

2024  
MINNESOTA DNR  
ROUNDTABLE

Friday, Jan. 19, 2024  
DoubleTree by Hilton  
Bloomington, Minnesota



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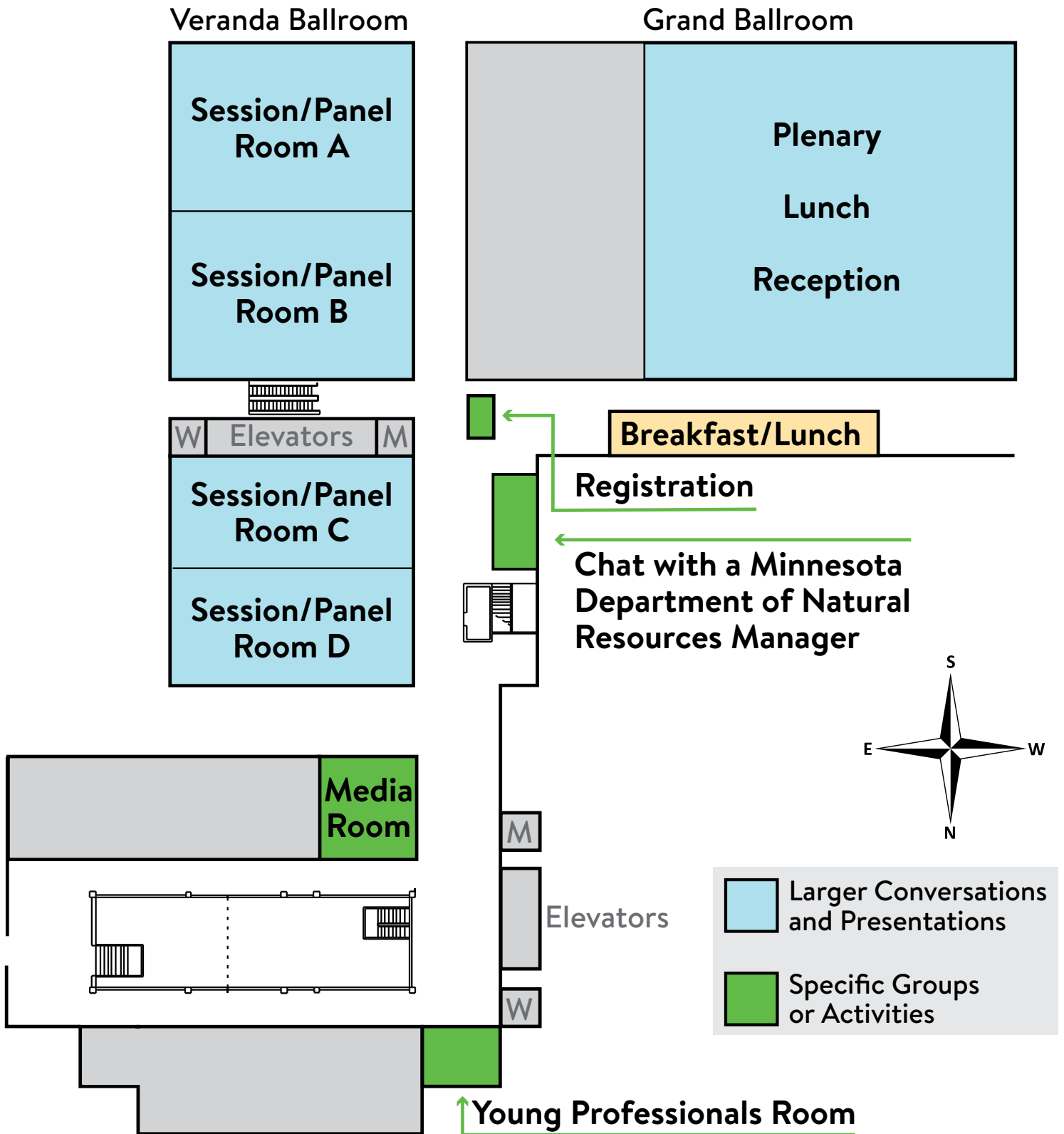
Wireless Network: Event Space Wifi  
Passcode: WarmWelcome24

