



## NOAA In Your State

# Minnesota

***NOAA is an agency that enriches life through science. Our reach goes from the surface of the sun to the depths of the ocean floor as we work to keep citizens informed of the changing environment around them. From daily weather forecasts, severe storm warnings, and climate monitoring to fisheries management, coastal restoration and supporting marine commerce, NOAA's products and services support economic vitality and affect more than one-third of America's gross domestic product. NOAA's dedicated scientists use cutting-edge research and high-tech instrumentation to provide citizens, planners, emergency managers and other decision makers with reliable information they need when they need it.***

***The following is a summary of NOAA facilities, staff, programs, or activities based in, or focused on, your state or territory: Starting with highlights, then by [congressional districts and cities or towns](#), [Great Lakes programs](#), and then [statewide programs](#).***

### ***Highlights of NOAA in Minnesota***

<a href="#">North Central River Forecast Center</a>	Chanhassen	MN-6
<a href="#">St. Louis River Estuary Habitat Focus Area</a>	Duluth	MN-8
<a href="#">Great Lakes Bay Watershed Education and Training Program</a>	Great Lakes	MN
<a href="#">Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) / Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Projects</a>	Project Specific	MN

The state of Minnesota also has two Weather Forecasting Offices, and one Habitat Focus Area.

## Weather Forecast Offices

Twin Cities; Chanhassen	MN-6
Duluth	MN-8

**National Weather Service (NWS) Weather Forecast Offices (WFO)** are staffed 24/7/365 and provide weather, water, and climate forecasts and warnings to residents of Minnesota. There are 122 WFOs nationwide of which two are in Minnesota. Highly trained forecasters issue warnings and forecasts for weather events, including severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, hurricanes, winter storms, floods, and heat waves to the general public, media, emergency management and law enforcement officials, the aviation and marine communities, agricultural interests, businesses, and others. Information is disseminated in many ways, including wireless emergency alerts, social media, weather.gov, and NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards. Each WFO has a Warning Coordination Meteorologist who actively conducts outreach and educational programs that strengthen working relationships with local partners in emergency management, government, the media and academic communities. Forecasters provide Impact-based Decision Support Services (IDSS), both remotely and on-site during critical emergencies such as wildfires, floods, chemical spills, and major recovery efforts. To gather data for forecasting and other purposes, NWS WFO staff monitor, maintain and use Automated Surface Observing Stations and Doppler Weather Radar. In addition to the WFOs, NWS operates specialized national prediction centers and regional headquarters throughout the U.S. for a total of 168 operational units. Over 85% of NWS' workforce is in the field. For current Minnesota weather, visit [www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov) and, on the national map, click on the relevant county or district.

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### **MN-2**

#### **Farmington**

##### **National Weather Service (NWS) - Center Weather Service Unit**

Housed in the Federal Aviation Administration's Minneapolis Air Route Traffic Control Center (ARTCC), the NWS Center Weather Service Unit (CWSU) provides forecasts and other weather information to ARTCC personnel for use in directing the safe, smooth flow of aviation traffic in Minnesota, North Dakota, most of South Dakota, Wisconsin and Michigan, and parts of Nebraska and Iowa.

### **MN-6**

#### **Chanhassen**

##### **National Weather Service (NWS) - National Operational Hydrologic Remote Sensing Center**

Co-located with the NWS North Central River Forecast Center and the Twin Cities NWS Weather Forecast Office, the National Operational Hydrologic Remote Sensing Center (NOHRSC) provides remotely-sensed and modeled hydrology products for the coterminous U.S. and Alaska for the protection of life and property and the enhancement of the national economy. NOHRSC airborne, satellite, and modeled snow data and products are used by NWS, other government agencies, the private sector, and the public to support operational and research hydrology programs across the nation. NOHRSC data and products include national analyses of snow water equivalent, snow depth, average snowpack temperature, snow precipitation, snow melt, and sublimation. Snow water equivalent data from NOHRSC is critical to determine spring flooding and spring mountain runoff in the west. A user-driven interactive interface and 3-D visualization capability enables for full exploration of the available data sets.

