

**2023 LCCMR Northeast Minnesota Site Visit – PUBLIC VERSION**

Tuesday, September 19 to Thursday, September 21

**Each day will include activities outside and on uneven ground. Please plan and dress accordingly.**

Please tag the LCCMR/ENRTF on social media:

Twitter: [@mnenrtf](#); #mnenrtf

Facebook: [@mnenrtf](#); #mnenrtf

LCCMR contact during site visit:

Noah Fribley

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**Day One – Tuesday, September 19**

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| <b>9:00 a.m.</b>            | <b>Activity:</b> LCCMR Meeting<br><br><b>Location:</b> Room G-23, Minnesota State Capitol, 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., St. Paul, MN 55155   |
| <b>9:45 a.m.</b><br>Depart  | <b>Activity:</b> Bus departs from State Office Building for Cloquet Forestry Research Center (~2 hour drive)<br><br><b>Location:</b> State Office Building -- <a href="#">100 Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard., St Paul, MN 55155</a>  |
| <b>11:45 a.m.</b><br>Arrive | <b>Activity:</b> Lunch and presentation - Elk reintroduction in northeastern Minnesota<br><br><b>Location:</b> Library at the Cloquet Forestry Center -- <a href="#">175 University Rd, Cloquet, MN 55720</a><br><br><b>Topic:</b> <a href="#">Restoration of Elk to Northeastern Minnesota, UMN-CFANS</a> (2016) -- \$300,000<br>This study examined the feasibility of restoring elk to northeastern Minnesota. It provides information for determining where elk restoration will be successful, should it occur. Results show that habitat suitability and landowner support are not limiting factors for restoring elk to northeastern Minnesota.<br><br><b>Presenters:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>James Forester (Associate Professor, Professor, Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology, University of Minnesota)<br/><i>Social media:</i> <a href="#">@ForesterUMN</a>, <a href="#">@UMNFWCB</a> (Twitter)</li></ul> |
| <b>12:35 p.m.</b><br>Depart | <b>Activity:</b> Bus departs from Cloquet Forestry Research Center for Elk Reintroduction field site (~15 minute drive)<br><br><b>Location:</b> Cloquet Forestry Center -- <a href="#">175 University Rd, Cloquet, MN 55720</a>   |
| <b>12:50 p.m.</b><br>Arrive | <b>Activity:</b> Site visit — Elk reintroduction in northeastern Minnesota<br><br><b>Location:</b> Elk Reintroduction field site – <a href="#">3167 Ditchbank Rd, Cloquet, MN 55720</a><br><i>We will be meeting in the lot adjacent to this address. Please pull off onto shoulder of road.</i><br><br><b>Topic:</b> <a href="#">Restoration of Elk to Northeastern Minnesota, UMN-CFANS</a> (2016) -- \$300,000<br>This study examined the feasibility of restoring elk to northeastern Minnesota. It provides information for determining where elk restoration will be successful, should it occur. Results show that habitat suitability and landowner support are not limiting factors for restoring elk to northeastern Minnesota.   |

