

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources 2023 by the Numbers



Mission

Our mission is to work with Minnesotans 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

265,000 acres of native prairie and
6.2 million acres of other grassland

12.2 million acres of wetlands including
5.9 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

Public Lands and Recreational Facilities Managed by the DNR

Minnesota has approximately 51 million total land acres. The DNR administers over 5.6 million acres of state-owned land, or about 11% of Minnesota's total land area. This includes:

- 60 state forests
- More than 1,500 wildlife management areas
- 168 scientific and natural areas
- More than 700 aquatic management areas
- 66 state parks, 9 state recreation areas and 9 state waysides
- 1,500 miles of multi-use state trails, nearly 25,000 of grant-in-aid trails, and 3,400 miles of trails within state parks, recreation areas and forests
- 1,700 public water access sites and 390 fishing piers, platforms, and shore-fishing sites

Mineral Rights

- 12 million acres of mineral estate owned by the State of Minnesota and administered by the DNR
- About \$38 million in revenue generated annually (average from the past ten years) from mineral leases on lands with state-owned mineral rights, with the majority of this revenue going to the School and University Trust Funds and to various local units of government

Payment in Lieu of Taxes

- Approximately \$36.5 million was paid to local governments in lieu of property taxes in fiscal year (FY) 2022 for 8.5 million acres of state lands. These acres include other state lands in addition to those administered by the DNR.

Agency Operations

- Approximately 3,700 people employed, this equates to 2,500 full-time equivalent employees
- Over 5,300 pieces of mobile equipment managed including 3,000 land items, 1,850 watercraft, and 11 aircraft
- More than 104,000 calls and emails handled by the DNR Information Center in FY 2022
- Over 78 million views of the DNR website by 10 million users in FY 2022
- 64% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by DNR agency operations between 2005 and 2021
- Over 543,400 kilowatt hours of renewable energy generated in FY 2022



Solar panels, DNR Region 3 Headquarters

NUMBERS BY DIVISION

Ecological and Water Resources Division

- 14,925 acres of prairie bank easements administered
- Over 1,200 groundwater observation wells operated to produce monitoring and trend data
- 66,550 watercraft inspections for aquatic invasive species completed by DNR staff in CY 2021
- 551 new water appropriation permits issued, with a total of 10,670 water appropriation permits active in FY 2022
- 570 new work in public waters permits issued, with a total of 3,710 public waters permits active in FY 2022
- More than 800 landowners provided with technical assistance on prairie management in FY 2022

Enforcement Division

- Over 49,000 students certified in all-terrain vehicle, snowmobile, boat, bow hunting, and firearms safety in FY 2022
- More than 550 interviews conducted with local, statewide, and national media to provide safety information in FY 2022
- 26,000 documented contacts with the public through events, citations, warnings, and calls for service in FY 2022
- 580 conservation officer visits to schools and community events during FY 2022 taught students and adults about fish, wildlife, and conservation

Fish and Wildlife Division

- Over 60 wildlife game species managed
- 4,400 fishing lakes managed
- 4,038 designated trout stream miles managed
- 1,029 lakes and 89 streams stocked in CY 2021
- 264 million walleye fry and 1.1 million walleye fingerling stocked in CY 2021
- More than 37,000 participants taught about fishing and aquatic education through 80 in person and 16 online events in CY 2021
- 51 Minnesota outdoor skills and stewardship online education programs hosted in FY 2022, with 5,700 participants reached
- 87 Conservation Partners Legacy grants awarded in FY 2022 totaling \$10.7 million
- 60 No Child Left Inside grants awarded in FY 2022 totaling \$452,000, with 18,000 participants in funded projects

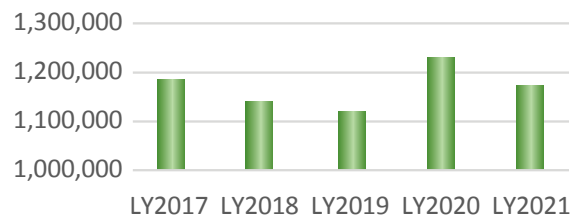
LICENSES

- 1,178,900 million certified licensed anglers, 532,300 certified licensed hunters in license year (LY) 2020
- 6,400 licensed trappers in LY 2021
- 124,000 trout stamps sold in LY 2021
- 145,000 wildlife stamps (waterfowl, pheasant and turkey) sold in LY 2021

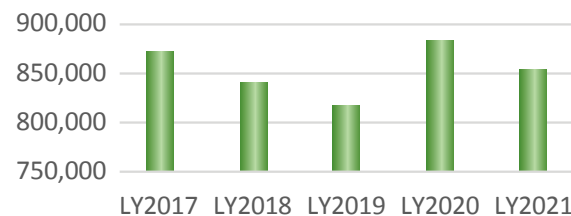
The number of certified anglers and hunters and the number of licenses sold differ. The number of certified hunters counts each hunter once, while many hunters purchase multiple licenses.

