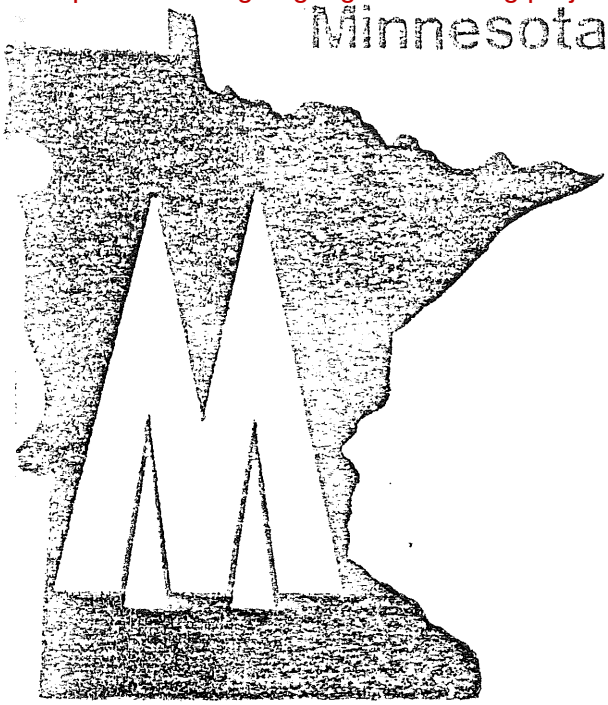
This document is made available electronically by the Minnesota Legislative Reference Library
as part of an ongoing digital archiving project. http://www.leg.state.mn.us/lrl/lrl.asp

Minnesota



DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

Jan 1980

802880
2 copies

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE LIBRARY
STATE OF MINNESOTA

LONG RANGE GOALS

1/37
Rep. Wydaui

INTRODUCTION

The Department of Natural Resources is charged with managing and preserving approximately 5 million acres of land and 3.5 million acres of water for fish and wildlife, forest products, recreational use, agriculture, industry, and perpetuation of Minnesota's natural diversity. To carry out this charge, the DNR manages state parks, water access sites, trails, monuments, scientific and natural areas, forests, wildlife management areas, spawning areas, minerals, public waters, (surface and groundwaters), wild and scenic rivers, wilderness areas, and all other lands under the jurisdiction of the Department for the long term benefit of the people of the State of Minnesota.

To give direction and purpose for managing these diverse areas of responsibility it is the goal of the DNR:

> To achieve optimium beneficial use, enhancement and perpetuation of Minnesota's natural resources heritage for present and future generations.

Achievement of this goal is managed through the Departments highly visible responsibilities, such as fish, game and state park management. Less visible, but no less important are programs providing opportunities for non-game wildlife use, preserving wetlands, protecting water quality, managing water appropriation and use, preventing private forest and wildlife habitat losses and preserving Minnesota's natural diversity.

These and other program and responsibilities are carried out by the six divisions of the Department: Forestry, Parks and Recreation, Waters, Fish and Wildlife, Minerals, and Enforcement. In their pursuit, the divisions rely on staff for technical assistance. This staff resides in the bureaus of Engineering, Fiscal, Information and Education, Personnel, Licensing and Field Services, and the Office of Planning.

This centralization of common responsibilities through the bureaus and offices increases efficiency, avoids duplication of effort, and provides for Departmental consistency in program administration. For instance, long range planning is an on-going function of each division. However, because long range planning must be Departmental in nature the overall responsibility for this activity rests in the Office of Planning. Placement of the responsibility for long range planning in this office allows comprehensive analysis of potential resource conflicts and assessment of Departmental long term alternatives to resource and people management. This analysis and assessment permits the development and adoption of Departmental criteria, guidelines and management policy for resource utilization.

What follows are the long range goals and objectives of the six divisions of the Department of Natural Resources.

Division of Forestry Long Range Goals

The Division will develop and implement programs which will improve the resources and productivity of forest lands and the total forest environment to meet projected needs thru year 2000.