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|                                    | <p><b>Presenters:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>James Forester (Associate Professor, Professor, Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology, University of Minnesota)<br/><i>Social media:</i> <a href="#">@ForesterUMN</a>, <a href="#">@UMNFWCB</a> (Twitter)</li> <li>Mike Schrage (Wildlife Biologist, Fond du Lac Resource Management Division)</li> <li>David Fulton (Professor, Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology, University of Minnesota)<br/><i>Social media:</i> <a href="#">@UMNFWCB</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This stop involves walking outside on uneven, unpaved ground. Please plan accordingly</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>1:30 p.m.</b><br/>Depart</p> | <p><b>Activity:</b> Bus departs from Elk Reintroduction field site for Floodwood Campground (~40 minute drive)</p>  |
| <p><b>2:15 p.m.</b><br/>Arrive</p> | <p><b>Activity:</b> Site visit — Floodwood campground</p> <p><b>Location:</b> Floodwood campground - <a href="#">301 Hickory St, Floodwood, MN 55736</a></p> <p><b>Topic:</b> <a href="#">Floodwood Campground Improvement Project</a> (2022) -- \$816,000<br/>The City of Floodwood will be upgrading their existing campground. Improvements include additional camping sites, a fishing pier, RV dump station, electrical services, river access and park buildings.</p> <p><b>Presenter:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Corinne Suonvieri (City of Floodwood)</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cell service may be unreliable at this location.</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>2:45 p.m.</b><br/>Depart</p> | <p><b>Activity:</b> Bus departs for UMN/NRR research sites north of Cloquet (~40-minute drive)</p>  |
| <p><b>3:30 p.m.</b><br/>Arrive</p> | <p><b>Activity:</b> Site visit – UMN/NRRI ecological field research</p> <p><b>Location:</b> Warren Woessner Bog Boardwalk- -- <a href="#">7750 Blue Spruce Rd, Meadowlands, MN 55765</a></p> <p><b>Topic:</b> Research related to the ecology of northeastern Minnesota. Related appropriations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Determine Impacts on Wildlife From Emerald Ash Borer Infection of Black Ash Forests, UMN-Duluth/NRRI</a> (2016) - \$334,000<br/><i>Project Manager: Alexis Grinde</i><br/>Black ash wetlands are high in biodiversity and support unique wildlife communities. EAB will fundamentally alter ecosystem structure, causing wildlife communities to shift from forest dependent species to open-canopy and wetland associated species. Management strategies that focus on diversifying tree composition (e.g., via planting) will maintain long-term forest cover and help maintain wildlife diversity.</li> <li><a href="#">Peatland Forest Management, UMN-CFANS</a> (2018) - \$600,000<br/><i>Project Manager: Marcella Windmuller Campione</i><br/>This project monitored 48 peatland sites for four years providing critical new information on hydrology during wet and dry years, boreal chickadee breeding habitats (some of the first data of its kind), and plant diversity. Data show regeneration harvests do not significantly impact the water table and vegetation responds quickly.</li> <li><a href="#">Conserving Minnesota's Forest Birds of Management Concern, UMN-Duluth/NRRI</a> (2018) - \$500,000<br/><i>Project Manager: Alexis Grinde</i><br/>Golden-winged Warbler, Veery, and American Woodcock are species of conservation concern</li> </ul> |

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|  | <p>in Minnesota and have had significant population declines throughout their breeding ranges. This project documented nest success and used radiotelemetry to study juvenile survival to identify habitat characteristics and management actions that maximize productivity and inform conservation efforts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Mapping Avian Movement in Minnesota, UMN-Duluth/NRRI</a> (2018) - \$200,000<br/><i>Project Manager: Alexis Grinde</i></li> </ul> <p>This project used automated radio telemetry to understand habitat needs of Minnesota’s birds. Specifically, this project tracked birds across large and local-scales to document breeding, migratory and winter movements. Automated radio telemetry systems are useful for studying animal movements and can help to increase public awareness and impact for conservation efforts.</p> <p><b>Presenters</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alexis Grinde (Wildlife Ecologist, Natural Resources Research Institute)<br/><i>Social media: @UMDNRRI1</i> (Twitter)</li> <li>• Marcella Windmuller Campione (Associate Professor of Silviculture, University of Minnesota)<br/><i>Social media: @UMNForestRes, @CFANS</i> (Twitter)</li> <li>• Laura Reuling (Researcher, Department of Forest Resources, University of Minnesota)<br/><i>Social media: @UMNForestRes, @CFANS</i> (Twitter)</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cell service may be unreliable at this location.</li> <li>• This stop involves walking outside on uneven, unpaved ground. Please plan accordingly.</li> </ul> |
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| <p><b>4:30 p.m.</b><br/>Depart</p> | <p><b>Activity:</b> Bus departs UMN/NRRI ecological field research site</p> |
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**Day Two – Wednesday, September 20**

