

Working on Private Lands

Any restoration or enhancement project done on private lands that is funded in whole or in part with CPL grant funds must be in land protected by a permanent conservation easement. Permanent conservation easements in Minnesota must meet the definition given in MS [84C.01](#):

"Conservation easement" means a nonpossessory interest of a holder in real property imposing limitations or affirmative obligations the purposes of which include retaining or protecting natural, scenic, or open-space values of real property, assuring its availability for agricultural, forest, recreational, or open-space use, protecting natural resources, maintaining or enhancing air or water quality, or preserving the historical, architectural, archaeological, or cultural aspects of real property.

Applicants must follow Federal, State, and local laws, regulations, policies, and codes, as applicable, and must obtain all required approvals and permits.

Consent of the Private Landowner and Easement Holder

Any project to be done on private lands must have the written consent of both the private landowner, and the conservation easement holder.

Natural Heritage Review

Natural Heritage Review is required of all CPL projects. *This review should be done during the initial meeting with the easement holder.* Completing the review will help projects conform to the MN Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan, will protect federally or state listed threatened or endangered species, and prevent the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitats of these species. If the easement holder is not able to complete the review, contact the DNR as directed below.

Special attention will be given to all projects that propose to alter existing habitat either temporarily or permanently. This includes: prescribed burning, grassland conversion, woody cover plantings, wetland/impoundment construction, timber harvest, pesticide spraying, grassland mowing, new road/trail construction, new bridge construction etc.

The Division of Ecological Resources Natural Heritage Program maintains the Natural Heritage Information System (NHIS), a collection of databases that provides information on Minnesota's rare plants and animals, native plant communities, and other rare features. The NHIS is continually updated as new information becomes available. Many DNR and other public land managers can access this database to do the review. The [NHIS](#) website has more information.