



Department of Natural Resources Fact Sheet



2008 CAPITAL BUDGET Forest Roads and Bridges Governor's Recommendation: \$1,000,000

It is needed because

DNR maintains a system of more than 2,000 miles of roads and bridges that provides access to 4.8 million acres of state forest lands. The existing system of forest roads and bridges is a capital asset worth more than \$75 million, providing access to forest lands by the forest products industry, recreational users, land managers, and local landowners, and providing a strategic link between the state's forest resources and the network of county, state, and federal public roads.

The Governor's Task Force on the Competitiveness of Minnesota's Primary Forest Products Industry (July 2007) found the transportation infrastructure on state forest lands to be critical to the competitiveness of the forest products industry. Maintaining this infrastructure is also critical to ensuring safe, public access to state forest lands. Increasing recreational use of forest roads and bridges (representing more than 80 percent of total traffic on the system), paired with proposed increases in road weight limits, are placing greater strain on an already aging infrastructure. This funding supplements other annual appropriations for critical rehabilitation of the state forest road system.

Major project elements

The commissioner is directed in M.S. 89.002 to maintain a system of forest roads and trails that provides access to state forests and other forest lands under the commissioner's authority. The system must let the commissioner manage, protect, and develop those lands and their forest resources consistent with forest resource policies and the demands for forest resources.

This funding will rehabilitate, repair, and replace the aging infrastructure of the forest road and bridge system, and will help address the backlog of repairs needed to sustain current uses of state forest lands.

Specifically, this funding will:

- ◆ Replace three bridges;
- ◆ Provide maintenance on another 8 bridges; and
- ◆ If funding permits, provide maintenance on culverts identified through annual inspections as needing repair or replacement.

Priority-setting

Engineering studies recommend replacing or upgrading targeted forest roads and bridges. The bridges proposed for replacement are in the network of forest roads used to access state forests for management.

Project locations

Priority bridges to be replaced are located in:

- ◆ Rum River State Forest
- ◆ Beltrami Island State Forest
- ◆ George Washington State Forest

Key measures and outcomes

Important access to state forests maintained for recreational use, resource management, and forest product transport through the rehabilitation repair, and replacement of bridges in the state forest road system.

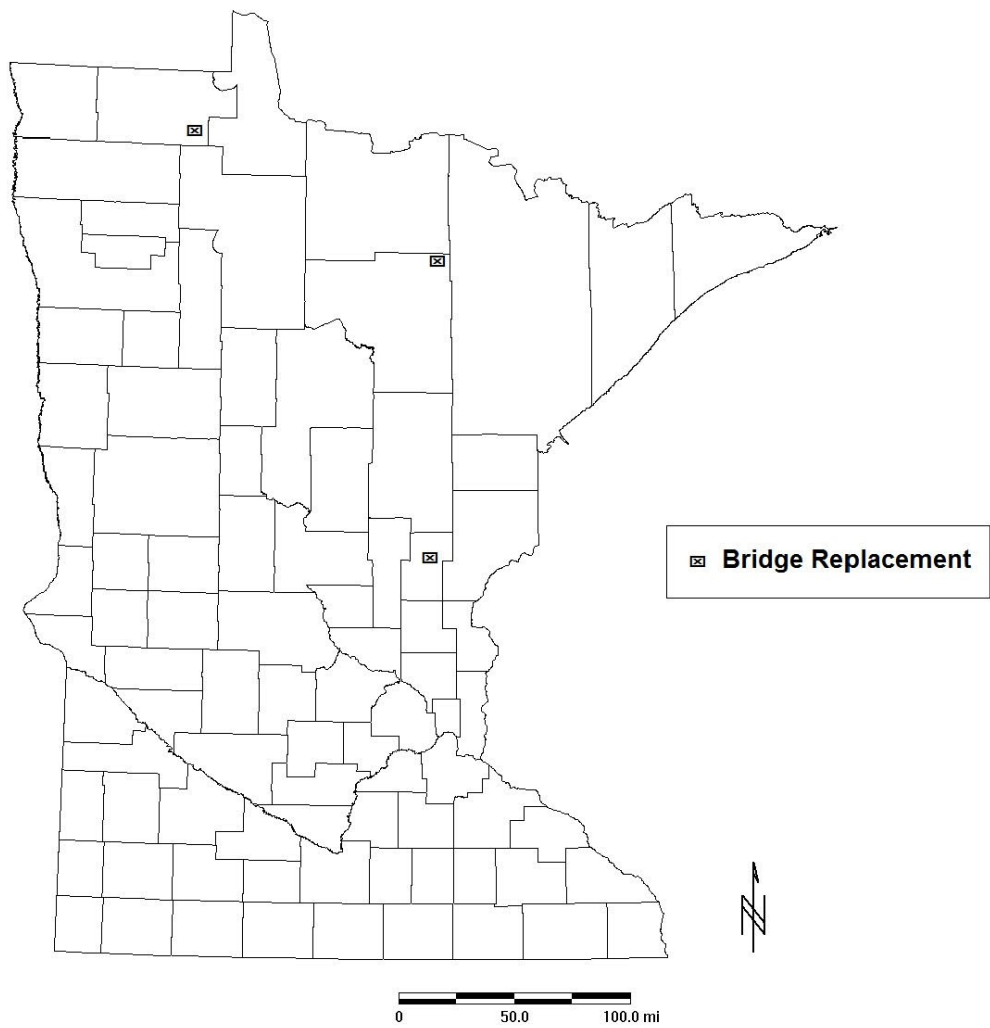
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Forest Roads and Bridges

DNR PROJECT PRIORITIES AS OF JANUARY 2008



1/23/08