

Minnesota River Weekly Update

Aug 8, 2017



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“Chaska Creek” Minnesota River Valley State Recreation Area

Source: [Adam Johnson Minnesota Photography](#)

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Announcements

Enhance your State Fair experience at Eco Experience 2017

[Steve Mikkelson](#), August 4, 2017, MPCA

Your Minnesota State Fair experience isn't complete until you've visited the Eco Experience, a partnership between the State Fair, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and more than 150 organizations and businesses across the state. The Eco Experience has become the second most visited exhibit at the fair, and is the largest environmental event of its kind, nationally, in the last two decades.

This year's exciting and interactive Eco Experience will provide a wealth of information, demonstrations, and learning opportunities for people of all ages, including these themes: Air, Water, Climate, Reduce/Recycle. ([read more](#))

MDA Encourages Farmers to Take Survey on Alleged Dicamba Damage

MDA, Aug 4, 2017

St. Paul, MN: The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is gathering information on plant damage that may have been caused by the use of the herbicide dicamba. The MDA is encouraging anyone with damage to [complete a survey](#). The survey will be open until September 15. "We are trying to gather as much information on this issue as possible," said Assistant Commissioner Susan Stokes. "Often, neighbors don't want to file a formal complaint regarding crop damage against their neighbors. This survey, along with information we're gathering from the product registrants, applicators, and farmers, will help us collect info to assess the scope of the situation. We're asking for everyone's cooperation on this issue." ([read more](#))

DNR tagging invasive carp for first time

Legislature gave DNR authority to use new research tool

August 3, 2017, DNR

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has captured a bighead carp and, for the first time in the state, tagged it to learn more about invasive carp. After a period of acoustic telemetry tracking to learn more about its range and other behaviors, the tagged invasive carp will be removed from the water and euthanized. The data will increase the DNR's ability to capture invasive carp when they enter Minnesota waters. "This new tool is another proactive step Minnesota is taking to prevent the spread of invasive species," DNR invasive fish coordinator Nick Frohnauer said. "The more we can learn about these species, the more effectively we can continue to minimize their potential impact, with the help of Minnesotans who use rivers for business or recreation." ([read more](#))

Governor Dayton Announces Higher Standard for Biodiesel Blends Made from Soybeans

Aug 3, 2017, MDA

ST. PAUL, MN – As farmers from across Minnesota gather at Farmfest this week, Governor Mark Dayton today announced that the state will implement a new biodiesel standard next spring, as Minnesota moves to a 20 percent biodiesel blend (B20) at pumps across the state. This new standard builds on Minnesota’s national leadership – in 2005, Minnesota became the first state in the nation to require all diesel fuel to have a blend of at least 2 percent biodiesel, known as B2. Beginning in May 2018, B20 will be sold at filling stations across Minnesota during summer months, when higher biodiesel blends can be used reliably. In October, the biodiesel blend will drop back to B5 to ensure cold-weather reliability. Beginning in 2019, B20 will be available from April through September every year. ([read more](#))

Herbicide applications to help reforestation efforts in the Two Harbors Area

Aug 1, 2017, MDNR

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will begin herbicide applications on select state lands to improve reforestation efforts. Applications will begin around August 15th and continue through approximately September 15th. “Herbicides will be sprayed on the ground to reduce competing woody vegetation,” said Anna Heruth, Two Harbors area program forester. “This gives the tree seedlings a better chance to grow and survive.” Herbicides will not be applied within 100 feet of any water body, following DNR herbicide application guidelines. Signs will be posted on all herbicide treatment sites. Adjacent landowners within a quarter mile of the treatment sites have already been notified. ([read more](#))

News

Three small dams on Cottonwood River slated for removal

Watershed Connections, Aug 3, 2017, MPCA

Three more dams in the Minnesota River basin are slated for removal in the ongoing effort to restore the river and tributaries to more natural flows. DNR received a \$870,000 LSOHC grant passed to Redwood County for the removal of three low-head dams on the Cottonwood River: Sanborn Park, four feet high; Sanborn Golf Course, three feet high; and Kuhar Park, Lamberton, five feet high.

