In the Ecological and Water Resources Division, you’ll accompany nationally-recognized specialists and scientists to tackle many of Minnesota’s most important environmental issues: healthy waters, land use, invasive species, endangered animals and plants, nongame wildlife, and research.

Do you love exploring caves? Join our bat specialists and monitor the health of these important insect-eaters.

Concerned about groundwater contamination? Become a hydrologist and track changes in groundwater caused by increased water use by cities and businesses. If you enjoy exploring underwater, our teams of invasive species specialists scuba dive in lakes and rivers to search for zebra mussels, spiny waterfleas, and non-native animals and plants. If you enjoy sharing fun and helpful information with the public, our information officers work with the media and DNR website to communicate our discoveries.

The DNR Eagle Cam is just one example of how your job can connect people all over the world. Monitored by Ecological and Water Resources team members, a live internet connection follows the lives of bald eagle parents as they raise their young. Join our team to explore opportunities that make a real difference for the people, the wildlife, and the environmental habitats of Minnesota.
CRYSTAL | Natural Resource Specialist – Bee Researcher

“As a Bee Researcher and Entomologist, I could be collecting bees in the prairie, giving an outreach presentation, answering questions from the public, or helping other state agencies develop pollinator policies. Pollinators are a hot topic so juggling priorities can be challenging!”

ECOLOGICAL AND WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE LOCATIONS

BY THE WAY...

- In 2016, a new bat species was found in Minnesota. The evening bat was the first new mammal found in the state since 1991 and the first new bat species in more than 100 years!

- Since 1987, Minnesota Biological Survey biologists have recorded 32 native plants, mosses, lichens and animals not previously documented in Minnesota.

- Since 1987, the Minnesota Biological Survey has contributed over 50,000 records of rare and significant species, native plant communities, and other natural features to the Natural Heritage Information System, Minnesota’s most comprehensive rare features database.
The Operations Services Division provides core services on behalf of the entire DNR, delivering finance, budget, capital investment, human resource, planning, and communication and outreach services. From accounting technicians to project managers to human resource professionals, our employees provide leadership and support to DNR staff throughout the state, working to achieve our natural resource goals.

If you are detail oriented and enjoy working with numbers, one of our accounting, finance, or contracting positions might be the perfect fit. For those skilled in developing and directing communications, our division employs information officers, public relations personnel, and graphic designers. Do you like interacting with people and solving problems? Our human resources team brings new employees onboard and provides ongoing support services for current employees. Be a part of our facilities or fleet management team and help us manage assets built on DNR-owned lands or keep DNR’s cars and vehicles safe and ready to hit the road.

As a state agency, our funding primarily comes from legislative action. Consider a career as a legislative liaison, attorney or research analyst to help ensure that citizens and state legislators continue to support the DNR’s mission.

Join our team and provide the integrated leadership and business foundation that supports all DNR divisions.
BAISHALI | Data Analytics Student Worker

“As a member of DNR’s Data Governance Unit, I use research and data analysis to find solutions to natural resource problems such as designing a survey for ospreys, studying nesting habitat for goshawks, or determining water bodies at risk of invasion by aquatic invasive species. My results provide insights on effective conservation as well as on leveraging DNR’s data as a critical asset in learning about Minnesota’s natural resources.”

BY THE WAY...

- The Operations Services Division provides human resource services to approximately 4,760 employees.
- Manages 2.9 million square feet of office space at over 200 site locations statewide.
- Coordinates the contributions of more than 30,000 volunteers who help preserve and enhance the state’s natural beauty for the enjoyment of all Minnesotans.
- Receives more than 100,000 calls and emails each year through the DNR Information Center and annually distributes almost 500,000 brochures, maps and other literature.
The Lands and Minerals Division manages 5.6 million acres of state-owned land and 12 million acres of state-owned mineral rights, such as mineral leasing, exploration, and environmentally responsible mining. As a division employee, you’ll work with professional teams to maximize land use and manage the state’s mineral resources for the benefit of all Minnesotans.

As a Lands professional, you may be an appraiser, surveyor, attorney, researcher, real estate professional, or analyst. You may work on land purchase projects designed to protect, conserve, consolidate, and expand recreational and natural resource opportunities. You may also ensure that data and documents for state-owned land are accurate and complete on one of the most extensive land records systems in the country.