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| <p><b>8:00 a.m.</b><br/>Arrive</p> | <p><b>Activity:</b> Site visit – Mesabi Trail</p> <p><b>Location:</b> Lake Ore-be-gone Beach and Cliffs - <a href="#">399 Ore Be Gone Ct, Gilbert, MN 55741</a></p> <p><b>Topic:</b> The LCCMR has awarded 17 appropriations in total to plan, acquire easements/parcels for, and construct the Mesabi Trail, a planned 162 mile long paved bicycle trail stretching from Grand Rapids to Ely, MN. Appropriations from the past 10 years include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Mesabi Trail Development – Soudan to Ely Segment</a> (2014) -- \$1,000,000</li> <li>• <a href="#">Mesabi Trail Development Soudan to Ely - Phase II</a> (2015) -- \$1,000,000</li> <li>• <a href="#">Mesabi Trail Segment from Highway 135 to Town of Embarrass</a> (2016) -- \$1,200,000</li> <li>• Mesabi Trail Development (2017) – \$2,269,000</li> <li>• <a href="#">Develop Mesabi Trail Segment From County Road 88 to Ely</a> (2018) -- \$600,000</li> <li>• <a href="#">Mesabi Trail Extensions</a> (2019) -- \$3,000,000</li> <li>• <a href="#">Historic Bruce Mine Park and Mesabi Trailhead</a> (2019) -- \$1,000,000</li> <li>• <a href="#">Mesabi Trail: New Trail and Additional Funding</a> (2020) -- \$1,000,000</li> <li>• <a href="#">Mesabi Trail CSAH 88 to Ely</a> (2021) -- \$1,650,000</li> <li>• <a href="#">Mesabi Trail: Wahlsten Road (CR 26) to Tower</a> (2022) -- \$1,307,000</li> </ul> <p><b>Presenters:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bill Dahl (St. Louis and Lake Counties Regional Railroad Authority)<br/><i>Social media: @Mesabi Trail</i> (Facebook)</li> <li>• Sarah Ciochetto (St. Louis and Lake Counties Regional Railroad Authority)<br/><i>Social media: @Mesabi Trail</i> (Facebook)</li> </ul> |
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|                             | <p><b>Notes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A light breakfast will be available for site visit participants.</li> <li>• Guests may have the option to ebike a portion of the Mesabi Trail.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>9:30 a.m.</b><br>Depart  | <b>Activity:</b> Bus departs Mesabi Trail for Tower Trailhead (~30 minute drive)   |
| <b>10:00 a.m.</b><br>Arrive | <p><b>Activity:</b> Site visit -- Tower Trailhead</p> <p><b>Location:</b> Herb Lamppa Civic Center- <a href="#">404 Pine St, Tower, MN 55790</a></p> <p><b>Topic:</b> A pedestrian/biking trail was created around Tower’s redeveloped historic harbor to connect recreational and natural resource assets to an environmental main street waterway to Lake Vermilion. Related appropriations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Tower Historic Harbor Trail Connections</a> (2016) – \$679,000</li> <li>• <a href="#">Tower Trailhead Boat Landing and Habitat Improvement – Phase II</a> (2017) – \$600,000</li> </ul> <p><b>Presenter:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nancy Larson (City of Tower volunteer)</li> </ul>  |
| <b>10:30 a.m.</b><br>Depart | <b>Activity:</b> Bus departs Tower for Veterans on the Lake (~30 minute drive)   |
| <b>11:00 a.m.</b><br>Arrive | <p><b>Activity:</b> Site visit – Veterans on the Lake Resort</p> <p><b>Location:</b> Veterans on the Lake Resort – <a href="#">161 Fernberg Rd, Ely, MN 55731</a></p> <p><b>Topic:</b> <a href="#">Veterans On The Lake</a> (2021) -- \$553,000<br/>Accessibility upgrades to Veterans on the Lake's existing trails, roadway, and buildings to improve access to the wilderness and outdoor recreation for disabled American veterans.</p> <p><b>Presenter:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Andy Berkenpas (Resort Manager)</li> </ul> <p><b>Notes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lunch will be prepared by Veterans on the Lake during this stop.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>11:50 p.m.</b><br>Depart | <b>Activity:</b> Bus departs Veterans on the Lake for the International Wolf Center (~10 minute drive)   |
| <b>12:00 p.m.</b><br>Arrive | <p><b>Activity:</b> Site visit – International Wolf Center</p> <p><b>Location:</b> International Wolf Center – <a href="#">1396 MN-169, Ely, MN 55731</a></p> <p><b>Topic:</b> Wolf research, conservation, and education in Minnesota. Related appropriations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wolf Management Education in the Classroom – Phase II, International Wolf Center (2016) -- \$240,000<br/><i>Project Manager: Sharon Reed</i><br/>This project was undertaken to provide engaging, unbiased programs about wolves to public school 2-12 grade classrooms, nature centers, state parks, public park summer programs, and state parks in Minnesota</li> <li>• <a href="#">Update International Wolf Center Exhibits, International Wolf Center</a> (2018) -- \$1,000,000<br/><i>Project Manager: Rob Schultz</i><br/>The success of wolf recovery over the past three decades in Minnesota led us to a major overhaul of the exhibit. This updated exhibit will now celebrate Minnesota’s historic success in</li> </ul> |

