

2024 Strategic Planning Subject Matter Expert Survey

Is there another goal that you think the ENRTF could help Minnesota achieve?

Responses: 189

- Minnesotans can rely on safe and affordable drinking water
- Support scientific advances to address global warming and carbon capture
- Wetland quality would be better served as its own goal outside of water quality
- ENRTF could help Minnesota be a model leader and the best known in funding natural resources NATIONAL. The ENRTF has to become known to and envied by citizens and politicians in every state. Work for broader impacts at the national level, be the shining example, don't be afraid to stick out as the best -- imagine inspiring other states to create similar funds. And then there could be cross-state efforts, complementary projects in their on category.
- Greater community engagement and increased local capacity to implement and maintain projects/behaviors that protect natural resources.
- Funding to better understand and improve agricultural practices that provide a sustainable and environmentally responsible way to farm.
- Enable every K-12 student in Minnesota to have an outdoor learning experience of multi-day, academic based learning, with measureable outcomes.
- Not at this time
- The goals in the previous question are all so important and it was uncomfortable to say some were less important. If these seven goals can be achieved I would focus on that before trying to do more.
- Ensuring that water resources both quality/quantity, wildlife, fisheries, forestry, drinking water, etc.. all intertwine seamlessly across the myriad land uses and economy of the state, and to incentivize consistency of environmental protections as it relates to those interactions.
- I think ENRTF does a great job allocating the funds to the different environmental needs and natural resources.
- In terms of allocating funds to water resources problems/issues, there seems to be an emphasis on resources with impaired water quality. The ENRTF funds should also give consideration to the protection of water resources that are already meeting standards. This will become especially important since we are beginning to remove some water resources from the impaired water's list.
- 30% of the state's biodiversity is on lands and in waters that are protected and managed first and foremost for their biodiversity conservation values and functions by 2030.
- Minnesota should support agricultural practices that benefit soil and water resources.
- Providing assistance and environmental education to underserved populations within the State, particularly diverse urban audiences and beginning and limited resources agricultural producers who otherwise would not have the means to address conservation on their operations.
- No
- Improving the health of soils for the better health of all living
- Land protection
- Work with universities to fund research projects on Minnesota landscapes. Especially Grasslands
- Exotic impacts to our Lakes and Stream, more and more waters are being impacted by invasive species. Minimize the number of affected waters and prevent the future spread.

- Minnesota needs more opportunities for off highway vehicle riding/trails, the trail system in MN is incredibly limited
- Simple Language easy to understand outreach to general public and younger generations.
- One of the big needs Minnesota has is to restore loss of trees in all Minnesota communities - big and small - as disease, climate change, and invasive pests are having catastrophic impacts in these areas AND trees are critical to healthy, vibrant and climate resilient communities.
- To be a leader in maintaining and preserving water quality throughout the state.
- To be a leader in creative workforce development in the environmental sector.
- Position Minnesota as a national model by effectively addressing our tree canopy issues to ensure a climate-adapted, sustainable, native tree canopy across the state.
- Collaborative land and wildlife management that is more inclusive of Native American tribes along with the regular state, federal and NGO partners. I'm envisioning tribes having more involvement beyond topics that are related to just tribal lands and waters.
- When considering the benefits, in addition to fish, plants and animals, other organisms, that support our environments (soil organisms, fungi, insects etc.) need to be included when health and survival of the environment is concerned.
- I think the goals cover what I think ENRTF should focus on.
- Make MN a leader in quantifying natural resources, their changes, and threats to them through proactive data collection and communication.
- Minnesota should continue to be a leader in the creation of and utilization of comprehensive datasets to help inform and implement policy for effective management of Minnesota's environment, natural resources, and communities.
- Develop Minnesota as a carbon capture and storage hub
- No
- Minnesota is an attractive place for investment and business innovation for products and practices that support improved environmental outcomes and reduce risks and impacts of climate change.
- These are good. Another goal is that it would be great if Minnesotans could have more places to swim in safe water and breathe clean air. So many rivers and lakes in urban, suburban, and agricultural areas are so polluted compared to up north.
- By ensuring that quality data is used to make decisions, and that the data are published on a public website.
- No
- Helping include the youth today with more programs through the schools to help understand environmental issues and how they can help today.
- MN is a leader in de-risking new innovations and scaling economically viable solutions that bring environmental benefit to MN and its residents.
- Those are all laudable goals, and adding new ones would make prioritizing them even harder... Can't think of any offhand. A resilient landscape is key.
- no
- Fair and equitable transition to carbon free energy, invest in carbon sequestration technologies and support scientific efforts to develop new strategies for environmental remediation especially water treatment technologies to protect human and environmental health