In Minerals, our goal is to keep Minnesota environmentally sound, safe, free of pollution, and suitable for future use. Help us do that by encouraging appropriate minerals development! During your career in Minerals, you’ll work with scientific staff to manage the increasing demand for mineral development within the state. This may include evaluating proposals for new and expanded mine operations or conducting extensive research to discover geologic treasures under our feet.

Join our division and work with local, state and federal experts to ensure Minnesota’s land and mineral resources remain productive, protected and promoted.
KATHERINE | Realty Program Coordinator

“Working with many different people can be both a joy and a challenge, but mostly it’s wonderful. I work with a wide variety of fellow DNR employees who have very specialized areas of expertise, such as wildlife managers and foresters, as well as with the public and county officials. My biggest challenge is juggling many projects at a time that are all at different stages in the land exchange process.”

LANDS AND MINERALS OFFICE LOCATIONS

BY THE WAY...

- Lands and Minerals has more than 7,000 surveys on file from over 70 years of survey work.
- Revenue from mining on tax-forfeited land goes to cities, townships, and local schools for infrastructure and public services.
- The division manages real estate activities for 5.6 million acres of state-owned land.
- Rocks along Minnesota’s North Shore of Lake Superior were created from cooling lava.
- Many features in Minnesota’s landscape, like most lakes, hills, and ridges, were formed by glacial activity!

An Equal Opportunity Employer
Since the establishment of Itasca State Park in 1891, Minnesota’s system of parks and trails has grown to include 75 state parks and trails, 25 multi-use trails, 35 water trails, and numerous forest recreation areas, public water accesses, and fishing piers. Use of Minnesota’s parks and trails has increased in recent years with nearly 10 million people in 2015 going to state parks to hike, mountain bike, snowshoe, geocache and more!

Parks and Trails Division employees provide visitors many opportunities to learn about Minnesota’s natural and cultural resources. As a naturalist, you’ll lead interpretive programs, field trips and illustrated lectures on the scientific, historic, and natural features of our parks and trails. As a buildings and grounds worker, you’ll maintain park buildings and make sure the trails are clear and safe to use. As a natural resource specialist, you’ll be involved with important prairie and forest restoration projects, analyzing both the botanical and wildlife found in our parks and trails system.

By joining the Parks and Trails Division, you’ll help create unforgettable park, trail and water recreation experiences that inspire people to pass along their appreciation for the outdoors to current and future generations.
“Almost every day is a joy, especially knowing that every program provides participants with special knowledge that otherwise they would not come in contact with. Seeing a person with limited English or foreign background making a connection between native wildlife in Minnesota to their own [experiences] makes the job more motivational. Changing a child’s perspective from myth to truth about nature is the best joy of all.”

BY THE WAY...

- Itasca State Park, established in 1891, is the oldest of Minnesota’s 75 state parks and recreation areas. Its name, from the Latin veritas caput, means “true head” of the Mississippi River.

- The year 2016 marked the 125th anniversary of Minnesota State Parks and the 50th anniversary of Minnesota State Trails.

- Minnesota has more than 600 miles of paved state trails for biking and is annually ranked one of the most “bicycle friendly” states in the country by the League of American Bicyclists.

- Minnesotans don’t need a license to fish at most Minnesota state parks.
As a Fish and Wildlife employee, you’ll find a wide range of career opportunities. You may be out on a lake reaching into the water to lift out a giant, prehistoric fish—a lake sturgeon—then measuring and electronically scanning a microchip in the huge fish before releasing it.

You may find yourself deep in a northern Minnesota forest on the trail of moose, or maybe you’ll be walking along the fire line of a controlled burn that is improving prairie grasses, or looking through cattails at a pristine shallow lake where thousands of ducks land each year.

You might even work in an office and manage complex problems that face the outdoors today, including how to introduce new generations of Minnesotans to our waters, fields and forests.

As part of the Fish and Wildlife Division, your work will help maintain healthy fish and wildlife populations that provide quality opportunities to fish, hunt, watch wildlife, and enjoy the outdoors. You may have the opportunity to work anywhere in the state, including the Twin Cities metropolitan area or the far corners of Minnesota’s forests, valleys or prairies.

Wherever we’re working, together we help make sure people can continue to have the chance to experience the natural beauty we enjoy in Minnesota.
TYLER | Fisheries Research Biologist
“What I enjoy most about my job as a Fisheries Research Biologist with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is the opportunity to examine scientific questions designed to improve fishing and help effectively manage aquatic resources throughout the state. This job has provided many unique experiences, from examining diets of thousands of fish in Mille Lacs Lake, to studying cisco (or tullibee) populations in Lake Superior and Minnesota’s inland lakes.”