##### **National Weather Service (NWS) - North Central River Forecast Center**

Co-located in Chanhassen with the Twin Cities NWS Weather Forecast Office and the NWS National Operational Hydrologic Remote Sensing Center, the NWS North Central River Forecast Center (RFC) performs continuous river basin modeling and provides hydrologic forecast and guidance products for rivers and streams in Minnesota, Michigan,

Wisconsin, and parts of North Dakota, Missouri, Illinois, Iowa and Indiana. These products include forecasts of river stage and flow, probabilistic river forecasts, reservoir inflow forecasts, gridded precipitation estimates and forecasts, spring flood outlooks, and flash flood and headwater guidance. Some of the RFCs in the western and central U.S. also provide water supply forecasts. RFCs work closely with local, state and federal water management agencies, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and U.S. Geological Survey, to provide water and flood information for critical decisions (aka Impact-based Decision-Support Services or IDSS).

**National Weather Service (NWS) - [Weather Forecast Office](#)**- See [Page 2](#) for details.

**National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Office for Coastal Management](#)**

The NOAA Office for Coastal Management practices a partner-based, boots on the ground approach to coastal management. The organization currently has staff in the eight regions who provide assistance to local, state, and regional coastal resource management efforts and facilitate customer feedback and assessments. Great Lakes regional staff are located in Chanhassen and Duluth, MN, Chicago, IL, Traverse City, MI, Madison, WI, and Albany, NY. In addition to providing NOAA products and services, these staff represent NOAA on multiple regional governance structures and coordinating bodies, including but not limited to, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration to improve the management of natural resources.

**[MN-7](#)**

**[Goodridge](#)**

**Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - [U.S. Climate Reference Network](#)**

The US Climate Reference Network (USCRN) is an operationally viable research network of more than 138 climate stations that are deployed nationwide. Data from the USCRN are used in various climate monitoring activities and for placing current climate anomalies into an historical perspective. The USCRN provides the United States with a reference network that contributes to an International network under the auspices of the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS). ARL/ATDD manage the USCRN in partnership with NOAA's NESDIS/NCEI.

**[MN-8](#)**

**[Duluth, Grand Marais](#)**

**National Ocean Service (NOS) - [National Water Level Observation Network](#)**

The National Ocean Service (NOS) operates two long-term continuously operating water level stations in the state of Minnesota, which provide data and information on Great Lakes and interconnecting waterways datum and lake level regulation and are capable of producing real-time data for storm surge warning. These stations are located on Lake Superior at Duluth and at Grand Marais. Station data feeds into many CO-OPS products that are used to support safe navigation, mitigate coastal hazards, and protect communities. Such products include:

- Coastal Inundation Dashboard - view water levels in real-time and during storms
- High Tide Flooding Outlooks
- Sea level trends and maps
- Real-time current measurements
- Hydrodynamic models
- Tidal and water level datums

**National Ocean Service (NOS) – [Climate Resilience Regional Challenge](#)**

In July 2024, NOAA announced \$575 million in funding for the Climate Resilience Regional Challenge, provided by the Inflation Reduction Act, to invest in holistic, collaborative approaches to coastal resilience at regional scales. This grant program focuses on increasing resilience to extreme weather events, such as hurricanes and storm surge, and longer-term, chronic hazards such as sea level rise, drought, wildfire, extreme heat, and coastal erosion. The program

awarded 19 grants that are part of NOAA's larger Climate-Ready Coasts initiative to forge new partnerships, protect coastal habitats, and close equity gaps. They will help scale up proven best practices across 17 states and territories to take resilience and adaptation plans off paper and into coastal communities across the country.