Goal

Coordinate the management of all forest resources through the development, maintenance and periodic review of plans. Revise and improve all management plans by 1985 and thereafter, update all management plans at maximum intervals of ten years.

Objectives

1. Complete new plans for the 55 State Forests at the rate of nine per year.

2. Develop and maintain computer programs which will efficiently process and analyze inventory data.

Goal

To harvest the net annual growth of forest products on state forest land by increasing the harvest of timber from state lands from 400,000 to 1,100,000 cords per year by year 2000.

Objectives

1. Revise the timber sale procedures and laws to keep up with changing technology and to maintain efficiency in operations.

2. Increase the man years devoted to timber sales from 70 to 150. This will require adding three additional foresters each year.

3. Intensify silvicultural management efforts on State Forests so that the timber base is expanded.

Goal

Regenerate by year 2000, through artificial or natural methods, a total of 1,272,000 acres of harvested and currently non-productive commercial forest land.

Objectives

1. Increase the number of man years devoted to reforestation by 15.

2. Increase reforestation funds to the level necessary to reforest the projected acreage for each year.

3. Develop and implement techniques and procedures which will insure more successful regeneration.

Goal

Plan for and develop the recreational resources of State Forests to a level which will satisfy the recreational demand thru year 2000 as fully as possible but will also be compatible with the management of other resources.

Objectives

1. Complete management plans for all State Forests by 1985.

2. At the same time, determine the role of State Forests in the fulfillment of the public recreational need and the projected demand on these lands to the year 2000.

3. Make a specific study of the 387,000 acres of state forest land which lies within a three hour drive of the metropolitan area, and develop recreational areas as closely to population centers as possible.

4. Maintain existing recreation areas according to current levels of use until the future course of action is determined.

Goal

Increase the carrying capacity of forest lands for game and non-game animals to the fullest potential which is compatible with other uses by year 2000.

Objectives

1. Develop and implement the Forest-Wildlife Habitat Management plans for each county in cooperation with the DNR wildlife managers by 1980.

2. The most effective and inexpensive practice in the plans will be the manipulation of the State Forest timber sales program so that timber sales are located and scheduled in a manner which will provide optimum wildlife benefits.

3. Increase the acres of timber cut, as the timber demand will allow, in order to increase the acres of improved deer and grouse habitat.

Goal

Improve the management of forest resources within State Forests through acquisition of non-state owned lands and inclusion of other state owned forestry lands which will consolidate or complement present State Forest lands.

Objectives

1. Acquire lands in the Richard J. Dorer Memorial Hardwood State Forest according to the land acquisition plan which was developed in cooperation with the Southeast Minnesota Natural Resources Advisory Committee.

2. Acquire 2000 acres in the Sand Dunes State Forest.

3. Include 900,000 acres of other state forestry land of convertible, medium, good and excellent site classes in State Forests.

4. Delete lands of poor and non-productive site classes which are not necessary for forestry purposes from State Forests.

5. Complete a study by June 30, 1980 to determine which particular lands should be included in or deleted from State Forests.

6. Develop and present a plan of inclusion or deletion of land in State Forests to the legislature for adoption by June 30, 1982.

Goal

Increase the productivity of 3 million acres of county, municipal and school forest land to the potential of the lands.

Objectives

1. The DNR should provide increased technical assistance and cooperative programs to local government.

2. Financial assistance (legislative appropriations, in-lieu-of-taxes payment, federal aid) should be provided so that counties can afford to develop and manage their lands.

3. Timber harvests should be increased from 250,000 to 800,000 cords annually by year 2000.

4. Increase reforestation programs from 5000 to 20,000 acres annually by year 2000.

Goal

Intensify management on 6.8 million acres of private forest land to meet projected resource demands.