BY THE WAY...
- There are about 1.4 million licensed anglers in Minnesota.
- Minnesota has 11,842 lakes, 5,400 of which are considered fishing lakes.
- There are over 18,000 miles of fishable rivers and streams, including 3,800 miles of trout streams.
- Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) are in 86 of the 87 Minnesota counties, totaling more than 1.3 million acres. WMAs are open to the public for hunting, fishing, watching wildlife, or just exploring.
Being a conservation officer is one of the most challenging and rewarding careers you can experience, offering tremendous opportunities to advance professionally. Explore a wide range of career opportunities such as pilot, K-9 officer, recreational vehicle officer, regional training officer, and water resource enforcement officer.

As a licensed peace officer, you will be called upon to think and act independently to protect the resources, citizens, and visitors to our state.

If you enjoy spending time in the field and on the water, conservation officers are needed to enforce laws related to hunting and fishing, recreational vehicles, water and wetland violations, and public safety throughout Minnesota. If you have an interest in teaching, officers also work with youth and adults to provide firearm safety and hunter education courses, as well as snowmobile and watercraft safety training. You'll also get to use emerging technology and receive cutting-edge training to perform your job safely and effectively.

Traveling by snowmobiles, planes, boats, ATVs and trail bikes will help you reach remote locations across the state.

The Enforcement Division models efficiency, professionalism and pride. Since 1887, dedicated men and women have taken the challenge to protect and preserve Minnesota's natural resources through outreach, education and law enforcement. Join our team and continue the tradition by providing resource protection and public safety, no matter the season or location.
JACKIE | Enforcement Operations Manager

“Working as a conservation officer is an incredibly rewarding career, knowing that I play a part in protecting the state’s natural resources. I patrol Minnesota’s lands and waters through the use of a patrol vehicle, boat, ATV and snowmobile through the various seasons. I also have the opportunity to work with the public every day in many different roles including enforcement, safety education and public relations. I feel fortunate to work for an organization that provides many opportunities for youth to become involved in the outdoors.”

BY THE WAY...

- The average patrol area for a conservation officer is 650 square miles.
- Selected conservation officer candidates attend a 14-week training academy at Camp Ripley.
- The Enforcement Division provides opportunities for internships and ride-alongs for individuals interested in pursuing careers as conservation officers.

DNR conservation officers serve all of Minnesota’s 87 counties — the icons on this map represent main Enforcement Division offices.
The Forestry Division manages over 4.2 million acres of forest land across Minnesota in order to provide jobs, forest products, clean air and water, wildlife habitat, and recreational opportunities. As a division employee, you will work in the great outdoors while being challenged to grow and develop in your career as you respond to the ever-increasing demands on forested land.

Through a wide variety of year-round work, you will protect and preserve one of Minnesota’s most valuable natural resources. In the spring you’ll plant trees, conduct prescribed burns, and fight wildfires. In the summer you’ll monitor seedling growth, survey plant communities, identify tree insects and diseases, and work with wildlife managers. In the fall you’ll appraise timber, inventory timber stands, and develop management plans for private landowners. In the winter you’ll monitor logging projects, plan spring planting projects, and snowmobile across frozen ground to remote forested areas.

Join our team and build your career as a forestry professional in one of the best forestry organizations in the country. By planting trees, harvesting, and preserving Minnesota’s forests, Forestry employees are a team that maintains an environmental balance critical to the survival of the state’s great forests.
LAURA | Forestry Specialist

“My daily duties change with the seasons. Spring is busy with getting gear, trucks and schedules ready for fire season. When not focusing on fire, I’m doing regeneration surveys that help us to see how the trees have fared over the winter and previous growing seasons. Over the summer I work on identifying plant species and soil types, and the fall and winter seasons are devoted to timber. I love being involved in every step of the forestry process!”

BY THE WAY...

- The Forestry Division provides wildfire protection on nearly 17 million acres of Minnesota’s forest land.

- 30% of Minnesota’s wood fiber comes from state forest lands.

- 800,000 cords of wood are offered for sale each year from Minnesota’s forests.

- 55,000 acres of state forest land are assessed annually for harvesting.

- Minnesota DNR responds to an average 1,200 wildfires each year, which result in 38,000 total acres burned and $17.4 million in DNR costs.

- There are 128 million city trees in Minnesota.