded in fiscal '88-'89 in Region I totaling \$698,700. These programs range from farm ring dikes and county levees to headwaters impoundments. We have established the first Flood Damage Reduction Headquarters in the state, at Detroit Lakes.

Red River Agricultural Dikes.

A North Dakota/Minnesota interstate battle since 1975. There has been an established interstate agreement, a court settlement, and dike modifications made in both states to prevent upstream flooding. One million dollars have been allocated by the Legislature for corrective work in Minnesota.

Waterbank

Ten projects since 1979. More than 2,188 acres of wetlands/uplands have been preserved because of this program.

Dam Safety

Approximately 200 inspections/reports made, 15 in the last year. Nine dams have been repaired with special grants. Three of the most recent are Lake Bronson, Pelican Rapids, and the City of Stephen.

Red River Coordination

The position of "Red River Coordinator" is a unique one created to serve as a liaison between the DNR and the watershed districts of the Red River Valley. It is the first position of its kind in the state and was authorized in 1979. Over \$4 million has been allocated for construction of flood-control impoundments, and to date, 13 projects have been completed and several others are still underway. Projects range in size from 100 acres, to the 16,000-acre Moose River Impoundment. Currently there are 17 more prospective projects that would total nearly \$8 million.

Special Funding:

- ° dam repair
- ° clearing and snagging
- ° USGS gaging ((Bemidji/Bagley land plains study and Bemidji Lakes study)
- ° Low-flow studies (droughts, and Clearwater River water allocation with Watershed District)
- ° LCMR: Straight River Project; Rainy River navigation

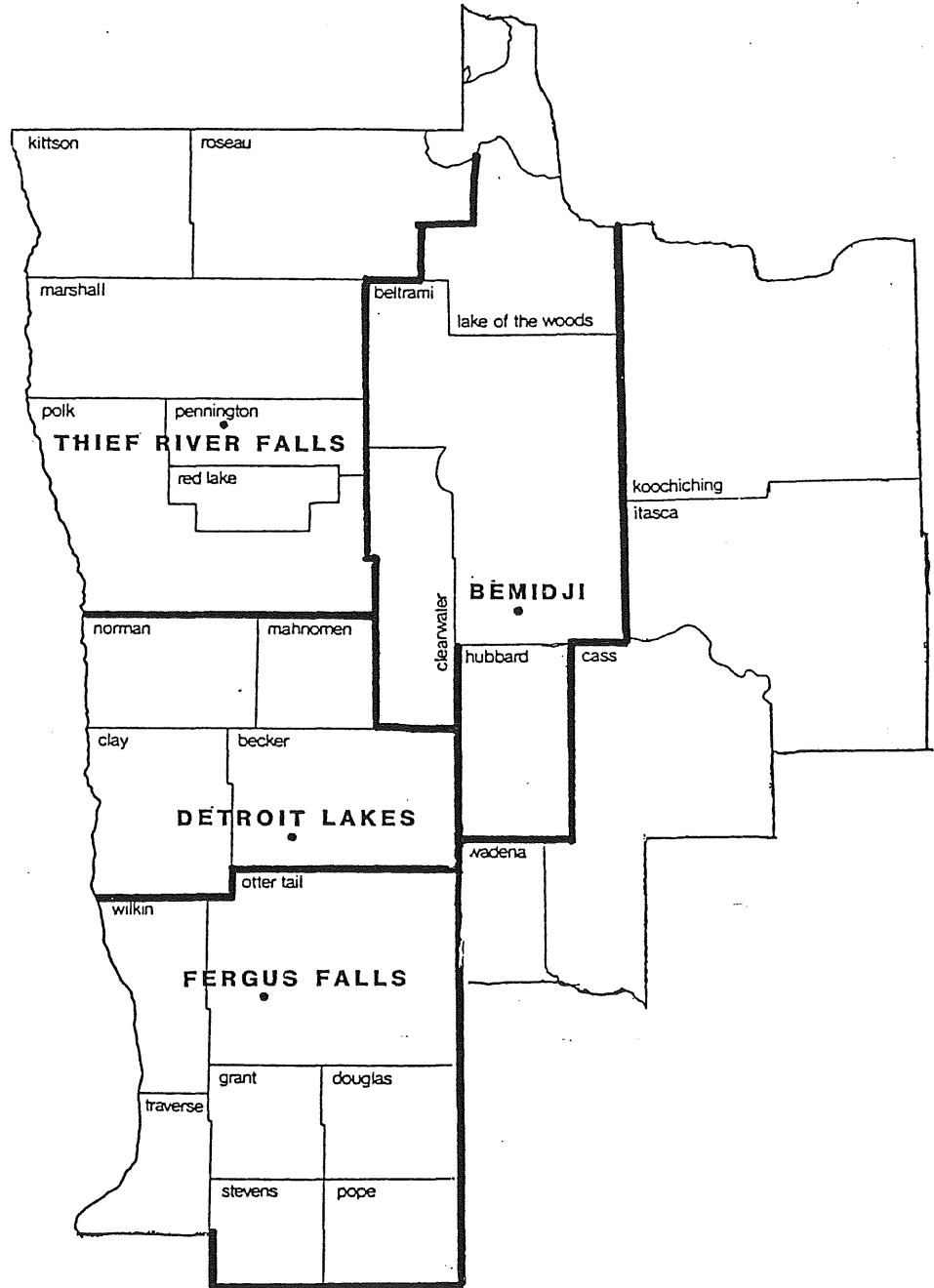
Wetland Restoration

Restorations involve cases where drainage was done without permits and corrective work has been required through enforcement of water laws. Notable examples of restored wetlands are Plum Grove Lake in Becker County, Krantz Lake in Pope County, plus numerous unnamed wetlands throughout the region.

For more information, contact

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS- 2115 Birchmont Beach Rd NE, Bemidji Gerald Paul, Regional Hydrologist and Kirk English, Area Hydrologist	218-755-3973
DETROIT LAKES - Box 823 56501 Robert Merritt, Area Hydrologist	218 847-1579
FERGUS FALLS - 1221 Fir Avenue East 56537 Terry Lejcher, Area Hydrologist	218 739-7576
THIEF RIVER FALLS - <u>Position Vacant</u> , Area Hydrologist	218 681-7789

WATERS



Manager: L. James Breyen Fish and Wildlife : Wildlife Section

Wetlands Population Group Leader: Robert T. Eberhardt
Non-game Supervisor: Kathryn Haws

The mission of the Division of Fish and Wildlife is to protect and manage Minnesota's fish, wildlife, native plants, and their communities for their intrinsic values and long-term benefits to Minnesota citizens. Section of Wildlife activities in Region I include waterfowl research, non-game programs, and wildlife management.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Region I has 335 Wildlife Management Areas (WMA's) totaling about 540,000 acres, 63% of the State's wildlife management area acreage. The Region also has 112,000 protected wetlands, about 43% of the state's total wetland area, and 4,300 lake basins.

Region I wildlife management activities are conducted from 13 field stations located throughout the region (see attached map). Regional wildlife staff includes a manager, assistant manager, forest wildlife planner, wetland habitat specialist, prairie specialist, clerk-typist III, and 50% clerk typist I. Field station staffing varies from a two-person team (wildlife manager and seasonal laborer) at Morris to a six-person team (wildlife manager, assistant manager, technician, several laborers, and seasonal staff) at Thief Lake and Red Lake WMA's.

Some of the management highlights include:

1. The acquisition of several major parcels within Mansten Slough in Clay County and Roseau Lake in Roseau County will add immensely to the needed waterfowl production and migration habitat.

2. With the continental waterfowl populations at historical all-time lows, emphasis has been put on improving and creating waterfowl production and migration areas. With water as a common concern, the DNR, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Ducks Unlimited, Watershed Districts, and County Boards began pooling their resources; creating projects with wildlife, flood control, and stream-flow maintenance benefits. The cooperative Moose River Impoundments (North and South Pools) in Beltrami County were completed and dedicated this past fall. These two impoundments will also provide more stable water levels for Thief Lake and Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge Pools. The five-year project to improve the Roseau River dike and control system in Roseau County was completed this past summer. A total of \$1.5 million was expended on the project. Construction began this fall on the Elm Lake restoration project in Marshall County. Planning is almost complete on the two Bjornson pools in Clay County. Planning is proceeding on the Mansten Slough Impoundments in Clay County and the Nereson sub-impoundment in Roseau County. Planning has also begun with the local watershed district on the Palmville and Juneberry Ridge Impoundments in Roseau County.

The flood-control benefits that these multi-use impoundments provide was demonstrated during the spring of 1979 when it was determined that Thief Lake, Agassiz NWR, and Elm Lake's Lost River Pool reduced the flood peaks at Crookston by 1.4 feet and at East Grand Forks by .4 feet.

3. The legislative appropriation of Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) funds provided for an accelerated prescribed burning program. During the past two burning seasons about 23,000 acres were burned in the region. Improvement of sharp-tailed grouse, moose, prairie chicken, and prairie habitats were targeted. RIM funding permitted the field stations to triple annual acreages burned and more closely approach the annual goal of 30,000 to 40,000 acres.

4. In an effort to reverse the drastic decline in the region's forested moose populations, an intensive effort to shear decadent willow and alder, setting back plant succession, was undertaken. Four DNR dozers and private contractors have been shearing brush the past few winters in eastern Marshall, southeastern Roseau and northwestern Beltrami Counties. RIM allocations have again come to the rescue. The Minnesota Deer Hunters Association, through fund raising programs, have provided the necessary monies under the RIM critical habitat match for several regional projects annually.

5. The first elk season since 1892 was conducted during the fall of 1987. Four permits were issued to eight hunters. Two elk were harvested after five-+ days of hunting per party. The hunt was considered a success.

6. Wildlife field stations coordinated forest-wildlife management activities with the Division of Forestry completing the Park Rapids Area Plan, the draft Baudette Area Plan, and work has begun on the Warroad Area Plan.

8. A total of 3,500 acres were seeded to corn, sunflowers, small grains, and green browse for resident wildlife and migrating waterfowl.

9. Wildlife managers provide technical and financial assistant to private landowners on 3,300 acres of food plots annually. RIM funding provided monies for an expanded private land program this year to manage deer and sharp-tailed grouse habitat on private land.

NEEDS

Until the recent RIM funding, wildlife operations were funded through dedicated funds from license sales. With inflation, wildlife was not able to maintain or expand habitat development work. To complicate the resource problem, many acres of wildlife habitat were being converted to other uses. The Governor's Advisory Council, environmental groups, sportsmans' organizations, the Legislature, and the DNR teamed their efforts to provide monies for RIM projects and a new life for our wildlife resource.

The wildlife resource provides a major economic impact to most parts of rural Minnesota. Motels, cafes, gas stations, and sporting goods stores are some of the businesses that benefit most by the influx of deer, pheasant, grouse, and waterfowl hunters into rural Minnesota in the fall. Major contributions by private groups such as Ducks Unlimited, Minnesota Deer Hunters Association, and the Minnesota Waterfowl Association provide funding for hiring local contractors and workers to complete habitat improvement projects such as the \$1.5 million Elm Lake Restoration project.

A major challenge facing the Section of Wildlife is meeting the demands of future wildlife resource users. With the overwhelming passage of the Environmental Trust Fund it is clear that the people of Minnesota were concerned about the future of wildlife and other natural resources and we need to make a strong commitment to address these concerns.

Personnel needs are the primary concern of the Region. The minimum field station staff should be a manager, assistant, laborer, and part-time clerical. At the present time, managers and assistants are doing the office clerical work, a waste of trained technical staff. Also, with the expanded timber harvest and demand, forest wildlife offices are having trouble reviewing all projects for multiple-use benefits.

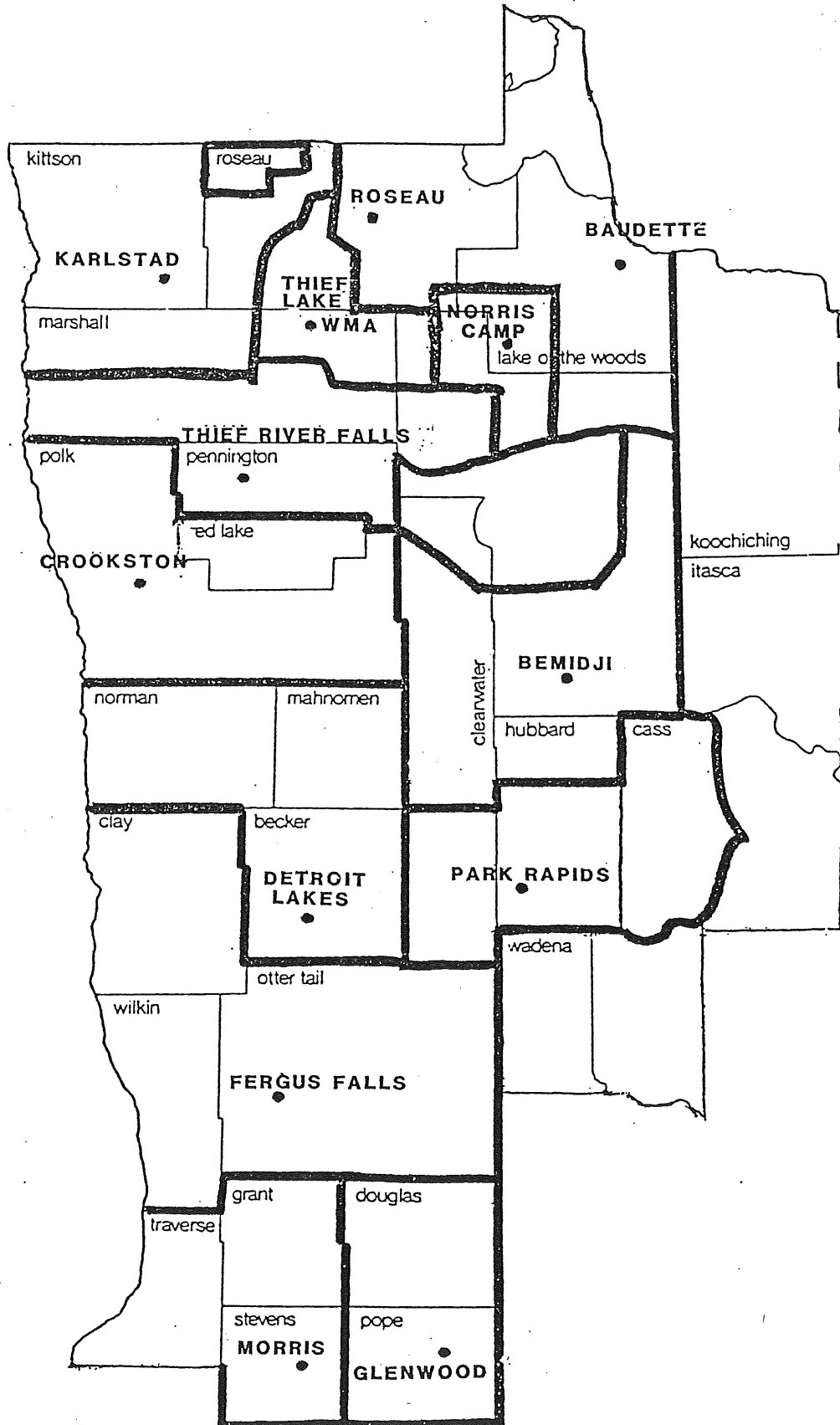
Equipment needs are the second concern. Most of the 12 tractors used for farm work, road and trail mowing, firebreak mowing, etc. are 1960's vintage and on their last legs. Wildlife has five dozers in the D-5 class or larger. Three of these machines are military excess and of 1950-1960 vintage. All three of these machines should be replaced. Project completion reports indicate that during the past two years wildlife could shear an acre of brush for \$20 while it takes \$30 per acre when done by contractor.

For more information, contact

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS - 2115 Birchmont Beach Rd NE, Bemidji	
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Gerry Maertens, Asst. Regional Mgr.	218 755-3642
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BAUDETTE - Box 1001, 56623	
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Terry Wolfe, Area Manager	218 281-3287
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GLENWOOD - Route 3, Box 1A 56334 Jerry Larson, Area Manager	218 634-4573
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ROSEAU RIVER WMA - Star Rt 5, Box 103 56751 Stan Wood, Area Manager	218 463-1557
RED LAKE WMA - Box 100, Roosevelt 56673 Jeanine Vorland, Area Manager	218 783-6861
THIEF LAKE WMA - NE Star Rt, Box 11, Middle River 56737 Paul Telander, Area Manager	218 222-3747
MORRIS - 701 Iowa Avenue, Morris 56267 John Scharf, Area Manager	612-589-1030
PARK RAPIDS - Box 271, Park Rapids 56470 Rob Naplin, Area Manager	218 732-8452
THIEF RIVER FALLS - 123 Main Ave. N, 56701 Gordon Forester, Area Manager	218 681-7789

WILDLIFE



Nongame staff consists of the Nongame Specialist, two seasonal technicians and Minnesota Conservation Corps (MCC) summer assistants.

The statewide annual budget of \$700,000 is provided solely by contributions to the "chickadee checkoff" on income tax and property tax forms.