- Improve sustainability of freshwater resources for human communities and fish and wildlife, including improving proactive planning for floods and droughts and protecting drinking water resources from depletion or contamination.
- Not a new goal but a comment that some of these are overlapping or complementary
- New and better outdoor recreation and facilities for all of Minnesota.
- Ensuring equitable access to natural resources and recreational opportunities
- Facilitating a bridge across Minnesotans that love the environment, want to make sure it is protected, but enjoy it in different ways.
- Carbon capture technologies that are sustainable and sound.
- Market forces are leveraged to monetize and reward conservation and environmental stewardship.
- Population and individual health through access to the outdoors and trails.
- Creating synergies between scientists and local stakeholders to generate/support management activities that represent the best available science balanced with public and private societal objectives.
- these are good
- Maybe "Proactively helping industry grow in MN in a way that is environmentally sustainable while still providing jobs and boosting the economy"
- Minnesota should develop policies, rules and regulations to minimize the impact of agricultural practices on water resources, especially on surface and groundwater nitrate and pesticide contamination.
- Stronger focus on educating youth.
- Communications center\resource for all accepted and successfully completed grants.
- Nope
- No
- Ensure a sustainable food production to feed the population that coincides with legislate and consumer desires.
- Minnesota adopts non-polluting methods of production across all sectors (i.e., fertilizer/pesticides in agriculture).
- Minnesota could become a national leader in soil health
- Environmental decision makers have sufficient knowledge and time to make the best decisions in a timely manner that reflect benefits to all Minnesotans (as opposed to a select group of loud constituents). The "all Minnesotans" group needs to include at least the next 3-4 generations that have not even been born yet.
- Minnesota could be storing carbon and building healthy soils in ag fields each year using regenerative agriculture. The current traditional farm practices release carbon, deplete and sterilize the soils, require large amounts of pesticides and fertilizer, and impact our water quality. Switching to regenerative agriculture would be the single most important beneficial change for the environment in Minnesota.
- Convert scientific discoveries in the research into commercial technologies. Develop applied solutions and implement in our state to address those issues affecting Minnesota's environment and natural resources
- Fund innovative practices that improve water quality, particularly in rural areas.
- better water quality standards to make sure we protect one of Minnesota's best known resources.

- Improve citizen science. Generally, citizens can be vested in natural resources if they know about it.
- I think the ENRTF has the subject covered.
- It would be great to see ENRTF partner with other government entities to advocate for the creation of more jobs that deal directly with the environment and natural resources. It would also be great if ENRTF could advocate for better pay equality within the field itself to retain talent and knowledge over the years.
- It's great when we get youth involved in environmental education, but if there are minimal jobs that don't pay a thriving wage, it's hard to capture those folks and continue this work."
- It was really hard to rank those goals - they are all very important! They were broad enough that I can't think of another goal that wouldn't fall within one of those.
- Support efforts for state agencies to better perform their jobs to enforce environmental protections (regulatory failures). 2) Prohibit neonicotinoid pesticides in Minnesota and on state lands (DNR allows neonic treatments on leased public lands). 3) Contaminated water is a major issue. Our current state administration does not prioritize environmental health - that needs to change.
- Support flexibility to urban/suburban developed environments to allow for degraded natural systems to be reengineered to meet regional needs.
- A key goal should be educating the residents of MN on the natural resources, how to access, how to care, how to enhance, and how to engage with nature, and not just having research performed with results that the general public rarely sees.
- The ENRTF is important to keep Minnesotan's in tune with their environment and what is happening within Minnesota's borders.
- Minnesota is a leader in the exportation of invasive species. Boats and other watercraft traveling from Minnesota are consistently found to be carrying zebra mussels and other invasives to other states. Minnesota should commit to continued and additional investments in infrastructure, and OUTREACH to proactively prevent the spread of these species.
- not at this time
- Market based solutions to move Minnesota towards sustainable energy sources like woody biomass and away from fossil fuels.
- NA
- Goals related to environmental justice.
- Support community-driven efforts to address environmental challenges and promote resilience in communities.
- Fully understanding tribal sovereignty and supporting tribal/state relationships around natural resource management.
- Minnesota supports the education of upcoming generations on environmental issues and ways to combat those that are specific to our area.
- Minnesota has a healthy landscape across all levels of urbanity and wildness in the state, so that plants and wildlife can coexist with humans for mutual benefit.
- A reduction in agriculture-related greenhouse gas emissions in the state. Setting a specific target may not be the role of ENRTF. But the ag sector is a major source of emissions in the state, and addressing agriculture methane and nitrous oxide emissions is possible through better practices.
- More Nature in urban areas