Objectives

1. Increase DNR technical assists to small landowners from 4000 to 12,000 annually by year 2000.

2. Provide financial assistance so that annual reforestation can be increased from 10,000 to 25,000 acres annually.

3. Increase available man years of DNR personnel time from 19 to 55 by year 2000.

Goal

To produce and distribute, by the year 2000, through the operation of forest tree nurseries, a total of 888 million tree and shrub seedlings to be planted on public and private land, and to obtain and process tree and shrub seed in sufficient quality to raise the above mentioned seedlings and to provide sufficient quanity of seed to direct seed 320.2 thousand acres of public and private land, for the following purposes: afforestation, reforestation, auxiliary forests, woodlots, windbreaks, shelterbelts, erosion control, soil and water conservation, and food and cover for wildlife. In addition, sufficient quanity of seed must be obtained to maintain a minimum three year store for continued nursery operation and to protect against seed-deficient producing years.

Objectives

A total of 888 million forest tree and shrub seedlings will be needed by the year 2000. This represents an average of approximately 35.5 million seedlings per year. The first years of the plan will represent production less than the average as the program begins to accelerate. The period 1966 - 1999 will be the peak years with annual production at approximately 50 million seedlings. Beginning in the year 2000, production will decrease slightly to 48 million seedlings annually.

Goal

To provide complete, up-to-date, accurate information on the total Forest Resource of Minnesota, and specific management data on State and County lands.

Objectives

Two specific type of forest inventory are necessary (1) one to provide resource data on the total forest resource in Minnesota by land ownership classes and accurate to a county basis (2) one to provide management data by individual forest stands for all state and county lands.

1. STATEWIDE FOREST RESOURCE INVENTORY - A permanent plot inventory encomposing all forest land in Minnesota at an intensity that will provide reliable information for a county unit. This inventory is a cooperative project between the Minnesota DNR and the U.S.F.S. North Central Forest Experiment Station.

    a. Input and process the data, by forest inventory units, through the University of Minnesota computer (to be done by N.C.F.E.S.).

    b. Analyze the computer output, prepare tables and publish county reports (to be completed by N.C.F.E.S.).

    c. Re-inventory all permanent plots every ten years or less.

    d. Collect specific data from selected plots for a particular purpose such as growth information, drain, etc., at intervals of less than ten years.

Goal

To improve from sixty-five to ninety-five percent the volume of material utilized from harvested trees.

Objectives

The increased utilization can be achieved by DNR Forest Products Utilization (F.P.U.) Specialists working with the State's forest products industries to implement improved harvesting practices, utilization of logging residues, improved sawmill practices, and the utilization of milling residues.

Improved Harvesting Practices

The industry widl adoption of harvesting practices which would recover all merchantable wood down to present merchantability standards will increase by 2% the total volume of material recovered from harvested trees.

Utilization of Logging Residues

The utilization of tree limbs and tops, which do not meet present merchantability standards, for wood fiber products and/or as an energy source will increase by fourteen percent the total volume of material recovered from harvested trees.

Improved Sawmill Practices

Improved sawmilling practices such as good quality control standards, thin saw kerfs, and recovery of narrow and short peices will increase the recovery of solid wood by six percent.

Utilization of Milling Residues

The recovery of sawdust, slabs, bark, and edging for wood fiber products or energy will increase by eight percent the total volume of material recovered from harvested trees.

Goal

To control the number, acreage and duration of wildfires to no more than 1100 fires per year and no more than 30,000 acres burned per year.

Objectives

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) by statute is charged with the prevention and suppression of forest fires in Minnesota. This responsibility includes some 22.8 million acres of state, other public and private land. The activity can be subdivided into 3 phases: 1) prevention, 2) presuppression, and 3) fire suppression.

Prevention is informing the public of the dangers and losses caused by uncontro..ed open fires, improper machine use, incendiarism and carelessness. This is accomplished through public education, burning permit regulations and law enforcement.