Xcel street light conversion comes to Mankato

Program coincides with city energy conservation initiative

Mark Fischenich, July 31, 2017, Mankato free Press

MANKATO — Nearly 2,000 Mankato street lights are getting brighter and more energy-efficient as the city and Xcel Energy are each replacing old-style bulbs with LED systems. Mankato is about half-way through a wide-ranging energy conservation effort that involves everything from street lights to water-

The grant goes to June 1, 2021, and construction may start in late 2018 or early 2019. ([read more](#))

Large Turnout at Rochester Water Quality Town Hall Meeting

Watershed Connections, Aug 3, 2017, MPCA

About 300 people, double what was expected, showed up for the water quality town hall meeting Monday in Rochester. It was the first of [10 town hall meetings](#) as part of Gov. Mark Dayton's "25 by 25" clean water initiative, which aims to improve water quality in Minnesota by 25 percent by 2025. (Photo: KAAL-TV). They offer Minnesotans an opportunity to discuss the water quality challenges facing their communities and our state, learn from experts, and engage with policymakers. Minnesota State University, Mankato is hosting the event on Aug 16. ([read more](#))

Public Input on Minnesota River valley Plan Summarized

Watershed Connections, Aug 3, 2017, MPCA

The completed Minnesota River Valley Recreation and Conservation Master Plan and Public Comment Summary Report can now be viewed on the [project website](#). Next steps include official review, approval and adoption by individual county park boards and county commissioners and Dept. of Natural Resources. The plan, developed by the DNR in collaboration with Redwood and Renville counties, will leverage natural, recreational, cultural, historical and agricultural assets located within two miles either side of the Minnesota River in the two counties. ([read more](#))

saving toilet flushes and will cost nearly \$5 million. Xcel Energy, coincidentally, is arriving next week with a street-light conversion program covering all eight states where it does business. ([read more](#))

Red River water quality 'generally poor,' Minnesota officials say

Helmut Schmidt on Aug 2, 2017

MOORHEAD — The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency says water quality in the Red River watershed is "generally poor," and recommends changes along the Red and its tributaries to trim levels of fecal coliform bacteria and sediments, reduce erosion, and improve habitat for fish and for recreational uses. Monitoring of the Red between Georgetown and Breckenridge — including Moorhead — found excessive levels of E. coli bacteria and suspended solids from field runoff and erosion, the MPCA said in a news release Wednesday, Aug. 2. ([read more](#))

Faribault native recognized for global career in solar energy

GUNNAR OLSON, Aug 3, 2017, Faribault.com

While solar energy is becoming more prevalent in Rice County, a Faribault native and St. Olaf graduate has dedicated himself to promoting the renewable resource in places that need it most. For his efforts, Burkhartzmeyer recently was awarded as the Certified Clean Energy Training Provider of the Year by the Interstate Renewable Energy Council. It's an honor given annually to people who make a difference in the solar industry each year. The award is cumulative and based on one's record and impact on the solar community over a number of years. ([read more](#))

Court keeps Great Lakes wolves on endangered species list

[JOHN FLESHER / ASSOCIATED PRESS](#) | August 1, 2017

A federal appeals court Tuesday retained federal protection for gray wolves in the western Great Lakes region, ruling that the government made crucial errors when it dropped them from the endangered species list five years ago. The court upheld a district judge who overruled the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which had determined that wolves in Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin had recovered after being shot, trapped and poisoned nearly out of existence in the previous century. They've bounced back and now total about 3,800. ([read more](#))

MNyou reaps what it sowed: Youth group's garden produce for sale at farmers markets