Conservation projects include many of the 252 nongame birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and fish found in Region I. Current projects of interest in Region I include the following:

1. Trumpeter Swan Restoration

Once native to Minnesota, Trumpeter Swans are being reintroduced in NW Minnesota, in Becker County near Detroit Lakes. Twenty swans were released in 1987, and 36 swans were released in 1988. The first nesting of nongame project swans occurred in 1988; a pair released in 1987 hatched three cygnets near Hinckley. In addition, a pair in Polk County nested for the first time, and produced one cygnet. Additional releases are planned for 1989 and 1990.

2. Endangered Species Projects

There are 88 active Bald Eagle territories in Region I. The Bald Eagle is classified as a threatened species on the state and federal rare-species lists. Management plans are being completed for territories in the region. Plans provide landowners with accurate nest locations, as well as conservation suggestions.

The only nesting population of Piping Plovers in Minnesota, consisting currently of 30 birds, nests on Pine and Curry Islands in Lake of the Woods. Population monitoring, habitat protection and public relations work continues in an effort to protect this small population.

3. Habitat Management

Habitat management projects include establishment of bluebird trails, placement of bat roosting structures, placement of loon nesting platforms, and boreal owl boxes. Nongame concerns are made evident through participation in the forest planning process, as well as the environmental review process. Land acquisition of suitable sites such as the Shelley Island WMA in Becker County are pursued as funds become available. A few RIM-funded projects are in the planning stage, including a prairie restoration project for the Fisher's Landing MnDOT rest area, and a land acquisition project in Dugdale WMA, Polk County. Habitat management for Great Gray Owls in the Lost River State Forest is coordinated with the Division of Forestry.

4. Census and Survey

Census and survey efforts are directed towards herons, gulls, pelicans, cormorants, egrets, and terns. In addition, passerine birds, bald eagles and bluebirds, as well as reptiles and amphibians, are surveyed in the region. Sandhill Cranes are being targeted for survey work in 1989, through \$6000 appropriated to the Wetland Wildlife Populations and Research Group. Additional emphasis on owls and small mammals is being considered for 1989.

5. Education

Education is also part of the Nongame Program. Slides, movies and videos on wildlife topics are made available to teachers. In addition, the Nongame Specialist presents programs on a variety of topics including wildlife education, landscaping for wildlife, loons, and reptiles and amphibians of Minnesota. An average of 25 programs are presented annually. New information such as brochures and posters, are made available to the public on a regular basis.

For more information, contact Katie Haws, Region Nongame Specialist
2115 Birchmont Beach Road NE, Bemidji, MN 56601
218 755-2976

Wetland Wildlife Populations and Research Group

The Populations and Research Program of the Section of Wildlife conducts surveys and research projects throughout the state to provide annual population information to managers and generate new information concerning wildlife ecology. The major product of this program is biological information which is an important component of management's problem-solving process.

Wildlife Populations and Research is centered in the St. Paul office with specialized groups located at Madelia (Farmland), Grand Rapids (Forest) and Bemidji (Wetland). Administrative support services are provided by the respective regional office with direct supervision from the St. Paul office. Funds from the Game and Fish Fund and federal aid provide about one million dollars annually for the total operation. The group in Bemidji has a staff of about 14 employees (4-5 permanent, 4-5 part-time, and 4-5 seasonal). Group scientists and the staff specialist work closely with DNR wildlife managers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, other states and Canadian provinces of the Mississippi Flyway Council, and various universities to achieve common objectives in waterfowl management and research.

Remaining wetland habitat in Minnesota has created an international focal point for breeding and migrant waterfowl, particularly those associated with the Mississippi Flyway. Minnesota commonly has the most waterfowl hunters in the United States, harvests the largest number of Canadian geese in the flyway, and often is among the top four duck-harvest states in the country. This importance requires monitoring, conserving, and managing waterfowl and their habitats.

With more than 99% of Minnesota's original prairie wetlands and nearly 60% of wetlands in the transition zone lost to drainage, only about one million acres of semi-permanent and permanent wetlands (types 3, 4, and 5) remain in high duck-production areas. Intensive management of remaining wetlands and associated uplands is essential to produce ducks and provide high quality habitat for resident and migrant waterfowl. The Wetland Wildlife Group provides biological information that is essential to develop management strategies to meet population, harvest, and habitat objectives.

Broad objectives of the Wetland Populations and Research Group are as follows:

- 1) Monitor population levels of 20 species of ducks and two species of geese that utilize habitat in Minnesota to complete portions of their annual cycle.
- 2) Monitor waterfowl habitat quantity and quality.
- 3) Determine waterfowl habitat preferences.

- 4) Relate waterfowl habitat management practices to habitat quality and population levels.
- 5) Model waterfowl populations and their habitats to predict outcomes of selected harvest and habitat management practices.
- 6) Provide managers with timely and pertinent information necessary to manage the waterfowl resource.

Ongoing projects to gather long term population information include aerial spring breeding population surveys (105 transects estimate populations for about one-third of the state), an extensive summer and cooperative pre-season duck-banding program (about 5,000 ducks annually), cooperative flyway Canada goose studies and bi-weekly fall migration surveys of the entire state.

Ongoing waterfowl field research includes Ecology and Management of Ring-necked ducks in Minnesota. No other field projects are operational due to funding shortages. Recent projects included work on over-water mallard nesting ecology, population surveys of cavity-nesting waterfowl and scaup migration ecology. Group scientists have had extensive responsibilities in the section's recent long-range planning process.

Two principle factors limit the group in achieving their objectives:

- One is a chronic lack of long-term funding to assure research projects will be fully funded throughout the period of investigation and reporting. Biological information regarding duck recruitment rates and the impact of competing uses for wetlands is critically needed in the near future.
- The second is a substandard facility. The group is located in a former forestry residence with approximately 650 square feet of office space and makeshift library, laboratory, and storage space. Inconsistent funding and a severely limited facility have reduced our ability to compete in the labor market, to attract and/or hold top research specialists, which further hampers productivity.

Future building needs have been identified in the Region I consolidation plan. Although unfunded, the plan does incorporate adequate office, library, laboratory, and storage space for the wetland group.

For further information contact Robert T. Eberhardt (218 755-2973) at 102 23rd Street, Bemidji, MN 56601.

MINNESOTA STATE PARKS

STATUS REPORT

SEPTEMBER 1988



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PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to provide citizens with a brief analysis of what is happening to their Minnesota state park resources. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Division of Parks and Recreation personnel are charged with the responsibility of managing state park resources in the public interest. It is also the responsibility of DNR to inform citizens when state park resources and facilities are in danger of deterioration from heavy use and a shortage of financial resources. This document describes the park system, outlines current issues and problems and outlines proposed solutions. If you have specific questions, more information is available from DNR Parks and Recreation, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-4039; or from your local state park manager.

INTRODUCTION

The mission of the Division of Parks and Recreation is to provide a state park system that perpetuates Minnesota's scenic beauty and its natural and cultural resources, while being responsive to public needs and expectations and providing a diversity of recreational opportunities.

To accomplish this mission, Minnesota State Parks needs your help. That is why this brochure was made—to give you up-to-date information and statistics on Minnesota's state parks. Reading this brochure will let you know what the situation is and where the problems lie.

The Division of Parks and Recreation manages 64 state parks and 17 waysides across Minnesota. The state park system is a key element of Minnesota's tourism industry, which in many areas of the state is becoming the backbone of the economy. Individual state parks have become focal points for local tourism efforts and for many outdoor recreation activities. Minnesota's most unique and valuable cultural and natural resources are found within state park boundaries. It is the division's responsibility to protect and interpret these unique resources.

Minnesota's state parks are deteriorating because of increasing use and the level of funding currently available. Recent state funding deficiencies have seriously eroded the ability of the Division of Parks and Recreation to serve the rapidly increasing numbers of park visitors. Cost-saving measures have been implemented but they only reduce public service and speed up deterioration. It will soon be impossible to market and maintain acceptable levels of service to the public, contribute to the state's tourism economy, manage park resources and generate revenues without staff positions and financing in proportion to our public service and resource management mission. Please take stock of the situation. Read on and know the facts.

I. THE MINNESOTA STATE PARK SYSTEM DESCRIPTION

A variety of services and facilities are provided in Minnesota state parks to make visitor experiences with the natural resources more comfortable, educational and enjoyable.

Facilities

- More than 4,000 campsites are provided
 - * 3,525 modern vehicle campground sites with showers available
 - * 346 rustic vehicular campground sites
 - * 21 cart-in sites (small 2-wheel carts provided)
 - * 65 walk-in sites
 - * 97 backpack sites
 - * 63 canoe-in sites
 - 75 group camps are provided
 - * 8 group camps have dormitory cabins
 - * 15 are specially designed for campers with horses
 - Douglas Lodge Complex
 - * 5 rooms in Douglas Lodge
 - * 18 rooms in Nicollet Court
 - * 10 rooms in Club House
 - * 19 cabins
 - 33 designated swimming beaches
 - 4,200 picnic sites
 - * 53 picnic shelters
 - 43 visitor & interpretive centers
 - 29 parks have interpretive programs
 - * 9 year- round programs
 - over 1,600 buildings (900 are major buildings, larger than 100 square feet)
 - sewage disposal facilities in all parks
 - * 13 sewage lagoons
 - * 41 lift stations
 - 262 water wells
 - over 1,000 miles of trails
 - * 780 miles hiking
 - * 510 miles cross country skiing
 - * 390 miles snowmobiling
 - * 40 miles bicycling
 - * 210 miles horseback riding
 - 95 water accesses within state parks
 - 336 miles of road inside state parks
-

These recreational opportunities are dispersed across 200,000 acres of state land which were selected for their rare, sensitive and scenic natural resources.

Some Examples of State Parks

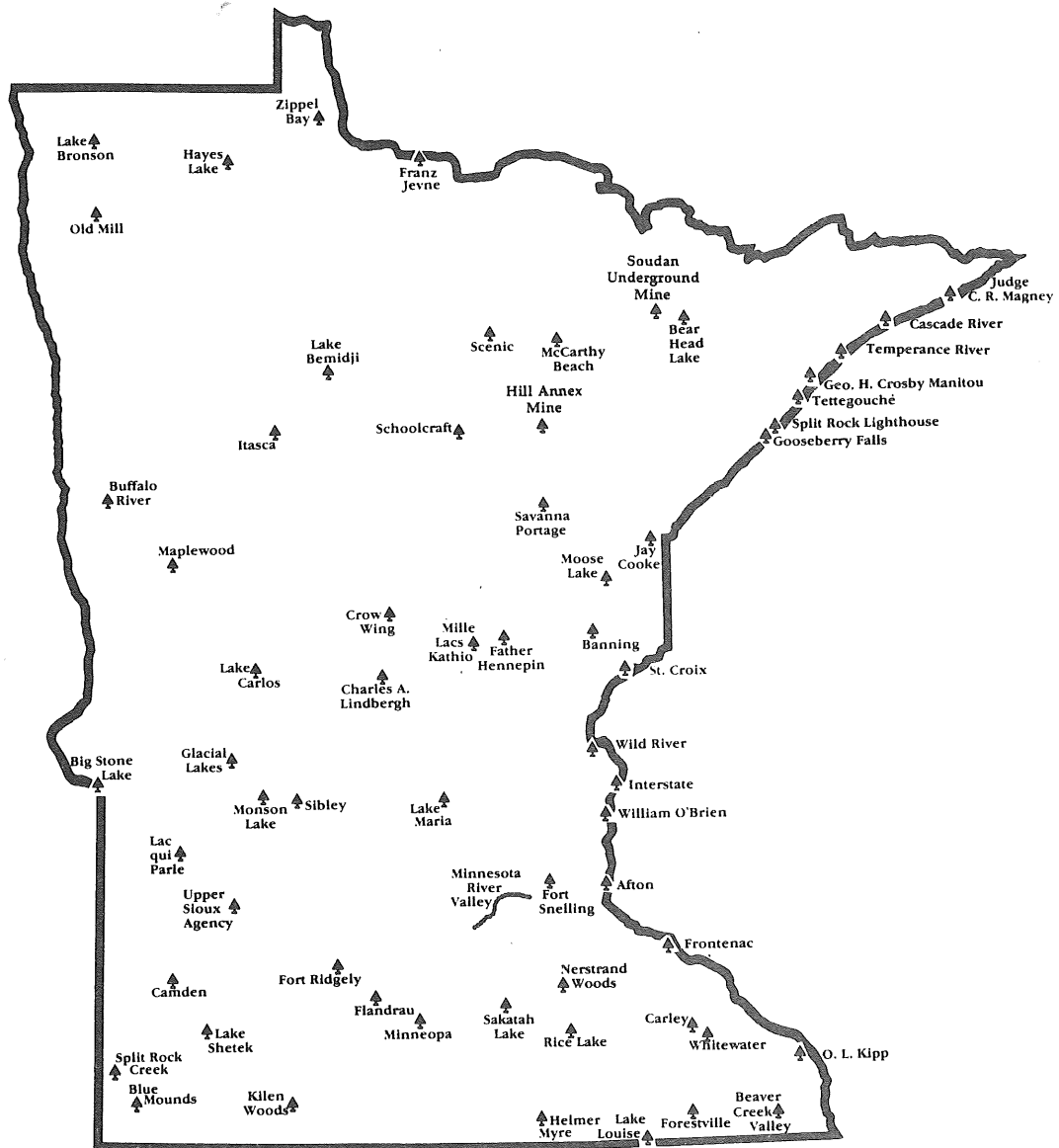
Each of the 64 Minnesota state parks offer a diversity of natural settings and scenic wonders to enjoy; from the tall pine forests to the rolling prairies; from small springs to the roaring waves of Lake Superior.

Itasca State Park in north central Minnesota contains 30,000 acres of pristine lake and virgin pine country surrounding the headwaters of the Mississippi. The historic Douglas Lodge, adjacent cabins and 218 campsites provide overnight accommodations for park visitors. Numerous hiking, skiing, bicycling and snowmobile trails, and the scenic Wilderness Drive, provide access to remote areas of the park.

The state parks along the North Shore are famous for their waterfalls, rocky shorelines, spectacular views and history. Included are Gooseberry Falls, Split Rock Lighthouse, Tettegouche, Temperance River, Cascade River and Judge C. R. Magney State Parks.

Forestville State Park in southeastern Minnesota encloses a late 1800's townsite complete with a restored and stocked country store nestled into rugged limestone walled valleys and filled with rushing trout streams. This 2,600 acre park provides 73 vehicular campsites, a horse campground and a picnic ground with an enclosed shelter for visitor comfort. Hiking, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling and horseback riding trails provide access throughout this series of valleys and to trout fishing opportunities. Mystery Cave, with 13 miles of spectacular underground passageways, has recently been added to this park.

Blue Mounds State Park is a 2,000 acre park in southwestern Minnesota which encompasses 100 foot rock cliffs that rise out of the surrounding level cropland. Now buffalo again can be seen on the prairie in this beautiful state park. Swimming is provided in a small pond. There are 73 vehicle campsites, a picnic grounds, interpretive center and a buffalo herd to view, learn about and enjoy. Hiking and snowmobile trails provide access to the bluff top and the stone cliffs.



State Park Visitation

Minnesota state park use is increasing dramatically after several years of limited change. In 1986, state park attendance was 5,500,000 visitor occasions. By the end of 1987, attendance rose 22% to 6,700,000. Visitation for 1988 is up significantly again and is expected to reach 7,100,000 visitor occasions. Some of this increase is because of favorable weather conditions, but improved marketing, promotion, special events and quality public service are responsible for a large part of state parks increased popularity.

State Park Visitor Survey

As important as it is to find ways to provide quality service to park visitors, it is just as important to find new ways to improve state park visitor satisfaction. The division is on the right track. The 1987 State Park Visitor Survey showed that 94% of the state park visitors enjoyed their stay, 98% said they would return for another visit and 97% said they would recommend state parks to their friends.

WHAT FACILITIES/SERVICES SHOULD BE (OR SHOULD NOT BE) IN THE PARK FOR VISITOR ENJOYMENT?

(top 6 of 55 facilities/services in % of visitors)

'SHOULD BE'		'SHOULD NOT BE'	
Picnic area	97%	Amusement rides	82%
Hiking/walking trails	96%	Motorized ORV trails	75%
Campground	88%	Hunting area	68%
Visitor Center	83%	Golf course	58%
Showers	81%	Motel/lodge	53%
Beach	80%	Game room	51%

WHY DID VISITORS CHOOSE THIS PARK INSTEAD OF ANOTHER RECREATION AREA?

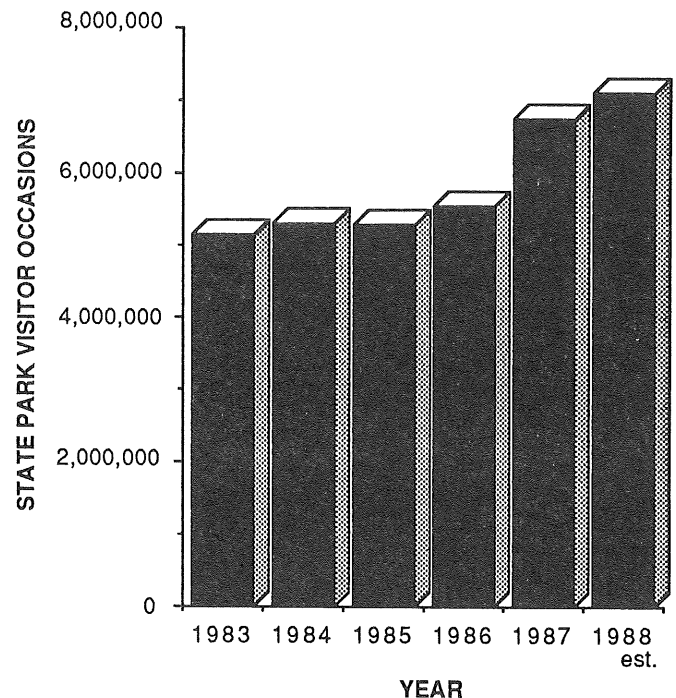
(top 6 of 15 reasons in % of visitors)

Been here before and enjoyed	45%
Natural features	36%
General area of park	33%
Near permanent home	31%
Chance to see wildlife	22%

WHO ARE OUR VISITORS?

