

Nature and Climate Solutions for Minnesota

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We are working to protect the land and water on which all life depends for a world where nature and people thrive. We are a global, science-driven organization, and in Minnesota we do our work in prairies, forests, wetlands, waterways, on farm fields and with state, federal, local, private, and NGO partners. In addition, we leverage science, innovation, and collaboration to help nature adapt, to prevent catastrophic impacts, and to reduce future greenhouse gas emissions.

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions is a top priority in response to our changing climate, and our 2021 *Nature & Climate Solutions* report shows that natural and working lands play a critical role. The Nature Conservancy's work across the state is addressing the challenge of climate change through natural lands, but we cannot do it alone.

In addition to protecting the critical outcomes already supported by dedicated funding through the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment funds and the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund, there are several key state programs the legislature can advance through bonding or general funds to help Minnesota mitigate and adapt to climate change.



FORESTS HF2951 (Finke) / SF3011 (Xiong)

- **\$10 million for Reforestation:** This DNR program ensures crews can plant and replant trees after timber harvests or restore forests in areas that were historically forested, sequestering carbon and providing clean water among many other benefits.
- **\$10 million for replacement of the State Forest Nursery:** Investments in the DNR State Nursery will allow the nursery to increase seedling supply and meet increasing demands for reforestation and conservation efforts.
- **\$3 million for Forest Stand Improvement:** This DNR program funds forest restoration work like planting, seeding, and browse protection to benefit forest health and wildlife habitat.
- **\$16 million for ReLeaf Community Tree Planting Grants:** This DNR program would address urban and community reforestation needs through tree removal, tree planting, and technical assistance to communities and homeowners.
- **\$5 million for Forests for the Future:** This voluntary DNR program provides one-time payment to private landowners to enroll in a perpetual conservation easement, in which forest lands are required to remain intact and under a sustainable timber harvest plan.
- **\$7 million for Private Forest Landowner Technical Assistance, Cost Share, and Inventory:** This DNR program would equip private forest landowners with data, financial incentives, and technical assistance to implement best management practices for their forest lands
- **\$400,000 each year for Accelerated Tree Seed Collection:** Investments in this program will expand the DNR's capacity to produce and harvest high-quality tree seeds on DNR-managed forests and develop an inventory of harvest sites.

Investments in Natural Climate Solutions for Minnesota



FORESTS HF883 (Igo) / SF587 (Farnsworth)

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WATER RESILIENCE HF2186 (Brand) / SF2652 (Rasmusson)

- **\$17 million for Water Storage:** This BWSR program funds water storage and retention projects that protect infrastructure, water quality, and mitigate the effects of increasing flooding events.
- **\$10 million for Reinvest in MN (RIM) Working Floodplains Easements:** This BWSR program gives willing landowners an opportunity to maintain working lands on floodplains despite threats to their operations by increased flooding and weather events. For landowners who continue to see flood-related crop losses year after year, this program supports them pursuing an alternative way to keep those lands generating revenue through forestry, haying or grazing.
- **\$3 million for Reinvest in MN (RIM) Working Grasslands Easements:** This BWSR program provides a one-time payment to private grassland owners to enroll their land in a perpetual easement that ensures the sustainability of working ranchlands. Landowners may continue to graze animals or hay on the property.



NATURAL AND WORKING LANDS PROTECTION

HF751 (Reyer) / SF2600 (Morrison)

- **\$2 million for Scientific and Natural Areas (SNAs):** This DNR program is the state's highest form of protection for unique and sensitive habitats and SNAs are accessible to birders, hikers, and photographers. It also helps keep carbon stored in the ground by preventing development in areas of high biodiversity.
- **\$2 million for Aquatic Management Areas (AMAs):** This DNR program protects shoreland that helps preserve critical waterways and the carbon value of shoreline habitats, while also offering increased access to anglers.
- **\$3 million for Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs):** This DNR program preserves land with a high potential for wildlife production and is open to the public for hunting, fishing, trapping and other recreation uses. WMAs can also be managed for carbon storage.



SOIL HEALTH HF1316 (Pursell) / SF1245 (Gustafson)

- **\$10 million and \$2 million thereafter in general funds for Soil Health Financial Assistance:** This MDA program expands soil health practice adoption statewide through general fund grants to farmers for cost-share and equipment. Building soil health ensures we can restore and protect nature while ensuring farmers remain productive and profitable.

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