

Director of Ecological and Water Resources Division

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is seeking an experienced executive to lead its Division of Ecological and Water Resources. The Minnesota DNR is a national leader in innovative, science-based management as it pursues its three-part mission of conservation, recreation, and sustainable economic use of state resources on behalf of all Minnesotans.

The Director of the Ecological and Water Resources Division serves as part of the Commissioner's Senior Management Team, advancing DNR's mission and strategic priorities. These priorities include connecting people to the outdoors, mitigating and adapting to climate change, and embedding consideration of ecosystem benefits in our work and decisions.

It is the vision of the Ecological and Water Resources Division to have healthy lands and waters throughout Minnesota. To accomplish this vision and DNR's strategic priorities, the Division protects and manages Minnesota's water and ecological resources; provides education and regulatory oversight to businesses, state and local governments, and landowners; and promotes the diversity of the state's ecological systems. The Division includes 38 distinct programs covering a wide range of scientific, management, and regulatory activities, including: Scientific and Natural Areas, invasive species, wetlands, nongame wildlife, rare resources, native plant ecology, regulation of water appropriations and work in public waters, land use and floodplain management, environmental review, dam safety, water monitoring and research, stream habitat restoration, clean water coordination and collaboration, biological surveys, and climatology. The Division has a workforce of over 400 employees and a biennial budget of approximately \$150 million.

The role of the Director, in conjunction with the DNR Commissioner's Office, is to:

- Develop and implement goals, policies and programs to effectively manage ecological and water resources for the people of Minnesota.
- Ensure that a scientifically sound, integrated ecosystem resource management approach is used in all programs operated by the Division.
- Serve as the executive leader for the Division in supporting efficient and effective budgeting and accounting functions; human resources hiring and development processes; facility and capital equipment support; land asset management; and cross-discipline coordination.
- Promote the advancement of DNR's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, both in the internal management of the Division as well as in the Division's external facing work.
- Serve as a member of the DNR's Senior Management Team to provide collaborative and coordinated leadership of DNR activities.
- Develop and implement a Division structure that executes at a high level, working within broader department goals, and as part of a collaborative One DNR approach with other DNR divisions.

- In conjunction with the Commissioner's Office, direct the legislative processes affecting the Division, including developing and presenting proposals for statutory changes and funding requirements, testifying on other aspects of the Division's work, and working with individual legislators.
- Incorporate proactive and strategic communications that connect DNR's work to existing and new audiences using appropriate media platforms and approaches. Support efforts to expand DNR communications to reach wider audiences.
- Serve as the DNR liaison with other states, the federal government, and Minnesota Native American Bands on management of ecological and water resources.
- Represent the DNR on ecological and water issues to external stakeholders, including conservation organizations, local government, businesses, farmers and other private landowners, and visitors to Minnesota's natural resources.

Qualified candidates will have successfully managed a large, complex organization and set and implemented a vision and strategic direction. Additional requirements include a proven track record in negotiation, facilitation and collaboration across diverse interest groups; understanding of and ability to work effectively within legislative and executive branch processes, particularly at the state level; excellent communication skills, including experience in public speaking; and the ability to effectively participate as a member of an executive level team providing organizational perspective on relevant issues. Qualified candidates must have technical knowledge and skills in the management of environment issues, including water, sufficient to evaluate programs and policies promulgated by the Division.

This is an appointed position that serves at the pleasure of the Commissioner.

The deadline to apply is Tuesday, February 16, 2021. If interested, please apply by clicking the link below.

[NR Director - Ecological and Water Resources](#)