Minnesota's St. Louis County (MN-008) will receive \$1,849,228 to unite collaborators under the shared priority of proactively addressing the impacts of climate change in the coastal region of Minnesota's Lake Superior—the largest Great Lake and second largest freshwater lake in the world. Project goals will be achieved through five overarching strategies: 1) establishing a regional resilience collaborative; 2) incorporating Indigenous knowledge; 3) building community capacity; 4) creating a regional resilience plan and pathways to implementation; and 5) providing resources and technical support to communities. An important aspect of the effort will involve engagement with tribal nations and local communities.

The Northwest Regional Planning Commission, a cooperative of local governments and tribal communities in Minnesota, Michigan, and Wisconsin (MN-008, MI-001, WI-007) was awarded \$1,451,065 to address catastrophic, repetitive flooding affecting local communities and an extensive network of state, local, and tribally managed roads. Road maintenance responsibilities stretch across three states, six counties, five cities, one village, 33 towns, and two tribes. The root causes of flooding and potential restoration opportunities will be investigated using new approaches that integrate spatial and field-based assessments. Funding will be used to 1) identify how the loss of headwater wetland storage and floodplain connectivity is contributing to the flooding problem; and 2) implement high-impact, nature-based solutions to combat this flooding by restoring the natural hydrology.

#### **Duluth**

**National Weather Service (NWS) - [Weather Forecast Office](#)**- See [Page 2](#) for details.

**National Ocean Service (NOS), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR), National Weather Service (NWS), National Centers for Environmental Information/Regional Climate Services (NESDIS) - [St. Louis River Estuary Habitat Focus Area](#)**

The St. Louis River Estuary was selected as a [NOAA Habitat Focus Area](#) (HFA). HFAs are targeted places where NOAA addresses high priority habitat issues by collaborating with partners and communities. Over the past several years, NOAA, led by the [Office of Habitat Conservation](#), has selected 11 HFAs across the country which have achieved significant results for ecosystems and communities. While each HFA focuses on individual habitat conservation goals, the overarching goal is to leverage collective expertise and demonstrate results in a short time period. NOAA is coordinating its efforts across the National Ocean Service, NOAA Fisheries, Weather Service and Great Lakes Environmental Research Lab, Satellites and Regional Climate Services and partners within the St. Louis River Estuary Habitat Focus Area. Partners include: the Lake Superior National Estuarine Research Reserve, the Wisconsin and Minnesota Coastal Management Programs, Minnesota and Wisconsin Sea Grants, and NOAA's Sentinel Site for climate monitoring. The St. Louis River is a major tourism draw and home to the country's busiest and largest bulk inland port. Current and former industries have left a legacy of toxic substances, along with extensive habitat alteration and degradation. NOAA is bringing its expertise in flood and weather forecasting, integrated monitoring, habitat protection and restoration, stakeholder education, and coastal management to the restoration effort. This work will address the loss of fish and wildlife habitat and sport fisheries, assess impacts of climate on aquatic and nearshore vegetation, reduce the risk of flooding through improved planning and water management strategies, and increase coastal tourism, access, and recreational opportunities.

## **Sandstone**

### **Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - [U.S. Climate Reference Network](#)**

The US Climate Reference Network (USCRN) is an operationally viable research network of more than 138 climate stations that are deployed nationwide. Data from the USCRN are used in various climate monitoring activities and for placing current climate anomalies into an historical perspective. The USCRN provides the United States with a reference network that contributes to an International network under the auspices of the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS). ARL/ATDD manage the USCRN in partnership with NOAA's NESDIS/NCEI.

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## **Great Lakes**

### **National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [Restoration Center](#)**

The [NOAA Restoration Center](#), within the [Office of Habitat Conservation](#), works with partners across the nation to restore habitat to sustain fisheries, recover protected species, and maintain resilient coastal ecosystems and communities. We have over 30 years conducting habitat restoration through competitive funding opportunities and technical assistance. We also work to reverse habitat damage from disasters like oil spills, ship groundings, and severe storms. In the Great Lakes including Minnesota, the Restoration Center focuses on restoring the most degraded environments--designated Areas of Concern. For example, NOAA is working with the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) to implement habitat restoration projects that will help improve Areas of Concern. See the interactive [Restoration Atlas](#) to find habitat restoration projects near you. Site visits to see habitat projects may be available in your state, please inquire if interested.