Presuppression is basically preparing suppression forces for the eventuality of a fire. Training is conducted, inter- and intra-state agreements for crews and equipment are maintained. Regional and statewide plans are developed. Organizational structures to cope with large fires are delineated. Dispatching plans are prepared and maintained. Weather and associated fire danger is monitored. Equipment is maintained at a state of readiness.

Suppression is the detection and extinguishment of forest and grass fires after they start. Detection is accomplished through a network of lookout towers, aerial detection flights and public cooperator reports. Suppression is the control of fires at the minimum possible size in the shortest time possible considering values at risk to prevent damage to property and natural resources and loss of life and personal injury. This is done through a balanced application of suppression forces including trained crews and individuals, tractor and plow units, dozers, fire trucks, pumps, hand tools, air tankers and helicopters equipped with water dropping capabilities.

Specific Objectives

1. With greater potential for increases in fire occurrence because of increasing population in the rural areas, maintain the number of fire starts at 1,100 per year through increased fire prevention efforts.

2. Reduce the potential for large, disastrous fires and their associated impacts.

3. Maintain a state of readiness of manpower and equipment to provide fast, effective initial attack through planning and training.

4. Provide rural communities with training and equipment through the department's federal excess and Title IV programs.

5. Provide cost effective fire protection on all state, private and county lands within the state.

Goal

To reduce the losses caused by forest pests on forest lands to levels that are compatible with forest management objectives.

Objectives

1. Conduct surveys and investigations to determine the presence of pest infestations and evaluate the possible damage.

2. Determine practical methods of detection and control and apply control measures.

3. Educate forest landowners and DNR foresters in pest identifications and prevention procedures.

Parks and Recreation Long Range Goals

1. Provide and protect public lands offering varied and quality outdoor recreation experiences to all citizens, today and in the future through:

   - Continuing to acquire private lands from willing sellers within the legislative boundaries of units so they can be fully used.

   - Acquiring and developing public accesses to high quality fishing lakes currently having limited or no public access.

   - Securing adequate personnel and funding to operate and maintain these units of Minnesota's Recreation system.

2. Provide and protect public lands exemplifying the natural heritage of Minnesota through:

   - Setting aside areas representing the natural components of each of Minnesota's landscape regions.

   - Setting aside areas representing unusual natural phenonema of Minnesota.

   - Securing adequate personnel and funding to operate and maintain these units of Minnesota's recreation system.

3. To ensure that units of Minnesota's recreation system meet the needs of the public through:

   - Seeking out public input on long range plans for individual units of the recreation system.

   - Seeking out citizen opinion on the acquisition, development and operation actions best for each unit.

   - Ensuring to the degree practical, that opportunities are accessible to all segments of the population.

   - Giving high priority to the development and operation of facilities near population centers.

   - Using energy efficient facility design.

   - Encouraging recreation activities that promote energy conservation.

   - Designing facilities that minimize maintenance and operation costs.

Division of Waters Long Range Goals

The overall goal is to conserve and utilize the water resources of the state in the best interests of the people of Minnesota to promote public health, safety, and welfare, and to assure a supply and quality of surface and ground water to meet seasonal long-range requirements for domestic, municipal, industrial, agricultural, recreational, power, navigation, wildlife, and aquatic ecosystem needs.

Important requirements of the long range plan include:

1. Adoption of a long-term perspective in making resource decisions;

2. Flexibility of programs to changes in water availability, water use, environmental conditions, or the economy;

3. Development of understandable programs which have the effects intended and which are subject to policy and fiscal control;

4. Encouragement of local and regional development of water management plans, projects, and administration of Department permit programs subject to state policy guidance;

5. Presentation of accurate, understandable information on the state's water resources to allow participation of an informed public in the decision-making process; and

6. Employment of a comprehensive perspective in water resources decisions through cooperation with the state's water resources coordinating body and other state agencies.

Improvement of the Department's capability to evaluate its water programs, to assess needs for program changes, and to develop water policy is a fundamental plan component. Other plan elements are addressed under water appropriations, public waters regulation and regulation and wetlands management, dam safety, flood plain management, shoreland management, and hydrologic studies and data systems and the underground storage of natural gas.

