

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)
Projects completing in FY 2025
(as of 12/8/2025)

Count	Appropriation End Date	RFP Year	Subd.	Project ID #	Project Title w/Link to Final Report	Organization	Project Manager	Amount Appropriated	Sound Bite of Outcomes
M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 5, Sec. 2									
1	06/30/2025	2020	03e	2020-067	Voyageurs Wolf Project – Phase II	U of MN	Joseph Bump	\$575,000	Pending
2	06/30/2025	2020	03f	2020-025	Expanding Restoration And Promoting Awareness Of Native Mussels	Minnesota Zoological Garden	Seth Stapleton	\$489,000	To promote the conservation of native mussels in Minnesota, we reared juvenile mussels for reintroduction, researched methods to improve their growth in captivity, reared walleye to support propagation efforts, and implemented the school-based Show Us Your Mussels challenge to raise awareness and encourage public action to benefit water quality.
3	06/30/2025	2020	03g	2020-032	Improving Pollinator Conservation By Revealing Habitat Needs	U of MN	Colleen Satyshur	\$500,000	Our wild bees need nests to grow and overwinter, yet plants used in nest construction remain poorly understood. Alongside volunteers from all ecological sections of Minnesota, we gathered plant matter from bee nests for novel analysis by spectrometry (resins) or genetic sequencing (leaves) to identify the plants these pollinators use.
4	06/30/2025	2020	03i	2020-005	Bobcat And Fisher Habitat Use And Interactions	U of MN	Michael Joyce	\$400,000	Pending
5	06/30/2025	2020	03j	2020-030	Healthy Prairies III: Restoring Minnesota's Prairie Plant Diversity	U of MN	Ruth Shaw	\$500,000	<i>We increased the amount and diversity of locally sourced seed available to conservation practitioners and, through multiple studies, found climate and distance to be weak predictors of plant performance. Thus, our findings support using regionally sourced seed for restoration. We disseminated our results through published manuscripts, conference presentations, and symposia.</i>
6	06/30/2025	2020	03m	2020-022	Enhancing Bat Recovery By Optimizing Artificial Roost Structures	MN DNR	Tavis Westbrook	\$190,000	This project identified key artificial bat roost characteristics that improve the reproductive success for the Little Brown Bat. The Guide to Artificial Roosts for Bats was developed to help the public effectively design, install, and monitor artificial bat boxes. Bat box use is increasing at multiple State Park study sites.
7	06/30/2025	2020	03n	2020-064	Tools For Supporting Healthy Ecosystems And Pollinators	MN DNR	Jessica Petersen	\$198,000	We added attributes related to pollinators and pollination into existing databases and developed a guide on the pollinators needed by native Minnesota plants and plant communities for reproduction. Data were incorporated into tools that can be used by managers and the public to select plants that support pollinators.
8	06/30/2025	2020	04b	2020-062	Technology For Energy-Generating Onsite Industrial Wastewater Treatment	U of MN	Paige Novak	\$372,000	In this research we advanced a wastewater treatment technology to improve the treatment of high strength industrial wastewater. This technology relies on bacteria that are encapsulated in a plastic-like matrix, allowing us to add the bacteria in large quantities and retain them for more efficient treatment.
9	06/30/2025	2020	04c	2020-040	Microplastics: Transporters Of Contaminants In Minnesota Waters	U of MN	Lee Penn	\$425,000	Sorption of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons did not alter plastic particle settling, while exposure to biosolids and minerals did. Among 14 sampled lakes, both high and low microplastic counts were observed in lakes located in urbanized areas, revealing inconsistent patterns. Contaminants on microplastics collected from the environment were below detection limits.

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10	06/30/2025	2020	04g	2020-024	Expanding Protection Of Minnesota Water Through Industrial Conservation	U of MN	Bruce Alexander	\$178,000	This project sought to decrease water demand in communities at risk for inadequate ground water supply or quality through technical assistance and intern projects focused on water conservation. In total, this project reduced 14.1 million gallons of annual water use in Minnesota.
11	06/30/2025	2020	05f	2020-001	375 Underserved Youth Learn Minnesota Ecosystems By Canoe	YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities	Beth Becker	\$375,000	Our program engaged 469 youth across Minnesota, surpassing our goal of 375. Through canoe-based and nature experiences, we fostered environmental stewardship, promoting appreciation and understanding of nature, leave no trace principles, and conservation, contributing to the protection of Minnesota's natural resources.