In addition, the Office of Habitat Conservation is responsible for executing an unprecedented \$1.4 billion in funding under [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act for habitat restoration and fish passage](#). We are working with our partners to do this through our expert technical assistance and four funding competitions: Fish Passage, Tribal Fish Passage, Transformational Habitat Restoration, and Habitat Restoration for Tribes and Underserved Communities. We have funded 214 awards totaling \$985M in rounds one and two with more to come in round 3. We are funding work all over the country, [explore them on our interactive map](#).

### **National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Ocean Service (NOS), and NOAA General Counsel - [Damage Assessment, Remediation, and Restoration Program](#)**

NOAA's Damage Assessment, Remediation, and Restoration Program (DARRP) assesses and restores habitat, fisheries, protected species and recreational uses that have been harmed by oil spills, chemical releases, and ship groundings. Working with federal, state, and tribal entities, and responsible parties, we have recovered funding from responsible parties for restoration of critical habitats, fisheries, protected species and recreational uses nationwide. These projects promote recovery of the ecosystem and provide economic benefits from tourism, recreation, green jobs, coastal resiliency, property values and quality of life. Minnesota is a co-trustee with NOAA for assessment and restoration after pollution incidents in Minnesota. For more information about our work in Minnesota, visit: [DARRP in Your State](#) (and use the top menu to navigate to "Minnesota") and this [interactive map](#).

### **National Ocean Service (NOS) – [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#)**

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is helping coastal communities build the future they want to see. The legislation provides a historic investment in coastal protection and restoration that will increase community resilience to climate change and extreme weather events, and improve how we manage our ocean resources. Projects funded under this law protect and restore ecologically significant habitats, including conserving lands that play a critical role in helping communities become more resilient to natural hazards. Minnesota received funding in FY22 and FY23 to build the state's capacity to protect its coastal communities and resources.

**National Ocean Service (NOS) – [National Coastal Zone Management Program](#)**

Through a unique federal-state partnership, NOAA's Office for Coastal Management works with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to implement the National Coastal Zone Management Program in Minnesota. NOAA provides the state coastal management program with financial and technical assistance to further the goals of the Coastal Zone Management Act and ensure coastal waters and lands are used in a balanced way to support jobs, reduce use conflicts, and sustain natural resources.

**National Ocean Service (NOS) – [Digital Coast](#)**

The Digital Coast is a focused information resource developed to meet the unique needs of coastal communities. Developed and maintained by NOAA's Office for Coastal Management, content comes from hundreds of organizations, including federal, state, and local agencies, plus private sector and non-profit contributors. The Digital Coast website provides not only site-specific coastal data, but also related tools, training, and information needed to make these data useful for coastal decision makers. The Digital Coast Act authorizes the Digital Coast as a standing national program and supports NOAA's efforts to increase access to authoritative data, tools, and training that enable coastal communities to plan for long-term resilience, manage water resources, and respond to emergencies.

**National Ocean Service (NOS) – [National Coastal Resilience Fund](#)**

The National Coastal Resilience Fund restores, increases, and strengthens natural infrastructure to protect coastal communities while also enhancing habitats for fish and wildlife. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) executes this program in partnership with NOAA to invest in conservation projects that restore or expand natural features, such as coastal marshes and wetlands, dune and beach systems, oyster and coral reefs, forests, coastal rivers and floodplains, and barrier islands, which minimize the impacts of storms and other naturally occurring events on nearby communities. In Minnesota, two projects have been funded: one in FY21 and one in FY23.

**National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Great Lakes Bay Watershed Education and Training Program](#)**

The NOAA Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) program is a competitive grants program that provides funding for locally relevant environmental education projects for K-12 audiences. The Great Lakes B-WET program is managed by NOAA's Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary on behalf of NOAA's Office of Education. The Great Lakes B-WET program recognizes that knowledge and commitment built from firsthand experience, especially in the context of one's community and culture, is essential for achieving environmental stewardship. Great Lakes B-WET regional grant competitions are responsive to local education and environmental priorities. Please see the funding opportunities for specifics.