- * 80% are Minnesotans, who come from all regions of the state
- * 82% are day users and 18% are campers
- * Half of the day users come directly from home and half are on trips away from home
- * 87% of visitors are traveling with family and friends

STATE PARK VISITOR GROWTH



- * 45% of parties contain children and 21% contain teenagers
- * Our adult visitors:
 - are younger than the general population;
 - have more formal education than the general population; and
 - are more 'middle income' than the general population

WHAT BENEFITS DID VISITORS EXPECT TO RECEIVE FROM THEIR VISIT?

- * High frequency: General 'natural' experience - enjoy scenery, nature, peace and calm; have fun and get exercise
- * Medium frequency: Educational and social experience
- * Low frequency: Challenging outdoor experience; be where social action is; and reflect on personal values

WHAT WERE THE MOST IMPORTANT ITEMS FOR AN ENJOYABLE VISIT?

(top 6 of 35 items)

ITEM	PERCENTAGE OF VISITORS	ITEM RATINGS OF GOOD TO EXCELLENT
Beauty of park	77%	86%
Trails to walk/hike	66%	82%
Clean restrooms	60%	80%
Clean park grounds	54%	92%
Facilities in campground	51%	74%
Courtesy of park staff	46%	95%

Park Visitors Wants and Needs

Times change. People change. Any public service agency must evolve to meet the changes in needs and expectations of its clientele. The state park system needs to respond to and plan for changes and trends in outdoor recreation and the visitors who utilize the state parks.

Major influencing factors for the future of state parks will certainly include the aging of our population. The park system must be prepared for more senior citizens. This market segment has more leisure time, often more disposable income, more sophisticated camping units and higher expectations for comfort and services.

Utilization of recreational vehicles continues to increase. Longer units necessitate campground redesign or rehabilitation to accommodate both size and electrical requirements. Restrooms with showers are an expected service.

The baby boom generation is now moving into middle age with a higher standard of living and older children. The back to the earth movement of the 60's and 70's has given way to more stressful lifestyles and less interest in primitive camping.

Increased concern for personal fitness has resulted in more demand for hiking, bicycling and cross country ski trails. More people are taking shorter but more frequent vacations to escape the demands and stresses of their everyday life. Parks offer the opportunity to "get away" close to home.

As the interrelationships of environmental problems become more apparent, so has the recognition that state parks have tremendous potential for facilitating increased public awareness and concern for environmental issues such as groundwater contamination, acid rain and global warming. Interpretation and education in the state parks enables visitors of all ages to experience first-hand their opportunities and responsibilities for stewardship of their heritage of natural and cultural resources.

To retain the alignment of state park facilities and services with the clientele, it is imperative that the system consistently solicit public input and feedback regarding its quality and be prepared to make changes in keeping with trends and influences.

Economic Impact of State Parks

State parks have a significant impact on the economy of Minnesota. In 1986, the Public Area Recreation Visitors Survey (PARVS) was undertaken as a nationwide intergovernmental research project. Minnesota state parks summer visitors were questioned on their expenditures to determine the economic importance of state parks. These expenditures include lodging, food, transportation and other expenses incurred while traveling. The grounds, services and facilities

state parks offer attract millions of visitors, which in turn, bring millions of outdoor recreation travel export dollars. Travel exports are all expenditures made in a region by non-residents of that region. They are important to local economies because they bring income to the area that originates from outside that region. This income fuels growth in the local economy and contributes to a region's economic well-being.

In 1985, recreationists spent nearly \$2 billion in Minnesota. Of this \$2 billion in expenditures, \$68 million was spent during a five-month period (May to September) by state park visitors on travel expenses and goods and services near the park during their state park visit. Non-resident spending accounted for \$14.4 million of the total. That \$68 million expenditure generated \$98 million of business for the state and supported 1,941 full and part-time jobs. State of Minnesota revenues increased \$10,400,000 (\$4 million from park visitor fees, \$3.8 million from sales tax and \$2.6 million from indirect taxes).

Minnesota state park visitors were organized into three categories for analysis. Visitors who drove from home to visit a park during the day spent an average of \$7.50 per person. Visitors who visited a park during the day as part of a longer trip averaged \$25.69 per person per day. Visitors who camped overnight in the state park spent an average of \$18.89 per person per day.

II. STATE PARK PROBLEMS

There are a variety of major issues that must be addressed by the Division of Parks and Recreation and Minnesota citizens over the next two years. These issues are interrelated. They revolve around the state's need to provide quality outdoor recreation experiences for visitors while protecting the unique resources within state parks and enhancing the state's tourism industry.

Budget Erosion

Two major factors have had a negative impact on the state park system over the last few years. The parks staff and budget have grown very little while new programs, responsibilities, visitor use and visitor services have increased dramatically.

The Division of Parks and Recreation employs 168 full-time people. This permanent staff is assisted by approximately 600 seasonal and part-time employees and 40 needy/elderly people employed under contract with Greenview Inc. This staff operates 64 major state park units, seven days a week, 52 weeks a year.

State park staff has a broad variety of responsibilities.

They include:

1. Operate contact station, check in campers and provide visitors with information
2. Provide park security and protection
3. Provide low-key law enforcement
4. Operate leases and concessions
5. Develop, maintain and operate the park facilities (camp grounds, picnic grounds, trails, interpretive centers, toilets, sewage lagoons, wells, water systems, roads and parking lots)
6. Conduct interpretive programs for visitor enjoyment and education
7. Meet with local groups to discuss common issues
8. Conduct resource management (improve and restore natural vegetation and wildlife populations, control erosion, improve water quality, improve fish habitat and preserve historical/archaeological sites)
9. Conduct summer staff orientation/training programs relating to public relations, communications and enforcement
10. Conduct a marketing program (increase visitor satisfaction, improve public information, promote tourism and redistribute park use)

As operations and capital budgets shrink and demands for service by the public increase, more time is spent on those park responsibilities directly related to public service. These include the operation of the contact station (where visitors

check in and get park information), providing law enforcement and security and maintaining those facilities most used by visitors (1-5 above). Less time and personnel effort has been devoted to services and programs which have long range impacts that may not be immediately apparent to park visitors. These include resource management, long-term building and facility maintenance, interpretation, local public relations, staff training and marketing (5-10).

There are two negative effects on the state park system as a result of this situation. The maintenance and resource management work accumulates and becomes more costly over time. Repairs and resource work that are neglected become major projects and very expensive to correct. At some point, if care is not taken, buildings, facilities and resources may be lost forever or may require total replacement. The second negative impact of neglected responsibilities is a loss of revenue for the state treasury, the local economy and the state park system. If more time were spent on interpretation and local public relations and marketing, the potential to attract visitors would increase along with revenues both at the park and in the local economy.

In an effort to identify reasonable and credible operating standards from which funding needs can be identified, the Division of Parks and Recreation developed "minimum operating standards", based on a system used successfully by the Province of Ontario, Canada, Ministry of Parks. It was found that the current level of Minnesota's operational and maintenance funding is 30% below minimum standards.

Minnesota state park staff is continually striving to provide a better experience for state park visitors. During the past few years, the Division of Parks and Recreation has been providing new visitor services without increased staff or funding. These services were added at the expense of other programs that could be temporarily delayed.

Some of the new services provided include:

- Service orientation of staff - serving more visitors and striving to accommodate their needs
- New administrative responsibilities such as hiring processes, personnel functions, labor relations, fiscal accountability and visitor research and evaluation
- Campground Reservations - reservations can be made in all state park campgrounds
- Special Events - include day-long or weekend celebrations, often presented cooperatively with local communities
- Visa/Mastercard - provides a convenience for park guests
- Lifetimes and Landscapes - a special series of educational and entertainment programs with presentations distributed throughout Minnesota
- Marketing - provides the public with better information on the recreational and educational opportunities in state parks and parks staff with information on visitor needs and expectations.

Natural Resource Management

The State Park Resource Management program was established to carryout the following objectives:

- To perpetuate the natural plant and animal communities of state parks and the ecological processes upon which they depend
- To mitigate the impact of public use and facility development on natural resources
- To preserve rare and endangered plants, animals and communities
- To maintain or recreate examples of pre-settlement Minnesota
- To enhance the natural setting in which outdoor recreation and interpretation occurs

These objectives are not being accomplished. Major resource management problems are not being addressed. Resource management is often easy to put off. Often, results are not felt immediately. In fact, some activities such as the regeneration of a pine stand take 60 years to complete.

The resource management problems within state parks which are not being addressed include severe erosion, invasion by noxious weeds, soil compaction from high use, prairie and forest deterioration, old field restoration, and insect and disease infestations. In some parks vegetation is rapidly moving to a state where European buckthorn, box elder and other undesirable species are becoming predominant.

Emergency and Accelerated Rehabilitation

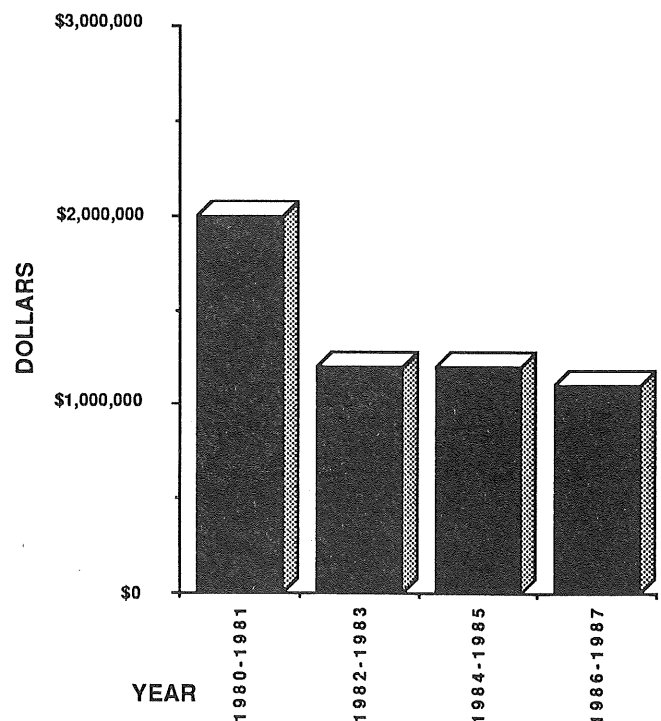
The objective of the Emergency and Accelerated Rehabilitation program is to provide funding for emergency repairs. Rehabilitation on seriously deteriorated facilities, where visitor health and safety are not in danger, is also funded by this program.

A good rehabilitation program of this type is essential in state parks to retain quality recreational facilities for guests and to minimize new development costs for taxpayers. A few dollars worth of rehabilitation now can save major replacement dollars. Rehabilitation will also bring existing facilities up to a standard where they can be maintained in a useful condition for many more years.

The program includes state park structures, roads, utilities and related facilities, many of which are old. For example, 380 major buildings are still in use which were built using Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and Work Progress Administration (WPA) labor during the 1930's.

In the past several years, the increased use of state parks and their aging facilities has lead to increased emergency types of problems which can affect public health and safety.

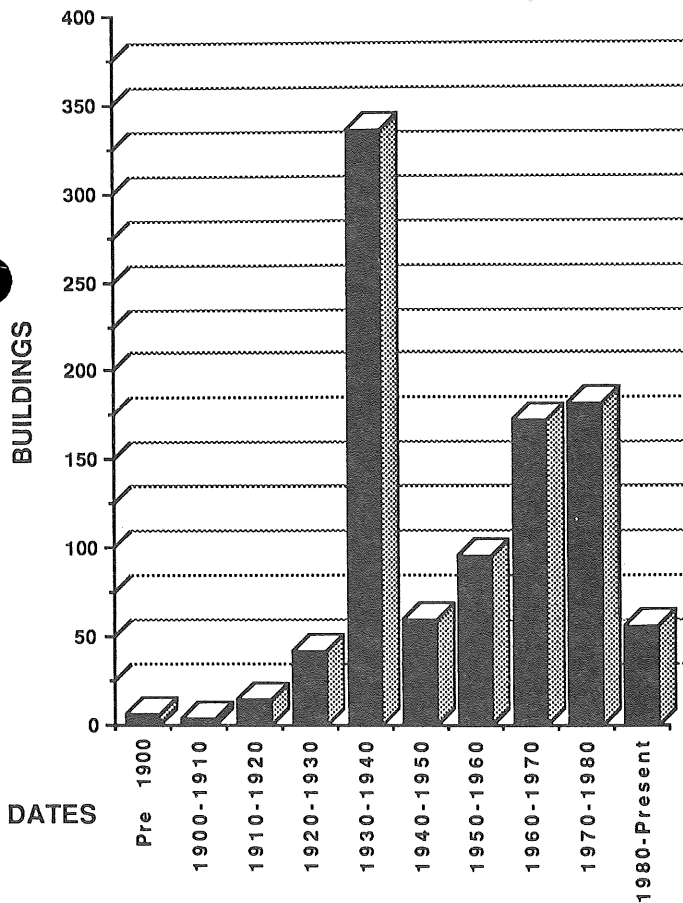
EMERGENCY & ACCELERATED REHABILITATION PROGRAM



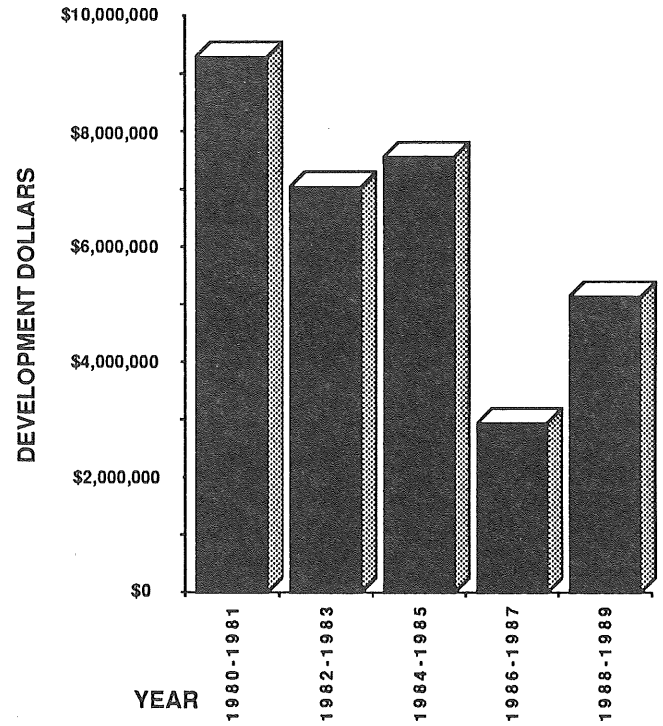
Development (Capital Improvements)

State parks need to be constantly improved for the enjoyment of the park guests and for the presentation and restoration of the natural and cultural environment. Over the years, facility maintenance has not kept up with the needs. This neglect has resulted in the need for funds to conduct major rehabilitation projects and replace buildings. The state park system has the largest amount of buildings and facilities in the Department of Natural Resources with over 2,800 major facilities requiring continuous maintenance and replacement. However, the Park Development program has been decreased significantly in the past 10 years. The development budget was drastically cut from approximately \$10,000,000 per biennium to \$5,000,000 for the current biennium.

AGE OF STATE PARK BUILDINGS



STATE PARK DEVELOPMENT FUNDING



Equipment

While attendance and the demand for services is increasing, the condition of the division's equipment has been slowly deteriorating.

A few years ago, many park workers drove vehicles that had over 100,000 miles and were normally replaced with used vehicles with slightly less mileage. The department's new Fleet Program was started in 1987 and has begun to take care of the problem of timely replacement.

However, the Fleet Program does not address smaller, motorized equipment and non-motorized equipment such as two-way radios, cash registers, safety equipment, computers, mowers, chainsaws, shop equipment, snowplows, movie and slide projectors, office furniture and power tools. Equipment of this kind is needed to provide for visitor enjoyment and safety and efficient service. Many of the radios are so outdated that parts cannot be found to repair them when they break down.

Another area of concern is the inability to keep up with visitor's expectations for snow grooming. Many parks groom trails with older, inadequate snowmobiles and homemade tracksetters. When these machines do work, they are slow and cannot handle deep or old icy snow.

III. IMMEDIATE NEEDS - 1990-91 BIENNIUM

The future for the Minnesota state park system looks bright despite the problems. The future is bright because of the extremely high quality and value of our park resources, our dedicated staff and because the means to address the problems are at hand. The solutions to state park issues inevitably involve people and financing. This is primarily because the parks and recreation operational budget is about 80% salaries. Serious problems with natural resources, customer service, buildings and facilities can be reduced with staff positions and necessary funding to do the job.