12	06/30/2025	2020	06c	2020-004	White Nose Bat Syndrome Biological Control: Phase 3	U of MN	Christine Salomon	\$440,000	Our project outcomes include the refinement of methods to differentiate between live and dead Pseudogymnoascus destructans spores, the development of a spatial map of environmental persistence of the pathogen throughout three Minnesota hibernacula, and characterization of our best biocontrol fungal candidate on natural cave substrates.
13	06/30/2025	2020	08b	2020-071	Pollinator and Beneficial Insect Strategic Habitat Program	Board of Water and Soil Resources	Dan Shaw	\$750,000	This project restored and enhanced over 800 acres of high-diversity habitat across Minnesota, improving conditions for pollinators and at-risk insects while advancing statewide conservation practices and launching BWSR's new Habitat Enhancement Landscape Program (HELP).
14	06/30/2025	2020	08d	2020-031	Implementing Hemp Crop Rotation To Improve Water Quality	Minnesota State Colleges and Universities	Keith Olander	\$700,000	Pending
15	06/30/2025	2020	08e	2020-012	Developing Cover Crop Systems For Sugarbeet Production	U of MN	Anna Cates	\$300,000	UMN researchers found that cover crops planted before or after sugarbeets had no effect on sugarbeet yield or quality in Western or Northwestern Minnesota. Wind erosion was reduced in cover cropped fields, suggesting that these practices can lower sediment and nutrient loss from agricultural areas while protecting productivity.
16	06/30/2025	2020	08f	2020-047	Native Eastern Larch Beetle Decimating Minnesota's Tamarack Forests	U of MN	Brian Aukema	\$398,000	This project investigated the tree-killing behavior of eastern larch beetle on tamarack as the unprecedented outbreak continues. We analyzed tree chemistry and defenses, identified how beetles communicate, cataloged natural enemies, and studied the life cycle of the beetle – laying the groundwork for pheromone-based management and population forecasting for resource managers.
17	06/30/2025	2020	08g	2020-029	Habitat Associations of Mississippi Bottomland Forest Marsh Birds	Audubon Minnesota	Dale Gentry	\$275,000	Our surveys collected avian population data to identify the habitat preferences of floodplain forest birds. This information will inform adaptive management strategies for the Upper Mississippi River and a bottomland forest for birds manual to guide habitat restoration and enhancement projects on federal, state, and private lands.
18	06/30/2025	2020	09b	2020-053	Private Native Prairie Conservation through Native Prairie Bank	MN DNR	Tyler Janke	\$2,000,000	This project permanently protected 135 acres of high-quality native prairie. Prairie enhancement activities totaling 1168 acres were conducted via 71 projects on Native Prairie Bank easements. Additionally, multiple outreach activities were held to provide education about prairies, and numerous monitoring projects were conducted to improve our knowledge of prairie management.

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19	06/30/2025	2020	09c	2020-044	Minnesota State Parks And State Trails Inholdings	MN DNR	Shelby Kok	\$3,500,000	Acquisition of 184.33 fee acres in three Minnesota State Parks and 9.91 easement acres plus 6.9 fee acres along two State Trails, ensuring consolidated protection and management of pristine natural areas that represent Minnesota's diverse landscapes and support their enjoyment by residents statewide into the future.
20	06/30/2025	2020	09g	2020-065	Turning Back To Rivers: Environmental And Recreational Protection	The Trust for Public Land	Nick Bancks	\$1,000,000	Trust for Public Land acquired and permanently protected 86-acres of quality natural resource land directly abutting the Straight River in Owatonna and Faribault. These lands, now managed by the City of Owatonna and the River Bend Nature Center, will remain undeveloped and provide significant recreational value to their communities.
21	06/30/2025	2020	09q	2020-039	Mesabi Trail: New Trail and Additional Funding	St. Louis & Lake Counties Regional Railroad Authority	Bill Dahl	\$1,000,000	Pending
22	06/30/2025	2020	09s	2020-010	Crane Lake Voyageurs National Park Campground	Town of Crane Lake	Jim Janssen	\$3,100,000	Pending
23	06/30/2025	2020	20c-1	2020-099	Emerging Issues Reducing Turtle Mortality	Minnesota Department of Transportation	Christopher Smith	\$249,000	This project solves the road-mortality threat to Minnesota's rarest turtle on State Highway 61; adjacent to the Cannon River Turtle Preserve SNA. Road mortality is a leading threat to Minnesota's turtle populations, and this fencing reduces, by over 90%, turtle-road mortality and therefore contributes to rare-turtle population recovery efforts.
