



## DNR Agency Overview

Assistant Commissioner, Bob Meier

Government Relations Supervisor, John Waters

# Commissioner's Leadership Team



**Sarah  
Strommen**  
Commissioner



**Barb  
Naramore**  
Deputy  
Commissioner



**Bob Meier**  
Assistant  
Commissioner



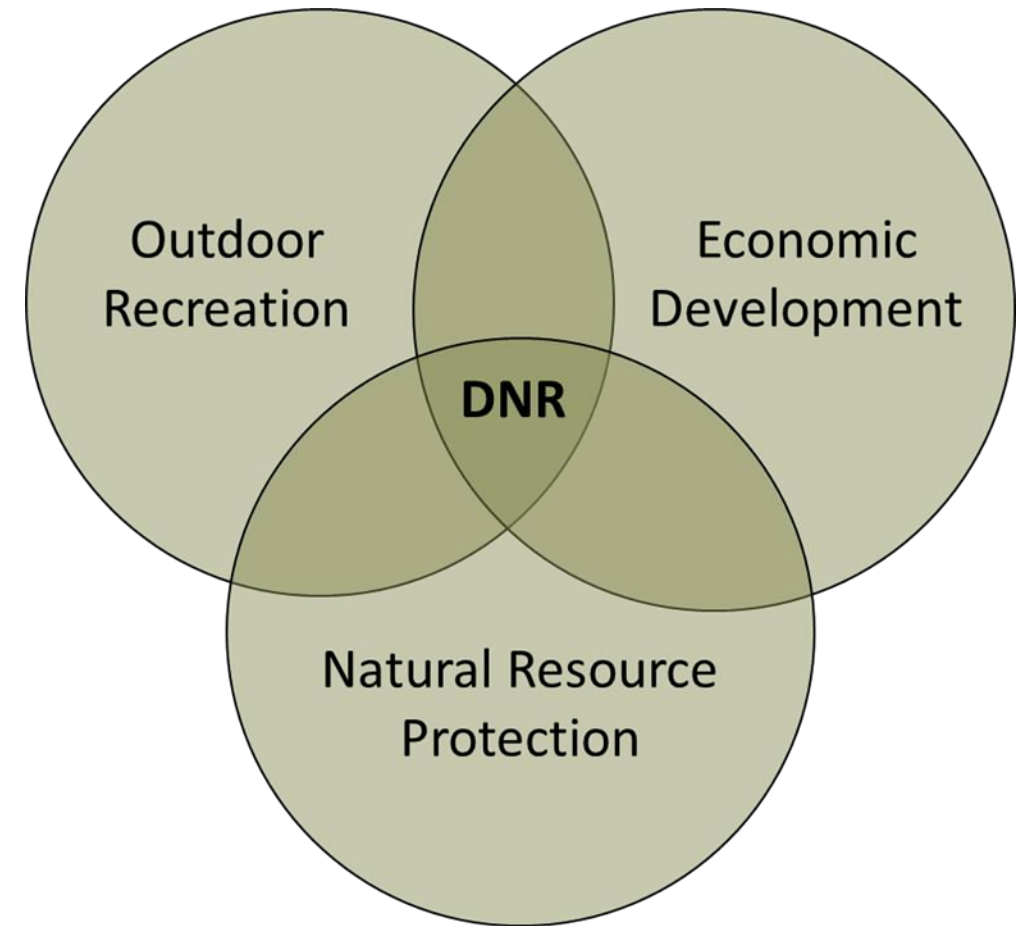
**Jess  
Richards**  
Assistant  
Commissioner