The most complex problem facing state parks in attempting to put the state park system back on track is determining the correct level of funding necessary to rehabilitate and maintain our state's natural treasures. The DNR, Division of Parks and Recreation, analyzed the state park system during the past year and identified the most critical needs. If these needs can be met Minnesota's state park system can be rehabilitated and can play an even more important role in the areas of social well-being and economic development.

The immediate needs described in this brochure are for the upcoming 1990-91 biennium. They are needed as additions to the base level Parks and Recreation budget. When secured, they will become part of the base level budgets of the future.

The Division of Parks and Recreation has traditionally used its dedicated revenue account (funds generated by permit fees, camping fees and merchandise sales) to pay for one-third of its operating expenses. Increased attendance at state parks has resulted in a corresponding increase in the funds dedicated to this account. Therefore, in keeping with the traditional formula, one-third of the 1990-91 operations funding needs could be paid for out of the Division of Parks and Recreation's dedicated revenue account.

State Park Operations Funding Needs

The established base funding level that state parks has operated under in the past is grossly inadequate. The four programs with the most critical need for increased annual funding levels are:

1. Interpretation/Education Program

The State Park Interpretation-Education Program currently has only one full-time naturalist. The recently completed Statewide Interpretive Plan has identified conversion of ten 90% part time naturalists to full-time as an initial step in fulfilling visitor expectations. These positions are critical to provide quality interpretive programming for park visitors, particularly school groups. The stability and status of full-time positions are essential to recognize the professional nature of interpretive responsibilities.

1990-91 NEED: \$110,000 and conversion of 10 part-time field positions to full-time.

2. Planning, Maintenance and Operations Program

The State Park Maintenance and Operations Program has been operating at a level 30% below minimum quality standards. This was determined using the State Parks Minimum Standards guidelines. Planning has been minimal to nonexistent. This request will provide state parks with the seasonal and full-time personnel and supplies needed to meet the demands of new programs and increasing numbers of visitors. This budget request will not provide for anything new in parks but will simply bring them up to minimum quality facility maintenance and public service operating standards.

1990-91 NEED: \$4,170,000 and 10 full-time field positions

3. Natural Resource Management Program

The State Parks Resource Management Program is handled primarily by regional resource management specialists. They are charged with the responsibility of assisting park managers in protecting, preserving and managing natural resources within state parks. These positions are absolutely critical to the state park system, but at this time only four of the six DNR regions have a resource management specialist. This budget request would put positions in the Central Region in Brainerd and in the Metro Region in St. Paul.

1990-91 NEED: \$150,000 and 2 full-time field positions

4. Emergency and Accelerated Rehabilitation Program

The Emergency and Accelerated Rehabilitation Program is the sole source of funds for emergency repairs in the state park system. With the large number of facilities in the state park system, including buildings, campgrounds, sewage systems, wells, residences, roads and others, breakdowns are inevitable. This request, in addition to the maintenance and operations request, would allow state parks personnel to stay on top of facility problems and take care of emergency needs.

1990-91 NEED: \$570,000

Capital Bonding Needs

1. State Park Development Program

The purpose of the State Park Development Program is to finance and manage those aspects of the state park system which are not considered operational. The components of

this program are:

- Handicapped accessibility projects
- Itasca State Park improvements
- Soudan Underground Mine improvements
- Interpretive exhibits and self guided trails
- Resource management
- Major rehabilitation of facilities
- Development of new facilities
- Major new interpretive facilities
- Replacement of picnic and campground equipment

The Capital Bonding Program is responsible for the construction and major rehabilitation of state park buildings and facilities and for natural resource management projects. The source of financing for these projects is the sale of state revenue bonds.

A major problem with developing and operating a state park system using this kind of bonding program is that there is no continuous source of funds. The value of buildings and facilities in our state park system is estimated at \$150,000,000. A continuous amount of funding is necessary for the replacement of buildings and facilities every year. The amount of money available from the bonding program can vary greatly from year to year. With 1,650 buildings, plus the resources and facilities in 64 state parks, there is a need for funds to remain stable and continuous.

1990-91 NEED: \$10,000,000

2. Land Acquisition Program

A second state parks program which is financed through the Capital Bonding Program is the Land Acquisition Program. The total dollar amount needed to acquire 21,000 acres of private land within legislatively established park boundaries is \$21,000,000. A stable funding level of \$5,000,000 per biennium would allow timely acquisition of needed properties in the future.

1990-91 NEED: \$5,000,000

IV. OTHER CRITICAL STATE PARK SYSTEM NEEDS

As indicated, Parks and Recreation has identified immediate additional funding needs of \$5,000,000 for park operations and \$15,000,000 for capital bonding. These are by no means the only needs of the state park system. This funding is intended to bring the Division of Parks and Recreation up to acceptable levels of public service and resource management.

Additional critical needs for the state park system will be deferred to future bienniums. It is hoped that through planned additions to the budget, an appropriate base level can be established so that state park staff members can address other critical needs. Funding for the following needs will be pursued over the next several bienniums.

Critical unmet needs fall into the following categories:

1. **Development** - The Minnesota state park system contains over 2,800 facilities such as buildings, roads, picnic grounds, wells, sanitation systems and trails, among others. In addition, DNR manages 200,000 acres of the most unique and spectacular resources in the state. State park buildings, facilities and resources need constant maintenance and certain facilities need replacement. New facilities are also needed to keep pace with user needs. As of July 1988, the capital budget project list contained 450 development projects for a total cost of \$41,552,000. These costs can be spread over several years, but a continuous source of funds is needed to take care of the backlog of facility and natural resource rehabilitation projects and to ensure that facilities and resources remain available for public use.
2. **Non-Fleet Equipment** - The new DNR Fleet Management program has improved DNR's fleet equipment needs. The department is also addressing the problem of non-fleet equipment but the total need will not be met in 1990-91. Parks cannot operate properly and the public cannot be served without the equipment necessary to do the job. The estimate of the dollars needed for non-fleet equipment is \$2,000,000.
3. **Management Information Systems** - Only about one-third of our state parks currently have computers. Additional computers are also needed in the St. Paul Office. Some records are still kept by hand and communication is woefully lacking throughout the system. Additional staff and training is needed to establish an information system that facilitates sound management and improves public responsiveness.
4. **Interpretation/Education** - The ten positions in the 1990-91 budget request will improve this program, but these positions are just the foundation of the Interpretation/Education program. All 64 state parks have visitors

who expect and want educational opportunities. The needs identified in the Statewide Interpretive Plan include 19 full-time naturalist positions at a cost of \$1,140,000 per biennium and \$470,000 for much needed seasonal naturalist positions. These changes would allow Minnesota to take full advantage of the environmental education potential of state parks.

5. **Marketing** - The Division of Parks and Recreation is continuing to learn more about its customers, but efforts in this area could be greatly accelerated. There is a constant need for information regarding the wants and needs of state park visitors. This information should be acquired on an annual basis. There is also a need to learn about citizens who do not now use our parks and what their reasons are. This information could result in changes that would initiate increased use which would benefit citizens and the state and local economies. The State Park Merchandise program is part of a marketing and promotion effort. This program has the potential to generate income for the state park system. Modest efforts in this area would pay large dividends. The State Park Information program could also be improved. Additional information in the form of brochures, news releases, magazine and newspaper articles, radio and television shows and videos would help residents and non-residents alike decide where to spend their tourist dollars.

Other Areas of Concern

There are a number of additional areas of concern which are under funded and which need attention. The Division of Parks and Recreation will continue to seek innovative ways to resolve these program issues. They include real estate management, grants and gift administration and training among others.

V. 1990-91 NEEDS SUMMARY

State parks play an important role in Minnesota's quality of life and economy and that role is increasing as the use of parks increases. The critical operational and capital needs of the state park system must be addressed if the system is to continue to operate. Based on acceptable management standards, Minnesota is operating parks 30% below minimum levels. There is a need for a continuous funding source to replace decaying buildings and facilities and deteriorating resources. The need for action is immediate. There is an extensive list of capital budget projects that must be addressed now. Minnesota must take steps to rehabilitate its state park system starting with the 1990-91 biennial budget request.

The Minnesota state park system needs for the 1990-91 biennium are:

STATE PARK OPERATIONS

Interpretation/Education	\$110,000
Planning, Maintenance and Operations	4,170,000
Resource Management	150,000
Emergency & Accelerated Rehabilitation	570,000
TOTAL	\$5,000,000

STATE PARK CAPITAL BONDING

Park Development	\$10,000,000
Land Acquisition	\$5,000,000
TOTAL	\$15,000,000

**TOTAL 1990-91
INCREASE NEEDED \$20,000,000**

All figures represent biennial (2 year) needs. These needs reflect an increase over historic funding levels.

Public **AUCTION**

*Close to
Lake Superior/
BWCA*

*Appraised values
from \$9,900 to
\$88,800*

*20 Year
Fixed Rate Financing
Available at 8%
(Land only)*

*Tuesday, October 25
Devil Track Lake
10:00 am auction/
9:00 am registration
Harbor Light Supper Club,
Grand Marais*

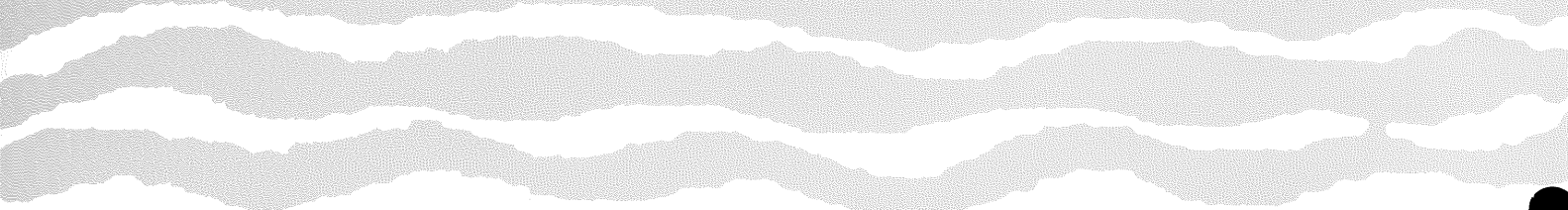
*Wednesday, October 26
Birch Lake
1:00 pm auction/
11:00 am registration
Holiday Inn, Eveleth*

*Thursday, October 27
Pokegama & Wabana Lakes
10:00 am auction/
9:00 am registration
Sawmill Inn, Grand Rapids*



*Improved Lakeshore Lots
Situated in Minnesota's North Woods*

Owned by the State of Minnesota now for sale



State Land Sale of Lakeshore Lots Containing Improvements on Devil Track Lake, Cook County; Birch Lake, St. Louis County; and Wabana and Pokegama Lakes, Itasca County

Notice is hereby given that state lands located in Cook, St. Louis and Itasca Counties as described in this sales prospectus are hereby offered for sale by the Commissioner of Natural Resources. The lands will be sold at public auction as required by Minnesota Statutes, chapter 92, as follows:

- **Tuesday, October 25**
9 a.m. Registration, 10 a.m. Auction,
Harbor Light, Grand Marais, MN.
- **Wednesday, October 26**
11 a.m. Registration, 1 p.m. Auction,
Holiday Inn, Eveleth, MN.
- **Thursday, October 27**
9 a.m. Registration, 10 a.m. Auction,
Sawmill Inn, Grand Rapids, MN.

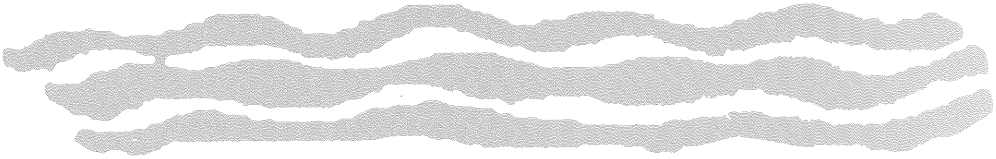
This sale is being held to comply with the requirements of Minnesota Laws 1986, chapter 449, as amended by Minnesota Laws 1987, chapters 158 and 404, and Minnesota Laws 1988 chapter 718, art. 7, that require the commissioner to offer for sale those state-owned lakeshore lots that are leased for private cabin sites under Minn. Stat. Sec. 92.46. In many instances the lessee has requested that the lot be offered for sale.

For more information or to get on the Lakeshore Sales Mailing List for future sales, contact:

Dept. Natural Resources
Bureau of Real Estate Management
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-4030
1-800-652-9747

Ask for "DNR LAKESHORE SALES"
Out of State callers should call 1-612-296-0639

**SEE INSIDE BACK COVER FOR
TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE.**



Buyer understands that all statements and representations made herein are for information purposes only. The state does not warrant the accuracy of this information but believes to the best of their knowledge that it is presently valid. Buyer further understands that it is his/her responsibility to verify the information and holds the state harmless from any misinformation.

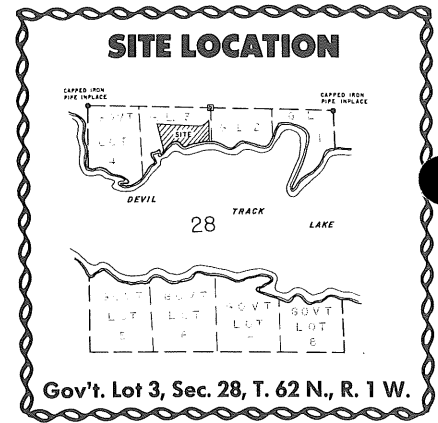


Location of Lakes included in October '88 DNR Lakeshore Sale.

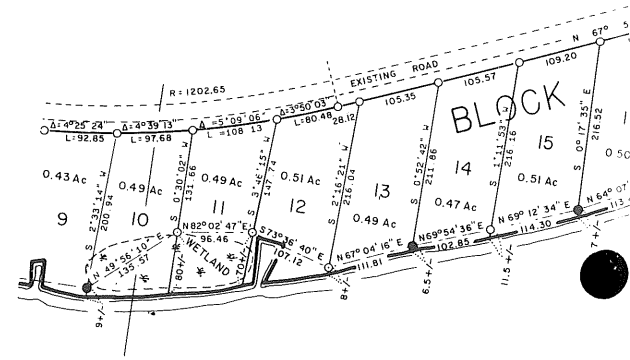
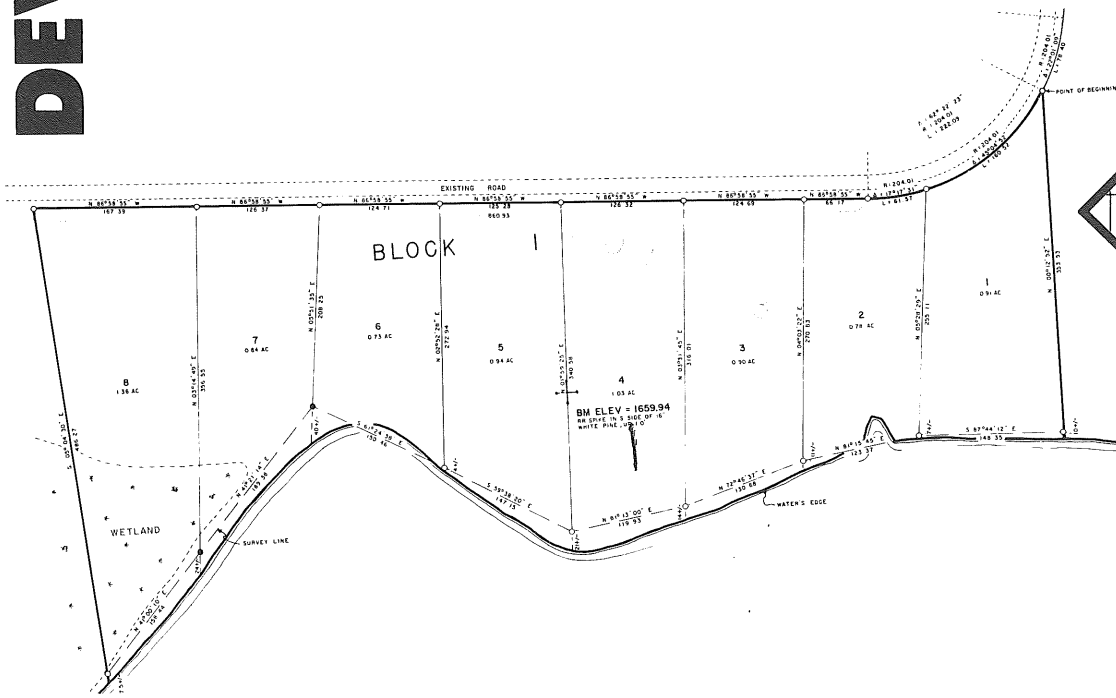
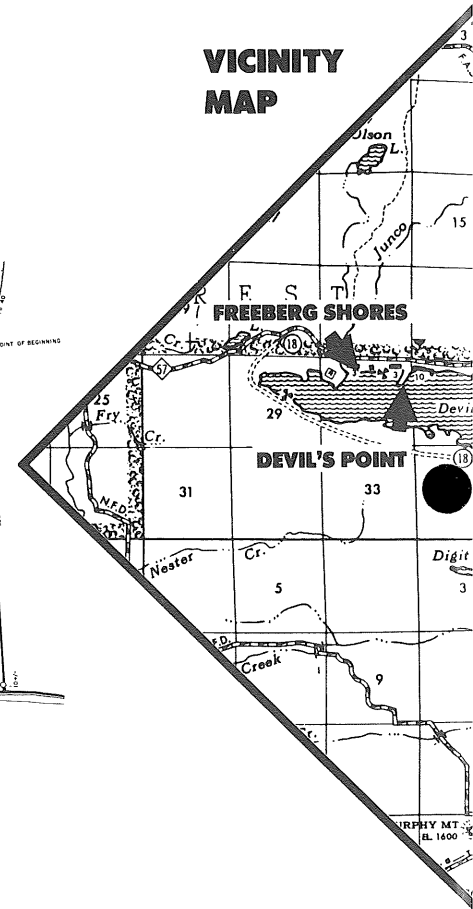
DEVIL TRACK LAKE