**National Ocean Service (NOS) - [OR&R Preparedness, Response, and Restoration Coordinators](#)**

NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration (OR&R) is a center of expertise in preparing for, evaluating, and responding to threats to coastal environments, including oil and chemical spills, releases from hazardous waste sites, disasters, and marine debris. To fulfill its mission of protecting and restoring NOAA trust resources, OR&R provides scientific and technical support to prepare for and respond to environmental threats that coastal communities face; determines damage to natural resources from those releases; protects and restores marine and coastal ecosystems; and works with coastal communities to address critical local and regional coastal challenges.

Eleven regionally based **Scientific Support Coordinators (SSC)** harness the input of a multi-disciplinary team to address issues such as oil slick trajectory forecasting, environmental trade-offs, best practices, resources at risk, and chemical hazard assessment to reduce risks to coastal habitats and resources. The SSCs for Minnesota are based in Mobile, Alabama at NOAA's Gulf of Mexico Disaster Response Center and Ann Arbor, Michigan at the NOAA Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory.



OR&R identifies and quantifies environmental injury caused by releases of oil and hazardous materials. Our network of Regional Resource Coordinators work with multidisciplinary scientific, economic, and legal teams with the goal of securing the appropriate amount and type of restoration required to restore injured NOAA trust resources and compensate the public for their lost use. We collaborate with NMFS Restoration Center and NOAA General Council through the Damage Assessment, Remediation, and Restoration Program (DARRP) to ensure the process is efficient, legally defensible and restoration focused. The RRC serving the Great Lakes region is based in New York, New York.

**National Ocean Service (NOS) – OR&R [Great Lakes Environmental Response Management Application](#) and [Response Tools for Oil and Chemical Spills](#)**

Assessing important spatial information and designing successful restoration projects rely upon interpreting and mapping geographic information, including the location, duration, and impacts from oil spills, other hazardous materials, or debris released into the environment. Great Lakes Environmental Response Management Application (ERMA®) is an online mapping tool that integrates both static and real-time data, such as ship locations, weather, and ocean currents, providing an easy-to-use common operating picture for environmental responders and decision makers. In addition to ERMA, the Office of Response and Restoration (OR&R) offers a suite of [tools](#) to support emergency responders dealing with oil and chemical spills. From Environmental Sensitivity Index (ESI) maps and data which provide concise summaries of coastal resources including biological resources and sensitive shorelines to GNOME, a trajectory and fate model that predicts the route and weathering of pollutants spilled on water, and so much more, these tools provide easy-access to critical data that support a wide range of needs for emergency responders, ultimately supporting our coastal communities.

**National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Marine Debris Projects and Partnerships in Minnesota](#)**

The NOAA Marine Debris Program (MDP) in the Office of Response and Restoration (OR&R) leads national and international efforts to research, prevent, and reduce the impacts of marine debris. The program supports marine debris removal, prevention, and research projects in partnership with state and local agencies, tribes, non-governmental organizations, academia, and industry. The MDP Great Lakes Regional Coordinator supports coordination efforts with regional stakeholders, provides support to grant-funded projects, tracks progress of projects, and conducts regional marine debris outreach to local audiences. The Great Lakes Marine Debris Action Plan was published in 2020. This plan, which is facilitated by the MDP and supported by local stakeholders, provides a road map for strategic progress in making the Great Lakes, its coasts, people, and wildlife free from the impacts of marine debris.