M.L. 2021, First Special Session, Chp. 6, Art. 6, Sec. 2									
24	06/30/2025	2021	03b	2021-055	Protecting Minnesota's Beneficial Macroalgae: All Stoneworts Aren't Starry	MN DNR	Donna Perleberg	\$811,000	This first-ever statewide inventory identified and mapped more than 50 stonewort species, revealing potential rare species and biodiversity hotspots. The resulting baseline data enable long-term monitoring of floristic changes that may reflect shifting lake conditions, supporting efforts to protect native aquatic communities and conserve freshwater biodiversity statewide.
25	06/30/2025	2021	03c	2021-071	County Groundwater Atlas	MN DNR	Vanessa Baratta- Person	\$1,875,000	The Groundwater Atlas provides foundational, science-based, information for use and management of Minnesota groundwaters. The atlas is valuable to government, industry, and for research. The grant supported work on sixteen atlases and publication of county groundwater atlases (County Atlas Part B) for Dodge, Hubbard, Wadena, and Isanti counties.
26	06/30/2025	2021	03d	2021-087	Improving Resiliency and Conservation Outcomes for Minnesota Turtles	Minnesota Zoological Garden	Tricia Markle	\$391,000	The Minnesota Zoo successfully worked with partners to improve outcomes for state threatened wood and Blanding's turtles. Wood turtles benefitted from habitat restoration, tracking, and head-starting, while a long-term monitoring initiative will safeguard a key population of Blanding's turtles. Outreach and education activities engaged the public to benefit turtle conservation.
27	06/30/2025	2021	03e	2021-113	Minnesota Biological Survey: Setting A Future Course	MN DNR	Bruce Carlson	\$1,500,000	Pending

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28	06/30/2025	2021	04a	2021-050	Trout Stream Habitat Restoration Success	U of MN	Valerie Brady	\$319,000	Pending
29	06/30/2025	2021	04d	2021-144	Microgeographic Impact of Antibiotics Released from Identified Hotspots	U of MN	Randall Singer	\$508,000	The project demonstrated that the effluent from wastewater treatment plants was a key source of antibiotics entering small streams/rivers in Minnesota. We developed a model that can be used by anyone to predict the fate and transport of different chemicals in streams of various sizes.
30	06/30/2025	2021	04e	2021-266	Sustainable Irrigation Management: Expanding a Web Application	U of MN	Bryan Runck	\$1,139,000	Pending
31	06/30/2025	2021	05a	2021-042	Increasing Outdoor Learning for Young Minnesotans	Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center	Peter Smerud	\$383,000	The Increasing Outdoor Learning For Young Minnesotans project provided scholarship support that enabled 5,857 Minnesota students to attend a week of outdoor school at Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center, expanding the understanding of Minnesota's future generations in areas of water, outdoor recreation, wildlife, plants, climate change, and habitat.
32	06/30/2025	2021	06b	2021-091	Long-Term Efficacy of Invasive Removal in Floodplain Forests	Macalester College	Mike Anderson	\$25,000	Pending
33	06/30/2025	2021	06e	2021-188	Building Knowledge and Capacity for AIS Solutions	U of MN	Cori Mattke	\$3,750,000	Pending
34	06/30/2025	2021	06g	2021-313	Stop Starry Invasion with Community Invasive Species Containment	Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates	Jeff Forester	\$1,000,000	The Stop Starry project helps prevent the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species through a containment strategy, by deploying CD3 waterless boat cleaning stations, at accesses infested with starry stonewort. The equipment will last for many years, as will the civic groups established to promote Best Practices.
35	06/30/2025	2021	08a	2021-022	Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape Forest Restoration and Enhancements	Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District	Melissa Barrick	\$731,000	The TNC, SWCD, and GRG, through the Camp Ripley partnership, completed 17 prescribed burns on 975 acres and 10 burn plans, restored 103 acres of public land habitat, 79 forest management plans on 10,848 acres, and restored 203 acres of private land habitat.