JUNCO CREEK

ID	Blk	Lot	Fft	Ac	Land Value	Bldg Value	Min Bid	Contact	Phone
1	1	1	148	0.91	14300	16600	30900	Charles Futterer	715/536-2803
2	1	2	123	0.78	12000	28800	40800	Steve Benson	218/387-2477
3	1	4	120	1.03	11700	21600	33300	Glenn Bergstrom	218/387-2928
4	1	5	147	0.94	14200	7400	21600	Harvey Morck	218/387-2166
5	1	6	150	0.73	12900	6700	19600	Paul Johnson	218/387-2935
6	1	7	189	0.84	16100	11300	27400	Irene Peterson	218/387-1129



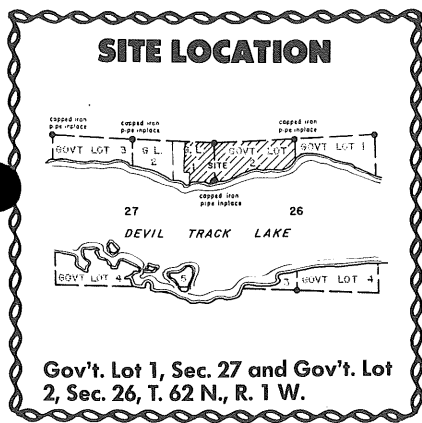
VICINITY MAP



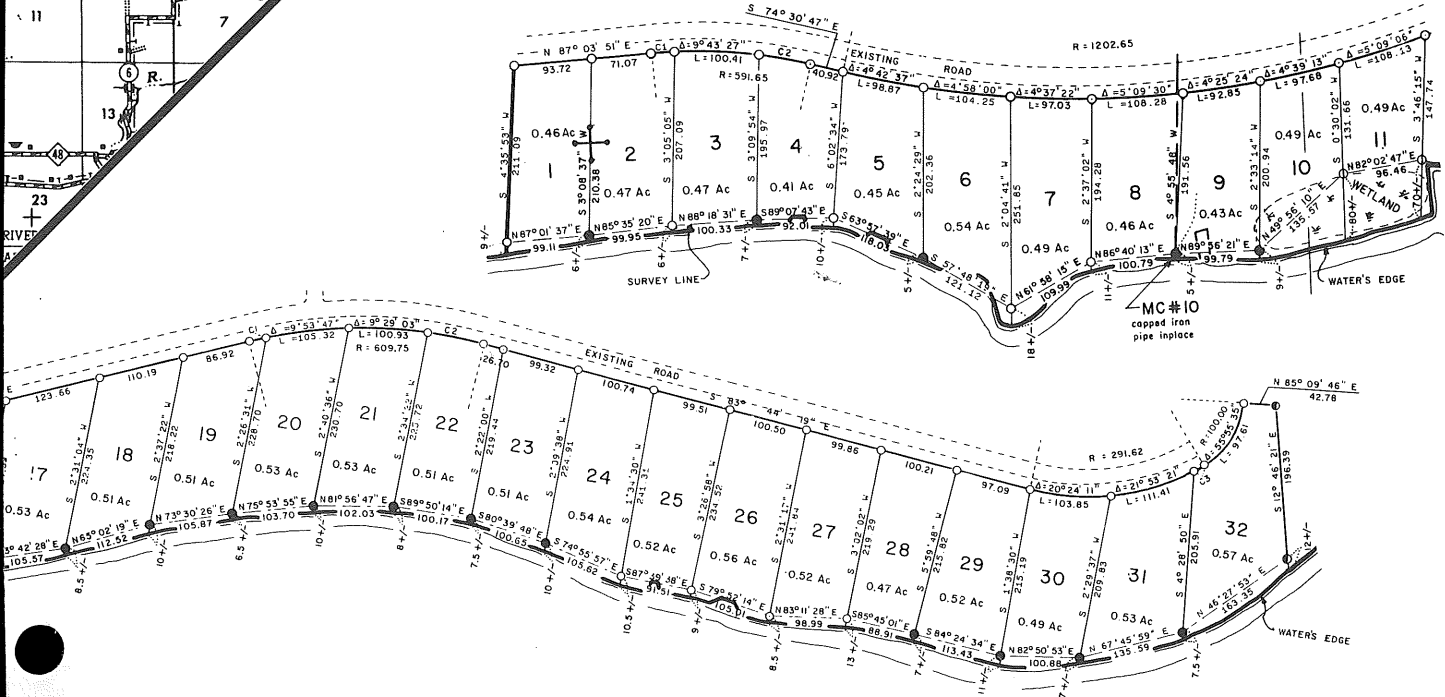
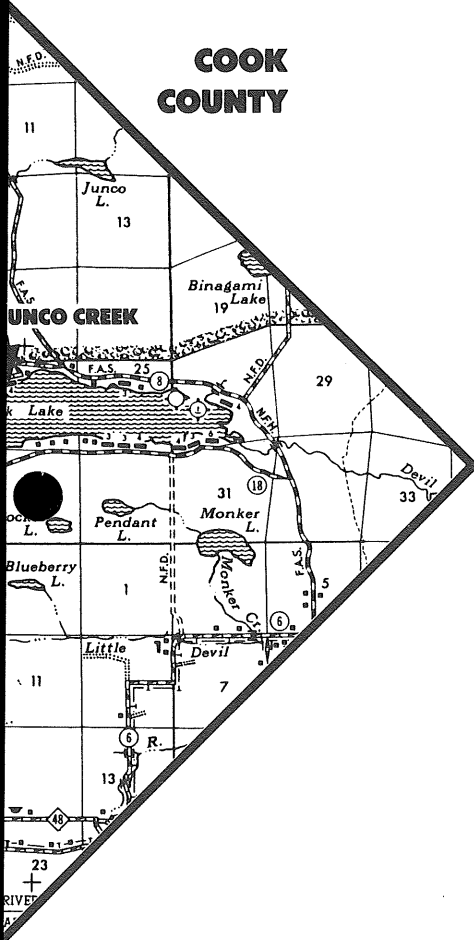
Tues., Oct. 25, 1988, Harbor Light Supper Club, Grand Marais, MN, 9 a.m. registration, 10 a.m. auction

FREEBERG SHORES

DEVIL TRACK LAKE



ID	Blk	Lot	Fft	Ac	Land Value	Bldg Value	Min Bid	Contact	Phone
14	1	1	99	0.46	10900	16800	27700	Jack Halvorson	218/387-2555
15	1	2	100	0.47	10900	17000	27900	Ellen Kinnear	218/726-8105
16	1	3	100	0.47	10900	13700	24600	James Terry	612/429-6789
17	1	4	92	0.42	10100	32400	42500	Kathryn Kritta	612/429-1156
18	1	5	118	0.45	12700	15000	27700	Gordon Marquardt	218/226-3861
19	1	6	121	0.54	13000	18800	31800	Lewis Shier	612/644-0390
20	1	7	110	0.49	11900	48300	60200	Clarence Everson	218/387-2256
21	1	8	101	0.46	10900	23100	34000	Mary Dressler	612/588-3229
22	1	9	100	0.43	10900	7400	18300	James Canniff	612/699-7976
23	1	10	98	0.49	10200	20700	30900	S.J. Whitehorn	612/644-0137
24	1	12	107	0.51	11600	33300	44900	John Eliason, Jr.	218/387-2225
25	1	13	112	0.49	12100	31300	43400	Bill Tormondsen	218/525-6303
26	1	14	103	0.47	11200	19700	30900	Genevieve Grahek	218/226-4955
27	1	15	114	0.51	12300	19500	31800	Jim Eliason	218/387-2110
28	1	17	106	0.53	11500	30300	41800	Barbara Newkirk	218/387-2759
29	1	18	113	0.51	12200	17300	29500	Francis Kantorowicz	612/781-4558
30	1	19	102	0.53	11100	17100	28200	Wesley Backlund	218/387-2948
31	1	20	104	0.53	11300	28000	39300	Jim Hastings	218/722-6666
32	1	21	102	0.53	11100	28800	39900	Robert Micklus	218/387-2502
33	1	22	100	0.51	10900	19000	29900	Alta Schulte	218/387-2249
34	1	24	106	0.54	11500	7800	19300	Marjorie Nelson	218/387-1026
35	1	25	92	0.52	9600	10800	20400	Nancy Netland	218/525-4219
36	1	26	105	0.56	11400	26800	38200	Fred Holm	218/387-2957
37	1	27	99	0.52	10900	23100	34000	Robert Jensen	612/726-8162
38	1	28	89	0.47	9900	10300	20200	Jerry Donek	218/387-1699
39	1	29	113	0.52	12300	76500	88800	Leslie Donek	218/387-1699
40	1	30	101	0.49	10900	22000	32900	Jack Halvorson	218/387-2555
41	1	31	136	0.53	14500	15200	29700	Fred Halvorson	612/489-5856
42	1	32	163	0.57	13900	12300	26200	Marcel Pigeon	218/226-3757

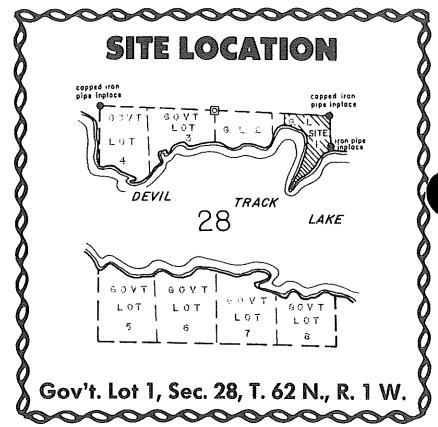


Tues., Oct. 25, 1988, Harbor Light Supper Club, Grand Marais, MN, 9 a.m. registration, 10 a.m. auction

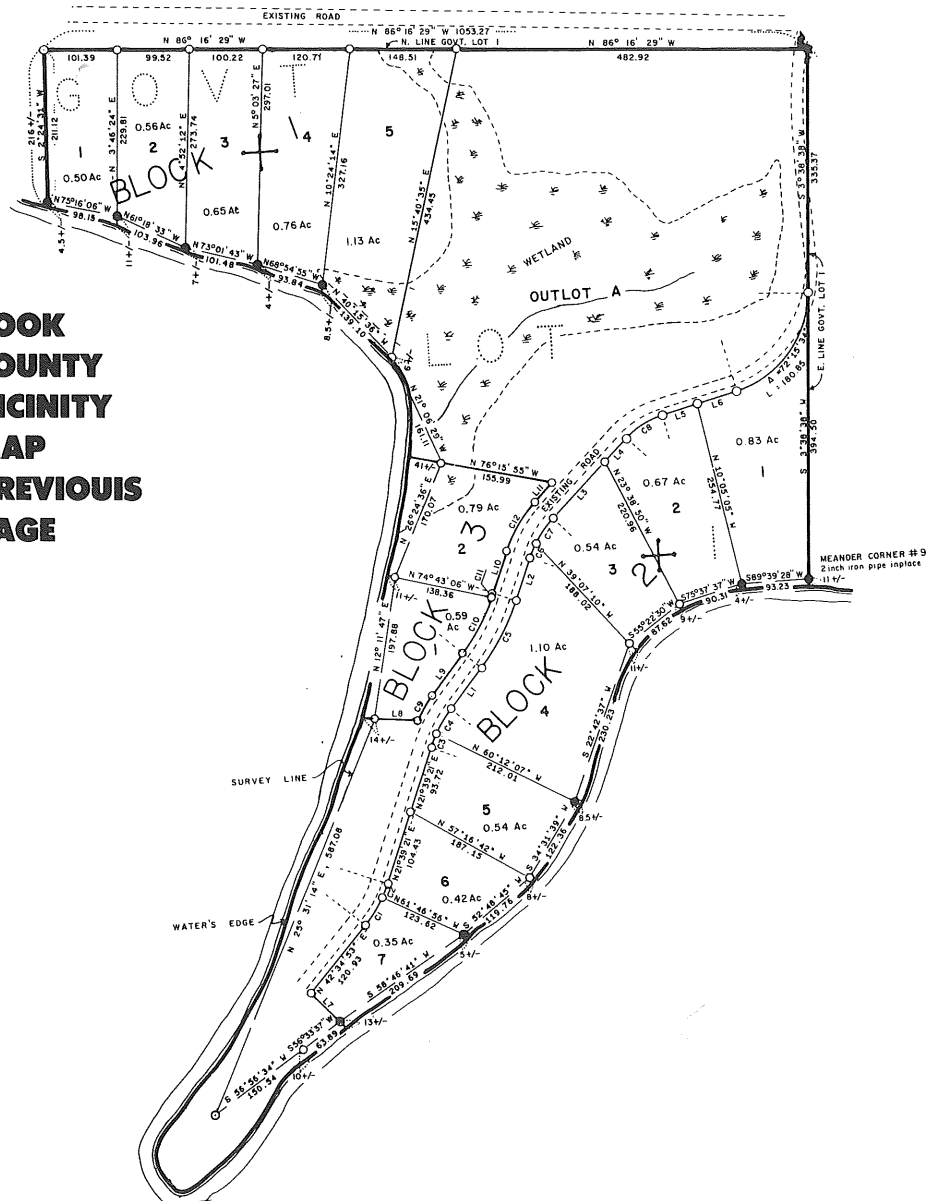


DEVIL TRACK LAKE

DEVIL'S POINT



ID	Blk	Lot	Fft	Ac	Land Value	Bldg Value	Min Bid	Contact	Phone
7	1	2	104	0.56	10900	37000	47900	Richard Swanson	612/540-4248
8	2	2	90	0.67	8600	43300	51900	Verl Tilbury	218/387-1534
9	2	3	88	0.54	8400	31500	39900	Janis Clark	218/387-2093
10	2	6	120	0.42	11100	22000	33100	Mavis Lee	218/387-1434
11	2	7	210	0.35	13500	36000	49500	Sylvester Hedler	612/789-9046
12	3	1	198	0.59	6400	13500	19900	Richard Johnson	218/226-3718
13	3	2	170	0.79	6400	16500	22900	Evelyn Larsen	218/387-1246



