

SHORELAND HABITAT CONSERVATION

INDICATORS: Amount of lakeshore habitat restored

THIS INDICATOR IS A
KEY MEASURE
IN **PART ONE**

WHY IS THIS INDICATOR IMPORTANT?

Healthy shorelines have long been recognized as critical for water quality, aquatic plants, and fish and wildlife that live in or near Minnesota's lakes and streams. In 2003, a Bemidji State University study showed that lake water clarity is significantly related to lakeshore property values. The study states that the worst land-use practices include the removal of trees, native plants, and aquatic vegetation along shorelines. As native shoreline habitat is lost to development, shorelines lose their ability to support the fish, wildlife, and clean water that are so appealing to the people attracted to Minnesota's water resources.

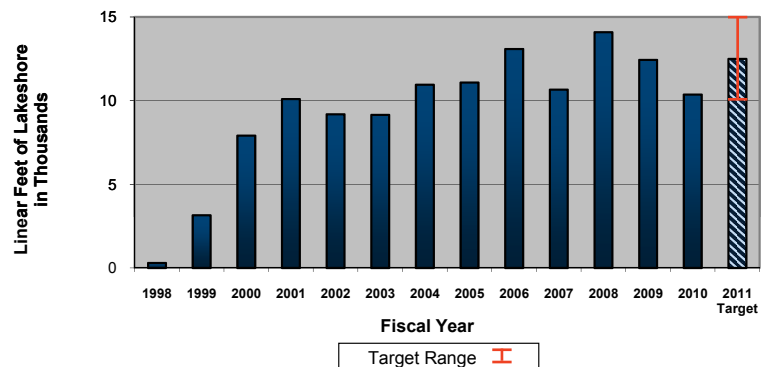
WHAT IS DNR DOING?

DNR provides education, technical assistance, and grants to conservation organizations and local governments to restore altered shoreline habitat in order to expand diversity and abundance of native aquatic plants, improve and protect quality of shoreline habitat, and enhance and protect water quality. Since 1998, DNR has helped restore shoreland on over 339 sites, comprising 112,121 linear feet and over 88 acres of shoreland habitat.

Despite these accomplishments, there are still many more potential partners and projects that could accelerate shoreland restoration efforts. To identify barriers to participation in shoreland restoration efforts, DNR is working with the University of Minnesota on a human dimensions study of landowner attitudes and beliefs about vegetative buffers on Minnesota lakes. This study will help to tailor future communications and technical assistance to landowners and will assist in the prioritization and allocation of shoreland restoration grants and site selection.

TARGET: Restore 10,000 to 15,000 linear feet of shoreline in FY 2011.

Amount of Lakeshore Habitat Restored



Amount of lakeshore habitat restored. DNR has helped restore over 112,000 linear feet of lakeshore.



This restored private shoreline property on Red Rock Lake in Douglas County improves habitat and water quality.

LEARN MORE ABOUT:

- Shoreland habitat and fisheries management at: www.mndnr.gov/fisheries/management/habitat.html
- Shoreline restoration interactive CD-ROM and books at: www.mndnr.gov/restoreyourshore
- Natural shorelands at: www.mndnr.gov/shorelandmgmt/ecosystems/natural_shoreland.html