36	06/30/2025	2021	08j	2021-223	Remote Sensing and Super-Resolution Imaging of Microplastics	U of MN	Ardeshir Ebtehaj	\$309,000	This study investigated the optical properties of weathered and virgin macroplastic debris in freshwater through controlled flume experiments using Mississippi River water. The resulting open-access database characterizes spectral signatures of various plastic types, supporting the advancement of remote sensing techniques for detecting and monitoring floating plastics in riverine environments.
37	06/30/2025	2021	08m	2021-280	Demonstrating Real-World Economic and Soil Benefits of Cover Crops and Alternative Tillage	Redwood Soil & Water Conservation District	Nick Brozek	\$288,000	Soil tests showed increases in infiltration, structure, biology, moisture retention, and temperature moderation. Producers experienced consistent reductions in input costs, including reduced labor demands and machinery wear due to fewer tillage passes, and improved profitability for both corn and soybean rotations.
38	06/30/2025	2021	09e	2021-049	Metropolitan Regional Parks System Land Acquisition - Phase VII	Metropolitan Council	Jessica Lee	\$2,250,000	The Metropolitan Council worked with Washington County and Three Rivers Park District to acquire 365 acres of land for the Metropolitan Regional Parks and Trails System. These acquisitions will help provide nature-based recreation while protecting natural resources including mixed forests, prairie, wetlands, rivers, creeks, and lakes.

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39	06/30/2025	2021	09n	2021-329	Crane Lake Voyageurs National Park Visitor Center - Continuation	Town of Crane Lake	Jim Janssen	\$2,700,000	Pending
40	06/30/2025	2021	09t	2021-363	Highbanks Ravine Bat Hibernaculum Project	City of St. Cloud	Emma Larson	\$825,000	Pending
41	06/30/2025	2021	09u	2021-371	State Parks and State Trails Inholdings	MN DNR	Shelby Kok	\$2,560,000	Pending
42	06/30/2025	2021	19a	2021-463	Forest Health: Development and Demonstration of Biochar Opportunities	U of MN	Eric Singaas	\$340,000	NRRI's new mid-scale rotary kiln advances Minnesota biochar research, enabling cost-effective sample production for carbon capture, stormwater cleanup, and industrial decarbonization. This investment boosts NRRI's ability to tailor and test biochars, helping realize the state's climate and environmental goals through innovative use of local biomass resources.
43	06/30/2025	2021	19b	2021-467	Forest Health: Statewide Application of Forest Management Assessment Tool	U of MN	Will Bartsch	\$500,000	The interactive ForCAST tool provides natural resource managers, decision makers, and the general public with information about how Minnesota's forested landscapes and the goods and services they provide may change under different future harvest and climate scenarios, supporting a more informed decision making process and broadening understanding.
M.L. 2022, , Chp. 94, Art. , Sec. 2									
44	06/30/2025	2022	03a	2022-043	Improving Golden-Winged Warbler Conservation and Habitat Restoration	U of MN	Alexis Grinde	\$197,000	<i>Golden-winged Warblers in northern Minnesota benefit from structurally complex vegetation rather than a single habitat type. Nest and fledgling survival improved with greater subcanopy cover, stem density, and coarse woody debris. Managing a mix of young forest and shrubby wetland conditions supports better growth, food availability, and</i>
45	06/30/2025	2022	03b	2022-048	Enhancing Natural Resource Conservation through Species Distribution Modeling	MN DNR	Holly Bernardo	\$200,000	Species distribution models (SDMs) are data-driven maps identifying high-likelihood potentially suitable habitat for rare species. 109 SDMs were created for rare plant species. 17 are published and in use informing the environmental review process. All are improving field surveys, with 67 new rare species occurrences discovered through their use.
46	06/30/2025	2022	03g	2022-149	Offal Wildlife Watching: How Do Hunters' Provisions Impact Scavengers?	U of MN	Joseph Bump	\$473,000	Pending
47	06/30/2025	2022	03h	2022-163	Land-Use and Climate Impacts on Minnesota's Whitewater River	U of MN	Andrew Wickert	\$199,000	Surveys of the Whitewater River valley hold a 170-year record of river and floodplain evolution in response to Euro-American settlement, agriculture, and climate change. We combined disparate paper archives, computer files, and technical reports into an index of river-valley change to guide river management and restoration.