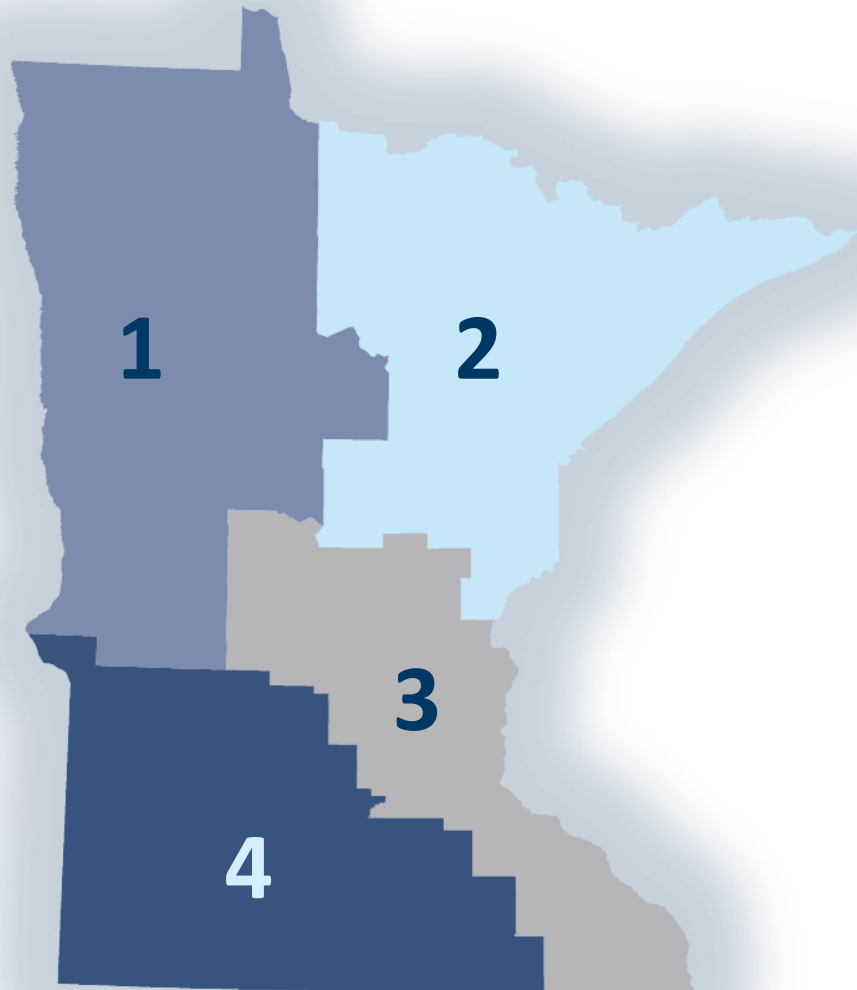


**Shannon  
Lotthammer**  
Assistant  
Commissioner

# DNR's Mission

*The mission of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is to work with Minnesotans 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 way of life.*





## Administrative Regions

**Region 1: Northwest** – Ben Bergey, Director

**Region 2: Northeast** – Shelly Patten, Director

**Region 3: Central** – Grant Wilson, Director

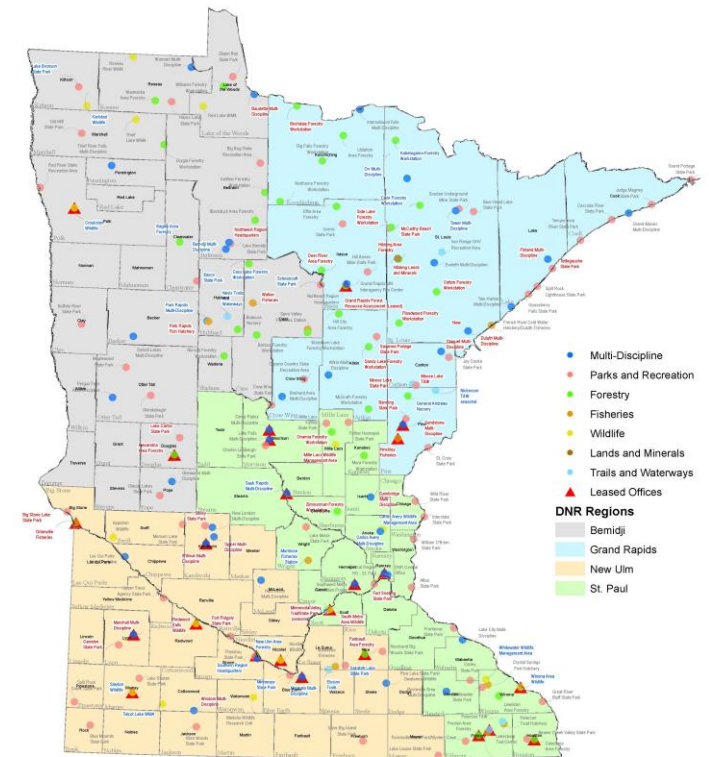
**Region 4: Southern** – vacant

# DNR's Footprint

- DNR has 285 report to work sites statewide and recreational facilities in every county
- DNR employs approximately 3,350 employees (3,150 full-time employees)
- Over 2,900 owned or leased buildings

## Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

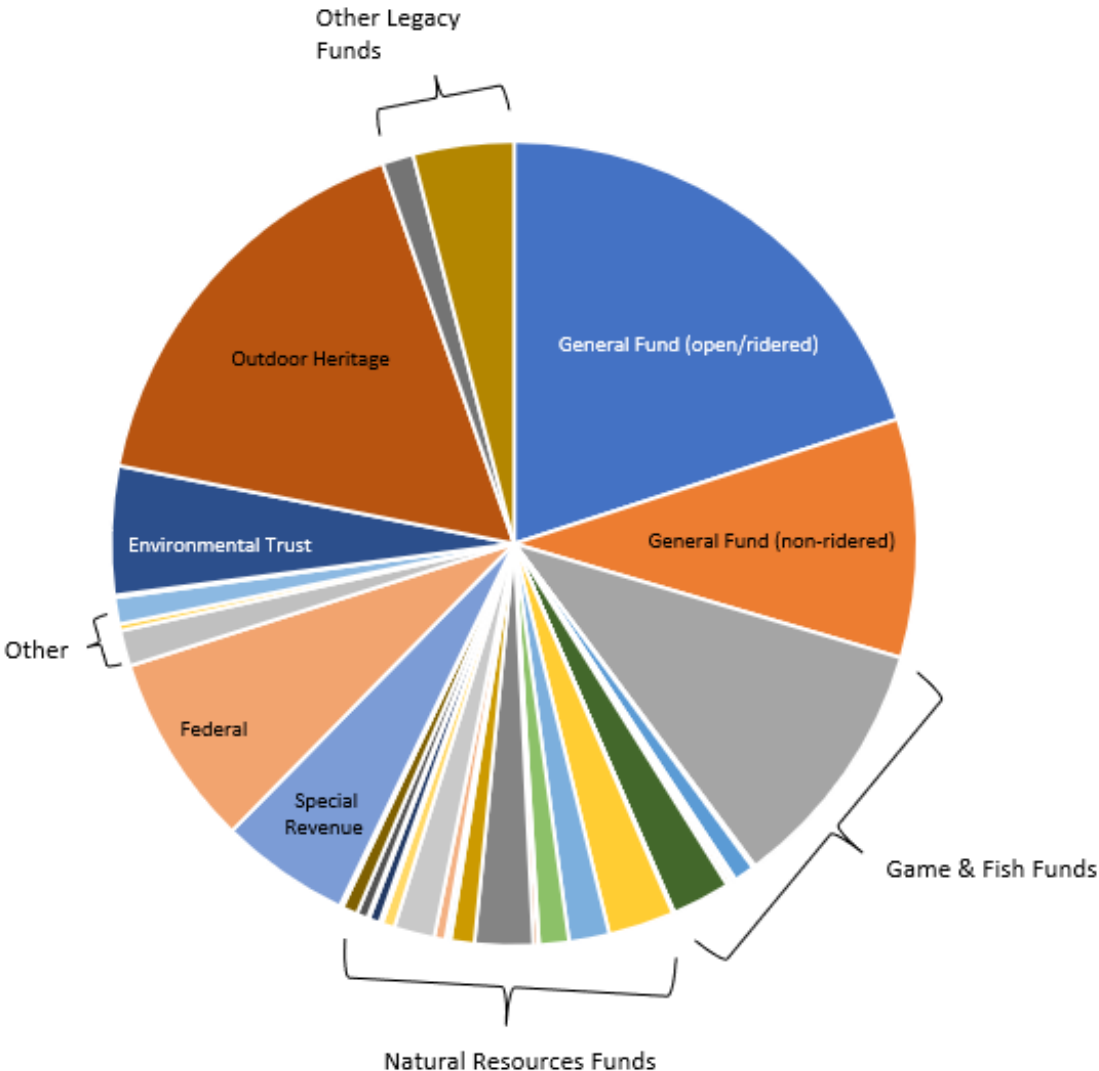
*Worksite Locations and Leased Offices*



# DNR By the Numbers

- 60 state forests
- 170 scientific and natural areas
- 64 state parks, 9 state recreation areas, and 9 state waysides
- 700 aquatic management areas
- 1,500 miles of multi-use state trails
- 22,300 miles of state and grant-in-aid snowmobile trails
- 3,500 miles of state and grant-in-aid OHV trails
- 870 miles of state and grant-in-aid cross-country ski trails
- 4,100 miles of hiking, biking, horse, and motorized trails within state park, state recreation area, and state forest lands
- 1,069,000 angling and 827,000 hunting licenses sold
- 812,000 registered boats
- 203,000 registered snowmobiles and 375,000 registered all-terrain vehicles (ATVs)
- 11.3 million state park and recreation area visitors, with 1.14 million overnight visitors served
- Over 7,000 native animals and plants assessed for conservation status updates
- Over 60 wildlife game species managed
- 240 million walleye fry and 1.8 million walleye fingerlings stocked
- 1,700 public water access sites and 390 fishing piers, platforms, and shore-fishing sites

# FY24-25 Budget by Fund



- FY24-25 budget is roughly \$2 billion
- Spread across more than 50 funds