[Shelby Lindrud](#) on Aug 2, 2017

WILLMAR — When the youth and leaders of MNyou, a youth group in Willmar, started planting their first garden this spring, no one really knew what to expect. They filled the plot of land on the MinnWest Technology Campus with traditional plants including tomatoes and carrots alongside more exotic fare including bitter balls and kittley. The hope was to sell the goods at local farmers markets along with giving minority youth a project over the summer. ([read more](#))

Galesville dairy wins potential record stray voltage case against Xcel Energy

[CHRIS HUBBUCH](#), Jul 28, 2017. [La Crosse Tribune](#)

A Galesville farmer has won his five-year legal battle against Xcel Energy over stray voltage that he says harmed his cattle and could result in a record \$13.5 million award. A jury this week found that Xcel was negligent and failed to follow state regulations, causing more than \$4 million in losses for Paul Halderson and his wife, Lyn, who operate a nearly 1,000-cow dairy. The Haldersons claimed their herd suffered from illness and decreased milk production for more than a decade because of improperly grounded power lines. ([read more](#))

Spilling the dirt on soil: workshops planned for Rice County

[NICK GERHARDT](#), Aug 4, 2017 Updated Aug 4

The Sustainable Farming Association is going to spill the dirt on soil and more with informational workshops in Rice County Tuesday and Wednesday with its Dirt Rich: Building Soil Health Experts sessions. Both days will begin with a classroom portion at the Rice County Fairgrounds in Faribault and Tuesday those in attendance will tour Pork Chop Ridge Farm in Faribault. On Wednesday there will be a tour of Hanappe Ranch in Northfield. The sessions run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days. Farm tours will begin after lunch each day. ([read more](#))

↓ Aug 9 - Aug 15 ↓

Soil Health Field Day

August 9th, 2017

Location: Mark Ditlevson's Farm
7068 East Highway 30
Blooming Prairie, MN 55917
(1 mile West of Blooming
Prairie)



Brief Description: The Freeborn Area Soil Health Team will be having a soil health field day on Wednesday August 9th! This event is going to be featuring Frank Gibbs who is a retired NRCS soil scientist from Ohio. Frank will be showing a tile demonstration which consists of Frank using smoke and pressurizing tile lines to force the smoke through the soil surface. In this demonstration smoke is being used as an indicator for water movement through the soil which will show the efficiency of the underlying tile. The more smoke that comes to the surface demonstrates a healthier soil. Soils that are sealed due to compaction will not have smoke rise through the soil surface.

Also on the agenda to speak at this event are Sarah Carlson from PFI, Spencer Herbert from SARE/MDA, Mark Morreim from Morreim drainage, Doug Nopar and Shona Snater from the Land Stewardship Project. Don't miss this event!

To see the entire agenda for the day view the attached flyer for more details! If you have any other additional questions call the Freeborn County SWCD at [507-373-5607 Ext. 3](tel:507-373-5607). ([more information](#))

New Ulm Classic Car Cruise-In, the Car Hop & Shop

Thursday, August 10 from 5:00-8:00pm

Location: Downtown New Ulm

Brief Description: Check out the great vehicles, including new cars from local dealerships, and enjoy an evening in downtown New Ulm during this free, family-friendly event! Meet your friends, grab a cold drink at one of our bars or restaurants, even do a little shopping. Hourly door prizes will be awarded. There will be vendor booths for the ladies, and local non-profit groups will have displays.



During the cruise-in, the Brown County Historical Society Museum will be open with free admission, and New Ulm's historic Popcorn Wagon will be out, too!

Held monthly in downtown New Ulm every summer, the Cruise-Ins are brought to you by the New Ulm Area Chamber of Commerce. Questions? Contact the Chamber at [507-233-4300](tel:507-233-4300) or email chamber@newulm.com.

AFTERNOON OF LEISURE

SUNDAY, AUGUST 13, 2017 1- 4 PM

Location: Harkin store
nine miles northwest of New Ulm on
Nicollet County Road 21,
or the bottom road, or nine miles east of
Fort Ridgely.