48	06/30/2025	2022	03i	2022-185	Protecting Minnesota's Spruce-Fir Forests from Tree- Killing Budworm	U of MN	Brian Aukema	\$189,000	<i>This project leveraged federal partners to jointly investigate eastern spruce budworm in Minnesota. We characterized the insect's natural enemies and weather patterns that foster moth dispersal, seeding new outbreaks. Understanding mortality and inciting factors of outbreaks will help manage budworm populations attacking balsam fir and white spruce in the future.</i>

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49	06/30/2025	2022	03j	2022-193	Restoration of Eastern Hemlock, Minnesota's Endangered Tree Species	U of MN	Marcella Windmuller-Campione	\$199,000	Pending
50	06/30/2025	2022	03l	2022-266	Sweetening the Crop: Perennial Flax for Ecosystem Benefits	U of MN	Neil Anderson	\$490,000	<i>Perennial flax has measurable benefits to Minnesota farmers and citizens-at-large as a new, multiuse crop for oilseed with high nutraceutical content; fiber for spinning, weaving, and biomass; heat/drought tolerance; winter cover; ecosystem services benefiting pollinators, and ornamental value. Market potential will be enhanced by product versatility throughout the supply.</i>
51	06/30/2025	2022	03m	2022-275	Beavers, Trees, and Climate - Increasing Floodplain Forest Resilience	National Park Service	Neil Smarjesse	\$430,000	This multifaceted project has greatly impacted the way our Natural Resource Managers within the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area view the impact and importance of beaver activity on floodplain forest regeneration. Through extensive research we can use learned Best Management Practices to protect and enhance the Mississippi River's resources.
52	06/30/2025	2022	03n	2022-294	Chronic Wasting Disease Prion Soil Research	U of MN	Tiffany Wolf	\$732,000	With LCCMR support, MNPRO has united teams of multidisciplinary scientific researchers that have advanced methods for environmental prion detection and revealed new insights into prion persistence, transport and degradation. The discoveries from this project lay an important foundation that ensures continued progress in understanding and mitigating CWD transmission.
53	06/30/2025	2022	03o	2022-081	Strategic Framework to Guide Local Water Storage Implementation	Board of Water and Soil Resources	Henry Van Offelen	\$200,000	This project delivered a science-based, locally informed framework and GIS tools to identify and prioritize water storage sites. Two pilot watersheds were used to develop storage strategies with these tools which continue to be refined and prepared for broader deployment to strengthen watershed planning and accelerate multi-benefit water storage statewide.
54	06/30/2025	2022	04a	2022-049	Methods to Destroy PFAS in Landfill Leachates	U of MN	Roger Ruan	\$200,000	Pending
55	06/30/2025	2022	04c	2022-099	Mitigating Cyanobacterial Blooms and Toxins Using Clay-Algae Flocculation	U of MN	Judy Yang	\$326,000	<i>We identified a highly effective synthetic clay and improved mixing methods that remove harmful algal bloom (HAB) cells using far less material. We also tested a field-ready clay-spray device in Minnesota waters. These results provide scalable, low-impact tools to protect Minnesota's lakes from HABs.</i>
56	06/30/2025	2022	04d	2022-103	Changing Winters and Game Fish in Minnesota Lakes	U of MN	Ted Ozersky	\$238,000	This project produced the most comprehensive dataset to date on winter conditions in Minnesota lakes, linking temperature, oxygen, and food availability to game fish health. Results reveal strong year-to-year and lake-to-lake variability in winter ecology, providing key insights into how changing winters may affect Minnesota's fish populations.
57	06/30/2025	2022	04h	2022-166	Increased Intense Rain and Flooding in Minnesota's Watersheds	Science Museum of Minnesota	Jason Ulrich	\$192,000	Pending
58	06/30/2025	2022	04j	2022-251	Mitigation Strategies for Agroplastic PFAS and Microplastic Contamination	U of MN	Joel Tallaksen	\$169,000	Pending
59	06/30/2025	2022	04k	2022-265	Innovative Technology for PFAS Destruction in Drinking Water	U of MN	Shaobo Deng	\$445,000	Pending

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60	06/30/2025	2022	04l	2022-272	Salt Threatens Minnesota Water Quality and Fisheries	Science Museum of Minnesota	Mark Edlund	\$1,228,000	Pending
61	06/30/2025	2022	04m	2022-286	PFAS Contaminant Mitigation Using Hybrid Engineered Wetlands	St. Louis County	Mark St. Lawrence	\$446,000	An effective alternative landfill leachate PFAS treatment method was developed for the landfill using reverse osmosis. Testing of the hybrid engineered wetland treatment system provided novel data for the scientific community, industry, and regulators. Landfills throughout Minnesota can apply the findings from this project to design advanced leachate treatment systems.