- Primary operating funds:
  - Natural Resources Funds (13%)
  - Game and Fish Funds (14%)
  - General Fund (30%)
- The DNR makes up less than 1% of the state's general fund spending
- One-time funding from legacy funds and the environmental trust are 27% of our budget
- 22% of our budget is passed through to non-state entities

# Lands and Minerals Division



- Manages agency real estate transactions and real estate portfolio
- Regulates, and provides expertise on mineral exploration, mining, and mine land reclamation
- Manages mineral interests on all state trust and county lands
- Manage payments and mineral valuation claims for tax forfeit properties
- Developing a regulatory framework for gas extraction and production

- **Division Director:** Joe Henderson
- **Assistant Directors:** Michael Liljegren, Ted Anderson, and Cheryl Kelley-Dobie
- **Lands and Minerals by the Numbers:**
  - Manages real estate activities for 5.6 million acres of state-owned land, including 2.5 million acres of school trust lands
  - Administered 2,550 state land leases in CY23
  - Manages 12 million acres of state-owned mineral rights
  - 272 active mineral leases; 158 active leases for non-ferrous minerals



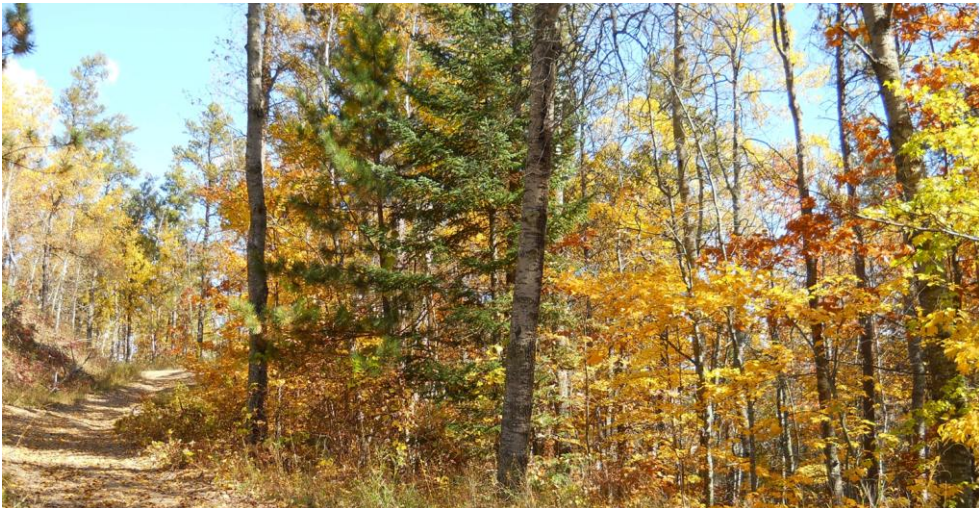
# Ecological and Water Resources Division

