

Working on DNR Lands

DNR lands and waters are governed by numerous statutes, rules, policies, and other guidelines. A summary of these are listed below. This list may not be comprehensive; for that reason it is important that you **contact the DNR land manager responsible for the tract of land you are interested in working on as soon as possible**. Grantees must follow all applicable laws, rules, and regulations.

Requirements listed in the [Working on Public Lands](#) document also apply to DNR lands.

The Grantee may, by letter, assign these duties and associated funds back to DNR to cover costs incurred by DNR for performing this work on DNR lands, with DNR consent.

DNR Operational Orders and Other Guidelines

DNR uses Operational Orders to define policies and procedures regarding work on DNR lands. Operational Orders apply to all DNR resource management activities by employees and non-DNR individuals or organizations on DNR-administered lands and public waters; and activities DNR regulates, permits, or funds (grants). The following Operational Orders are linked to the Conservation Partners Legacy Grant webpage at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/habitat/lessard-sams.html>. Other guidelines that must be followed when working on DNR-administered land are also described below.

Prescribed Burning

Burning on DNR land requires a high level of training, experience, and insurance. Please contact the CPL Grants Program Staff before applying for a grant involving this type of work. The DNR's Operational Order 47 - Prescribed Burning and additional information is available on the DNR's Prescribed Burn Home Page, <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/rxfire/index.html>. The guidelines discussed apply anyone doing prescribed burns on DNR lands, including grantees and any subcontractors. All personnel must meet the required training, experience, and physical fitness standards necessary for the complexity of the burn as outlined in the op order. Proof that these standards have been met will be required before burns can be conducted.

Pesticide Use

Resource management commonly requires the management of pests which can adversely affect, retard the development of, preclude the use of, or destroy these resources. Applications of pest control in resource management include methods such as using biological controls, burning and mowing to prevent seed production, managing competitive species, and pesticide use. Pest control practices on DNR administered lands and in public waters will employ integrated pest management techniques.

Operational Order 59 – Pesticides and Pest Control, and the appropriate DNR Division's Guidelines must be followed, and can be found on the CPL Grant webpage. This Operational Order includes policy and procedures for pest control, pesticide procurement, handling, storage, use, disposal and record keeping.

Banned Pesticides

DNR (and some counties and private landowners) has been awarded the Forest Stewardship Council and Sustainable Forestry Initiative certification. In order to maintain this certification, the DNR, and its cooperators and contractors, cannot use certain pesticides on the certified state forests and WMAs it manages; *all other pesticides can be used*. This includes all but the Prairie Parklands Province of the state. More information on Forest Certification and the list of banned pesticides is available at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/certification/index.html>

Invasive Species

Because invasive species have the potential to adversely affect natural resources, it is the DNR's policy to limit the introduction of invasive species onto DNR managed lands and waters, limit their rate of geographical spread, and reduce their impact on high value resources. Operational Order 113 - Invasive Species - must be followed, as well as guidelines for the appropriate Division. These can be found on the CPL Grant webpage.

Forest Certification Guidelines

DNR (and some counties and private landowners) has been awarded the Forest Stewardship Council and Sustainable Forestry Initiative certification. Certification increases the social, economic, and environmental value and marketability of the state's forest resources. Certified lands include the DNR's state forests and wildlife management areas. A map of certified forests can be found here:

http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/certification/certifiedforest_map.html

The development of comprehensive forest management guidelines is a core mandate of the [Sustainable Forest Resources Act](#) (MN Statutes 89A). The guidelines are intended to reduce the potential for negative environmental impacts resulting from forest harvesting and other forest-management activities on all forest lands in the State. These guidelines or best management practices (BMPs) must be followed when working on certified forest lands.

Woody Biomass

BMPs for sustainably managing woody biomass have also been developed. The guidelines are available here: http://www.frc.state.mn.us/documents/council/site-level/MFRC_FMG&Biomass_2007-12-17.pdf Contact the DNR land manager for more information.

Use of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) on WMAs

GMOs cannot be used on portions of WMAs not covered by an agricultural lease or cooperative farming agreement. GMO trees (seeds and seedlings) are restricted on all certified state lands.