



Department of Natural Resources Fact Sheet



2008 CAPITAL BUDGET Shoreline & Aquatic Habitat - AMA Governor's Recommendation: \$1,000,000

It is needed because

The demand for shoreline property is high and as natural shorelines are lost to development, shorelines lose their ability to support the clean water and populations of fish and wildlife for which Minnesota is known. Aquatic Management Areas (AMAs) are a critical step towards maintaining Minnesota's reputation for providing excellent fishing opportunities and an outstanding quality of life. According to the 2006 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation, angler-related expenditures in Minnesota amount to \$2.7 billion each year.

AMAs are established to protect, develop, and manage lakes, rivers, streams, and adjacent wetlands and lands that are critical for fish and other aquatic life, for water quality, and for their intrinsic biological value, public fishing, or other compatible outdoor recreational uses (M.S. 86A.05 subd. 14(a)). Shoreland protection is critical for preventing the loss of wildlife and plant species due to climate change. Acquiring new AMAs will help preserve species in future decades by allowing animals and plants to migrate along shorelines in response to change.

This request also supports Minnesota Climate Change Advisory Group priority AFW-2: Land Use Management Approaches for Protection and Enrichment of Soil Carbon.

AMAs are acquired through fee title acquisition or permanent easements on lakes, rivers and streams. DNR currently administers more than 834 shoreline miles as AMAs across Minnesota, of which 618 miles provide trout stream access and protection. The remaining 216 miles of AMAs provide protection and access on lakes and warmwater streams.

Major project elements

This funding will accelerate the strategic acquisition and improvement of AMAs, consistent with a

Citizen's Advisory Committee 25 year acquisition plan that recommended acquisition of 1,000 miles of trout stream and 750 miles of lake and warmwater stream during the next 10 years.

Through the AMA program, state funding has leveraged large amounts of private land and cash donations. Specifically, this funding will:

- ◆ Acquire and protect lake and stream shoreline through fee title or permanent conservation easements;
- ◆ Improve shoreline habitat through native plant restoration and bank stabilization; and
- ◆ Develop sites, including boundary survey, posting, parking lot, user facilities, building removal, well sealing, and road approaches.

Priority-setting

Priorities are currently based on AMA acquisition plans, shoreline with highest habitat quality, designated trout streams, partner involvement, and willing sellers. The Citizen's Advisory Committee 25 year acquisition plan will drive future priority setting, funding levels and outcome goals for the AMA program.

Project locations

Fee title and conservation easements will occur statewide based on the above criteria.

Key measures and outcomes

A high-quality system of AMAs protects critical shoreland habitat, supports healthy fish and wildlife populations, and maintains public access to water resources through:

- ◆ Acquisition and protection of 6.5 miles of shoreland habitat, including 5.0 miles of trout stream and 1.5 miles of lake and warmwater stream shoreland;
- ◆ Restoration and stabilization of shoreland; and
- ◆ Improved public access and user facilities.

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