Water Appropriations

Allocate ground and surface waters of the state to provide for wise use and to meet seasonal long-range requirements for domestic, municipal, industrial, agricultural, recreational, power, navigation, wildlife, and aquatic ecosystem needs and irrigation.

- Encourage the development of local water management plans to guide appropriation of waters of the state.

- Establish protected elevations and flows for all lakes and streams from which water is withdrawn.

- Develop sufficient analytic techniques to determine the capability of the resource to meet existing and proposed water supply needs.

- Carry out a general conservation program through the regulatory process to achieve the efficient use of water.

- Identify water users without required permits and enforce divisional rules and regulations for water appropriations.

Public Waters Regulation and Wetland Management

Regulate and guide the alteration of lakes, streams, and wetlands designated as "public waters and wetlands."

In cooperation with other state agencies and DNR divisions,

1. identify the specific characteristics of wetlands which determine their suitability for protection or alterations, and develop evaluation procedures which incorporate these criteria;

2. undertake a statewide inventory of wetland values for water quality protection, flood peak attenuation, wildlife habitat, and other public benefits for use in the establishment of priorities for wetland protection programs

3. Provide protection of selected wetlands by means of lease, easement, purchase, or water bank agreements.

Review and evaluate public drainage proposals to protect and preserve public and national resources values.

Dam Safety

Ensure that the roughly 1,200 existing dams and an indeterminate number of new dams built each year are constructed and maintained in a safe condition, by 1) monitoring construction and operation to assure compliance with permits and operating plans, 2) establishing emergency procedures and warning systems for the event of dam failure, 3) supervising transfer of ownership and abandonment of dams, 4) administering state grants to public authorities for the repair of dams, and 5) updating the state's inventory and hazard classification of dams.

Monitor and evaluate the adequacy of fee schedules for defraying costs of the program and reducing vulnerability to fluctuation in federal funding.

Evaluate adequacy of the program in dealing with private dam owners charged with making dam repairs.

Devise means of improving the capability of local governments in obtaining reliable engineering plans and cost estimates and in raising sufficient local funds to match state grants.

Flood Plain Management

To better enable the State to minimize loss of life and threat to health, and reduce private and public economic losses caused by flooding, the Department long range plan emphasizes the following:

1. continued emphasis on non-structural means of flood plain management but with recognition that structural measures can be important in reducing existing damages to urban and agricultural areas;

2. development of a statewide program of cost-sharing to implement both structural and non-structural components of approved, locally-conceived, comprehensive flood plain management plans;

3. disclosure of flood hazard information prior to any property transactions;

4. increased technical assistance for flood proofing, and with applications for state and federal aid, information dissemination, and education;

5. efforts to define the effects of wetland drainage and filling in basins subject to severe flooding and to translate findings to Department regulatory policy; and

6. development of urban stormwater management plans by local units of government subject to state standards devised in cooperation with other state agencies.

Shoreland Management

To improve state and local efforts in protecting against unwise use and overdevelopment which could adversely affect the character and quality of lakes and streams, the Department plan emphasizes:

1. a strengthened state program to meet increasing demands by local governments for advisory support services;

2. assessment of the impact of the state's shoreland zoning act and development of recommendations for any needed improvements;

3. efforts to update the University of Minnesota's comprehensive study of lakeshore to assess rate of growth of lakeshore development and factors affecting this rate, and to adjust state policy accordingly;

4. monitoring of county actions in granting variances and in enforcing regulations for their impact on achieving overall program goals;

5. accelerated adoption and implementation of shoreland management ordinances by municipalities; and

6. accelerated incorporation of new regulations, such as those concerning regulation of individual domestic waste treatment systems, into existing shoreland ordinances.

Hydrologic Studies and Data Systems

Develop sufficient data-gathering and analytic techniques to guide decisions regarding the control of lake levels, surface and ground-water appropriations, alteration of public waters, and other regulatory concerns.

