

MINNESOTA'S



COVID-19 RECOVERY BUDGET

Governor Walz and Lt. Governor Flanagan recommend \$52.76 million for the 2021 Department of Natural Resources (DNR) capital budget. The DNR operates in every single county and serves Minnesotans where they live, work, and play. Camping, snowmobiling, trail riding, hunting, fishing, timber harvest, and minerals development all require the DNR to keep trails and bridges, state parks, water access sites, buildings and other assets maintained, safe, and accessible to all.

This capital budget funding will further the DNR's mission by targeting investments across the state that maintain strong and safe infrastructure, promote community prosperity through jobs, support public health by connecting people with the outdoors, and protect our natural resources.

TAKING CARE OF WHAT WE HAVE



Natural Resources Asset Preservation

The DNR manages \$3 billion of capital assets by preserving and, when needed, replacing existing facilities. The DNR manages more than 2,900 buildings, of which nearly 1 in 3 is over 50 years old, 1 in 4 is in unacceptable or poor condition, and only 1 in 4 meet today's design and building standards. The recommendation of \$33.4 million for Natural Resource Asset Preservation (NRAP) would help ensure park facilities are welcoming and accessible to the public, campgrounds have functioning water and wastewater systems, and roads, trails, and bridges are maintained for forest management, recreation, and other activities.

Our goal is to bring all capital assets up to good or better condition within 10 years. The current annual NRAP need is \$178 million, including \$44 million for deferred maintenance and \$111 million for renewal and replacement. This 2021 proposal recognizes the DNR's significant capital needs and helps make progress toward our goal of maintaining strong and safe infrastructure for Minnesotans.



Betterment of Buildings

DNR buildings must be safe, Americans with Disabilities Act accessible, energy efficient, and meet current operational needs. Funding of \$19 million for betterment of buildings would enable the DNR to make significant improvements and renovations to buildings to meet these goals. Some priority project needs include fish hatcheries, forest nursery facilities, the Hibbing Drill Core Library, public restrooms at Minnesota's parks, DNR offices, air tanker bases, and other natural resource management facilities. The investment would help bring these facilities up to current standards, meet current and future needs, and ensure the safety of staff and visitors.

For more information, or if you have questions about this proposal, please contact DNR Assistant Commissioner Bob Meier at bob.meier@state.mn.us.