

Budget for One Minnesota



NATURAL RESOURCES

The Department of Natural Resources' mission is to work with Minnesota residents to conserve and manage the state's natural resources, to provide outdoor recreation opportunities, and to provide for commercial uses of natural resources in a way that creates a sustainable quality of life. The Walz-Flanagan budget supports the DNR's mission and promotes community prosperity throughout Minnesota by protecting our natural resources, promoting smart decisions based on good information, connecting people with the outdoors, and addressing critical operational needs. Key initiatives within this budget package are summarized below.

PROTECTING OUR NATURAL RESOURCES



Sustaining Minnesota's White-Tailed Deer / Addressing Chronic Wasting Disease

White-tailed deer are one of the most popular species to hunt in Minnesota. Deer hunting provides a \$500 million economic boost to the state's economy. Chronic wasting disease, a fatal neurological disease that affects deer, threatens this treasured tradition. The governor supports an urgent response to combating CWD to protect Minnesota's economy and community prosperity. The governor recommends \$4.57 million from the General Fund in FY20-21 and \$1.1 million annually thereafter to combat the disease, including surveillance and response, enforcement, and outreach to landowners. This initiative also includes \$1.8 million from the Game and Fish Fund in FY20-21 for deer management research. The goal is to respond aggressively to protect Minnesota's deer herd and deer hunting experience.



Minnesota Forest Management

Good forest management includes periodic review of timber harvest levels and their impact to the greater forest ecosystem and economy. In March 2018, the DNR set a new 10-year sustainable timber harvest target to offer 870,000 cords for sale each year from DNR-managed forests, plus an additional 30,000 cords of ash and tamarack for sale annually. The decision came after more than a year of rigorous scientific analysis, public input, and discussions with key partners in conservation organizations and the forest industry. The governor recommends

\$2 million from the Forest Management Investment Account in FY20-21 to support the sustainable timber harvest target to maintain clean water and air, support wildlife, provide recreation opportunities, sustain biodiversity, and provide a reliable source of wood for Minnesota's forest products industry.



Protecting Our Public Waters

Protecting Minnesota's public waters is fundamental to maintaining our quality of life. Surface waters are affected by a range of civic and commercial activities. The DNR's public waters protection program ensures a balance between conservation and use. The governor recommends investing \$1.6 million from the General Fund and \$716,000 from the Water Management Account in FY20-21 for public water protection work. This investment allows DNR to provide needed services to the public in important water management activities such as: responding to floods and lake level concerns; assisting local governments with water-related land-use decisions; and providing technical assistance to lake shore owners, other landowners, communities, and state and federal agencies.

MAKING SMART DECISIONS



Angler Surveys to Inform Fisheries Management

Minnesota's 1.4 million anglers contribute over \$4 billion annually to state's economy. Fishing is an integral part of our culture and contributes to our high quality of life. Angler survey information is critical for tracking trends in fishing pressure, angler catch, harvest, and angler attitudes and preferences. The data are also critical for monitoring the effectiveness of special and statewide angling regulations. The governor recommends \$278,000 in FY20 and \$532,000 thereafter from the Game and Fish Fund to expand angler surveys beyond the state's ten largest lakes.

CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH THE OUTDOORS



State Trail Maintenance

Minnesotans enjoy unforgettable trail-based experiences that inspire them to pass along the love for the outdoors to current and future generations. State trails operations and maintenance funding has not kept pace with a growing trail system and rising costs. For example, while the number of paved trails has grown by 150 miles over the last decade, operations and maintenance funding has fallen by \$900/mile. With an estimated traffic of 1.8 million visits each year on 1,500 miles of trail, state trails generate substantial tourist travel and economic benefit supporting businesses and communities across the state, especially in greater

Minnesota. The governor recommends \$2 million General Fund investment in FY20-21 for state trail maintenance, to promote healthier communities and strong local tourism economies.

AGENCY OVERVIEW

Expenditures only

Dollars in thousands

	2020-21	2022-23	FTE (FY21)
Addressing Operational Needs	25,712	24,434	99
Operating Adjustment	15,871	20,738	95
Legal Costs**	6,065	-	1
Protecting DNR Applications	2,802	2,722	-
Office of School Trust Lands Funding	974	974	3
Connecting People to the Outdoors	80,551	19,120	70
Increase Boating Registration Fees and Aquatic Invasive Species Surcharge*	13,030	13,718	6
Appropriation Increase for ATV and ORV Accounts	2,900	2,900	4
Address State Trail Maintenance Funding Shortfall	2,000	2,000	4
Ice Safety Program	352	352	1
Cross-Country Ski Pass Fee Increase*	140	140	0
State Trail Special Event Account	10	10	-
Parks and Trails Legacy Funds - State Parks and Trails	40,727	-	42
Parks and Trails Legacy Funds - Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails	20,364	-	1
Parks and Trails Legacy Funds - Coordination Among Partners	1,028	-	1
Protecting Our Natural Resources	32,992	8,320	112
Sustaining Minnesota's White-Tailed Deer	6,386	4,016	15
Protecting Our Public Waters*	2,316	2,316	10
Minnesota Forest Management	2,000	2,000	9
Fish and Wildlife Dedicated Deer License Revenue	-	-	-
Authorize Strategic Land Sales	(16)	(16)	-
Protecting Special Forest Products*	4	4	-
Clean Water Legacy	22,302	-	78
Smart Decisions with Good Information	2,664	1,064	5
Pineland Sands EIS/Study	1,854	-	-
Angler Surveys to Inform Fisheries Management	810	1,064	5
Total	141,919	52,938	285

*New revenues offset these proposals in whole or in part

**The proposal also supports the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's legal costs