62	06/30/2025	2022	04n	2022-046	Scaling a Market-Driven Water-Quality Solution for Row-Crop Farming	U of MN	Nicholas Jordan	\$476,000	Pending
63	06/30/2025	2022	05a	2022-026	Teacher Field School: Stewardship through Nature-Based Education	Hamline University	Patty Born	\$500,000	The project reached 57 teachers across 6 districts who have collectively impacted over 6700 students. Our research suggested teachers feel more confident, comfortable and capable of using nature for multidisciplinary, standards-aligned lessons outdoors. They are connecting their students to nature and increasing classroom engagement as well as seeing behavioral improvements.
64	06/30/2025	2022	05b	2022-029	Increasing K-12 Student Learning to Develop Environmental Awareness, Appreciation, and Interest	Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center	Bryan Wood	\$1,602,000	Working collaboratively from September 2022 - June 2025, Minnesota's five accredited environmental learning centers (Deep Portage, Eagle Bluff, Long Lake, Osprey Wilds, & Wolf Ridge) educated over 23,000 K-12 learners through 414 school visits, providing over 360,000 instruction hours and over 1,000,000 onsite hours at our campuses!
65	06/30/2025	2022	05c	2022-066	Expanding Access to Wildlife Learning Bird by Bird	MN DNR	Jessica Ruthenberg	\$276,000	The DNR's Bird by Bird program introduced over 400 students at three Twin Cities elementary schools to the exciting world of birdwatching. Fifty young adults in the BOLD program developed leadership skills and explored bird conservation careers. Over 600 community members were reached through bird-themed events and public programs.
66	06/30/2025	2022	05d	2022-107	Engaging a Diverse Public in Environmental Stewardship	Great River Greening	Brennan Blue	\$300,000	Great River Greening's "Engaging a Diverse Public in Environmental Stewardship" project engaged a diverse group of Minnesotans to deepen their connection with the conservation movement through targeted outreach, hands-on restoration events, internships, and a wide variety youth educational offerings.
67	06/30/2025	2022	05e	2022-162	Bugs Below Zero: Engaging Citizens in Winter Research	U of MN	Rebecca Swenson	\$198,000	More than 3,000 Minnesotans learned about stream food webs, live insects, and environmental research at Bugs Below Zero events. Our team launched a community science program and developed digital resources to engage K-16 classrooms and adults in fieldwork, linking winter active aquatic insects, trout, weather, and environmental stewardship.
68	06/30/2025	2022	05f	2022-169	ESTEP: Earth Science Teacher Education Project	Minnesota Science Teachers Association	Lee Schmitt	\$495,000	ESTEP has reinvigorated environmental education in Minnesota schools serving 605 teachers from 64 different Minnesota counties (74%) through 13 summer institutes and 19 online courses. Pre/post data show participants increased their earth/environmental content knowledge, time devoted to Minnesota-focused environmental topics, confidence in teaching environmental science, and outdoor learning.