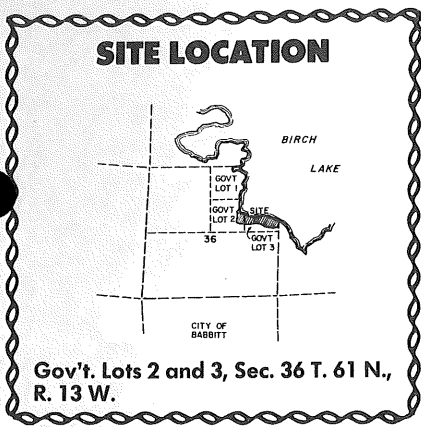
• COOK COUNTY VICINITY MAP PREVIOUS PAGE



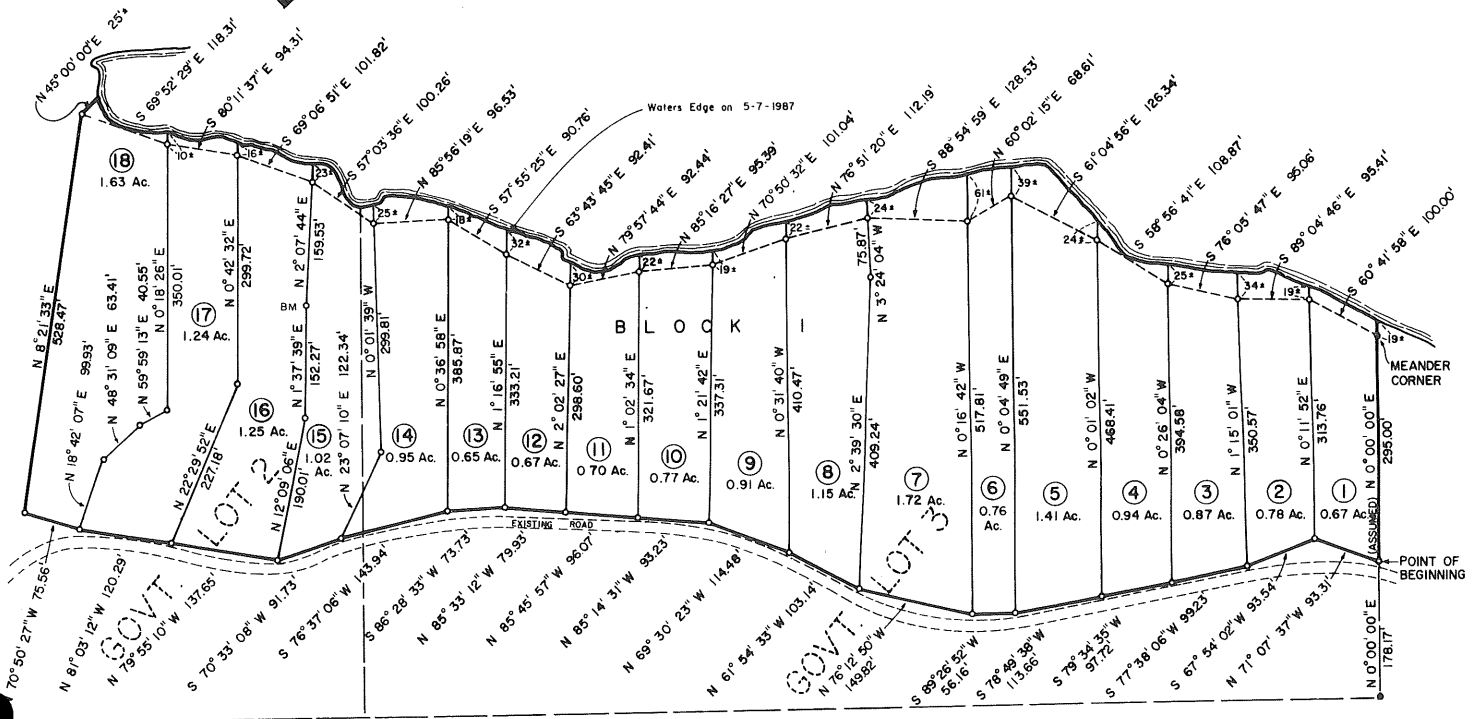
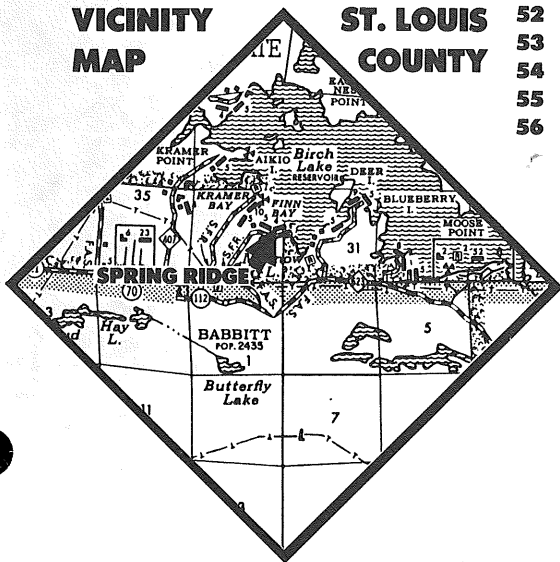
Tues., Oct. 25, 1988, Harbor Light Supper Club, Grand Marais, MN, 9 a.m. registration, 10 a.m. auction

SPRING RIDGE

BIRCH LAKE



ID	Blk	Lot	Fft	Ac	Land Value	Bldg Value	Min Bid	Contact	Phone
43	1	1	100	0.67	6400	37000	43400	Wilbur Randall	218/827-3662
44	1	2	95	0.78	6200	32700	38900	Harry Slining	218/827-3668
45	1	3	100	0.87	6400	14000	20400	Lucas Chimzar	218/827-2364
46	1	4	109	0.94	6900	31000	37900	JoAnn MacDiarmid	218/827-3255
47	1	5	110	1.41	8400	1500	9900	JoAnn MacDiarmid	218/827-3255
48	1	7	140	1.72	8600	16300	24900	Eugene Marinaro	218/827-2278
49	1	8	112	1.15	6900	40500	47400	Delmar Tjaden	218/827-3666
50	1	9	101	0.91	6400	29500	35900	Dave Serena	218/827-2736
51	1	10	95	0.78	6200	40200	46400	Donald Hanson	218/827-3665
52	1	11	100	0.70	6400	26500	32900	Harold Gerken	507/268-4908
53	1	14	97	0.95	6200	41200	47400	Harold Rauvola	218/827-3228
54	1	15	100	1.02	6400	38500	44900	John Tomljanovich	218/827-2498
55	1	16	102	1.53	6500	37900	44400	Edward Tomljanovich	218/827-2498
56	1	18	120	1.63	6900	12500	19400	Gaylord Cornelius	218/827-2595

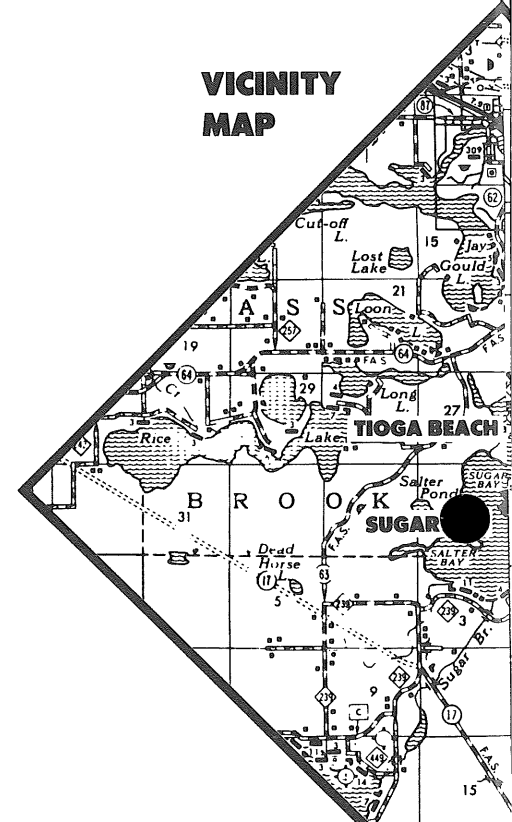
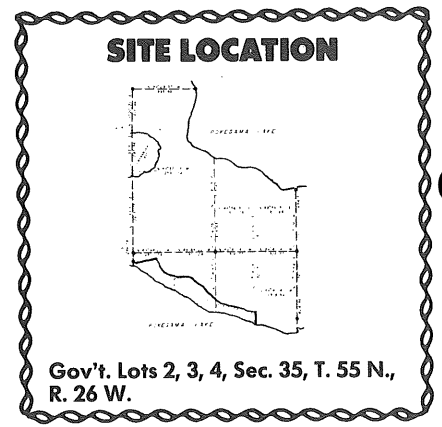


Wed., Oct. 26, 1988, Holiday Inn, Eveleth, MN, 11 a.m. registration, 1 p.m. auction



POKEGAMA LAKE SUGAR BAY

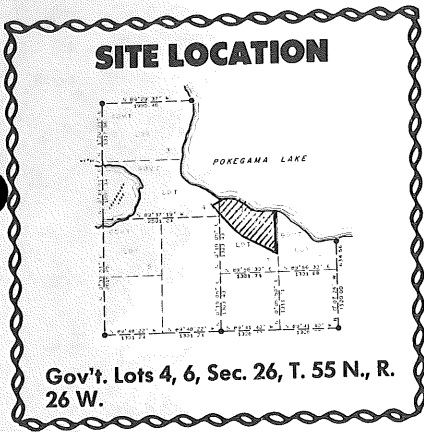
ID	Blk	Lot	Fft	Ac	Land Value	Bldg Value	Min Bid	Contact	Phone
69	1	1	149	1.18	27900	17000	44900	Dennis Johnson	218/326-3411
70	1	2	125	1.48	23400	26000	49400	Katie Campbell	612/822-2552
71	1	4	130	0.78	25400	20000	45400	Archie Campbell	218/328-5346
72	1	5	123	0.75	19400	4500	23900	Glen Matson	218/328-5971
73	1	6	124	0.73	19400	11500	30900	Glen Matson	218/328-5971
74	1	7	123	0.83	19400	11500	30900	Edward Zeidler	218/327-1536
75	1	8	124	0.72	19400	3000	22400	Janet Nelson	612/481-6746
76	1	9	124	1.26	19400	24000	43400	Pearl Higginbotham	612/424-3335
77	1	10	155	1.52	19800	3000	22800	David Ryan	218/262-1148
78	1	11	124	1.34	17800	3000	20800	Sandra Johnson	612/421-4111
79	1	12	159	1.32	19800	19600	39400	Pat Silvis	218/328-5462
80	1	13	118	1.31	22900	24500	47400	Archie Campbell	218/328-5346
81	1	15	104	0.98	21400	26000	47400	Arlene Sorensen	507/455-7022
82	1	16	124	0.96	22400	26500	48900	Roger Kuhn	507/451-6409
83	1	17	122	0.98	22400	17500	39900	John Hill	218/328-5970
84	1	18	122	0.88	20400	11100	31500	Robert Hallquist	612/275-2868
85	1	19	137	1.00	18400	18500	36900	John Standke	507/451-4949
86	1	20	151	1.08	16800	20100	36900	Archie Campbell	218/328-5346
87	2	1	128	0.77	18200	4200	22400	Norma Jurisson	612/571-0606
88	2	2	130	0.94	19500	4900	24400	James Rasmussen	218/326-4608
89	2	3	139	1.14	15800	8100	23900	Dennis Johnson	218/326-3411
90	2	4	115	0.98	17800	13100	30900	Joan Hernesman	218/326-8859
91	2	5	103	0.98	16400	16500	32900	Lyn Ellingson	218/326-8802
92	2	6	104	0.90	16400	19500	35900	Anthony Ferraro	218/326-3750
93	2	7	125	1.03	16900	2000	18900	Kim Mikulich	612/445-5575
94	2	8	124	1.06	16900	2000	18900	Peter Elliasen	612/545-7310
95	2	9	127	0.95	21400	9000	30400	Barbara LeBeau	218/326-4751
96	2	10	164	1.30	22900	2000	24900	David Kangas	612/298-6704



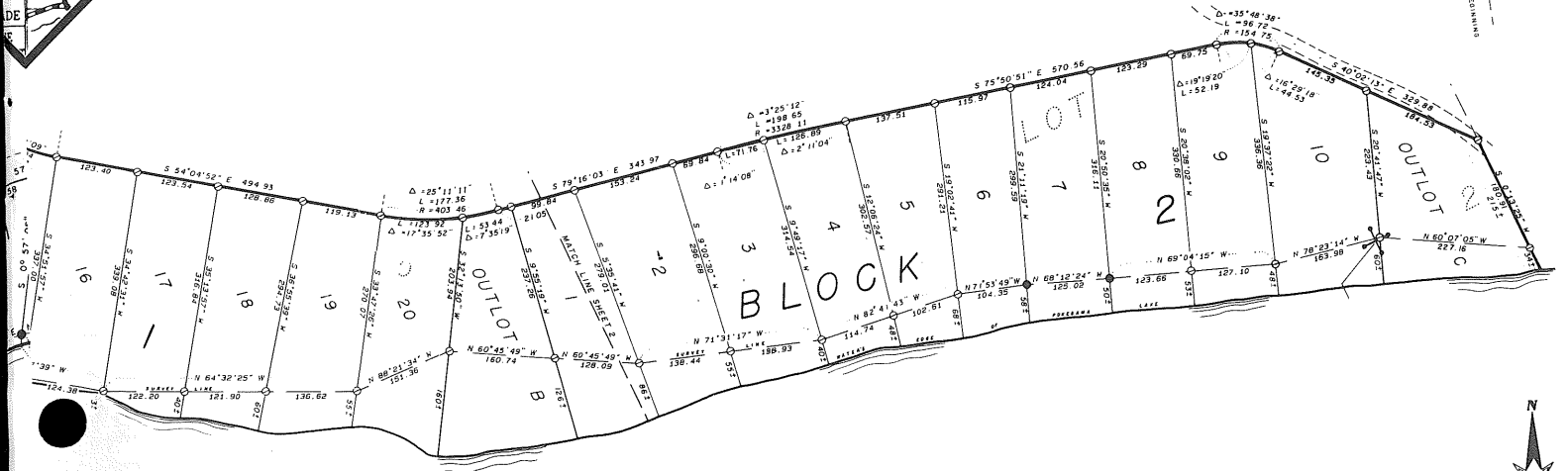
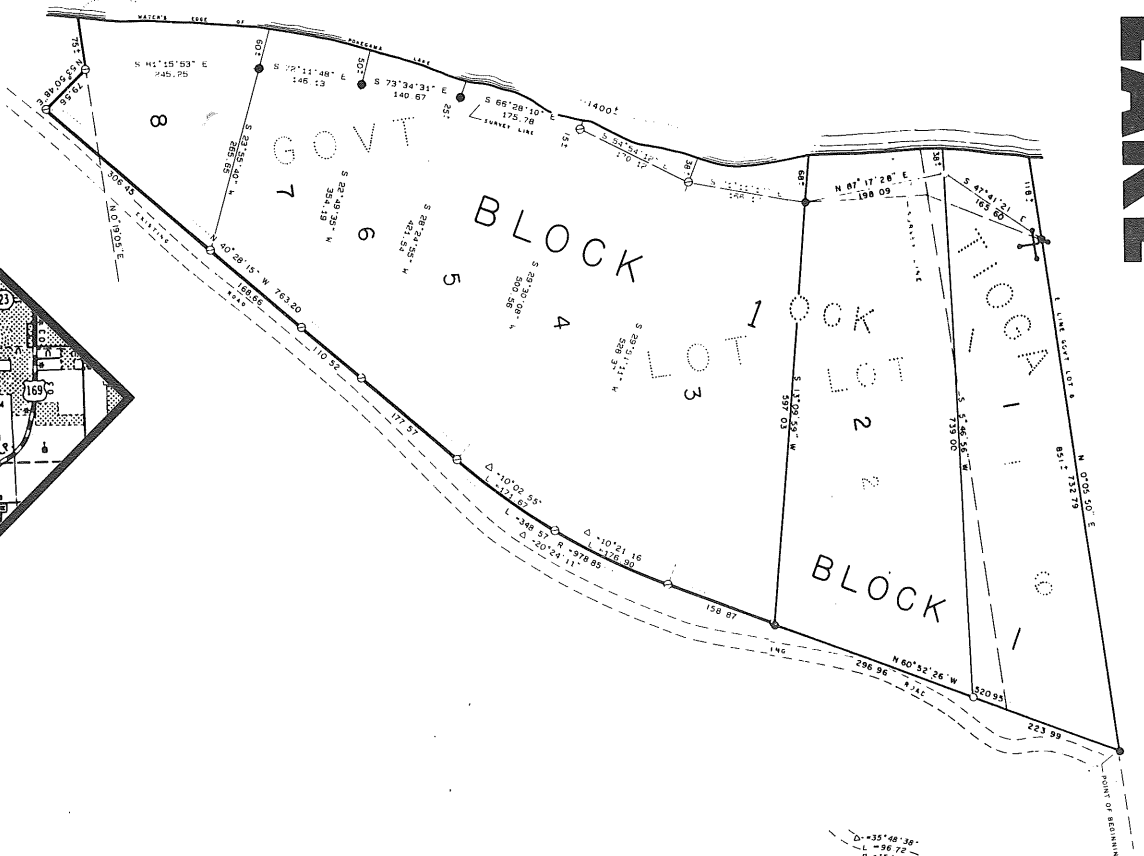
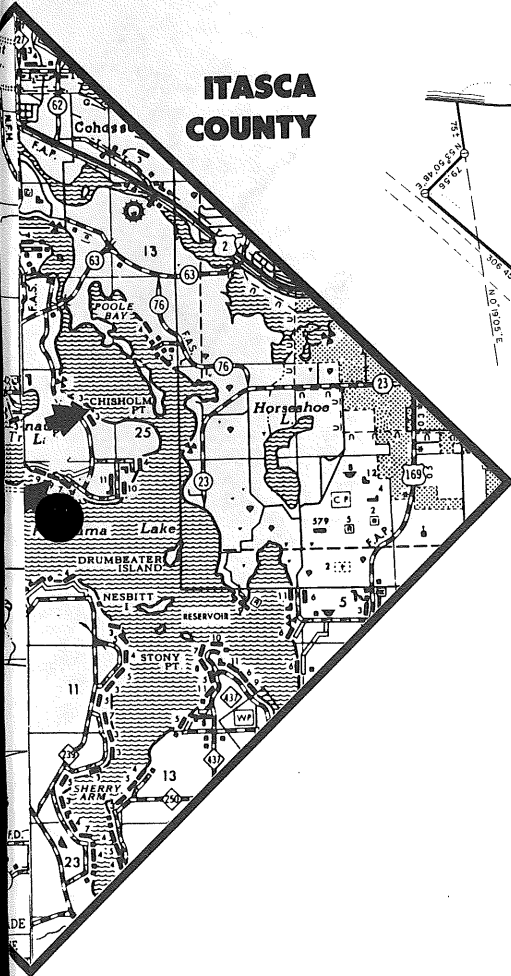
Thurs., Oct. 27, 1988, Sawmill Inn, Grand Rapids, MN, 9 a.m. registration, 10 a.m. auction

