

# 2017 BY THE NUMBERS

**m** DEPARTMENT OF  
NATURAL RESOURCES



## Minnesota Department of Natural Resources 2017 by the Numbers

### Mission

*Our mission is to work with citizens to conserve 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.*

### Minnesota has

- 17.4 million acres of forests
- 235,000 acres of native prairie and 6.2 million acres of other grassland
- 10.6 million acres of wetlands
- 5.7 million acres of peatlands
- 3.4 million acres of public water lakes (excluding Lake Superior)
- 85,000 miles of streams, rivers and altered water courses
- 1.7 million anglers, hunters and trappers
- 810,000 registered boats
- 216,000 registered snowmobiles and 276,000 registered all-terrain vehicles (ATV's)
- 9.4 million state park and recreation area visitors

### Land owned by the State of Minnesota and administered by the DNR

Minnesota has approximately 51 million total land acres. The DNR administers 5.6 million acres of state land, or about 11% of Minnesota's total land area (see table below).

DNR Division	Land Acres Administered
Forestry*	4,230,000 acres
Fish & Wildlife*	1,282,000 acres
Parks & Trails*	255,000 acres
Ecological & Water Resources*	186,000 acres
DNR Unspecified (St. Louis River corridor)	24,000 acres
Lands & Minerals	4,000 acres

\* There are approximately 383,000 acres of overlapping management units where the DNR manages for multiple objectives and land management is coordinated among divisions.

### Public Lands and Recreational Facilities Administered by the DNR

- 59 state forests
- 1.3 million acres of wildlife management areas
- 191,000 acres of scientific and natural areas
- 232,000 acres of state park, state recreation areas and state waysides
- 45,000 acres of aquatic management areas

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- 1,500 miles of state trails, 23,800 miles of grants-in-aid trails (1,800 OHV, 700 ski, and 21,300 snow), and 4,100 miles of hiking, biking, horse, and motorized trails within state park, state recreation area, and state forest lands
- 1,700 public water access sites and 368 fishing piers

### Mineral Rights

- The DNR administers state mineral rights underlying approximately 12 million acres of land, including 2.5 million acres of school trust lands and 1 million acres of severed mineral rights.
- During fiscal year (FY) 2015, mineral leases from lands with state-owned mineral rights generated \$41.5 million in revenue. The majority of this revenue goes to the School and University Trust Funds and to various local units of the government.

### Payment in lieu of taxes

- Approximately \$31,355,000 was paid to local governments in lieu of property taxes in FY 2014 for 8.4 million acres of lands. Of these lands, 5.6 million acres are administered by the DNR and 2.8 million acres are tax-forfeited state-owned lands administered by counties.

### Agency Operations

- Provide human resource services to approximately 4,479 employees, which is the number of individuals that were paid at one time during the fiscal year (this equates to 2,677 full-time equivalent employees)
- Approximate DNR budget of \$550 million spread across 50 funds for FY 2017
- Over 2.9 million total square feet at all 2,800 DNR buildings
- Over 1.4 million square feet of office space at over 300 "Report to Work" buildings
- Over 5,000 pieces of mobile equipment managed, which includes 3,400 fleet land operated items, 1,800 watercraft and 12 aircraft
- 15.8 million miles driven by DNR staff in FY 2016
- Over 590,000 kilowatt hours of renewable energy generation in FY 2016
- Over 80 million views of the DNR website in FY 2016
- 546,000 public contacts made to DNR Information Center

## NUMBERS BY PROGRAM

### Ecological and Water Resources Division

- 163 scientific and natural areas covering 191,000 acres
- 10,100 acres in prairie bank easements
- 100,000 inspections for aquatic invasive species conducted in FY 2016
- 979 new water appropriation permits issued in FY 2016
- 1,030 groundwater observation wells

### Enforcement Division

- Officers patrol an average of 500 square miles
- 41,666 students certified annually in all-terrain vehicle, snowmobile, boat and firearms safety
- 28,878 documented contacts in FY 2015

### Fish and Wildlife Division

- 1.5 million licensed anglers
- 580,000 licensed hunters and trappers

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- 123,000 fish stamps sold in license year 2015<sup>1</sup> (trout and walleye)
- 172,000 wildlife stamps sold in license year 2015 (waterfowl, pheasant and turkey)
- 1,523 wildlife management areas covering 1.3 million acres
- 61 wildlife game species managed
- 700 aquatic management areas covering 45,000 acres
- 5,500 fishing lakes
- 1,100 lakes and 92 streams stocked in calendar year (CY) 2015
- 256 million walleye fry and 1.6 million walleye fingerling stocked
- 3,800 designated trout stream miles

### Forestry Division

- 5 million acres of DNR-administered land with forest certification, including 2.5 million acres of School Trust Lands
- Annual target of 800,000 cords of wood offered for sale
- 20-year average of 1,290 fires burning about 33,250 acres per fiscal year
- 42,000 acres reforested annually, 9,000 acres planted or seeded annually between 2011-2015
- 44,000 acres of designated old growth forest
- 352,000 acres of permanent forest conservation easements
- 790,000 acres of private lands with current woodland stewardship plans reported to the DNR
- 2,360 miles of forest roads

### Lands and Minerals Division

- 418 active mining leases; 248 active leases for non-ferrous minerals
- 1,700 state land leases
- 34.7 million tons of iron ore mined per year, approximately 21 million tons from School Trust mineral interests

### Parks and Trails Division

- 66 state parks, nine state recreation areas and nine state waysides, totaling 232,000 acres
  - 1.04 million overnight visitors in FY 2015
  - 282,000 one-day and 152,000 year-round state park vehicle permits sold in FY 2015
- 43 state forest campgrounds, 12 state forest horse campgrounds, and 29 forest day-use areas
- 25 state trails
  - 2,900 total miles authorized
  - 1,400 miles developed, of which 620 miles are paved
- 35 state water trails, totaling over 4,500 miles
- 1,500 public water access sites in Parks and Trails and 368 fishing piers, platforms and shore-fishing sites
- 22,000 miles of snowmobile trails (state and grant-in-aid trails)
- 2,700 miles of OHV trails (state and grant-in-aid trails)
- 2,100 miles of ski trails (state and grant-in-aid trails)

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<sup>1</sup> DNR License year March 1 – February 28.

*This document is intended to be an overview of select DNR facts and figures. Numbers are rounded and based on the best available information as of November 7, 2016. For more information, contact Andy Holdsworth (DNR Policy and Planning Office), [andy.holdsworth@state.mn.us](mailto:andy.holdsworth@state.mn.us) (651-259-5536).*