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69	06/30/2025	2022	05g	2022-236	YES! Students Take Action to Complete Eco Projects	Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center	Kalley Pratt	\$199,000	<i>Since the start of this grant, 585 students across 31 YES Teams completed 96 eco-action projects, reaching over 20,390 community members. Students collaborated with 135 experts and participated in 51 statewide workshops addressing water conservation, invasive species, habitat restoration, waste reduction, and other key natural resource issues.</i>
70	06/30/2025	2022	05h	2022-250	Increasing Diversity in Environmental Careers	MN DNR	May Yang-Lee	\$500,000	Pending
71	06/30/2025	2022	05i	2022-279	Diversity and Access to Wildlife-Related Opportunities	U of MN	David Fulton	\$199,000	Pending
72	06/30/2025	2022	06b	2022-089	Purple Loosestrife Biocontrol Citizen Science Program	Wild Rivers Conservancy	Marc White	\$174,000	<i>The Purple Loosestrife Biocontrol Citizen Science Program included the recruitment, training and support of 58 purple loosestrife biocontrol volunteers. Volunteers raised over 13,403 adult Galerucella beetles, and released them at purple loosestrife infested wetlands in Minnesota State parks, forests and wildlife refuges.</i>
73	06/30/2025	2022	08a	2022-006	Minnesota's Volunteer Rare Plant Conservation Corps	U of MN	David Remucal	\$859,000	<i>MN PlantWatch launched as a new program to engage community scientists in rare plant conservation in Minnesota. Volunteer interest exceeded expectations with 120 people contributing to 172 high-priority rare plant surveys and banking seed from 55 populations. Collected data provide important updates to our state's rare features database.</i>
74	06/30/2025	2022	08b	2022-034	Conservation Corps Veterans Service Corps Program	Conservation Corps Minnesota	Brian Miller	\$1,339,000	Pending
75	06/30/2025	2022	08e	2022-167	Pollinator Plantings and the Redistribution of Soil Toxins	U of MN	Emilie Snell-Rood	\$610,000	<i>This research highlights a few hotspots of urban heavy metal pollution and points to both soil and air as important routes of exposure for urban insects and mammals. Burial of metal pollution by worms was very slow, so other mitigation methods such as soil amendments are more promising.</i>
76	06/30/2025	2022	08g	2022-214	Phytoremediation for Extracting Deicing Salt	U of MN	Bo Hu	\$451,000	<i>This project demonstrated that salt-tolerant plants such as sugar beet and sunflower can remove road salts from contaminated soils and waters and retain in their biomass. Field trials confirmed their effectiveness for large-scale roadside application, offering a potential sustainable solution to protect Minnesota's water quality, soil health, and surrounding ecosystems.</i>
77	06/30/2025	2022	08h	2022-221	Mustinka River Fish and Wildlife Habitat Corridor Rehabilitation	Bois de Sioux Watershed District	Jamie Beyer	\$2,692,000	<i>We proudly announce completion of the Mustinka River Rehabilitation. This project created a new low-flow meandered channel, over 5.5 sections of land, that provides permanent, continuous, prairie and wetland habitats. The project also features a new series of smaller wetlands, protected within a grassed two-staged channel.</i>

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78	06/30/2025	2022	08i	2022-244	Bohemian Flats Savanna Restoration	Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board	Adam Arvidson	\$286,000	This project has transformed 4.3 acres of turf into a vibrant savanna habitat with grasses, wildflowers, and oaks, similar to how it may have looked 200 years ago. The space will serve both park visitors and wildlife like bees, butterflies, birds, bats, and mammals like the river otter.
79	06/30/2025	2022	08k	2022-142	River Habitat Restoration and Recreation in Melrose	City of Melrose	Colleen Winter	\$350,000	<i>The River Habitat Restoration and Recreation project has brought native plants back to the riverbanks, improved water flow from the dam to help fish populations rebound. Modern campsites, DNR fishing piers, kayak launch and new bathroom compliment nature. Educational signs teach visitors about native plants, fish and animals.</i>
80	06/30/2025	2022	09b	2022-041	Environmental Learning Classroom with Trails	Independent School District #712	Reggie Engebritson	\$82,000	With the additions to the Mountain Iron - Buhl School Forest, students and the community now have broader access to the forest. Gated and clearly marked usage will allow for safer hiking. New trails and bridge have opened up more trail access. The pavilion will be a great meeting place!
81	06/30/2025	2022	09c	2022-057	Local Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas Grant Programs	MN DNR	Jenni Bubke	\$3,560,000	Pending
82	06/30/2025	2022	09f	2022-111	Minnesota State Parks and State Trails Maintenance and Development	MN DNR	Stacy Smith	\$3,783,000	Pending
83	06/30/2025	2022	09l	2022-143	Silver Lake Trail Connection	City of Virginia	Britt See-Benes	\$727,000	<i>The Silver Lake Trail Connection helps protect Minnesota's natural beauty by giving people a safe, scenic way to walk and bike instead of driving. The trail connects parks, lakes, and neighborhoods, encouraging outdoor recreation, cleaner air, and healthy living while conserving and enhancing the area's land, water, and wildlife.</i>
84	06/30/2025	2022	09m	2022-150	Floodwood Campground Improvement Project	City of Floodwood	Corinne Suonvieri	\$816,000	The Floodwood Campground improvements and new floating fishing pier enhance sustainable outdoor recreation, reduce shoreline erosion, and improve public access to the St. Louis River. These upgrades protect water quality, preserve natural habitat, and promote conservation stewardship by connecting residents and visitors with Minnesota's diverse fish, wildlife, and natural resources.
