## **MN DNR logo**

LGUs may use this DNR-created template to create their own vegetation clearing permit evaluation documents. Content may be modified and used as a stand-alone document or integrated into other evaluation documents. This document and all vegetation permit companion template documents contain text consistent with the optional higher standards in the MRCCA model ordinance. LGUs should edit the content of these documents to be consistent with the adopted MRCCA ordinance. Replace DNR logo with the LGU logo and contact info. These template documents are updated periodically, check DNR’s webpage for most recent version.

## **Review & Evaluation of MRCCA Vegetation Clearing Permit Applications**

**Direction**s. Use this form to verify that the submitted vegetation clearing application is complete, that proposed clearing is for allowable purposes and minimizes impacts, and that restoration plans meet the required performance standards. If you determine that an application or plans do not meet these standards, you can:

* require applicants to resubmit and/or redesign the application and plans, or
* list any performance standards that are not satisfied as a condition of permit approval if achievement of the performance standard can be assured in this way.

Use the attached “Additional application information and/or modifications to restoration plan needed” letter to notify applicants of additional submittal requirements.

**Submittal Requirements – Completeness Check**

Aerial photo and/or site plan showing:

* Property boundaries
* Location and label of existing PCAs (verify whether the proposed clearing is within 50 feet of a natural drainage route; this will likely not be shown on the aerial photo or site plan)
* Location and area of the vegetation proposed to be cleared within existing PCAs
* Location and area of the restored vegetation in identified priority areas

Photos of the vegetation proposed for removal

Planting plan(s) for the identified restoration priority or opportunity areas

For **large, complex projects**, additional submittal requirements include:

Planting plan completed by a qualified person (as defined by local government)

Scaled plans, surveys, and drawings

A three-year maintenance plan that includes provisions for controlling invasive species and plant replacement.

For **restoration of native plant communities**, additional submittal requirements include:

Identification of the type and location of nearby native plant communities used to guide restoration

**Proposed Intensive Vegetation Clearing Evaluation**

| **Meets Standard** | **Redesign & Resubmit** | **Condition of Approval** | **N/A** | **Performance Standard** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  | The purpose of the proposed intensive vegetation clearing is allowed with a permit. |
|  |  |  |  | Clearing is the minimum necessary and designed to blend with the natural terrain and minimizes visual impacts to Public River Corridor Views (PRCVs) and other scenic views. (Need to verify if property is within a designated PRCV in the local MRCCA plan.) |
|  |  |  |  | For developments requiring a permit, the project is sited to minimize removal of or disturbance to natural vegetation. |
|  |  |  |  | Vegetation removal activities are conducted so as to expose the smallest practical area of soil to erosion for the least possible time. |
|  |  |  |  | Soil, slope stability, and hydrologic conditions are suitable for the proposed work as determined by a professional engineer or (insert name of resource agency, if someone other than professional engineer is desired). Application doesn’t address this issue as it requires understanding of these conditions in relation to proposed work and location to make a determination. Staff should determine if assessment by engineer is necessary. |

**Restoration Plan Evaluation**

| **Meets Standard** | **Redesign & Resubmit** | **Condition of approval** | **N/A** | **Performance Standard** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| All Restoration Plans | | | | |
|  |  |  |  | A restoration priority area is identified and is appropriate given the site conditions. If there are no priority areas, a suitable restoration opportunity area has been identified. |
|  |  |  |  | Restored vegetation is located in one or more of the identified restoration priority or opportunity areas. |
|  |  |  |  | Restored vegetation provides suitable habitat, and effective soil stability, runoff retention, and infiltration capability to address concerns specific to the priority or opportunity area.  Assessment can also evaluate whether an appropriate combination of ground cover, understory vegetation and trees are used to address the specific concerns. |
|  |  |  |  | Any disturbance of highly erodible soils is replanted with deep-rooted vegetation with a high stem density. |
|  |  |  |  | The area or size of the restored vegetation is similar to that removed to the greatest extent practicable. |
| Supplement for Larger/Complex Restoration Plans | | | | |
|  |  |  |  | Plans have been prepared and signed by a qualified individual. |
|  |  |  |  | Detailed maintenance plan includes specific tasks for controlling invasive species and plant replacement. |
|  |  |  |  | For native plant community restoration plans, removed native plant species are replaced with vegetation that provides equivalent biological and ecological function.  To help make this assessment:   * Compare the proposed vegetation for consistency with the vegetation species, composition, density, and diversity of nearby patches of native plant communities. * Ensure that the area (sq. ft.) of the restored vegetation is the same as that removed. |
| Consult the [Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines](https://bwsr.state.mn.us/vegetation-establishment-and-management) for completing the review of large complex projects and for developing specific conditions of approval. | | | | |