# Roundtable 2024 Program Overview

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION/COMMENTS
7:30 - 9:00 a.m.	Registration	Registration Desk
7:30 - 9:00 a.m.	Continental Breakfast and Informal Conversation	Grand Ballroom Foyer
8:00 - 9:00 a.m.	Young Professionals Networking Reception (Invitation only)	Young Professionals Room
9:00 - 10:45 a.m.	Opening Plenary Session— please be seated by 8:55 a.m.	Grand Ballroom
10:45 - 11:00 a.m.	Break	
11:00 - 11:30 a.m.	Concurrent Sessions Track 1	See page seven for topics and locations
11:30 - 11:45 a.m.	Break	
11:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions Track 2	See page eight for topics and locations
12:15 - 1:30 p.m.	Lunch/Young Professionals Mentor Meetup	Grand Ballroom and Foyer
1:30 - 2:15 p.m.	Candid Conversations Panel Discussions, Session 1	See page nine for topics and locations
2:15 - 2:30 p.m.	Break	
2:30 - 3:15 p.m.	Candid Conversations Panel Discussions, Session 2	See page nine for topics and locations
3:15 - 3:30 p.m.	Break	
3:30 - 4:30 p.m.	Closing Plenary Session	Grand Ballroom
4:30 - 6:00 p.m.	Reception	Grand Ballroom and Foyer
5:30 - 7:00 p.m.	After Hours Special Session	Grand Ballroom
7:00 p.m.	Adjourn	

Come Together • Discuss Important Issues • Build Relationships

# Site Map



# Opening Plenary

9:00 - 10:45 a.m.  
Grand Ballroom

## WELCOME AND LOGISTICS



**Gail Nosek, Emcee**  
Communications Director,  
Minnesota Department of  
Natural Resources

## OPENING CONVERSATION WITH YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

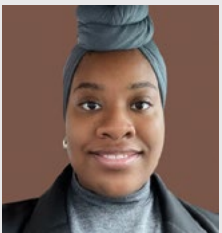
Governor Tim Walz will host and Commissioner Sarah Strommen will moderate a conversation with young professionals about their perspectives on climate change as it relates to natural resources conservation and management.



**Governor Tim Walz**  
State of Minnesota



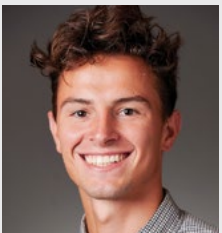
**Sarah Strommen**  
Commissioner, Minnesota  
Department of  
Natural Resources



**Alyssia Bell**  
St. Catherine University



**Jaydon Dymanyk**  
Central Lakes College



**Chris Rounds**  
University of Minnesota



**Ava Wheelock**  
Prior Lake High School

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## PROFESSIONAL PANEL

Heidi Roop will moderate a conversation among natural resource professionals about their experiences, concerns and actions related to Minnesota's changing climate.



**Heidi Roop**  
Director, Climate  
Adaptation Partnership,  
University of Minnesota



**Ryan Diener**  
Program Coordinator,  
Grazing and Grasslands,  
Ducks Unlimited



**Luigi Romolo**  
State Climatologist,  
Minnesota Department of  
Natural Resources



**Steve Shier**  
Climate Specialist,  
1854 Treaty Authority



**Greg Downing**  
Director of Sustainability,  
Cargill



# Choose Your Topics (11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.)

Four concurrent sessions, choose one from each track.

10 minute intro with 20 minutes for discussion. See concurrent session descriptions on pages seven and eight.

## CONCURRENT TRACK 1

11:00 - 11:30 A.M.

1.A

What's New With Minnows and Native Fish

**Introductory Comments:**  
Tom Neustrom, National Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame guide and MN-FISH Board member  
Shannon Fisher and Neil Vanderbosch, MN DNR  
John Rust, Izaak Walton League  
**Location:**  
Session/Panel Room A

1.B

What's New With Elk, Deer and Moose

**Introductory Comments:**  
Barb Keller, MN DNR  
Mike Schrage, Fond du Lac Resource Management Division  
**Location:**  
Session/Panel Room B

1.C

Protecting Minnesota's Shorelines

**Introductory Comments:**  
Lily Carr, MN Lakes & Rivers Advocates  
Beth Carreno, Comfort Lake Forest Lake Watershed District  
Steve Kloiber, MN DNR  
Kris Meyer, Freshwater Society  
**Location:**  
Session/Panel Room C

1.D

Get Out MORE (Modernize Outdoor Recreation Experiences)

**Introductory Comments:**  
Dave Olfelt, Ann Pierce, Katie Smith and Patty Thielen, MN DNR  
**Location:**  
Session/Panel Room D

## CONCURRENT TRACK 2

11:45 A.M. - 12:15 P.M.

