



MINNESOTA DIVISION

Izaak Walton League of America

Defenders of Soil, Air, Woods, Waters and Wildlife

PRIORITIES FOR THE 2018 MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE

Habitat Protection – All life needs habitat, from the smallest creature to humans.

- ◆ **School Trust Land compensation:**
School Trust lands are managed to produce revenue, yet many of the lands are rare and sensitive habitats unsuitable for this objective, including old-growth forests, scientific and natural areas, native prairies and wildlife management areas. Such lands should be removed from the Trust with compensation provided from surplus state funds. Other lands may be managed for a balance of revenue and natural resource values, with compensation provided for not maximizing revenue from resource extraction. We support a permanent “surplus sweep” to accomplish the compensation.
- ◆ **Pollinators** – Bees, butterflies and other insects provide irreplaceable services pollinating one-third of our food crops, and many plants across our native ecosystems. To thrive, they require healthy habitat with diverse flowering plants free of toxic chemicals. We support initiatives to limit the over-use of a class of chemicals termed “neonicotinoids” which have been proven to harm pollinators. We also support the expansion of pollinator-friendly habitats and management practices to all public lands, including roadside right of ways.

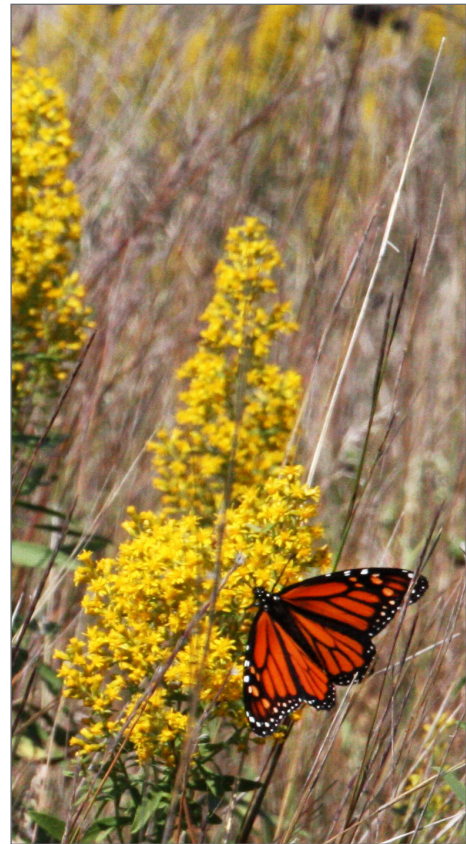


Photo by Don Dinndorf.

Clean Water – Minnesota is blessed with an abundance of water that each and every one of us needs daily. We must be good stewards of this resource, for our own, as well as our children’s children’s benefit.

- ◆ **CREP** – approximately \$47 million is required to complete the matching requirements of this federal/state program created to provide for permanent conservation easements on flood-prone and erodible private lands in targeted locations throughout the Minnesota River Valley. Sixty thousand acres of wetlands, well-head protection areas and expanded buffers will be enrolled to protect public waters, while fairly compensating willing private landowners.
- ◆ **Forever Green** – a cover crop and perennial research, demonstration and market development program of the University of Minnesota is focused on providing farmers with crops and practices that produce adequate income, while building soil health and protecting waters. This program must be ramped up with additional public investments to achieve our clean water goals.

Pollution Prevention – The cheapest and most effective way to protect our waters and habitats is to prevent polluting activities from occurring.

- ◆ **Strong and fair enforcement** of environmental standards, including robust public participation in decisions which affect our public commons (air, water and wildlife) is required.
- ◆ **No reduction** in public information or participation in decision-making;
- ◆ **No roll-backs** or suspension of environmental standards or practices.

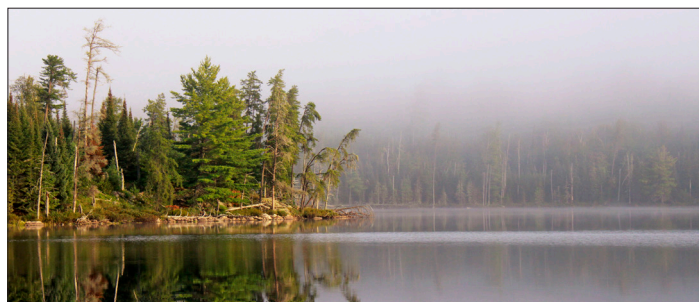


Photo by Michael Furtman.

Please contact Conservation Program Director Don Arnosti at don@minnesotaiikes.org or (612)718-3626.

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