- Funding of equipment and education/outreach for increased adoption of environmentally important management activities such as prescribed fire. Also, accessible funding to help cost share on desirable habitat projects statewide.
- No I think the goals are robust enough
- Removal of barriers to the outdoors for communities that have been historically excluded.
- resiliency against increasing natural disasters due to climate change: wildfire, flooding, wind storms, and drought.
- Zero waste and efficient use of resources to reduce the need to mine minerals and harvest trees
- Promote biomanufacturing and the relevant innovations of green chemicals, materials and products based on the wealth biomass feedstock resources of the state.
- Specific goals and metrics in conservation should be considered as they relate to public health and longevity.
- the composition of the Board may require a re-visit. I was co-chair of the review that created the citizen / legislator hybrid--periodic reviews of an org model very important-is it working well?
- Maintain MN's leadership with high quality environmental research and management solutions.
- I believe the ENRTF would be well served by supporting work to minimize agrochemical use through monitoring and reducing spray drift of agrochemicals. I also believe the ENRTF is well positioned to support work advancing electrification efforts within the state, which will have a direct, positive effect on the state environment.
- ENTRF strives to connect ecological conservation and the advancement of social justice in our state by supporting innovative approaches to deliver ecological and economic sustainability in historically marginalized communities.
- The previous questions may give the idea that some are less important than others, In reality are all equally important and achieving a system that is reliable, resilient and well understood is fundamental to ensure both present and future equitable access to natural resources and restore, maintain and improve the State biodiversity.
- Critical minerals, Carbon sequestration
- Minnesota schools provide a standards-based, comprehensive, multi-discipline, Minnesota-focused environmental education for all students.
- I think that one goal that hasn't been addressed is our rich agricultural heritage and the threats that it faces from urban development, solar expansion, and unchecked purchases of ag land by state and federal agencies.
- I would amend the goal about managing water resources to be a bit less specific. The way that it is phrased seems to limit the notion of better management to only improved understanding about surface water and groundwater connections. This is important, but it is not the only barrier to better protection and management of water resources. There are many other barriers. For example, we need to foster better collaborations across all sectors including government, NGOs, academia, private sector, and the public.
- Policy development based on environmental research and data.
- Building economic models around climate practices to all producers to make decisions on both economic and enviromental metrics.
- Urban canopies are supported and prioritized, especially in industrial and low income neighborhoods

- Provide support to bridge often siloed research and management fields/institutions.
- Can't think of another one...
- Improve cost benefits of water quality improvements by streamlining point to non-point water quality trading. This is currently a cumbersome process and there is a huge opportunity to improve the water quality benefits for each dollar spent.
- Research helps Minnesota/Minnesotans understand what are critical emerging issues.
- I also think the water goal could be improved - what does ""better managed"" mean? And why is the only need to understand surface and groundwater connections? That's important, but a broader outcome is more appropriate.
- I'd like to see ENRTF emphasize community conservation projects that create long term connections between local communities and the natural areas around them.
- All citizens of MN are educated about the land and water resources of the state and the part they play in protection and restoration of them.
- Become a leader in capturing E-Waste from reaching landfills.
- Having more public land spreads out visitor traffic, thus reducing stress on the area.
- In order for youth to grow an appreciation for nature, conservation, and preservation, they first have to immerse themselves, in it and it need to be integrated into their daily lives. Identify strategies and use funding to achieve this.
- Environmental science literacy across all ages
- Restoring lands and preventing pollution from industries and agriculture.
- Continue to support projects that support clean energy.
- Voluntary conservation on private lands will be the key to improving water quality and wildlife diversity. Taking any step possible to making private lands conservation feasible for every Minnesotan will be a key priority.
- REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLING PLAY A ROLE IN REDUCING IN THE IMPACTS OF GHG. Compost created through the compost process had the ability to rejuvenate degraded soils
- Environmental and climate education for all Minnesotans
- Methods to reduce political polarization related to environmental issues? e.g., outreach or interaction programs that bring rural and urban kids together?
- Climate resiliency is going to be a major issue moving forward. Our winters are rapidly warming, summers are getting hotter, and our environment and cultural pastimes is going to shift. For example, areas suitable for moose today may not be suitable tomorrow. We need to think about whether to hold onto a past that might no longer exist, or adapt to the new conditions.
- these are good and all encompassing
- Proactively encourage the growth of small companies and industries that mitigate climate change and provide alternative sources of energy.
- Outdoor equity; creating pathways for all Minnesotans to become stewards of the land
- Clean and healthy water supports human health, food quality, and wildlife health. It's also an environmental justice issue. Ensuring clean water is ensuring a healthy Minnesota.
- Climate risk management
- The goals listed are all very relevant and impossible to rank one higher than the others. No additions
- A focus on ecosystem health and function RATHER than on invasive species
- Minnesota' water resources are managed for sustainability using the state's