**National Ocean Service (NOS) - [U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System \(Great Lakes Observing System\)](#)**

The U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System, or IOOS®, is a federally and regionally coordinated observing system with 17 interagency and 11 regional partners. The System addresses regional and national needs for coastal, ocean, and Great Lakes data and information. This includes gathering and disseminating regional observations; data management; modeling and analysis; education and outreach; and research and development. Working with government agencies, academic researchers, tribes, first nations and the private sector, the Great Lakes Observing System (GLOS) provides end-to-end services that support science, policy, management and industry in the U.S. and Canada. GLOS provides public access to critical, real-time and historical data and information about the Great Lakes, St. Lawrence River and interconnecting waterways for use in managing, safeguarding and understanding these immensely valuable freshwater resources. GLOS is intended to gather and integrate chemical, biologic and hydrologic data, and monitor lake conditions and trends over time.

**National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Navigation Manager](#)**

The Office of Coast Survey navigation managers are strategically located in U.S. coastal areas to provide regional support to federal and state agencies in order to assist with navigational challenges. NOAA's navigation managers work directly with pilots, port authorities, and recreational boating organizations in Minnesota. They help identify the navigational challenges facing marine transportation in Minnesota and provide NOAA's resources and services that promote safe and efficient navigation. Navigation managers are on call to provide expertise and NOAA navigation response coordination in

case of severe coastal weather events or other marine emergencies. The Great Lakes Navigation Manager position is currently vacant. The Office of Coast Survey has a navigation manager in Cleveland, OH, to support mariners and stakeholders in the Great Lakes.

#### **National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Navigation Response Team](#)**

The Office of Coast Survey (OCS) maintains the nation's nautical charts and publications for U.S. coasts and the Great Lakes. The Office of Coast Survey's Navigation Response Branch (NRB) conducts routine and emergency hydrographic surveys; and working with the regional Navigation Managers, navigation response teams (NRT) work around-the-clock after storms and other navigation emergencies to speed the reopening of ports and waterways. During emergency response, the NRTs provide time-sensitive information to the U.S. Coast Guard or port officials, and transmit data to NOAA cartographers for updating the Coast Survey's suite of navigational charts. The mobile integrated response team (MIST) kit is available to the Great Lakes that can be used on a vessel of opportunity and staffed by NRT members.

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#### **[Statewide](#)**

#### **National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Regional Geodetic Advisor](#)**

The Regional Geodetic Advisor is a National Ocean Service (NOS) employee that resides in a region and serves as a liaison between the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) and its public, academic and private sector constituents within their assigned region. NGS has a Regional Geodetic Advisor stationed in Minneapolis, Minnesota serving the Northern Plains region – Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota. The Geodetic Advisor provides training, guidance and assistance to constituents managing geospatial activities that are tied to the National Spatial Reference System (NSRS), the framework and coordinate system for all positioning activities in the Nation. The Geodetic Advisor serves as a subject matter expert in geodesy and regional geodetic issues, collaborating internally across NOS and NOAA to ensure that all regional geospatial activities are properly referenced to the NSRS.

#### **National Weather Service - [NEXRAD \(WSR-88D\) Systems](#)**

NEXRAD is used to warn the people of the United States about dangerous weather and its location. This radar technology allows meteorologists to warn the public to take shelter with more notice than ever before. The NEXRAD network provides significant improvements in severe weather and flash flood warnings, air traffic safety, flow control for air traffic, resource protection at military bases, and management of water, agriculture, forest, and snow removal. NEXRAD radar has a range of up to 250 nautical miles, and can provide information about wind speed and direction, as well as the location, size, and shape of precipitation. There are 159 operational NEXRAD radar systems deployed throughout the United States and overseas, of which two are in Minnesota.

#### **National Weather Service (NWS) - [Automated Surface Observing Systems Stations](#)**

The Automated Surface Observing Systems (ASOS) program is a joint effort of the National Weather Service (NWS), the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and the Department of Defense (DOD). ASOS serves as the Nation's primary surface weather observing network. ASOS is designed to support weather forecast activities and aviation operations and, at the same time, support the needs of the meteorological, hydrological, and climatological research communities. ASOS works non-stop, updating observations every minute, 24 hours a day, every day of the year observing basic weather elements, such as cloud cover, precipitation, wind, sea level pressure, and conditions, such as rain, snow, freezing rain, thunderstorms, and fog. There are 15 ASOS stations in Minnesota.