Brief Description: Sunday afternoons in the 1870's were family time or time to relax, visit friends, or maybe do a bit of fancy work. There will be a showing of some of their work in tatting, hardanger, knitting and other types of work. Men would do some wood crafts or play music or just read. Anyone that does this type of work and would like to show their fancywork art is welcome to come and visit with our visitors. Visitors will be able to tour the 1870's store which has 40% original merchandise on the shelves and learn about the village of West Newton and the only thing left of the village, the Harkin Store. The store is open 10 to 5 pm everyday except Mondays. The programs are on Sunday afternoons from 1 to 4 pm is included with the admission to the store. The gift shop is open the same hours as the store and has books, toys, unique and hand crafted items, also 10 cent candy. For more information contact the store at [1-507-354-8666](tel:1-507-354-8666) or Nicollet County Historical Society which operates the store at [1-507-934-2160](tel:1-507-934-2160).

Soil Health Field Day

08/12/2017, 9 AM to 11 AM

Location: Minneopa State Park
5 miles west of Mankato on State Hwy.
68 and U.S. Hwy. 169.



Brief Description: Swan Lake is North America's largest wetland complex and one of most healthy shallow lakes in southern Minnesota. Take a leisurely paddle on Swan Lake with the Minneopa Area Naturalist to learn how to paddle and more about this amazing resource. We will take off from the boat ramp at Nicollet Bay (east of the city Nicollet) and paddle out into the lake for just over an hour. Be prepared for all types of weather and bring water and a snack. Contact Scott Kudelka at

scott.kudelka@state.mn.us for more information and to register.

For more information contact Scott Kudelka at 507-384-8890 or by email at scott.kudelka@state.mn.us.

↓ Aug 16 - Aug 22 ↓

Water Quality Town Hall Meeting with Governor Dayton – Mankato

August 16 at 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Location: Minnesota State University,
Mankato Centennial Student Union
Ballroom

Brief Description:

GOVERNOR MARK DAYTON WANTS
MINNESOTA TO ACCELERATE THE
PACE OF PROGRESS TOWARDS
CLEAN WATER



Governor Mark Dayton wants Minnesota to
accelerate the pace of progress towards clean water

That is why he recently announced a new [“25 by ‘25” Water Quality Goal](#), which would spur collaboration and action to improve Minnesota’s water quality 25 percent by 2025. Without additional action, the quality of Minnesota’s waters is expected to improve only 6 to 8 percent by 2034. Governor Dayton wants to hear from Minnesotans and will host a series of [Town Halls](#) over the summer and fall. In addition, he is calling on Minnesotans and civic organizations to organize their own Community Water Meetings this summer to provide further feedback and ideas.

Gather your community, school, family and friends to have a conversation this summer about what you can do at the local level to help Minnesota reach our 25 by 25 goal!

[\(more information\)](#)

NEY SENIOR LEARNING SERIES: Renewable Energy

Thursday, August 17th 12:00-2pm

Location: Ney Nature Center
28238 Nature Center Lane
Henderson, MN 56044

Brief Description: Learn about renewable energy and how it is utilized in Minnesota with the Rural Renewable Energy Alliance’s Development Director, Jan Hubbard. Lunch included. Conducted on the third Thursday of each month. Ages 50+

Cost: \$10/member or \$12/non-members

[Register online](#) by August 10th! Reservations required.

For more information click [here](#).



Monarch Tagging

08/18/2017, 1 PM to 2 PM

Location: Minneopa State Park
5 miles west of Mankato on State Hwy.
68 and U.S. Hwy. 169.

Brief Description: Monarchs are the one butterfly that everyone knows and can identify with just one glance. This amazing creature over a number of generations will migrate from here in Minnesota all the way down to Mexico. Some scientists call it one of the most spectacular natural phenomena in the world. Monarch butterflies have been hit hard over the last decade and there is an effort to provide more habitat and a better chance for survival. Come out to Minneopa to learn more about the Monarch and hopefully get a chance to tag one. Meet at the turning circle near the office on the waterfalls side of Minneopa State Park.