TIOGA BEACH

POKEGAMA LAKE



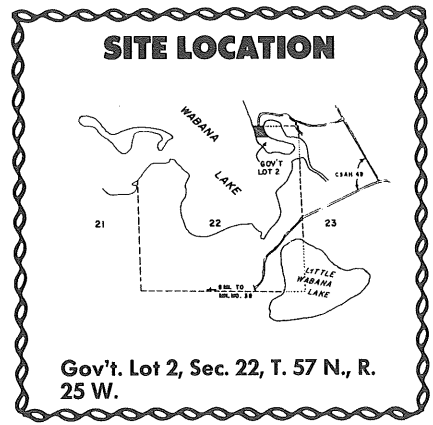
ID	Blk	Lot	Fft	Ac	Land Value	Bldg Value	Min Bid	Contact	Phone
61	1	1	122	3.15	25900	21000	46900	Robert Swedberg	218/326-2365
62	1	2	198	4.10	32900	6000	38900	Daniel Anderson	218/326-4816
63	1	3	166	3.55	33800	16100	49900	Thomas Sarago	218/245-1527
64	1	4	172	2.01	33500	14400	47900	Jerome Miner	218/326-8528
65	1	5	176	1.98	32400	24000	56400	Larry Schultz	218/328-5579
66	1	6	141	1.23	21900	18500	40400	Robert Crippa	218/326-5330
67	1	7	146	1.32	22400	15500	37900	Aleks Klidzejs	612/778-7174
68	1	8	245	1.52	18900	2000	20900	Archie Beighley	507/689-2702



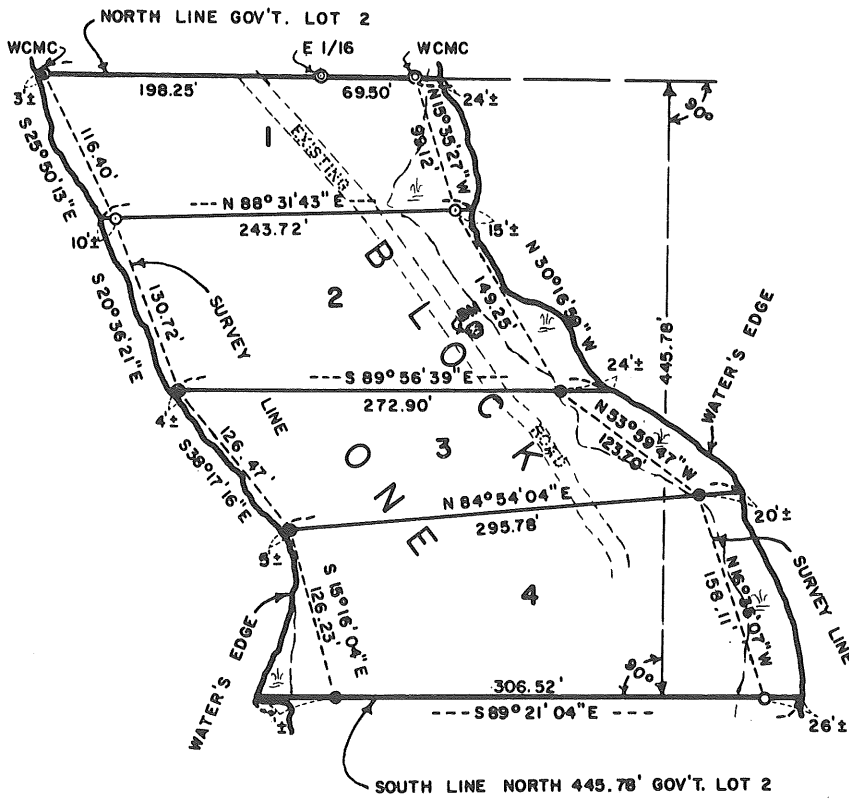
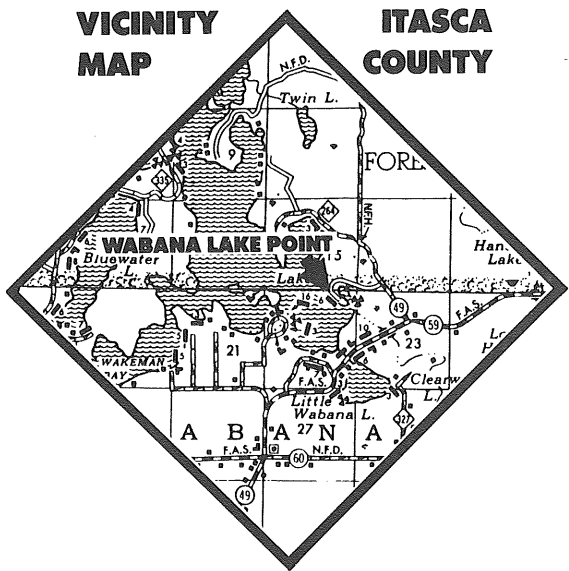
Thurs., Oct. 27, 1988, Sawmill Inn, Grand Rapids, MN, 9 a.m. registration, 10 a.m. auction

WABANA LAKE

WABANA LAKE POINT



ID	Blk	Lot	Fft	Ac	Land Value	Bldg Value	Min Bid	Contact	Phone
57	1	1	100	0.66	11400	8500	19900	Richard Williams, Sr	612/377-0358
58	1	2	125	0.78	13900	19500	33400	Lafe Ness	218/262-1380
59	1	3	100	0.67	12400	10000	22400	B.D. Blackmore	218/525-5180
60	1	4	125	1.09	13900	21000	34900	Lionel Robinson	612/822-8584



Thurs., Oct. 27, 1988, Sawmill Inn, Grand Rapids, MN, 9 a.m. registration, 10 a.m. auction

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE

1. No lot will be sold for less than the total of the appraised value of the land and the appraised value of the improvements.
2. Any and all bids can be rejected. Any lot may be withdrawn from sale up to and including the day of sale.
3. At least 10 percent of the purchase price of the land shall be paid at the time of sale and the balance in not to exceed 20 equal annual installments, payable on or before June 1 each year following that in which the purchase was made, with interest at 8 percent per annum on the balance remaining from time to time unpaid, payable with the installments of principal.
4. Any installments of principal or interest may be paid in advance, but part payment of an installment shall not be accepted. For the purpose of computing interest any installment of principal not paid by June 1 shall be credited as of June 1 next following.
5. The value of any buildings or other improvements upon the land have been appraised separately and included in the purchase price. No person shall remove, injure, or destroy any building or other improvement until an amount equal to the appraised value has been paid. Violation of this provision shall be a gross misdemeanor. In the event the purchaser is the lessee of the property, the purchaser is not required to pay for improvements (made by the lessee or predecessors in title) as lessee in good faith under the terms of the lease, if the lessee complies with the ownership verification requirements of Minn. Stat. Chapter 92.06, subd. 4. If the purchaser is not the lessee, the purchaser must pay the owner of the improvements the appraised value of the improvements. Payment for the improvements must be made within 15 days of the sale, either in cash or upon terms and conditions agreeable to the owner of the improvements. If payment for improvements is not made in cash, or if there is no agreement between the parties within 15 days of the auction sale, the commissioner may 1) sell the property to the second highest qualified bidder if that bidder submitted to the commissioner's representative, at the auction sale, a written request to buy the property at the second highest bid or 2) void the sale and reoffer the land at a subsequent sale.
6. Current lessees have 45 days to vacate the premises in the event they are not the purchasers.
7. The costs of appraisal and surveying of \$700 and costs of selling the lot of \$200 will be added to the appraised price.
8. All mineral rights are reserved to the State by the laws of the State.
9. All lots are sold subject to all railroad, highway or other easements and any utility licenses issued pursuant to Minn. Stat. Chapter 84.415 or other applicable laws.
10. Since the improvements are not owned by the State, the State assumes no responsibility in the event there may be mortgages, liens, unpaid taxes, or other encumbrances on the improvements.
11. Agents acting for purchasers must furnish a power of attorney or other proof of authority.
12. The lands to be sold are lots in the platted areas described in this prospectus.
13. The shoreline of leased lots sold under section 92.67 is not reserved for public travel.
14. For the purpose of local zoning ordinances, land sold under section 92.67 shall be treated as if purchased at the time the state first leased the lands for cabin sites.
15. Rights of access across state property to the lots offered for sale that are in existence at the time of sale, and not included in the sale, may not be terminated by the commissioner without the consent of the purchasers of the lots or their successors in interest. The commissioner may impose a fee for the access rights in the same manner as for other similar accesses except that the commissioner may not impose a fee for access rights where no fee is now being charged. No other access rights over state or other land are presumed or implied except where specifically noted.
16. According to Minn. Stat. Chapter 15.054, no state employee or employees of the state's political subdivisions (county, city, township, school district, etc.) may purchase state lands. However, this law does not bar purchase by any person of the lot leased by that person.
17. These lands containing improvements are sold **AS IS**. The State makes no warranties as to the condition or habitability of any buildings, wells, septic systems, soils, roads or any other thing on the site.
18. While the lands being offered are open to public inspection, the State undertakes no responsibilities for showing any improvements. Prospective purchasers must make arrangements with the owner. However, any prospective purchaser who has been denied a fair opportunity to inspect the improvements should call the **Bureau of Real Estate Management at 1-800-652-9747**. Ask for "**DNR LAKESHORE SALES.**" Out-of-state callers should call **1-612-296-0639**.

Public Lakeshore Sale

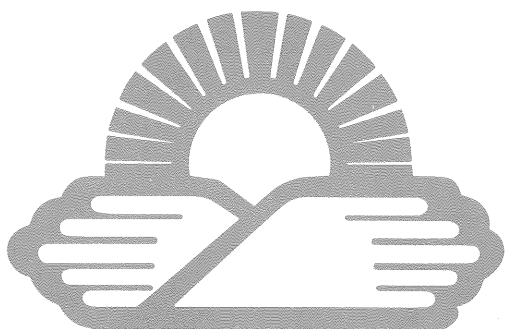
Tuesday, October 25, 1988—Devil Track Lake
Wednesday, October 26, 1988—Birch Lake
Thursday, October 27, 1988—Pokegama & Wabana Lakes



SEE DETAILS INSIDE

Department of Natural Resources
Bureau of Real Estate Management
500 Lafayette Road, Box 30
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-4030

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**land
exchange
in minnesota**

Prepared by:

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

With support from:

Legislative Commission of Minnesota Resources

WHY LAND EXCHANGE?

The State of Minnesota is a complex landform of nearly 54,612,000 acres. Crop and pastureland, forests and lakeshore, mining operations and urban centers are all intermingled with various public and private ownerships. Private land accounts for approximately 75% of the total ownership with public agencies; county, state, and federal managing 25% of the land base.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources administers approximately 5,293,000 acres, much of which was granted to the State of Minnesota in the middle to late 1800's by the Congress of the United States.

At the time of Statehood in 1858, the original policy of the state was to sell lands to settlers, homesteaders and loggers intent on establishing a new way of life. Monies generated from the sale of some of these lands were placed in a trust fund to promote the development and continual support of Minnesota's educational system.

When economic conditions worsened and land ownership became too heavy a burden, millions of acres were forfeited for taxes. In some cases, drainage bonds were paid off by the state in exchange for title to the property.

Today, as evidence of the prosperity-hardship sequence, public and private ownership lies intertwined over most of northern Minnesota. Of the lands administered by the Department, some 1,544,000 acres are outside of management units and may be more suited to private ownership for agriculture or other self-supporting enterprises. On the other hand, within the boundaries of state forests, parks, and wildlife areas, private landholdings sometimes conflict with management and development.

The exchange of scattered state ownership for private lands within management units may therefore allow each owner to more efficiently and productively manage these lands. Through the land exchange program, the Department of Natural Resources is striving for a land ownership pattern which provides for the improved protection, use and management of all natural resources, as well as increasing public benefits for present and future generations.

LEGAL AUTHORITY FOR LAND EXCHANGE

Article XI, Section 10, of the Minnesota Constitution empowers a Land Exchange Board consisting of the Governor, Attorney General, and the State Auditor to approve by unanimous decision the exchange of state public lands for any publicly or privately owned lands in such manner as the Legislature may provide. Minnesota Statutes, Sections 94.341 through 94.349 establish the Minnesota Land Exchange Board and provide the conditions and procedures for land exchange. Minnesota Statutes, Sections 1.04 and 84.157 also relate to land exchange to some degree.

WHO ADMINISTERS LAND EXCHANGE PROGRAM?

The Commissioner of Natural Resources investigates and processes land exchange proposals and recommends action to the State Land Exchange Board. The Commissioner has delegated to the Bureau of Real Estate Management the keeping of necessary land exchange records, investigations of land exchange proposals, completion of necessary field appraisal work and other necessary land exchange administrative work. Recommendations are made to the Land Exchange Board which makes the final determination on each proposed exchange in accordance with Minnesota Statutes.

WHAT EXPENSES ARE INVOLVED IN LAND EXCHANGES?

Before real estate appraisals are made the applicant must deposit with the Land Exchange Board a fee of up to one half of the cost of appraisal (and survey if needed). This fee will be retained by the Board unless the exchange proposal is withdrawn by the applicant prior to the expenditure of funds for appraisal or survey or if the Board refuses to accept the land exchange offer.

Other costs to the applicant are those in connection with continuing the abstract to date and clearing title, if necessary. The State of Minnesota can accept only marketable title to the land it receives.

The State Attorney General's Office prepares all deeds so there is no cost to the applicant for the preparation of the deed for the land they receive from the state.

WHO DETERMINES LAND VALUES?

Generally, Regional Realty Specialists, Department of Natural Resources, appraise both the applicant's land and the state land using identical appraisal procedures. In some cases, the appraisals may be done by private fee appraisers. All appraisals are based on the fair market value of comparable lands which have been conveyed in recent transactions in the local area of the properties to be exchanged. In making the appraisals, considerations are given to special features of the land; soils, timber, access proximity to incorporated areas, lakes and streams, etc. Land exchanges are based on similarity of values rather than acreage. For this reason, it may be necessary to adjust the acreages as originally proposed in order to arrive at a balanced exchange.

State land not limited to public sale by the State Constitution may be exchanged for land of less value provided the other party to the exchange pays the difference in value. If funds have been appropriated so that the state may pay the difference in value when the state land is of lesser value than the private land, that valuation will be paid. When there are no funds appropriated for such use, the difference in value must be waived by the applicant.

ARE THERE RESTRICTIONS ON LAND INVOLVED IN EXCHANGE?

State land bordering on or adjacent to any meandered or other public waters and withdrawn from sale by law, is eligible for exchange only when, through the exchange, the state acquires land on the same or other public waters in the same general vicinity which affords equal or better opportunity to access to the waters and other riparian use by the public.

All mineral and water power rights must be reserved by the state in addition to such other rights and easements as the Commissioner of Natural Resources, with the approval of the Land Exchange Board, might direct.

If the applicant intends to reserve minerals, any such reservation more extensive than that of the state may not be acceptable to the state because the state may not be getting equal value in the exchange. In general, the state will accept mineral reservations on land it receives provided the applicant agrees to reimburse the state for any surface damage due to mining operations. Any rights to repurchase land the state receives in an exchange will not be accepted by the state.

All land exchanges must be in the best interest of the state.

WHAT ABOUT THE EXCHANGE OF STATE PARK LAND?

State park land cannot be exchanged unless expressly authorized by the Legislature or unless it involves the exchange of school trust land within a state park for other DNR administered land outside a state park.

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO COMPLETE AN EXCHANGE?

Assuming an applicant has good title to the land and there are no other complications, an exchange could be completed in as short a time as six to eight months. However, many land exchanges require a year or more to complete because of the acreage adjustments mentioned previously. Additionally, any land exchange that requires a survey will require longer than the six to eight month period.

LAND EXCHANGE PROCEDURE

1. Land exchange proposal forms and additional information can be obtained from the Bureau of Real Estate Management, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, Minnesota, 55155-4030; or at any of the Department of Natural Resources Regional Offices listed on the last page of this brochure. Two completed copies of this form are to be forwarded to the above address.

2. Upon receipt of the application, each division of the Department of Natural Resources is advised of the proposal and requested to comment on how the

exchange would affect the management of state land.

3. If the proposal is approved by the Department, the private landowner is billed for the appraisal/survey fee and requested to submit an updated abstract of title for the land.

4. If the exchange proposal involves 640 acres or more of state land, authority for field examination, appraisal, and permission to hold a public hearing must be obtained from the Land Exchange Board.

5. The abstract of title is then submitted to the State Attorney General's Office for examination and approval.

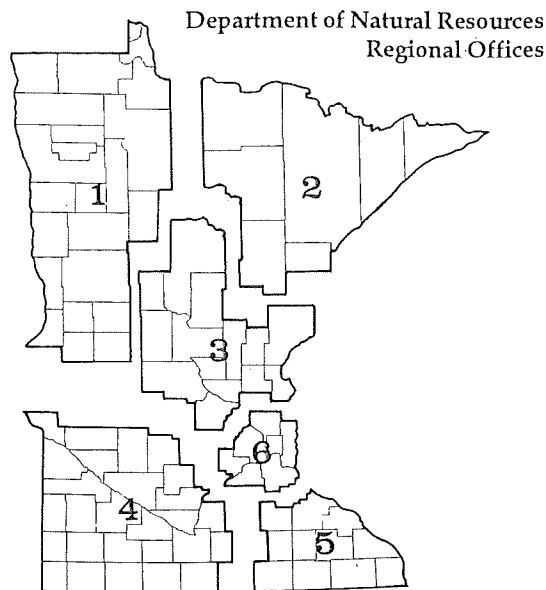
6. The lands involved are examined and appraised by either a Regional Realty Specialist or another qualified appraiser. The report of appraisal is submitted to the Manager of Land Acquisition and Exchange, Bureau of Real Estate Management in St. Paul.

