

Fish and Wildlife

The DNR's Division of Fish and Wildlife manages, conserves, and enhances Minnesota's wildlife, fishes and their natural habitats.

Minnesota has a variety of aquatic habitats and diverse natural terrain for wildlife:

- 4,500 managed lakes
- 16,000 miles of fishable rivers and streams for anglers to explore and enjoy
- 11 million acres of public lands, including forests, prairies, woods, and wetlands

Fish and Wildlife Land Acquisitions

The division of Fish and Wildlife regularly collaborates with Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy, The Trust for Public Lands, Reinvest in Minnesota, The Conservation Fund and private landowners to acquire land for:

- protecting lands and waters with high potential for wildlife production
- providing citizens with opportunities for hunting, fishing and wildlife watching, and promoting important wildlife-based tourism in Minnesota

Land acquisition goals

Aquatic Management Areas (Fee Title/Easement)



Shoreline Restoration Project

Aquatic Management Areas administer more than 700 AMAs and 770 shore land miles in 74 of Minnesota's 87 counties. The AMA program prioritizes acquiring lands within the statutory boundary that:

- support AMA/WMA Strategic Plan and Fish Habitat Plan
- protect cold water resources, specifically those found in Fillmore and St. Louis County
- provide access for DNR and partner-led restoration and enhancement projects
- provide angler and management access
- protect critical shoreline habitat
- provide areas for education and research
- maintain, protect and enhance lands in watersheds of priority cisco/tullibee lakes
- protect sensitive, biologically diverse and undeveloped shoreline habitat
- add to existing AMA Trout Stream Easements

Wildlife Management Areas (Fee Title)



Bayport WMA

Wildlife Management Areas administer 1,502 public wildlife areas with 1.36 million acres of habitat across the state. The WMA program prioritizes acquiring lands within the statutory boundary that:

- support the AMA/WMA Strategic Acquisition Plan, Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan, Pheasant Action Plan, Duck Action Plan, and State Wildlife Action Plan
- protect native remnant prairie
- support close-to-home recreation opportunities near the Twin Cities, Saint Cloud, Duluth or Rochester
- protect lands located within prairie conservation planning areas and grassland and wetland habitat complexes
- provide recreation for hunters and trappers including small game, big game, and waterfowl
- provide opportunities for wildlife watching including upland birds, waterfowl, and mammals
- provide opportunities for outdoor recreation including hiking, biking, and more

Local government engagement for land acquisitions

Throughout the acquisition process, Fish and Wildlife completes local government engagement as required by department policy or funding source. For example:

- all acquisitions for AMA program require county board notification
- most acquisitions for WMA program require county and township board notification and county board approval
- all acquisitions purchased by NGOs for donation to DNR require local government unit notification
- all acquisitions purchased using Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) funding require county board approval

Contact

Rick Walsh, Land Acquisition Consultant, 651-259-5232, rick.walsh@state.mn.us

Jeff Tillma, Land Acquisition Consultant, 218-328-8834, jeff.tillma@state.mn.us