- Ensures the long-term health of lands and waters that support and maintain water quality, biodiversity, and vital ecosystem services
- Provides critical information and regulatory oversight to state and local governments, businesses, and landowners to foster natural resources stewardship
- **Division Director:** Katie Smith
- **Assistant Directors:** Melissa Kuskie, Jason Moeckel
- **Ecological and Water Resources by the Numbers:**
  - 170 Scientific Natural Areas (SNA) covering 193,000 acres
  - 15,350 acres in prairie bank easements
  - Over 52,700 inspections for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) conducted in 2023
  - 874 new water appropriation permits issued in FY2024
  - 1,250 groundwater observation wells



# Forestry Division

- Protects citizens, property, and natural resources from wildfire
- Provides a sustainable yield of forest resources for forest products, clean water, wildlife habitat, and recreation
- Manages School Trust surface resources (forest products, gravel)



- **Division Director:** Patty Thielen
- **Deputy Director:** Andrew Arends
- **Forestry by the Numbers:**
  - Respond to average of 960 fires annually
  - 60 State Forests
  - 5 million acres of DNR-administered forest land included in our forest certification certificate
  - Provides about 1/3 of the fiber used by mills across the state
  - 30,000 acres reforested annually
  - Annual average of 70,000 acres of private land included in forest management plans
  - Maintains about 2,400 miles of state forest roads

# Parks and Trails Division

- Operates a system of state parks and state forest recreation areas that conserves natural, scenic, and cultural resources
- Maintains a statewide network of recreational trails
- Provides public access to lakes, rivers, and streams
- Provides environmental education, and grants for regional and community recreation opportunity



- **Division Director:** Ann Pierce
- **Deputy Director:** Phil Leversedge
- **Parks and Trails by the Numbers**
  - Operate 64 State Parks, 9 State Recreation Areas, 9 state waysides and more than 5,000 campsites
    - 1.14 million overnight visitors in 2023
  - 3,400 miles of hiking/biking/motorized trails and 22,300 miles of snowmobiles trails
  - Maintain 1,700 public water accesses, 390 fishing piers, 35 state water trails
  - Deliver approximately 8,600 outdoor education programs to 200,000 participants each year

# Fish and Wildlife Division

- Manages fish and wildlife populations and provides related outdoor recreation opportunities
- Conserves, and enhances water and land habitats, regulates hunting, trapping and fishing



- **Division Director:** Kelly Straka
- **Deputy Director:** Pat Rivers
- **Fish and Wildlife by the Numbers:**
  - 1.1 million angling licenses sold
  - 548,000 licensed hunters and trappers
  - More than 1,500 WMAs covering 1.3 million acres
  - Managed 4,400 fishing lakes
  - Stocked 1,370 lakes and 126 streams with fish in 2023
  - Over 4,000 designated trout stream miles

# Enforcement Division

- Enforces natural resource laws including those related to game and fish, wetlands, aquatic plants, and the operation of recreational vehicles
- Regulates natural resource commercial operations
- Provides conservation and safety education programs
- Provides disaster and emergency response



- **Division Director:** Colonel Rodmen Smith
- **Deputy Director:** Lt. Colonel Robert Gorecki
- **Enforcement by the Numbers:**
  - 154 Conservation Officers in the field
  - 51,000 students certified annually in ATV, snowmobile, boat, and firearms safety
  - 25,000 documented contacts in FY2024
  - Worked with over 100 non-profit shooting sports organizations to increase capacity for HS shooting sports and recreational shooting through infrastructure improvements and expansions

# Operations Services Division

- Provides administrative leadership and support to the department
- Support staff through human resources
- Manage safety, emergency preparedness, and disaster response
- Maintain fleet, buildings, and infrastructure



- **Division Director:** Reena Solheid
- **Deputy Director:** Judy Schmidt
- **Operations Support by the Numbers:**
  - Manages over 2,900 DNR buildings across the state
  - Over 5,000 pieces of mobile equipment managed, which includes 3,280 fleet land operated items
  - Over 64 million views of DNR website in 2024
  - Approximately 95,000 public contacts made to DNR Information Center

# Questions?

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