- The ENRTF should fund Research & Development Centers to innovation and commercialization on Water Monitoring and Remediation. NSF already funded the Great Lake Water Innovation Engine at Chicago.
- Minnesota's resources contribute to equitable outcomes for Minnesotans. (i.e. poor, non landed people have a way to benefit from resource equity and management decisions)
- Planning initiatives to build resilient landscapes to continuing climate change.
- I like the existing goals
- Ensure adequate funding for grassroots, community based individuals and organizations working to provide equitable access to nature-based outdoor recreation, using the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights as a platform for re-investment.
- Sustainable production practices around the Twin Cities is imperative and should be a goal.
- Building waste poses a significant threat to our natural resources. Putting in place a statewide requirement to deconstruct buildings instead of demolishing them would definitely put MN at the fore of combating climate change and minimizing threats to the environment.
- Dealing with invasive species, and encouraging all types of outdoor recreation to a higher degree. This is going to be a real tourist attraction and economic driver going forward.
- Enhancing soil health in degraded soils, especially urban areas, is an easy way to improve water quality, sequester carbon, reduce irrigation, help pollinators, and improve environmental equity.
- Minnesota County Surveyors are looking for a permanent funding source for remonumenting all the Public Land Survey System corners in Minnesota that effect all land descriptions in the State.
- Return land to the native people who have been proven to steward it for thousands of years. A cost effective way to ensure resources are protected.
- Stop thinking of the Earth as "resources" start thinking of the Earth as sacred.
- effective management of the public land estate
- Unknown
- Compared to other states such as Colorado or Arizona, the GDP trends show that our economic growth has been slower than those states. For example, Colorado is a hub for atmospheric research and spaceborne environmental monitoring and attracts a large sum of federal money for that emerging research. Arizona, despite water shortage, is becoming a hub for chip and EV car manufacturing in the United States. I have two suggestions: (1) LCCMR works with the academic and industrial community to establish a center: "innovative and sustainable use of natural resources for emerging industries" (e.g., chip manufacturing). It can start with a think tank group of people to provide a vision for funding a small but focused research center. This research center can be made through a partnership with the federal government. Develop AI algorithms to make the review of the proposals anonymous and random among Minnesota's research community.
- ?
- In addition to direct interaction with the outdoors, I believe that more classroom programming should be dedicated to teaching students about the environment, our reliance and impact on it. Envision a world where every student graduates high school knowing what a watershed is, how runoff impacts water, how soil health is central to everything, and how WE can all make a positive impact.
- No, the list is already quite expansive. In the short run, the emphasis should be less on identifying "another goal" and more on what "Minnesota [can] achieve" with a clear vision of what those achievements might look like.