2.A

Climate Change and Minnesota's Fisheries

**Introductory Comments:**  
Dean Paron, MN DNR  
Kristen Poppleton, Minnesota Trout Unlimited  
**Location:**  
Session/Panel Room A

2.B

WMA and AMA Planning for Fish and Wildlife

**Introductory Comments:**  
Jamie Gangaware and Jamison Wendel, MN DNR  
Aaron Hebeisen, Minnesota Backcountry Hunters and Anglers  
**Location:**  
Session/Panel Room B

2.C

Revising Our State Wildlife Action Plan

**Introductory Comments:**  
Kristin Hall, MN DNR  
**Location:**  
Session/Panel Room C

2.D

Minnesota's New Invasive Carp Action Plan

**Introductory Comments:**  
Whitney Clark, Friends of the Mississippi River  
Kelly Pennington, MN DNR  
**Location:**  
Session/Panel Room D

# Session Descriptions

## 1.A What's New With Minnows and Native Fish

This session covers two topics where the DNR is working collaboratively with the public on new ways of thinking about fisheries issues. Minnesota's native "rough" fish are important ecologically and recreationally, but some have been undervalued and left unprotected, leading to concerns of overfishing and waste. Minnesota needs a high-quality, home-grown minnow supply, and work is underway to ensure a sustainable future for this economic and recreational resource. This session will cover updates, including recommendations being made to the legislature, and invite attendees to share what's important to them.

### **Introductory Comments:**

*Tom Neustrom, National Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame guide and MN-FISH Board member*  
*Shannon Fisher and Neil Vanderbosch, MN DNR*  
*John Rust, Izaak Walton League*

## 1.B What's New With Elk, Deer and Moose

Significant work is happening with big game management. This session will cover work to restore elk to northeast Minnesota and implement large-scale moose habitat improvements, as well as elements of the Deer Plan and its upcoming mid-plan review.

### **Introductory Comments:**

*Barb Keller, MN DNR*  
*Mike Schrage, Fond du Lac Resource Management Division*

## 1.C Protecting Minnesota's Shorelines

Minnesota is the land of 11,842 treasured lakes. About half of the natural shoreline on these lakes has been lost and shorelines continue to be altered. This session highlights the Natural Shorelines Partnership and its efforts to share information and coordinate on shoreline issues to protect and restore water quality, ecosystems and habitat. Participants will discuss specific actions that can be taken to protect and improve Minnesota's natural shorelines.

### **Introductory Comments:**

*Lily Carr, MN Lakes & Rivers Advocates*  
*Beth Carreno, Comfort Lake Forest Lake Watershed District*  
*Steve Kloiber, MN DNR*  
*Kris Meyer, Freshwater Society*

## 1.D Get Out MORE (Modernize Outdoor Recreation Experiences)

The transformative Get Out MORE investments will help ensure Minnesotans of all abilities and interests enjoy a world-class recreation system, whatever outdoor experience they choose. This session will update attendees on the investments the DNR is making to improve Minnesotans' experiences on public lands and waters, and invite participants to discuss how to collectively carry this momentum forward.

### **Introductory Comments:**

*Dave Olfelt, Ann Pierce, Katie Smith and Patty Thielen, MN DNR*



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## 2.A Climate Change and Minnesota's Fisheries

Climate change is impacting Minnesota's fisheries through rising water temperatures, heavier rains and warmer winters. These impacts will: alter fish communities, populations, and habitat; affect water quality and quantity; and reduce beneficial winterkills. This session will cover research and management updates and engage attendees in a conversation about what climate change impacts mean for them.

