TEAMING WITH WILDLIFE
a natural investment

Minnesota DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Minnesota State Wildlife Grant Success Stories

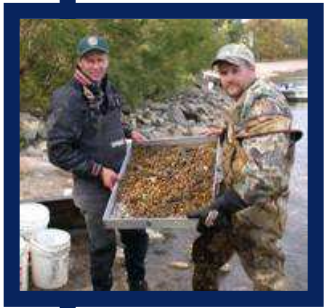
In the five years since its inception, the State Wildlife Grants Program has played an important role in the conservation of Minnesota's wildlife. The following are some of the projects funded through State Wildlife Grants:

Heron, Photo Courtesy of EPA

Management: Proactive Measures that Benefit Wildlife and People

Peltier Lake Heron Colony

Recently, a decrease in the size of the heron colony at Peltier Lake caused concern among local citizens and professional resource managers. The cause of the declining population was not initially clear, but State Wildlife Grants provided money for video monitors at nests, which recorded young herons being eaten by raccoons. Prompted by this finding, barriers now prevent raccoons from climbing trees with nests, helping to protect the herons. The behavior of raccoons is being studied so that this vibrant natural area, and the wildlife that live there, can be conserved future generations.



Freshwater Mussels, Photo Courtesy of the Mussel Coordination Team

Research: Gathering Information to Take Action

Clean Water and Mussel Health

The health of freshwater mussels is an early indicator of disease and pollution that affect us all. Within the last 100 years, mussel communities have become rarer due to dam construction, water pollution, over-harvesting and other factors. In order to conserve mussels and benefit the health of humans, State Wildlife Grants are funding a long-term study of mussels. Information from the study will help biologists and decisions-makers cost-effectively conserve wildlife and protect clean water.

Transparency Readings, Photo Courtesy of Minnesota DNR

Restoration: Working with Partners to Bring Back Wildlife and Natural Areas

Lake Christina Reclamation

Lake Christina, a shallow lake in west-central Minnesota, is nationally recognized as a critical habitat and breeding area for many birds, and migratory birds in particular. Unfortunately, the water quality of the lake has worsened in recent years, making it difficult for wildlife to live there. In 2003, a chemical was put into the lake to help improve water quality and habitat conditions. State Wildlife Grants have provided money to see how the lake, as well as the fish and other wildlife that live there, responded to the treatment. This data will help guide future lake management, protect clean water, and benefit the health of wildlife and people.

Congress has appropriated $7.4 million in State Wildlife Grants to Minnesota since 2001. This has been matched with at least $5 million state and partner dollars.

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