

As a result of the meeting on December 5, 2022, the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources agreed to the following five action items:

1. **Deliver a leadership intent message to staff** – Minnesota DNR Commissioner Sarah Strommen and DNR Fish and Wildlife Director Dave Olfelt will provide a written communication to DNR staff that **reaffirms** agency direction and commitment to forest habitat management on WMAs and AMA/FMAs that is done to achieve fish and wildlife species and habitat management goals and objectives for each unit (Fish and Wildlife Division Directive 070205 “Forest Management on WMAs and AMA/FMAs”). This message will also reaffirm DNR’s commitment to the requirements of the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration and Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration grant program and to unit-level planning.
2. **Commitment to WMA and AMA plans** – DNR **reaffirms** its commitment to a schedule for finishing master plans for “major unit” WMAs and to developing a systematic framework for planning for the remaining WMAs. These plans will incorporate interdisciplinary thought, public engagement, and will describe how active habitat management, including timber harvest, is used to achieve wildlife habitat management goals.
3. **Clarify DNR roles and responsibilities** – DNR will **finalize and implement its procedures document** that clarifies the roles Fish and Wildlife, Forestry, and Ecological and Water Resources staff have in conducting forest habitat management activities on WMAs and AMAs.
4. **Provide Training** – DNR will provide training for Fish and Wildlife, Forestry, and Ecological and Water Resources staff **to ensure understanding of the DNR’s** planning framework, forest management policies and procedures, specific requirements that need to be followed on WMAs and AMAs, and the requirements of the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration and Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration grant program.
5. **Conduct Field Monitoring** – USFWS and DNR will develop protocols for field monitoring visits that assess forest habitat management activities on WMAs and AMAs to ensure they are achieving fish and wildlife management goals and are in compliance with federal grant program requirements. USFWS and DNR will jointly conduct the field monitoring visits in a way that promotes communication, learning and transparency.

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