**Introductory Comments:**

*Dean Paron, MN DNR*

*Kristen Poppleton, Minnesota Trout Unlimited*

## 2.B WMA and AMA Planning for Fish and Wildlife

Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) and Aquatic Management Areas (AMA) provide over 1.3 million acres and 770 shoreland miles of habitat and fish and wildlife focused recreation across the state. This session will provide an update on planning efforts for the largest WMAs and the initiative to develop a system plan for all other WMAs and AMAs statewide. The discussion will focus on opportunities to involve partners and stakeholders to ensure these lands continue to serve Minnesotans into the future.

**Introductory Comments:**

*Jamie Gangaware and Jamison Wendel, MN DNR*

*Aaron Hebeisen, Minnesota Backcountry*

*Hunters & Anglers*

## 2.C Revising Our State Wildlife Action Plan

The State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) is a 10-year conservation blueprint aimed at preserving wildlife diversity, with a focus on species that are rare, declining or vulnerable to decline. The DNR is collaborating with scientists, conservationists, private landowners and members of the public to update our SWAP. In this session, DNR staff will describe how the updated SWAP will be a centerpiece in wildlife conservation and engage participants in a conversation about ongoing revisions.

**Introductory Comments:**

*Kristin Hall, MN DNR*

## 2.D Minnesota's New Invasive Carp Action Plan

The Minnesota Invasive Carp Action Plan aims to prevent or limit the impact these species may have on Minnesota waters. Recently the DNR, together with stakeholders and partners, completed a structured decision-making process to evaluate numerous invasive carp management methods and inform updates to the plan. This session will provide participants an opportunity to learn about the new plan and discuss how the plan will be used to guide prevention and management efforts in Minnesota waters.

**Introductory Comments:**

*Whitney Clark, Friends of the Mississippi River*

*Kelly Pennington, MN DNR*





# Building Common Ground Through Candid Conversations

1

## 1:30 - 2:15 p.m. SESSION 1 - CANDID CONVERSATIONS PANEL DISCUSSIONS

Choose one of the four concurrent discussions (Session one topics will be repeated in session two, with a 15 minute break between sessions)

2

## 2:30 - 3:15 p.m. SESSION 2 - CANDID CONVERSATIONS PANEL DISCUSSIONS

Choose one of the four concurrent discussions.

## Session Descriptions

### Technology for Fishing and Hunting

**Location:** Session/Panel Room A

**Panelists:**

**Marc Bacigalupi**, MN DNR

**Phil Seng**, DJ Case and Associates and Orion the Hunter's Institute Board member

**Jeremy Smith**, Lindner Media

**Mandy Uhrich**, MN DNR

New and more accessible technologies are emerging faster than ever, providing hunters and anglers more opportunity and potential for success. This session will engage participants in what the increasing use of new technologies means for fish and wildlife populations, hunter and angler participation and success, and our assumptions around ethics of taking fish and wildlife. Participants will be encouraged to think about how the broader conservation community can be proactive in managing currently available and emerging technologies.

### Modernizing Hunting and Fishing Licenses and Regulations

**Location:** Session/Panel Room B

**Panelists:**

**Michelle Doerr**, Anavah Consulting

**Ray Ruiz**, Baztec, Inc.

**Tony Wasley**, Wildlife Management Institute

Hunting and fishing licenses help accomplish important conservation and management objectives. At the same time, the current system can present barriers to participation. This session will explore why licenses and stamps exist, how they have evolved over time and what opportunities might exist to modernize them. The panel for this session will lead a conversation about the potential for modernization to improve how licenses and stamps work for fish and wildlife populations as well as for hunters and anglers.

### Groundwater Sustainability

**Location:** Session/Panel Room C

**Panelists:**

**Anna Bregier**, Irrigators Association of Minnesota

**Ellen Considine**, MN DNR

**Scott Anderson**, City of Bloomington

Groundwater is vital for Minnesota's health, natural resources and economy. The DNR and partners are working to lead all Minnesotans toward sustainable groundwater use. The panelists in this session will draw on their experiences to discuss how to manage groundwater to meet today's needs while also providing a sustainable resource for the future.

