

For more information, Contact  
your DNR Private Lands Wildlife  
Specialist today.  
[www.mndnr.gov/privatelandsprogram](http://www.mndnr.gov/privatelandsprogram)

#### DNR Mission Statement

"Our mission is to work with citizens to protect 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 Private Land Program's mission is to help you achieve your land stewardship goals and provide wildlife habitat in a sustainable manner.

Department of Natural Resources  
500 Lafayette Road  
St. Paul, MN 55155-4040  
(651) 296-6157 (Metro Area)  
1-888-MINNDNR (646-6367) (MN Toll Free)  
[www.mndnr.gov](http://www.mndnr.gov)

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Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Helping Landowners Help

# Wildlife



Photo: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service



## DNR Wildlife Private Lands Program

Helping you achieve your wildlife habitat and land stewardship goals.

More than 75% of land in Minnesota is privately owned. Recognizing that private landowners are critical stewards of our land, the DNR Section of Wildlife Private Lands Program, assists these landowners with their land management needs. These specialists are trained to provide technical guidance and management expertise for wildlife and plant communities on private lands at no cost.

Whether it's your back yard  
or your back forty, your land  
can make a difference!

## Private lands wildlife specialists can:

- Visit on-site for private landowner consultations
- Develop habitat management and Forest Stewardship Plans
- Provide technical guidance for private landowners interested in wildlife habitat management practices.
- Assist private landowners with enrollment in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's cost-share and land retirement programs
- Explain and navigate the many financial assistance and incentive programs that are available
- Work closely with other natural resource agencies and private organizations to address landowners' interests and individual objectives.
- Provide referrals to other appropriate natural resource specialists







## Your land

As a landowner, you have the joy and responsibility of owning a piece of property. Whether it's the family farm, hunting land, lakeshore, or the small acreage surrounding your country home, your land has the potential to be both a wildlife haven and be a model for conservation. Your land stewardship goals can be achieved through sound ecological principles, appropriate wildlife habitat management and soil and water conservation practices.

## Your land can:

- Provide habitat
- Sustain wildlife populations
- Contribute to clean air & water
- Positively impact both the environment and the economy



## Why manage your land for wildlife?

Minnesota is a land rich in diverse natural resources with habitats ranging from native prairie, mixed deciduous forest, to boreal forest. Over 550 species of birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians inhabit these diverse landscapes. Unfortunately, much of the wildlife habitat throughout the state is being degraded or eliminated

### Negative pressures on wildlife habitat:

- Land development
- Urban sprawl
- Subdivision and sale of land
- Intensive fence-row to fence-row agriculture
- Rising land and commodity prices
- Invasive species
- Climate Change

Many wildlife species in Minnesota have declined in both number and distribution due to loss and degradation of their habitat.

78 species of birds, mammals, fish, reptiles and amphibians in Minnesota are currently classified as endangered, threatened, or of special concern.

## Getting started

Being a good steward of the land is a lifelong endeavor that will provide wildlife benefits for years, or even generations. It is important that you develop realistic goals and manage your land accordingly.

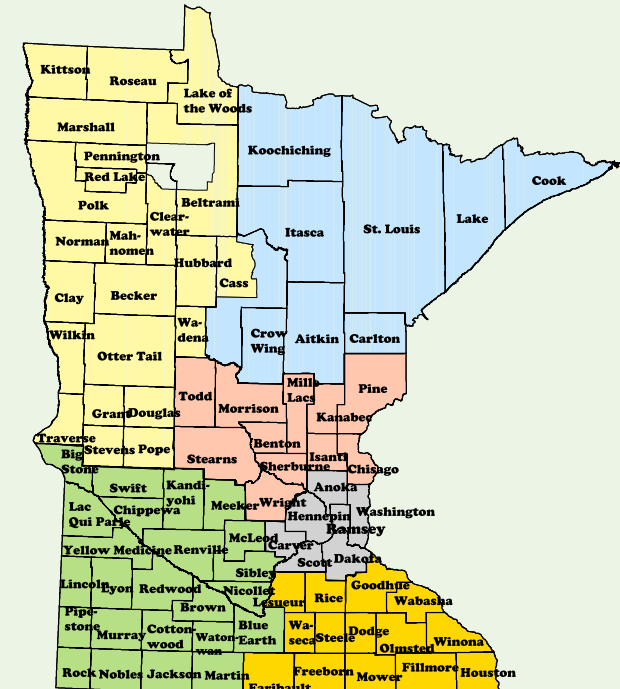
First you must first understand and appreciate the habitats and wildlife that are native to your area.

### Things to consider:

- Wildlife species that currently occur in your landscape
- Wildlife species that you want to benefit
- Habitat needs of the wildlife species that you want to benefit
- Habitat components that are missing on your land or the surrounding land
- Habitat components that you can realistically provide on your land
- Habitat management practices that can be utilized to provide the missing components and maintain desired habitat

Not every parcel of land can, or should, provide everything. Your local DNR Private Lands Wildlife Specialist can help you determine the habitats and wildlife that can be benefited most effectively, develop clear management goals, and determine what conservation practices to implement.

## Private Lands Program Field Specialists



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Aitkin: 218-927-2982  
Bemidji: 218-308-2628  
Cambridge: 763-689-7110  
Owatonna: 507-455-5841  
Redwood Falls: 507-637-4076  
Metro Area

### Private lands wildlife specialists can assist with habitat management practices such as:

- Prairie restoration
- Wetland restoration
- Brushland management
- Forest management
- Invasive species control