For more information contact Scott Kudelka at 507-384-8890 or by email at scott.kudelka@state.mn.us.

BEES AND HONEY

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20, 2017 1- 4 PM

Location: Harkin store
nine miles northwest of New Ulm on
Nicollet County Road 21,
or the bottom road, or nine miles east of
Fort Ridgely.

Brief Description: Honey was used a sweetener instead of sugar. It could be found out on the prairie and could be made by the pioneers. Crystal Bock from Nicollet, will have equipment and information that she uses for making her honey. Our program is on Sunday, August 20th from 1 to 4 pm. Crystal's



honey will also be available in the gift shop. The Harkin Store is open everyday except Mondays in August from 10 to 5 pm. Admission to the program is included with admission to the store. Our gift shop is open the same hours as the store and has books, toys, unique and hand crafted items, also 10 cent candy.

For more information contact the store at [1-507-354-8666](tel:1-507-354-8666) or Nicollet County Historical Society which operates the store at [1-507-934-2160](tel:1-507-934-2160).

↓ Aug 23 - Aug 29 ↓

RegenerateMN

Wednesday August 23, 2017

5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Location: Tin Whiskers Brewery
125 9th Street E
Saint Paul, MN 55101



Brief Description:

Throughout the year MCEA hosts social events geared toward the next generation of environmental leaders. Each event is designed to act as an opportunity to meet others who share an interest in environmental issues, learn more about MCEA's work, and network in a fun and informal setting.

SAVE THE DATE!

Transportation Trending

Follow-Up Event

Wednesday, August 23

5:30 - 7:30 PM

[Tin Whiskers Brewery](#)

125 9th St E - St. Paul, MN 55101

For more information click [here](#).

Nature Craft Night

Friday, August 25th 6-8pm

Location: Ney Nature Center
28238 Nature Center Lane
Henderson, MN 56044

Brief Description:

Spend the evening with color and shape to design your very own mosaic creation! Choose from a variety of designs or come up with one of your own! This nature theme craft night will include a snack as well as supplies so you are sure to have a fantastic evening! All

Ages. Youth under the age of 14 must attend with a registered adult.

Cost: \$20/member or \$25/non-member

[Register online](#) by August 22nd! Reservations required.

For more information click [here](#).



Archery in the Park

08/25/2017, 3 PM to 4:30 PM

Location: Fort Ridgely State Park

Brief Description:

The sport of shooting arrows has been around for thousands of years. First humans used archery as a way to hunt animals and later as a way to compete against each other. Archery is an activity that people from all walks of life and almost every size and ability can participate and have fun. This program covers the basics of archery (safety, proper care of the equipment and how to use a bow). Participants will be able to practice their new skills. Meet at the Upper Picnic Area..



For more information contact Scott Kudelka at 507-384-8890 or by email at scott.kudelka@state.mn.us.

Job Announcements

—Enterprise Sustainability Planner—

Employer: Department of Administration- 214

Division/Unit: Office of Enterprise Sustainability

Closing Date: 8/21/2017

Location(s): St. Paul.

Who May Apply:

All qualified job seekers

Responsibilities:

- Assists in developing agency baseline information to facilitate future planning
- Assists agencies in developing agency sustainability plans
- Develops action plans at the state level for sustainability focus areas
- Acts as liaison among agencies to identify and help overcome barriers
- Participates in and hosts topic-specific webinars and conference calls for training and information sharing
- Develops guidance and assists with communications tools
- Facilitates discussions among database managers and staff to help develop consistent internal reporting protocols
- Promotes best practices by seeking opportunities to replicate them throughout the enterprise
- Assists three Work Group leads in the preparation and execution of meetings, and recording of actionable items
- Assists in preparing contracts and grant requests

[\(more information\)](#)

