

# 2019 BY THE NUMBERS

**m** DEPARTMENT OF  
NATURAL RESOURCES



## Minnesota Department of Natural Resources 2019 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

- 17.7 million acres of forests
- 250,000 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
- 826,000 registered boats
- 192,000 registered snowmobiles and 300,000 registered all-terrain vehicles (ATV's)
- 10 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*	4,233,000 acres
Fish & Wildlife*	1,309,000 acres
Parks & Trails*	256,000 acres
Ecological & Water Resources*	186,000 acres
DNR Unspecified (St. Louis River corridor)	23,000 acres
Lands & Minerals	3,700 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
- 192,000 acres of scientific and natural areas
- 234,500 acres of state park, state recreation areas and state waysides
- 46,000 acres of aquatic management areas

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- 1,500 miles of state trails, 23,800 miles of grant-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 360 fishing piers, platforms and shore-fishing sites

### Mineral Rights

- The DNR is responsible for administration and management of the 12 million acre mineral estate owned by the State of Minnesota.
- Mineral leases from lands with state-owned mineral rights generate about \$36 million in revenue annually (average from the past ten years). 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 \$35.7 million was paid to local governments in lieu of property taxes in FY 2017 for 8.5 million acres of lands.

### Agency Operations

- Provide human resource services to approximately 4,300 employees, which is the number of individuals that were paid at any one time during the fiscal year (this equates to 2,700 full-time equivalent employees)
- Approximate DNR budget of \$565 million spread across 50 funds for FY 2018
- Over 3.8 million total square feet at over 2,900 owned or leased 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
- Over 14.4 million miles driven by DNR staff in FY 2018
- Over 675,000 kilowatt hours of renewable energy generation in FY 2018
- Over 80 million views of the DNR website in FY 2018
- 106,384 public contacts (calls and emails) handled by the DNR Information Center

## NUMBERS BY PROGRAM

### Ecological and Water Resources Division

- 166 scientific and natural areas covering 192,000 acres
- 11,200 acres in prairie bank easements
- 80,000 inspections for aquatic invasive species conducted in FY 2018
- 604 new water appropriation permits issued in FY 2018
- 1,070 groundwater observation wells

### Enforcement Division

- Officers patrol an average of 500 square miles
- 43,673 students certified annually in all-terrain vehicle, snowmobile, boat and firearms safety
- 30,907 documented contacts in FY 2018

### Fish and Wildlife Division

- 1.5 million licensed anglers
- 557,000 licensed hunters and trappers
- 130,000 fish stamps sold in license year 2017<sup>1</sup> (trout and walleye)

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- 159,000 wildlife stamps sold in license year 2017 (waterfowl, pheasant and turkey)
- More than 1,800 wildlife management areas covering 1.3 million acres
- 61 wildlife game species managed
- More than 700 aquatic management areas covering 46,000 acres
- 4,500 fishing lakes
- 849 lakes and 64 streams stocked in calendar year (CY) 2017
- 256 million walleye fry and 1.5 million walleye fingerling stocked
- 3,974 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 870,000 cords of wood offered for sale. FY2019-FY2023 pilot project to offer up to an additional 30,000 cords of ash and tamarack annually
- 20-year average of 1,600 fires burning about 34,600 acres per fiscal year
- 30,850 acres reforested annually, 7,870 acres planted or seeded annually between 2014-2018
- 44,700 acres of designated old growth forest
- 356,000 acres of permanent forest conservation easements
- 820,000 acres of private lands with current woodland stewardship plans reported to the DNR
- 2,360 miles of forest roads

### Lands and Minerals Division

- 661 active mining leases; 553 active leases for non-ferrous minerals
- 2,405 state land leases
- 132 million tons of iron ore mined per year, approximately 10 million tons from School Trust mineral interests

### Parks and Trails Division

- 66 state parks, nine state recreation areas and nine state waysides, totaling 234,500 acres
  - 1.14 million overnight visitors in 2017
  - 216,000 one-day and 189,000 year-round state park vehicle permits sold in FY 2018
- 43 state forest campgrounds, 12 state forest horse campgrounds, and 29 forest day-use areas
- 25 state trails
  - 2,900 total miles authorized
  - 1,500 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 360 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)
- 1,100 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 August 1, 2018. For more information, contact Peter Holt (DNR Policy and Planning Office), [peter.holt@state.mn.us](mailto:peter.holt@state.mn.us) (651-259-5565).

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