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|                                    | <p>recovering this endangered species, as well as to educate Minnesotans about the need for their management.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Voyageurs Wolf Project – Phase II, UMN-CFANS</a> (2020) -- \$575,000<br/><i>Project Manager: Joseph Bump</i><br/>Research to study summertime wolf predation on deer, moose, and other species in the Voyageurs region to inform management of wildlife.</li> </ul> <p><b>Presenters:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grant Spickelmier (Executive Director, International Wolf Center)<br/><i>Social media: <a href="#">@IntlWolfCenter</a> (Twitter), <a href="#">@International Wolf Center</a> (Facebook)</i></li> <li>• Maddy Witt (Education Supervisor, International Wolf Center)</li> <li>• Joseph Bump (Associate Professor and University of Minnesota lead for Voyageurs Wolf Project)<br/><i>Social media: <a href="#">@VoyaWolfProject</a> (Twitter), <a href="#">@Voyageurs Wolf Project</a> (Facebook)</i></li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>1:30 p.m.</b><br/>Depart</p> | <p><b>Activity:</b> Bus departs the International Wolf Center for Superior Hiking Trail (~1.5 hour drive)</p>   |
| <p><b>3:00 p.m.</b><br/>Arrive</p> | <p><b>Activity:</b> Site visit – Superior Hiking Trail</p> <p><b>Location:</b> Split Rock River Trailhead - <a href="#">5HJR+V8 Two Harbors, Minnesota</a></p> <p><b>Topic:</b> The LCCMR has awarded five appropriations in total to plan, enhance, and restore the Superior Hiking Trail, a 310 mile long hiking trail along Minnesota’s north shore of Lake Superior. Related appropriations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Enhancement Plan for Superior Hiking Trail</a> (2018) -- \$100,000<br/>This ENRTF grant allowed the Superior Hiking Trail Association to conduct assessments by professional trail builders and ecologists, focusing on the most worn-out sections of the Trail. The grant also allowed us to build a trail database – a repository for all relevant documents of the SHT and a place to catalog work projects.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Restoring Five Sections of the Superior Hiking Trail</a> (2019) -- \$191,000<br/>Using earlier assessments as a framework to identify distinct projects within those five sections of trail, the project worked in partnership with land managers/owners to determine the project scope and type of trail renewal application. The project rebuilt, replaced or rerouted trail segments to eliminate around a dozen dangerously built structures (e.g., stairways, small bridges); repaired 1.5 miles of the most eroded or degraded segments; and replaced or built 1,500 feet of boardwalk.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Superior Hiking Trail As Environmental Showcase</a> (2020) -- \$450,000<br/>This project will rebuild damaged and dangerous segments and create a new trail segment of the Superior Hiking Trail to minimize environmental impacts, make the trail safer for users, and make the trail more resilient for future use and conditions</li> <li>• <a href="#">Plumbing the Muddy Depths of Superior Hiking Trail</a> (2021) -- \$187,000<br/>This project will install and implement water management practices to prevent erosion and improve access to the Superior Hiking Trail.</li> </ul> <p><b>Presenter:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lisa Luokkala (Executive Director, Superior Hiking Trail Association)<br/><i>Social Media: <a href="#">@SHTAassociation</a> (Twitter), <a href="#">@Superior Hiking Trail Association</a> (Facebook)</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Notes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This stop involves walking outside on uneven, unpaved ground. Please plan accordingly.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>4:00 p.m.</b><br/>Depart</p> | <p><b>Activity:</b> Bus departs Superior Hiking Trail</p>   |