Enterprise Sustainability Program Admin

Employer: Department of Administration, Office of Enterprise Sustainability

Closing Date: 8/21/2017

Location(s): St. Paul

Who May Apply: All qualified job seekers

Job Summary:

The Office of Enterprise Sustainability (OES) was created in 2016 for state government to lead by example in the battle against climate change. The State strives to be a sustainability leader by demonstrating measurable change in relevant metrics through strategies that can be replicated by the private sector, local governments, and the public. By strengthening the collaborative efforts across State agencies, OES will reduce the impact government operations have on the budget and environment through implementation of sustainable practices, reductions in operating costs, and enhancement of state government operations' accountability by tracking and reporting results.

This position exists to support the ability of OES to manage those reporting results through the newly developed Sustainable Reporting Tool (SRT). The employee hired will provide application support on the OES help desk, record issues, and solve problems that arise.

They will also manage internal and external web-based dashboards that will measure changes in state agencies operations that result from implementing sustainability practices and projects. The SRT will allow for data entry from multiple agencies, in some cases pulling information from existing sources, and collating the data so it can provide meaningful, current and understandable information, which can be used at the agency or statewide level. Using the SRT, the employee will help agencies track and report agency/enterprise progress through both internal and external dashboards.

[\(more information\)](#)

—District Technician—

Employer:

Sibley Soil and Water Conservation District

Closing Date:

4:30 p.m. – August 11th, 2017

Location(s): Gaylord, Minnesota

Who May Apply:

All qualified job seekers

Responsibilities:

- Conducts site investigations and inventories, assisting the public with enrollment into various local, state, and federal conservation programs.
- Assists with the implementation of the Wetland Conservation Act.
- Participate and assist with various education and outreach activities.
- Performs duties of the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) and Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) including, but not limited to, landowner contact and applications, easement acquisition, practice installation and program compliance.
- Attends meetings and trainings while professionally representing the SWCD as directed by the District Manager.
- Administers the annual Tree Program and is familiar with tree identification, tree pests and diseases.
- Administers the state cost share program.
- Performs other duties of a like or similar nature as assigned.

[\(more information\)](#)

—Farm Bill Technician—

Employer:

NICOLLET SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Closing Date:

4:30 p.m. – August 11th, 2017

Location(s): St. Peter/Gaylord, Minnesota

Who May Apply:

All qualified job seekers

Responsibilities:

- Contact landowners in Nicollet/Sibley County and encourage the adoption of filter strips, riparian buffers, wetland restorations, wetland buffers, contour buffers, farmstead windbreaks, and grassed waterways through the use of the Continuous Conservation Reserve (CRP) Program.
- Prepare CRP contracts for landowners interested in enrolling land into the program.
- Assist landowners with filling out contracts, developing operation and maintenance plans, and seeding plans.
- Use Global Positioning Systems tools to mark land enrolled in CRP.
- Review sites being enrolled in CRP and guide landowners through the planting and establishment process.
- Conduct follow-up visits to check the status of the planting and inform landowners of any maintenance needed.
- Develop a GIS based reporting system to track all acres enrolled into CRP.
- Other duties as assigned by the District Manager.
- The assigned soil conservation work requires regular prolonged walking over field terrain, bending, lifting, and stretching while carrying required equipment.
- Operation of a motor vehicle on both public and private roads during daylight hours and occasionally after dark is required. A valid state driver's license is required.

[\(more information\)](#)

—Forestry Policy Research Internship—

Employer: Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness

Closing Date: August 18th, 2017

Location(s): Minneapolis, MN

Who May Apply:

All qualified job seekers

Responsibilities:

- Research and articulate the current range of forestry management activities occurring on the Superior National Forest
- Research and prepare a report on the stated purposes of those activities, the likely efficacy of the chosen management activities, their likely impacts on ecosystem integrity, and alternatives that may better protect ecosystem integrity.
- Research and prepare a report on landscape level impacts of current forestry management activities in the Superior National Forest, and alternatives that may better protect ecosystems.