- Provide sufficient factual geohydrologic data to determine the safe yield of aquifer systems.
- Maintain a water use data base covering both permitted and non-permitted water users, and update projections of future water use in cooperation with other state agencies.
- Computerize divisional data for machine processing and ensure compatibility with the State's System for Water Information Management.
- Expand the ground-water observation well network throughout the state.
- Establish gaging stations and hydrologic monitoring necessary for water level regulation.
- Conduct climate-effect studies and expand the processing, analysis, and dissemination of climatological data.

Underground Storage of Natural Gas

Compile sufficient factual geologic data to assure safe underground storage of natural gas.

Establish comprehensive monitoring systems to identify the response of active storage facilities.

Establish a public information program on the aspects of underground gas storage.

Division of Fish and Wildlife Long Range Goals

Fisheries

- Maintain the individual plans developed for management of Minnesota's 6,000 fishing lakes and approximately 7,000 miles of warm and cold water fishing streams.

- Intensify management of fisheries near population centers and areas of concentrated summer home development. (Including Metro area)

  1. Set up winter aeration on the shallow winterkill basins.
  2. Chemically rehabilitate and restock treated lakes.
  3. Promote public access and facilities for bank fishing.
  4. Develop limited trophy fish angling opportunities.
  5. Step up frequency of site visits and assessment of management needs.
  6. Stock catchable fish from rescue operations.
  7. Promote water surface use zoning.

- Emphasize lake rehabilitation and fisheries management in southern and southwestern Minnesota.

  1. Restoration of year-round fishing through winter aeration on about seven lakes per year where basins have become too shallow to support permanent fish populations.
  2. Intensification of roughfish control through development on a watershed basis, of barriers to migration of roughfish. Emphasis should be placed on completing the western Minnesota RC & D project on the Chippewa - Long Prairie watershed.
  3. Restocking winterkill waters with game fish that will restore angling in the following season.

- Accelerate the improvement and management of cold water streams.

- Preserve spawning areas throughout the state for game fish.

- Acquire shoreline and/or develop structures for bank fisherman (piers and docks), primarily in urban areas.

- Intensify effort to preserve fish habitat from destruction by incompatible water uses, such as navigational channel maintenance, discharge of dileterious effluents, and destructive shoreland development.

- Establish catachable stock of striped bass (marine species) in Lake Pepin to supplement existing game fish and utilize the over-abundant gizzard-shad as well as other undesirable fish species.

- Restore self-sustaining lake trout populations in Minnesota waters of Lake Superior and establish a population of pacific salmon for summer anglers.

Wildlife

- Provide high quality hunting and trapping opportunities to the 600,000 citizens who participate in these activities.
- Complete ownership of the 900 wildlife management areas and establish new ones in areas of high demand.
- Expand the wildlife habitat program on private land by about 50 percent with emphasis on pheasants and other farm wildlife.
- Complete comprehensive long range wildlife management plans on 4 major units.
- Expand the funding base for the non-game program.
- Increase the level of service regarding wildlife depredations by establishing more winter food plots.
- Improve the $300,000 deer habitat program by closer coordination of forest/wildlife projects in the field.
- Attain the goal of designating ten shallow lakes for waterfowl management.
- Intensify waterfowl development projects on wildlife management areas using waterfowl stamp funds.
- Negotiate a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding the timber wolf.

Ecological Services

Support data collection programs to give technical support to both Fisheries and Wildlife and other parts of D.N.R.