#### **National Weather Service (NWS) - [Cooperative Observer Program Sites](#)**

The National Weather Service (NWS) Cooperative Observer Program (COOP) is truly the Nation's weather and climate observing network of, by and for the people. More than 10,000 volunteers take observations on farms, in urban and



suburban areas, National Parks, seashores, and mountaintops. The data are representative of where people live, work and play. The COOP was formally created in 1890 under the NWS Organic Act to provide observational meteorological data, usually consisting of daily maximum and minimum temperatures, snowfall, and 24-hour precipitation totals, required to define the climate of the United States and to help measure long-term climate changes, and to provide observational meteorological data in near real-time to support forecast, warning and other public service programs of the NWS. The data are also used by other federal (including the Department of Homeland Security), state and local entities, as well as private companies (such as the energy and insurance industries). In some cases, the data are used to make billions of dollars' worth of decisions. For example, the energy sector uses COOP data to calculate the Heating and Cooling Degree Days which are used to determine individuals' energy bills monthly. There are 187 COOP sites in Minnesota.

**National Weather Service (NWS) - [NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards Transmitters](#)**

NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) is a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather information directly from the nearest National Weather Service (NWS) forecast office. NWR broadcasts official NWS warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Working with the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) Emergency Alert System, NWR is an "All Hazards" radio network, making it the single source for comprehensive weather and emergency information. In conjunction with federal, state, and local emergency managers and other public officials, NWR also broadcasts warning and post-event information for all types of hazards – including natural (such as earthquakes or avalanches), environmental (such as chemical releases or oil spills), and public safety (such as AMBER alerts or 911 Telephone outages).

Known as the "Voice of NOAA's National Weather Service," NWR is provided as a public service by the NWS. NWR includes 1,100 transmitters covering all 50 states, adjacent coastal waters, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the U.S. Pacific Territories. There are 37 NWR transmitters in Minnesota.

**Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) – [Minnesota Sea Grant College Program](#)**

The National Sea Grant College Program (Sea Grant) is a federal-university partnership administered by NOAA that integrates research, extension outreach, and education. Sea Grant forms a network of 34 programs in all U.S. coastal and Great Lakes states, Puerto Rico, Lake Champlain, and Guam. The Minnesota Sea Grant Program, based at the University of Minnesota Duluth, provides the people, tools, and the technology to help maintain and enhance lakeshore and aquatic economies and resources. Minnesota Sea Grant is made up of researchers and educators who focus on discovering solutions to problems facing Lake Superior and Minnesota's inland waters. The public, industry, and policy makers are kept informed on issues related to aquaculture, aquatic invasive species, fisheries, aquatic education, contaminants, and fisheries through a series of publications including Minnesota Sea Grant's newsletter, the "Seiche". Current projects focus on healthy coastal ecosystems, sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, resilient communities and economies, and environmental literacy and workforce development. The administrative offices of Minnesota Sea Grant are located in Duluth, Minnesota. Get involved with Sea Grant through state and national opportunities like the John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship program at [seagrant.noaa.gov](http://seagrant.noaa.gov).

**National Ocean Service (NOS) - Students for [Zero Waste Week](#)**

Students are inviting their local communities to "Go Green and Think Blue" by joining them in the annual *Students for Zero Waste Week campaign*. During this campaign led by the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, students focus on reducing land-based waste in order to protect the health of local marine environments. These young leaders are raising awareness of how single-use plastic and other types of litter affect the health of local watersheds, national marine sanctuaries, and the ocean. In addition, some schools are looking at ways to reduce their energy use on campus with hopes of raising awareness of how the burning of fossil fuels also impacts the health of the ocean.

**National Ocean Service (NOS) - [NOAA Ocean Guardian Youth Ambassador Program](#)**

Youth aged 13-18 from across the United States and its territories that are committed to ocean conservation and stewardship of our blue planet can apply to become a NOAA Ocean Guardian Youth Ambassador. This year-long program looks for enthusiastic youth with new ideas and a unique perspective who want to learn more about [America's underwater treasures](#) and share their passion with others. Youth learn how to become a leader at their school or in their local community to make a difference in the conservation of the ocean through marine protected areas.