The DNR state license year begins March 1 and concludes on February 28 (or 29) of the following year. License years are named for the year in which they begin.

ANGLING LICENSE SALES



HUNTING LICENSE SALES



Forestry Division

- 15 million acres monitored in CY 2021 for forest pests and diseases
- 53,000 students engaged annually in outdoor education activities statewide at 150 school forest sites
- 3 million tree seedlings supplied in FY 2022 to public and private landowners for conservation planting and reforestation
- 5 million acres of dual third-party forest management certification maintained on lands managed by the DNR
- 1,050 wildfires suppressed (20-year average), burning about 25,000 acres per year
- Average of 25,300 acres naturally reforested and 6,000 acres planted with seedlings or spread with tree seeds annually between FY 2018 and 2022
- 357,000 acres of permanent forest conservation easements managed
- Average of 70,000 acres of private land included in forest management plans prepared annually through a network of DNR, county and private consulting foresters
- 2,385 miles of forest roads maintained for access to recreation and forest management activities

Lands and Minerals Division

- 312 active mineral leases managed, including 109 iron ore leases and 203 leases for other valuable minerals
- 2,555 state land leases managed (leases granted by the DNR that provide rights to an area's above ground natural resources for commercial uses, including agricultural production or timber harvests)
- 40 million tons iron ore produced annually from Minnesota's six active iron mines; about 20% of this mining activity involves state-owned minerals

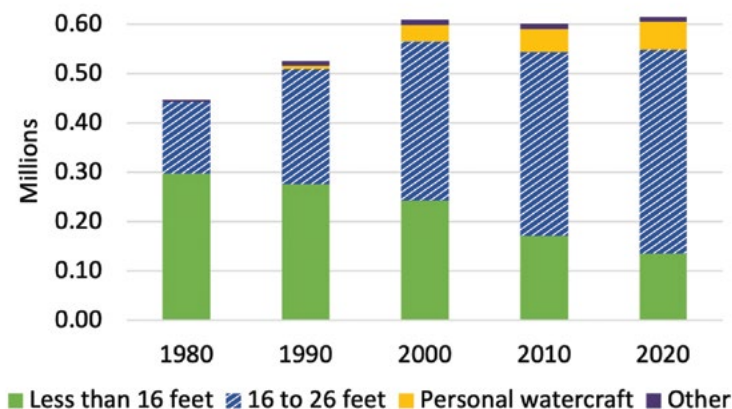


Fishing pier, Itasca State Park

Parks and Trails Division

- Five-year average of 10.75 million visitors to state park and recreation areas served per year; 12 million visitors in CY 2021
- Five-year average of 1.17 million overnight visitors served per year; 1.28 million visitors in CY 2021
- 283,000 one-day and 234,000 annual state park vehicle permits sold in FY 2022
- 143 campgrounds managed, including 95 within state parks, 43 within state forests, and five within state recreation areas
- 25 horse campgrounds managed, including 13 within state parks and 12 within state forests
- 29 state forest day-use areas managed
- 35 state water trails managed, totaling over 4,500 miles
- 830,000 boats registered in CY 2021 (motorized and non-motorized boats)
- 25 state trails managed, 2,900 total trail miles authorized, 1,500 trail miles developed (of which 675 miles are paved)
- 23,000 miles of snowmobile trails managed (state and grant-in-aid trails), 3,300 miles of off highway vehicle trails managed (state and grant-in-aid trails), 1,400 miles of ski trails managed (state and grant-in-aid trails)
- 200,000 snowmobiles registered in FY 2022
- 365,000 Off Highway Vehicles registered including 237,000 Class 1 all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), 103,000 Class 2 ATVs, 17,000 Off Highway Motorcycles, and 8,000 Off Road Vehicles in CY 2021.
- Nearly 163,000 visitors participated in more than 6,500 interpretive programs and events in CY 2022.

MOTORIZED BOAT REGISTRATION LONGTERM



Naturalist educating park visitors about geology, Jay Cooke State Park

This document is intended to be an overview of select DNR facts and figures. Numbers are rounded and based on the best available information.

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