**Day Three – Thursday, September 21**

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| <p><b>9:00 a.m.</b><br/>Arrive</p>  | <p><b>Activity:</b> Site visit — Large Lakes Observatory (Duluth)</p> <p><b>Location:</b> Large Lakes Observatory — <a href="https://www.llo.umn.edu/">2205 E 5th St, Duluth, MN 55812</a></p> <p><b>Topics:</b> Research on impacts microplastics in Minnesota’s lakes, and restoration of wild rice. Related appropriations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Quantifying Microplastics in Minnesota's Inland Lakes, UMN-Duluth/LLO</a> (2019) -- \$200,000<br/><i>Project Manager: Kathryn Schreiner</i><br/>This project has helped to determine the sources and fate of microplastics in inland lakes in Minnesota. This includes differences in loading between different watersheds and ecosystems, and differences in ingestion by different fish species.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Assessment of Microbes for Improving Wild Rice Restoration, UMN-NRRI</a> (2017) -- \$334,000<br/><i>Project Manager: Chan Lan Chun</i><br/>The project improved our understanding of microbial and nutrient associations with self-sustaining wild rice wetlands. This information will be useful to develop management strategies for wild rice restoration success, which will improve long-term protection of native species and aquatic biodiversity, and support management of Minnesota’s culturally and ecologically important natural resource.</li> </ul> <p><b>Presenters:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kathryn Schreiner (Professor, Swenson College of Science and Engineering, University of Minnesota-Duluth)<br/><i>Social media:</i> <a href="#">@UMDSwenson</a>, <a href="#">@UmdlLO</a> (Twitter)</li> <li>• Chan Lan Chun (Senior Research Program Manager, Natural Resources Research Institute)<br/><i>Social media:</i> <a href="#">@UMDNRR1</a> (Twitter)</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>10:15 a.m.</b><br/>Depart</p> | <p><b>Activity:</b> Bus departs Large Lakes Observatory for Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory (~15 minute drive)</p>  |
| <p><b>10:30 a.m.</b><br/>Arrive</p> | <p><b>Activity:</b> Site visit — Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory</p> <p><b>Location:</b> Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory — <a href="https://www.hawkridgebirdobservatory.org/">3980 E Skyline Pkwy, Duluth, MN 55804</a></p> <p><b>Topic:</b> <a href="#">Quantifying Exposure of Minnesota's Raptors to Mercury and PFAS, Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory</a> (2019) – \$250,000<br/>Among vertebrates, birds appear to be most vulnerable to PFAS effects, which can result in reproductive failure. Birds of prey are vulnerable to PFAS because of their position atop both aquatic and terrestrial food webs. These results will prove invaluable for understanding and managing both human and ecological exposures to PFAS and mercury in Minnesota.</p> <p><b>Presenter:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Matthew Etterson (Ecologist, U.S. EPA)<br/><i>Social media:</i> <a href="#">@Hawk Ridge</a> (Twitter), <a href="#">@Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory</a> (Facebook)</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>11:15 a.m.</b><br/>Depart</p> | <p><b>Activity:</b> Bus Departs Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory for Wilderness Inquiry Field Day</p>  |
| <p><b>12:00 p.m.</b><br/>Arrive</p> | <p><b>Activity:</b> Site visit — Wilderness Inquiry Field Day</p> <p><b>Location:</b> <i>Spafford Park</i> — <a href="https://www.wildernessinquiry.org/">401 Main Street, Cloquet, MN 55720</a></p>  |

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|                                    | <p><b>Topic:</b> Wilderness Inquiry has received several appropriations over the past decades to implement place-based environmental education programs around the state. Related appropriations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Connecting Youth to Minnesota Waterways through Outdoor Classrooms</a> (2017) -- \$1,200,000</li> <li>• <a href="#">Minnesota Freshwater Quest: Environmental Education on State Waterways</a> (2020) -- \$500,000</li> <li>• <a href="#">Minnesota Freshwater Quest: Environmental Education for Youth</a> (2021) -- \$699,000</li> </ul> <p><b>Presenter:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Willy Tully (External Relations Director, Wilderness Inquiry)<br/><i>Social media:</i> <a href="#">@WildernessINQ</a> (Twitter), <a href="#">@Wilderness Inquiry</a> (Facebook)</li> </ul> <p><b>Notes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participants will have an opportunity to canoe as part of this site visit. Please plan accordingly.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>1:00 p.m.</b><br/>Depart</p> | <p><b>Activity:</b> Bus Departs Wilderness Inquiry Field Day for State Office Building</p>  |