

## Forestry

Minnesota's 59 state forests, school trust acres, and other forestlands make up 4.2 million acres of land managed by the DNR's division of Forestry. Minnesota's forests supply timber products, provide wildlife habitat, protect watersheds, offer recreation opportunities, and provide aesthetic and cultural benefits.

### Forestry Land Acquisitions

The DNR encourages sustainable forestland acquisitions and management to support wildlife habitat conservation and strong markets for forest products. Managing Minnesota's forestlands is important for the state's environment, economy, and communities.



*George Washington State Forest*

DNR's Division of Forestry regularly collaborates with The Nature Conservancy, The Trust for Public Land, private landowners, federal, state and local agencies and volunteer citizen and advisory groups to acquire land to:

- increase or improve access to public forestlands
- consolidate forestland in-holdings to better conserve and protect natural resource lands and wildlife habitat
- meet objectives in Forestland Management Plans

### Land acquisition programs

#### State Forest Lands (fee title)

State Forest Lands programs prioritize acquiring land within the statutory boundary that:

- improves long term access to state lands
- protects watersheds
- protects rare flora and fauna
- ensures the ability to carry out forest management activities efficiently by consolidating forest lands
- provides continued public recreation opportunities
- enhances public safety through effective fire suppression
- fulfills responsibilities to the permanent school trust



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### Forest Legacy (fee title and easement)

The Forest Legacy Program encourages the protection of privately owned forestlands through conservation easements or land purchases. Protecting private forests from conversion to non-forest uses maintains:

- opportunities to hunt, fish, and camp
- clean and abundant drinking water
- habitat for fish and wildlife
- timber, fuel wood, and other forest products

### Forests for the Future (easement)

Minnesota Forests for the Future Program, established by the state legislature, prioritizes acquisitions to:

- protect and conserve private forests with threatened and endangered species and other cultural and environmental values
- expand protection of fish and wildlife habitat under threat of conversion to non-forest uses
- protect intact forestland with timber resources and scenic and recreational areas

### Local government engagement for forestland acquisitions

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

- all acquisitions require county board notification per DNR policy
- all acquisitions of agricultural lands within the RJ Dorer Memorial Forest require county board approval
- all acquisitions purchased using Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) funding require county board approval

### Contact

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