



**Governor Pawlenty's
Clean Water Cabinet**

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Wetland Vision and Strategies

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Minnesota is blessed with an abundance of wetlands. They help support diverse and abundant fish and wildlife populations and play an integral part in protecting water quality, replenishing ground water resources and minimizing flooding. An evolving recognition of wetland values and benefits has led us away from programs that encourage drainage and filling to those that restore wetlands and regulate impacts. Today, the state and its partners are undertaking a number of initiatives to further protect and enhance wetlands. This statement provides a framework for integrating these efforts.

Vision

We will protect, restore and enhance the values and benefits Minnesotans receive from wetlands, adding to their quantity, quality and biological diversity. We will do this by coordinating spending, policy and partnerships to implement our priority strategies.

Strategies

Improve accounting and reporting. By October 2006, we will adopt a system for wetlands reporting and accounting that provides a sound basis for assessing program effectiveness, improving policy and setting priorities.

Target restorations. By September 2006, we will target restorations to enhance wetland values and optimize benefits, recognizing regional differences and strategically locating mitigation sites, banking sites and voluntary restorations.

Simplify conservation efforts. By July 2007, we will coordinate and integrate local, state and federal regulation and restoration to provide clear direction, increase efficiency, improve accounting, promote participation and improve environmental benefits.

Reduce wetland losses. By August 2007, we will implement opportunities in the Wetland Conservation Act framework to protect existing wetlands.

Engage partners. We will engage interested Minnesotans and leverage partnerships to ensure the success of these efforts.