7. If the appraised values are found to be approximately equal and no other complications are noted, a public hearing is scheduled either in St. Paul or at the county courthouse of the county wherein the lands are located. A notice of the public hearing is posted by the appropriate County Auditor at least two weeks before the hearing. The notice of public hearing is also published in a legal newspaper for the county at least two weeks before the hearing.

8. If testimony at the public hearing indicates that the land exchange would not be detrimental to the interests of the state, a recommendation is made by the Commissioner of Natural Resources that approval be granted and a resolution approving the exchange is prepared for the Land Exchange Board's consideration.

9. If the Land Exchange Board approves the land exchange, a copy of the final resolution approving the exchange is sent to the Attorney General's Office for preparation of deeds to complete the exchange.

NOTE: All lands heretofore and hereafter acquired by the state through tax-forfeiture, held subject to a trust in favor of taxing districts, and under control of county authorities for classifications, appraisal and sale are considered Class "B" lands. For exchanges involving Class "B" lands, the respective County Auditor should be contacted because the procedures will vary from those explained in this brochure.



LOCATION OF DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES REGIONAL OFFICES:

For further information concerning exchange of DNR administered lands, contact any of the following offices:

- 1 Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
2115 Birchmont Beach Road NE
Bemidji, Minnesota 56601, (218)755-3955
- 2 Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
1201 East Highway 2
Grand Rapids, Minnesota 55744, (218)327-4455
- 3 Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
1601 Minnesota Drive
Brainerd, Minnesota 56401, (218)828-2560
- 4 Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Highway 15 South, Box 756
New Ulm, Minnesota 56073, (507)354-2196
- 5 Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
2300 Silver Creek Road NE, Box 6247
Rochester, Minnesota 55901, (507)285-7420
- 6 Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
1200 Warner Road
St. Paul, Minnesota 55106, (612)296-3572

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Bureau of Real Estate Management
Acquisition and Exchange Section
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155-4030

To:



PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Prepared by:
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

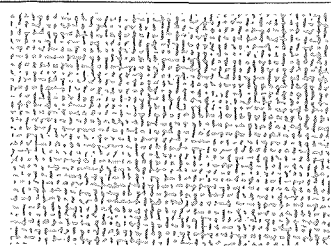
With support from:
Legislative Commission of Minnesota Resources



SALE of STATE LAND

State of Minnesota

Department of Natural Resources
Bureau of Real Estate Management



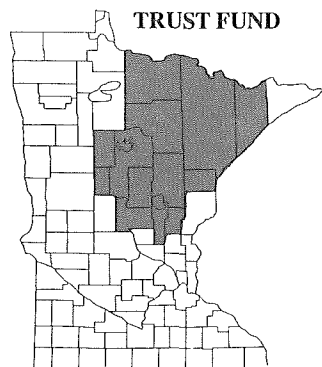
TRUST FUND LAND

On its admission to the Union, the State of Minnesota was granted approximately 8,000,000 acres of school trust fund land from the federal government. They are called school trust fund lands because the money derived from their sale or lease is deposited to permanent trust funds used to support the state's schools. Much of this land has been disposed of through sale to the public or state agencies. Approximately 1,500,000 acres are located within state forest boundaries and are restricted as to sale by the laws governing state forest land. The law provides for its removal from state forest land so that it might be offered for sale if needed for agricultural purposes or for commercial development.

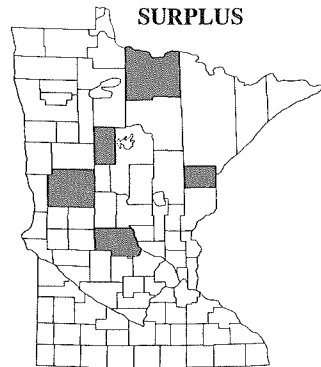
Any of this land, which, in the opinion of the Commissioner of Natural Resources is of value for a specific public use, is withheld from sale for that purpose. All land bordering on lakes, rivers, or streams is reserved from sale by legislative act. All minerals and mineral rights are reserved to the state by laws of the state.

The laws affecting school trust fund land provide for its sale at public auctions only. The minimum value for which it can be offered is \$5 per acre; however, improvements and other desirable features such as cleared acreage, location of roads, timber and communities tend to increase this value. Purchases can be made for cash or on a 20-year contract for deed with 15% down. Interest on sales contracts is the rate then in effect for one year treasury bills or 8% on the principal balance remaining unpaid. The land is sold free of any previous taxes and assessments, but becomes taxable following the sale. Closing costs include the survey, appraisal, and advertising costs.

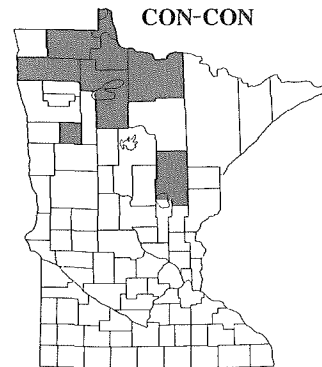
Trust fund land is made available for sale as enough parcels are approved for sale to justify the holding of a public auction. This generally is every two or three years. Between 1983 and 1987, sixty-eight parcels containing 3,900 acres were offered for sale with 19 parcels containing approximately 670 acres being sold in eight counties. The size of these parcels ranged from .2 acres to 80 acres and the appraised value ranged from \$25 to \$25,000 per acre.



TRUST FUND



SURPLUS



CON-CON



LAKESHORE

Past Sales: Parcels located in these counties were offered for sale 1983-1987.

Currently Available: Parcels and lots located in these areas will be available for sale.



SURPLUS LAND

In 1984, the DNR was given the authority to sell land it had acquired but no longer needed for resource management. This type of surplus land includes administrative sites containing buildings, railroad grades, lookout towers, farmsteads with buildings, and small acreages. This surplus land is identified internally by the Commissioner of Natural Resources and approved by the State Executive Council. By law it is then offered to the various political subdivisions of the state for purchase at the appraised value.

Surplus lands not purchased by political subdivisions are sold by sealed bid auction to the highest bidder at or above the minimum bid value. A 10% down payment of the bid must accompany the bid, and, on sales of under \$5,000, the balance is due in 90 days. For sales in excess of \$5,000, a five year contract for deed can be issued with 10% down. The interest on the sales contracts is the rate then in effect for one year treasury bills or 8% on the principal balance remaining unpaid. The land is sold free of any previous taxes and assessments, but becomes taxable following the sale. Closing costs include the survey, appraisal, and advertising costs.

Surplus land is identified statewide as it is no longer needed by the DNR. These types of sales are very limited with only a few parcels being offered in a given year. Between 1983 and 1987, eight parcels of surplus land containing approximately 16 acres were sold in four counties. The size of these parcels ranged from .05 acres to 9 acres and the appraised value ranged from \$150 to \$18,000 per acre.

CONSOLIDATED CONSERVATION LAND

Beginning in the 1920's, depression and drought caused large scale tax forfeiture of privately owned land located on public bond drainage projects. The state assumed debts of certain drainage projects in seven counties in exchange for clear title to the tax-forfeited land within project areas. These areas became known as Consolidated Conservation Areas and the land within as "Con-Con" land. Over the years much Con-Con acreage which was sold back to the private sector went tax-forfeit again.

Currently the state holds title to approximately 1.5 million acres of Con-Con land. Not all of this land, however, is available for sale or suitable for private use. The fact that so much of this land went tax forfeit is a measure of the quality of Con-Con land. Most acreage has relatively low suitability for cultivation and low potential for other economic uses. For this reason, recent legislation required the DNR to develop an acquisition and disposal plan for counties with Consolidated Conservation land. From this plan, lands available for public sale where determined. Information relative to these lands can be obtained from the County Auditor of those counties in which you are interested in acquiring land.

LAKESHORE LAND

In the early 1900's, the State of Minnesota started a lakeshore cabin site leasing program. This program continued until 1973 when a state law was passed that prohibited any new leases being issued. Now a special act of the legislature has made these lakeshore sites available for sale. Under the 1988 cabin site sale law, the Commissioner of Natural Resources has been directed to sell all leased cabin site lots over a period of time. First priority for sale remains with lots previously requested for sale by lessees. After 1993, the Commissioner is required to offer for sale all remaining unsold lots, on an incremental basis, in the years 1994 through 1998.

These lakeshore lands will be sold for cash or a 20-year contract for deed with 10% down and the same interest as for any other state installment sale of land (currently 8%). Full value of the improvements must be paid to the lessee in cash within 15 days of the sale. Payment on other terms can be made if agreeable to the lessee. These lands are sold free of any previous taxes and assessments but are taxable following the sale. Closing costs will include the survey, appraisal, and advertising costs.

There are approximately 1,750 lakeshore leases on DNR land at the present time. These lots are located on 90 lakes in 11 counties and average .5 acres in size. Sales will proceed as soon as possible with those parcels that were scheduled for sale summer and fall of 1987. This includes Devil Tract Lake (Cook County), one plat on Birch Lake (St. Louis County), and Pokegama and Wabana Lakes (Itasca County). Sales will be publicized in Minnesota and elsewhere to the greatest extent possible.

DOES THE STATE SELL TAX-FORFEITED LAND?

Land which has been forfeited to the state for nonpayment of taxes is administered by the Board of Commissioners of the county in which it is located. All records regarding these lands are obtainable at the County Courthouse. Information relative to the land available, as well as dates on which sales will be held, can be obtained by writing to the County Auditor in the courthouse at the county seat of those counties in which you are interested in acquiring land.

WHY DOES THE VALUE OF STATE LANDS VARY SO GREATLY?

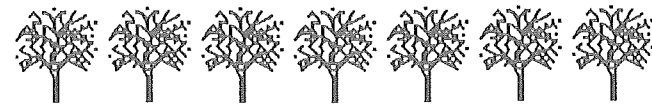
State land is appraised by the same professional standards used in the private sector. Low land values occur when lands tend to be swampy, have poor access or have few resources of value for development or private use. Much of the state land not needed for resource management has little appeal for private use. For this reason, less than half the land offered for sale is actually sold. Occasionally, however, lands holding desirable features such as cleared acreage, good drainage, and proximity to roads and communities will be offered for sale and the value of such land will reflect these features.

HOW LONG DOES THE SALES PROCESS TAKE?

All lands offered for sale must be approved by all sections of the DNR. The time required for this approval together with the notice period required for public sale can result in a 6 month to one year total process time.

CAN ANYONE BUY STATE LAND?

According to Minn. Stat. §15.054, no state employee or employees of the state's political subdivisions (county, city, township, school district, etc.) may purchase state lands.



CAN STATE LAND BE HOMESTEADED?

Homesteading refers to land owned by the federal government and administered by the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of Interior. Homesteading no longer occurs in Minnesota.

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE REVENUE FROM SALES OF STATE LAND?

Revenue from the sale of Trust Fund land is deposited in the Permanent School Trust Fund. Revenue from the sale of most other state land is deposited in the Dedicated Land Acquisition Fund.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Information on DNR lands suitable for sale can be obtained from the Bureau of Real Estate Management (612)296-4097, or you can contact any of the following regional offices:

- Region 1 Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
2115 Birchmont Beach Road NE
Bemidji, Minnesota 56601
(218) 755-3955
- Region 2 Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
1201 East Highway 2
Grand Rapids, Minnesota 55744
(218) 327-4455
- Region 3 Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
1601 Minnesota Drive
Brainerd, Minnesota 56401
(218) 828-2560

LAND SALE MAILING LIST

Requests for sales lists are kept for three years.

To receive a copy of the current list of land available for sale, fill out the form, cut out, and mail to:

Dept. Natural Resources
Bureau of Real Estate Management
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-4030

Check the box of the sale that you wish a mailing of:

Trust Fund Lakeshore Surplus

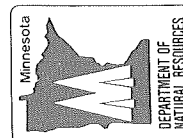
Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Department of Natural Resources
Bureau of Real Estate Management
500 Lafayette Road, Box 30
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-4030



SALE of STATE LAND

State of Minnesota

Department of Natural Resources
Bureau of Real Estate Management

Department of Natural Resources



*Donations for
Natural Resources*

Donations for Natural Resources . . .

Your gifts and donations to the Department of Natural Resources contribute to the enhancement of our Minnesota resources and help ensure that these resources will be preserved for future generations.

Gifts to the DNR may be made by simple donation or by more involved methods such as bequests, wills and trusts.

Donations may be made by clubs or organizations, individuals or groups. The DNR accepts many types of gifts including real estate, machinery and equipment, personal property, investment securities and monetary donations. Donations are tax-deductible.

Donors may identify specific programs as the beneficiary of their donation if they choose. For example, you may direct your donation be used for purchasing land, developing sites or managing projects for any DNR program — forestry, wildlife, fisheries, water access, parks, trails, canoe and boating routes, wild and scenic rivers and scientific and natural areas.

In recent years, gifts of land to the DNR have become more common. These tracts of land are managed for conservation purposes and provide a living memorial for the donor.



Why Give Land?

A gift of land can bring many benefits to the donor. The most gratifying is the knowledge that present and future generations will benefit from your gift. There can also be substantial financial benefits which make charitable giving attractive.

A gift of land with natural resource qualities may fit into a designated unit such as a wildlife management area, state forest, etc. Contact the DNR regional office in your area to determine if your land qualifies. The regional offices are listed at the end of the brochure.

If you own land without natural resource value, such as improved real estate, you can still donate it, with the understanding that the DNR will exchange it for land suitable for natural resources purposes. The "Exchange and Sale" section of this brochure explains more about such donations.

Tax Advantages . . .

The current Internal Revenue Code encourages donations of land to publicly supported nonprofit organizations such as the DNR. See IRS Publication 526 for detailed information.

The State of Minnesota offers similar tax benefits for land donation. The DNR encourages prospective donors to check with an attorney or tax advisor on laws applicable to individual financial situations and tax law changes. If you are considering a land donation, we are willing to work with you and your tax advisor.



Reserved Life Estate . . .

An individual may wish to donate property so that it will be preserved in its natural state or, in the case of exchange land, to be used as a financial resource so other natural resource land can be purchased. You can retain possession and use of the property for your life and the lifetimes of members of your immediate family (a "life estate"). This type of contribution is called a "remainder interest."

For income tax purposes, the value of the life estate decreases the value of the remainder interest that is donated. This results in a smaller tax deduction than land donated without a reserved life estate.



Gift of Land by Will . . .

The DNR also accepts property by will. There are several reasons to bequeath land to the DNR: to insure that the land is cared for in a way that protects its natural resources and provides recreation for future generations; to provide a lasting memorial; to reduce estate and inheritance taxes while keeping the land in your ownership.

Please contact the DNR before you include a gift of land in your will. With cooperation of your attorney, we can suggest language which will help ensure that your wishes are followed.

Easements . . .

You may wish to retain ownership of your property, yet assure that the land will remain in its natural condition. You can accomplish these goals by donating an easement to the DNR. This allows you to use your land for purposes compatible with natural resource management, while prohibiting development and other potentially destructive uses.

The DNR protects and manages land by acquiring flowage, scenic, fishing, access, and trail easements.

The value of a charitable contribution for donating an easement is based on the value of the "development rights" being given away. In many cases this constitutes a substantial percentage of the land's fair market value.

Exchange or Sale Lands . . .

The DNR accepts donations of real estate without significant resource values. These properties, whether improved or unimproved — residential, industrial, or commercial — are called "exchange lands."

If you donate such property, you are making a vital contribution to the DNR's land management program. Exchange land is not managed for its resource values. It can, however, be used in exchange for more suitable property or the proceeds from its sale can go toward acquiring other high quality natural resource areas.

Identical tax treatment is accorded to gifts of lands used for exchange or sale.

Real Estate Taxes . . .

When an outright donation of land is accepted by the DNR, the donor is relieved of the legal obligation to pay future real estate taxes. With a donation of a "remainder interest," however, the holder of the life estate continues to be obligated to pay real estate taxes during the period of the life estate. Donors of easements will also continue to pay real estate taxes because they continue to own the land.

What To Do . . .

To learn more about gifts or donations to the DNR, call or write to the regional office nearest you. The offices are listed below. We would like to work with you and your tax advisor to help you achieve your charitable and financial objectives.

Region I — Regional Administrator
2115 Birchmont Beach Road, NE
Bemidji, MN 56601
(218) 755-3955

Region II — Regional Administrator
1201 E. Highway 2
Grand Rapids, MN 55744
(218) 327-1755



Region III — Regional Administrator
Box 648
424 Front St.
Brainerd, MN 56401
(218) 828-2560

Region IV — Regional Administrator
Box 756, Highway 15 S.
New Ulm, MN 56073
(507) 354-2196

Region V — Regional Administrator
2300 Silver Creek Road NE
Rochester, MN 55904
(507) 285-7420

Region VI — Regional Administrator
1200 Warner Road
St. Paul, MN 55106
(612) 296-3572

Department of Natural Resources
Bureau of Land
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55146
(612) 296-6157

Note: Our thanks to The Nature Conservancy for allowing the DNR to use excerpts from the brochure "Gifts of Land."

The Editors

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Department of Natural Resources
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55146