Minerals Long Range Goals

Mineral Resource Management:

- Provide for the management and administration of the 10 million acres of the state-owned mineral rights by continuing to evaluate their mineral potential and regulating their exploration and development.
- Provide equitable rental and royalty income for the State's trust funds, general revenue account and for the local taxing districts.
- Facilitate increased interest in non-ferrous exploration and development of copper-nickel, ceranium, titanium, vanadium, gold, silver, lead, zinc, etc., all of which may occur in Minnesota.
- Coordinate state-owned taconite resources with possible expansion of taconite production.
- Develop comparative data on mineral economics and mining law, on an international basis for use as a management tool.
- Continue development and expansion of data base and systems such as "Minnesota" and "Iron Range Information System" which can assess land use capabilities and environmental impact in relation to mineral development.
- Meet expanded demand for mineral potential data for making land use decisions.
- Improve capability to handle the ever increasing number of mineral related inquiries from the public industry, other state, federal and county agencies. (Currently 12,000 inquiries each year.)

Mineland Reclamation:

- Implement reclamation rules for existing iron ore and taconite development.
- Develop reclamation rules for copper-nickel, uranium and other non-ferrous mining.
- Identify long term land resource needs of the mining industry and local governments and inventory land use capabilities within mining areas to address these needs.
- Address nationwide lack of metallic mineland reclamation experience by developing joint government/industry reclamation research programs. This includes development of mitigation techniques.
- Provide input and coordination with proposed federal metallic mineland reclamation regulation.

Peat Resource:

- Complete the inventory of the 7.2 million acres of peatlands in Minnesota, including the type, quality, quantity, depth, and underlying soil characteristics.

- Complete basic technology and environmental studies related to the major peatlands, including hydrologic, water quality impacts, air quality, reclamation, vegetation and socio-economic.

- Develop and implement management plans of the largely state-owned resource for both small scale development such as horticultural, agricultural, industrial - chemical, and preservation, and large scale development such as for energy purpose.

Enforcement Long Range Goals

PROTECT MINNESOTA'S NATURAL RESOURCES AND THEIR USERS SAFETY THROUGH:

1. Increased voluntary compliance with resource laws and regulations through various regulatory and educational methods.

   - Use conservation officers to communicate laws and regulations through safety training programs for hunters and snowmobilers and other group meetings.
   - Increase the trust between resource users and conservation officers by training officers in dealing with the public.
   - Strengthen the role of the conservation officer as the primary agency representative in contact with the public.
   - Train conservation officers in modern enforcement techniques.
   - Improve materials used in safety programs.
   - Issue hunting, fishing and other regulation synopsis and brochures in a timely, easily obtainable manner.
   - Guarantee the distribution of news releases and statements explaining rules and regulations.

2. Increased compliance with resource laws and regulations resulting from risk of penality for violation.

   - Train conservation officers in modern enforcement techniques.
   - Institute an arson investigation unit in cooperation with the Division of Forestry.
   - Expand the capability of the Department to conduct concealed investigations into crimes.
   - Upgrade officer training in modern investigative techniques.

3. Developing an enforcement staff capable of meeting changing user pressures.

   - Increase the conservation officer staff by 15 officers to meet the demands of more users and new programs such as state trails, wild and scenic rivers, and expanded public access.
   - Redesign conservation officer patrol areas to equalize the numbers of users per area.

- Upgrade conservation officer equipment to increase the efficiency of the field force through better communication and a capability to travel equivalent to resource users capability.

- Increase water safety patrol hours.

4. Enhancing the relationships between landowners, resource users and the Department.

   - Continue programs designed to prevent or cure damage caused by wildlife such as removal of animals causing crop depredation, removal of beaver dams.

   - Communicate proper resource user behavior through increased involvement in hunter and snowmobiler safety education programs.

   - Stress the enforcement of rules and regulations governing user behavior on resources that expose users to the private landowners such as state trails, wild and scenic rivers, lakes with public access.

   - Ensure that all enforcement staff have a uniform and thorough understanding of conservation laws and regulations.

5. Cooperating with other DNR divisions and other state agencies:

   - Establish an arson investigation unit in cooperation with the Division of Forestry.

   - Train enforcement pilots in aerial fire suppression lead techniques in cooperation with the Division of Forestry.

   - Increase the capability of enforcement to fulfill its role in the Governor's natural disaster plan through staff training.