### ***Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) / Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Projects***

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) was entrusted with billions of supplemental federal funding dollars with passage of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law on November 15, 2021 and the Inflation Reduction Act on August 16, 2022. This historic infrastructure funding has been invested in communities across the nation to build resilience in the face of climate change. NOAA distributed funding to communities, tribal, state and local governments, higher education programs, businesses, non-profit organizations, and facilities in need. NOAA funded billions of dollars in grants and cooperative agreements across the country to fund projects that enhance climate resilience, restore coastal and marine habitats, improve safety, and create jobs. For an interactive map of NOAA BIL and IRA investments in your state, visit <https://www.noaa.gov/bil-ira-awards-explorer>.

#### ***BIL***

##### **Capacity-Building Funding for MN's Lake Superior Coastal Program - 2022-2025, \$450,000**

This funding will build the capacity of the state's federally-approved Lake Superior Coastal Program within the MN DNR (MnDNR) to plan for and implement habitat restoration and conservation projects proposed through funding opportunities connected to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Specifically, MnDNR will use these funds to conduct planning across multiple sectors to jointly set priorities in Lake Superior and identify projects that advance these objectives; this effort will guide strategic project selection and applications for the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. MnDNR will also provide technical assistance, mapping, and capacity-building for coastal communities through the MN Geospatial Advisory Council, which will help them better understand their natural resources issues.

#### ***IRA***

##### **Minnesota CZMs Inflation Reduction Act Non-competitive Award, \$300,000**

This funding will build the ability of the state's federally-approved coastal management program within the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to implement projects, initiatives, and programs that increase the climate resilience of coastal communities within coastal counties. Specifically, the DNR will use these funds to address high priority needs in the areas of coastal erosion, coastal engineering, and resilience information and expertise. The Minnesota Coastal Management Program (MCMP) will invest in updated coastal hazard maps and support communities with technical assistance to apply the maps to local decisions to reduce risk. to build much-needed capacity for new and ongoing resilience efforts. The MCMP will also supplement this information with contractor support in the fields of coastal engineering and resilience, to better support the DNR, counties, municipalities, and others that need this expertise to make more climate resilient policies, projects, and actions.

##### **Advancing Regional Climate Resilience for Minnesota's Lake Superior Coastal Region, \$1,849,228**

This project will unite collaborators under the shared priority of proactively addressing the impacts of climate change in the coastal region of Minnesota's Lake Superior, the largest Great Lake and second largest freshwater lake in the world. Project goals will be achieved through five overarching strategies: 1) establishing a regional resilience collaborative; 2) incorporating Indigenous knowledge; 3) building community capacity; 4) creating a regional resilience plan and pathways to implementation; and 5) providing resources and technical support to communities. An important aspect of the effort will

involve engagement with tribal nations and local communities. *This project was funded through the [Climate Resilience Regional Challenge](#).*

**Accelerating Natural Flood Management in the Lake Superior Basin, \$1,451,065**

The project site is an area hit hard by catastrophic, repetitive flooding (six federal disaster declarations between 2012 and 2022) affecting local communities and an extensive network of state, local, and tribally managed roads. Funding will be used to 1) identify how the loss of headwater wetland storage and floodplain connectivity is contributing to the flooding problem; and 2) implement high-impact, nature-based solutions to combat this flooding by restoring the natural hydrology. The project is led by the Northwest Regional Planning Commission, a cooperative of local governments and tribal communities. Road maintenance responsibilities stretch across three states, six counties, five cities, one village, 33 towns, and two tribes. The root causes of flooding and potential restoration opportunities will be investigated using new approaches that integrate spatial and field-based assessments. *This project was funded through the [Climate Resilience Regional Challenge](#) and supports work in MI, MN, and WI.*

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