- Increased access to natural resources and exposure to outdoor recreation by people of color, especially young people. Minnesota could be a leader in producing a young cohort of people of color that work in natural resources.
- Provide support to the management efforts of our wildlife and what is effecting the decline of game animals such as deer and moose. The revenue created by residents hunting in our northern communities is dropping due to less hunters buying licenses due to declining population of animals.
- Help fund projects that are non-partisan that certain agencies or politicians might not want funded but would be for the greater good or for the future generations to get answers.
- Minnesota's rare, threatened and endangered wildlife and plant species are preserved and managed to persevere for future generations (essentially insuring biodiversity for the state)
- Ensure previous ENRTF investments are maintained, including through evaluation and additional funding if necessary.
- ESTABLISH POLICY THAT BALANCES LOCAL ECONOMIC IMPACT WITH CONSERVATION GOALS. GET MORE INPUT FROM RURAL COMMUNITIES.
- Create a trail "highway" that runs from Blue Mounds State Park in the SW corner of the state all the way to Grand Marais in the NE corner of the state.
- Protecting and maintaining Minnesota's natural resources
- Minnesota's underserved communities are surrounded by healthy and culturally helpful environmental systems (trees, parks, trails, food and flower gardens, and water access) in which they can thrive and live comfortably in the face of a changing climate.
- no
- Minnesota places more effort on increasing habitat and population growth of federally and state listed endangered and threatened plant and animal species.
- Provide forward-looking research on emerging issues.
- Less research. More construction and action!
- look at material use on roads and buildings - reduce reliance on cement - use steel made with electricity use no polymer composites Develop many more waste to energy plants and get rid of fossil fuel plants have better educated legislators
- no
- Carbon neutrality asap
- Rare and unique resources are given priority for protection.
- Minnesota has abundant mineral resources. There should be a goal focused around sustainable/CO2 free/green extraction and processing that is aimed at minimizing the impact to the environment. In general, a goal aimed at improving the environmental and communal footprint of current and future mining operations in MN. MN should want to become a global leader in responsible mining.
- A focus on environmental justice issues, such as water quality, climate change, proposed pipeline through tribal lands and other like issues, food insecurity and access for underrepresented communities and especially youth, in outdoor spaces.
- improve and maintain connectivity between healthy ecosystems
- Preserve biodiversity by maintaining sustainable populations of species
- The approach of ENRTF is broad and covers many disciplines and focus areas. This is good! However, emerging models of thinking push for even more interdisciplinary research teams, a 'team science' approach and a recognition that humans are part of the ecosystem. A goal for the ENRTF should be

to figure out how to integrate human experiences, reactions, perspectives, physical & mental & spiritual health into research about healthy environments and conservation. For example, does the ENRTF feel satisfied that it understands the full scope of the impacts of lands that it has already helped to set aside for conservation? How have the actions of the ENRTF impacted communities and the humans who live there? Could more support for retrospective study (looking back on lands & waters set aside for parks/conservation over the past 20 years, for example) be useful for the ENRTF to better understand the impacts of its funding actions and decisions on people and communities?

- Identify all habitats for all species so we can visualize status and trends over time.
- Minnesota should ensure ecosystem resilience across all sectors that rely on the natural resources in the state.
- Documenting intercultural agriculture and environment knowledge
- Minnesota proactively avoids politicization of natural resources management by using science, not politics, to base resource-sustainability decisions.
- Modify guidelines in agricultural practice to address environment (runoffs to water) and climate (GHG) issues better
- Build resilience literally from the ground up, by restoring soil organic carbon (and effective cobenefits of restoring potable water supplies, improved nutritional density of crops, increased soil biodiversity/health, flood damage reduction, improved H2O quality, reduced infrastructure damages from flooding, etc) and the biodiversity of native species of all life forms.
- Longer-term funding for maintenance and monitoring after a major project (such as a restoration project). This ensures that habitat restoration and enhancement projects can sustain past the initial completion of a project
- Significant reforestation should be on the goal list, especially in the face of the emerald ash borer moving north and potentially destroying the largest stand of ash trees in north america.
- Support education around behavior change regarding resource consumption
- Clean energy, social justice pollution and climate resilient, equal access to natural resources
- Balancing urban and development growth alongside each of the previously identified goals
- The goal is to achieve zero waste by prioritizing recycling and reutilization over mere treatment, thereby ensuring the development of a sustainable circular economy.
- These are good. But, I will say that Minnesota is NOT ready for climate change. No one is ready for what is coming our way.
- Helping fund the Minnesota Children's Bill of Rights aspects related to environmental education - and that every student gets a funded experience at an accredited residential environmental learning center, where they learn over multiple days from many classes that touch on the very aspects that the ENRTF tries to address with environmental, water, natural resource, and energy issues
- Increase the public's understanding of ecology
- Environmental education throughout all age and education levels in the state.
- Help bridge gaps between rural and urban environmental issues
- No. I think that is a good list and encapsulates the mission well.
- The true stewards of Minnesota's resources are located at County level not the state level
- Protect water, watershed, wetlands.

- Minnesota funds and incentivizes sustainable and regenerative alternatives to mining, fossil fuel combustion, and industrial agriculture.
- Not really. One of the great strengths of the ENRTF is that it is open to people proposing their ideas. This is such a gift because it allows Minnesota's residents to propose ideas and then the LCCMR to select those ideas that will best serve Minnesota. This is in contrast to other sources of funding in which the participants are largely decided ahead of time.