85	06/30/2025	2022	10a	2022-295	Aggregate Resource Mapping	MN DNR	Heather Arends	\$500,000	The DNR's Aggregate Resource Mapping Program completed mapping for Yellow Medicine County, advanced work in St. Louis County, and initiated Lyon and Murray Counties, producing high-quality maps and GIS datasets that guide local land-use decisions, support sustainable infrastructure, and reduce costs and carbon impacts for Minnesota communities.
86	06/30/2025	2022	10d	2022-298	Forest Data Inventory	MN DNR	Dennis Kepler	\$500,000	Pending
87	06/30/2025	2022	10f	2022-300	Groundwater Storage and Recovery Datatbase	MN DNR	Jay Frischman	\$400,000	Pending
88	06/30/2025	2022	10g	2022-301	Rural and Farmstead Ring Levees	MN DNR	Andrew Graham	\$360,000	Four rural ring levees were constructed in the Red River Basin, protecting homes and infrastructure from flooding. By preventing contaminants from entering water sources, the project helps safeguard Minnesota's water quality and natural ecosystems, enhancing resilience and preserving land, wildlife habitat, and rural drinking water supplies.

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)
Projects completing in FY 2025
(as of 12/8/2025)

Count	Appropriation End Date	RFP Year	Subd.	Project ID #	Project Title w/Link to Final Report	Organization	Project Manager	Amount Appropriated	Sound Bite of Outcomes
89	06/30/2025	2022	10h	2022-302	Replacing Failing Septic Systems to Protect Groundwater	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency	Aaron Patrick	\$2,000,000	Over 1.7 million dollars were spent to assist 125 low-income landowners with the cost of replacing their noncompliant septic systems. Eliminating 125 noncompliant septic systems will directly protect and enhance groundwater and surface water in Minnesota for years to come.
90	06/30/2025	2022	10i	2022-303	Forever Green	U of MN	Mitchell Hunter	\$763,000	This project advanced six novel crops that have the potential to protect Minnesota's water, soil, and wildlife by keeping the soil covered all year round. Researchers made progress on improving crop germplasm, understanding pest interactions, and developing higher-value end uses.
91	06/30/2025	2022	20b-1	2022-307	Emerging Issue: CWD Prions in Minnesota Waters	U of MN	Diana Karwan	\$164,000	We produced a sampling plan to examine Minnesota waterways for the prions that cause Chronic Wasting Disease.
M.L. 2023, , Chp. 60, Art. 2, Sec. 2									
92	06/30/2025	2023	03d	2023-086	Enhancing Knowledge of Minnesota River Fish Ecology	MN DNR	Anthony Sindt	\$199,000	This project enhanced understanding of Minnesota River fish ecology by studying seasonal diets of four lower trophic fish species, conducting trawl surveys for unique benthic fishes at 21 study reaches, and tracking movements of 74 fish surgically implanted with acoustic transmitters.
93	06/30/2025	2023	03e	2023-090	Changing Distribution of Flying Squirrel Species in Minnesota	U of MN	Michael Joyce	\$186,000	Pending
94	06/30/2025	2023	05d	2023-167	Reducing Biophobia & Fostering Environmental Stewardship in Underserved Schools	U of MN	Lori Arent	\$180,000	Through the lens of raptors, The Raptor Center has reduced biophobia in youth by delivering engaging environmental education programs to underserved schools. Connecting students with birds of prey, our programs spark curiosity, build empathy for wildlife, and foster interest in conservation, especially in communities with limited access to such opportunities.
95	06/30/2025	2023	05g	2023-223	Teaching Students about Watersheds through Outdoor Science	Minnesota Trout Unlimited	John Lenczewski	\$290,000	This project provided opportunities for youth across the state to connect with their local waterways through consistent outdoor and indoor hands on learning experiences. These connections allowed students to gain a sense of stewardship for the environment, ensuring the ongoing conservation and protection of Minnesota's natural resources by future generations.
96	06/30/2025	2023	09f	2023-091	Construction of East Park	City of St. Joseph	Nate Keller	\$700,000	Pending
97	06/30/2025	2023	09k	2023-207	City of Biwabik Recreation	City of Biwabik	Jeff Jacobson	\$1,306,000	Pending
								\$74,971,000	