- Review the Superior National Forest Plan for cumulative consistency of current forestry management projects with the Forest Plan.
- Attend meetings and other events related to forest management in the Superior National Forest (requires some travel).
- Organize forest management files; filing.
- Assist staff in preparing an advocacy plan for future reviews of forestry management projects in the Superior National Forest.

[\(more information\)](#)

—State Policy Community Organizer—

Employer: Land Stewardship Project

Closing Date: -

Location(s): Minneapolis, MN

Who May Apply:

All qualified job seekers

Responsibilities:

- You will work as part of LSP's Policy and Organizing Program as a community organizer on advancing campaigns and policy initiatives to win farm and food policy beneficial to the land, family farmers, and rural and urban communities. This position will focus on advancing policy goals at the state level. This work includes recruiting new LSP members with a focus on farmers and rural residents, and assist in grassroots fundraising and individual giving efforts.

[\(more information\)](#)

—Healthy Local Food Exhibit Staff—

Employer: Renewing the Countryside

Closing Date: -

Location(s): Falcon Heights/St. Paul

Who May Apply:

All qualified job seekers

Responsibilities:

- Open or close exhibit (exhibit hours are 9 AM to 9 PM daily)

- Check in, orient and support volunteers
- Oversee all exhibit activities and guests
- Assist with food sample preparation
- Maintain the cleanliness and safety of the exhibit area
- Engage with fairgoers about the importance of organic agriculture and supporting our local food system

[\(more information\)](#)

—Part-time Fellow, Energy Policy Research—

Employer: Fresh Energy

Closing Date: -

Location(s):

Minneapolis-St.Paul, MN

Who May Apply:

All qualified job seekers

Responsibilities:

- Help develop and implement Fresh Energy’s work on specific activities, primarily in the energy performance and energy markets policy program areas, through the following:
- Conduct research and analysis on specific areas of utility regulatory and legislative policies, analyzing past utility performance and comparison with other states. Work requires significant written and oral information synthesis documents, options and recommendations documents, and, internal and shared work products.
- Support, and lead some activities on, collaborative external projects that require contact and strong working relationships with partners, analysts, regulatory, and legislative staff.
- Synthesize existing policy, legislative, legal, technical, and/or financial analyses conducted as related to relevant policy proposals, changes, and approaches.
- In collaboration with communications staff and if/as required for the project, occasionally create and/or publish web content, social media content, or other policy program information for publication or broader dissemination.

[\(more information\)](#)

—land Protection Specialist MN, ND, SD—

Employer:The Nature Conservancy in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota

Closing Date: August 24

Location(s): Western Minnesota, USA

Who May Apply: All qualified job seekers

Responsibilities:

The Nature Conservancy is seeking an experienced professional to join the team responsible for the Conservancy's land protection program in MN, ND, and SD.

The Land Protection Specialist (LPS) plays a critical role in negotiating, acquiring land and conservation easements, cooperative acquisition with government partners, developing and implementing landscape level land protection plans, and, where appropriate, transferring land interests to partner agencies. The LPS will work with landowners, Conservancy staff, federal, state, and local agency professionals, and citizens to promote protection programs on public and private land.

The LPS will travel extensively in western MN and to selected locations in North Dakota and/or South Dakota. One of the critical objectives for this position is initiating and developing relationships with landowners and partners in our highest priority conservation landscapes.

[\(more information\)](#)

Compiled by:

Nhia Xiong & Bipin Thapa

Please direct all feedback, comments, and questions regarding this newsletter's content and design [here](#).

Thank you!



WATER RESOURCES CENTER
MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY, MANKATO





"If we're destroying our trees and destroying our environment and hurting animals and hurting one another and all that stuff, there's got to be a very powerful energy to fight that. I think we need more love in the world. We need more kindness, more compassion, more joy, more laughter. I definitely want to contribute to that."

-Ellen DeGeneres



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