### Partnerships in Stream Restoration

**Location:** Session/Panel Room D

**Panelists:**

**Laura Domyancich-Lee**, Friends of the Mississippi River

**Janssen Hang**, Hmong American Farmers Association

**John Lenczewski**, Minnesota Trout Unlimited

**Travis Thiel**, Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization

Partnerships are critical to managing public resources. Cooperative projects can connect landowners, watershed planners and public land managers to incorporate diverse interests and achieve multiple benefits. This panel will bring together perspectives from the field to reflect on the value of partnerships for land management and stream restoration in the Vermillion River Watershed and explore how collaboration can catalyze conservation successes in other systems.

## Closing Plenary



3:30 - 4:30 p.m.  
Grand Ballroom

### WELCOME BACK

Gail Nosek, Emcee  
Communications Director, Minnesota  
Department of Natural Resources

### REFLECTIONS ON THE DAY

Barb Naramore  
Deputy Commissioner, Minnesota Department  
of Natural Resources

### MINNESOTA DNR LEADERSHIP Q&A

Sarah Strommen, Commissioner  
Barb Naramore, Deputy Commissioner  
Shannon Lotthammer, Assistant Commissioner  
Bob Meier, Assistant Commissioner  
Jess Richards, Assistant Commissioner

### CLOSING REMARKS

Sarah Strommen  
Commissioner, Minnesota Department of  
Natural Resources

## Reception

4:30 - 6:00 p.m.  
Grand Ballroom and Foyer

Join your natural resource partners for a chance to reflect on the day together and talk about future collaborations.

## After Hours Special Session

5:30 - 7:00 p.m.  
Grand Ballroom

In this After Hours Special Session, natural resource partners will have the chance to continue conversations started earlier in the day and dig into new topics. Participants can gather around tables to discuss topics of interest. Natural resource partners will invite participants to have more conversations on:

- Minnesota Shorelines, led by MN Lakes & Rivers Advocates.
  - Partnerships and Natural Climate Solutions, led by The Nature Conservancy.
  - Fishing Follow-up, led by MN-FISH.
- Participants can join partners at one of these tables, or start their own conversation in the Grand Ballroom.

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# Chat With DNR Managers During the Roundtable

Before the Opening Plenary, during Lunch and during the Reception, 2024 DNR Roundtable participants will have additional opportunities to engage by chatting with MN DNR managers from the Division of Ecological and Water Resources (EWR) and the Division of Fish and Wildlife (FAW). You can find the managers listed below at tables in the Chat with a Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Manager area.

**8:30 - 9:00 a.m.**

**Shannon Fisher**

FAW Fisheries Populations and Regulations  
Manager

**Seth Goreham**

FAW Wildlife Research Section Manager

**Lindsey Shartell**

FAW Wildlife Northeast Regional Manager

**Korey Woodley**

EWR South Regional Manager

**1:00 - 1:30 p.m.**

**Nathan Kestner**

EWR Northwest Regional Manager

**Darrell Schindler**

EWR Northeast Regional Manager

**Jenny Shillcox**

EWR Strategic Information Systems  
Section Manager

**Dave Trauba**

FAW Fisheries South Regional Manager

**Jamison Wendel**

FAW Fisheries Habitat Manager

**4:30 - 5:00 p.m.**

**Marc Bacigalupi**

FAW Fisheries Northwest Regional Manager

**Dan Lais**

EWR Central Regional Manager

**Jack Lauer**

FAW Fisheries South Regional Manager

**Gretchen Miller**

FAW Wildlife Central Regional Manager

**Jason Moeckel**

EWR Inventory, Monitoring and Analysis  
Section Manager

**5:00 - 5:30 p.m.**

**Heidi Wolf**

EWR Ecosystem Management and Protection  
Section Manager

**Brian Nerbonne**

FAW Fisheries Central Regional Manager

**Blane Klemek**

FAW Wildlife Northwest Regional Manager

**Leslie McInenly**

FAW Wildlife Populations and Regulations  
Manager

**5:30 - 6:00 p.m.**

**Randall Doneen**

EWR Conservation Assistance and Regulation  
Section Manager

**Jamie Gangaware**

FAW Wildlife Operations Manager

**Leslie George**

FAW Fisheries Northeast Regional Manager

**Patrick Schmalz**

FAW Fisheries Research Manager

Please also take the opportunity to chat with staff about the new Electronic Licensing System.

The logo for the 2024 Minnesota DNR Roundtable features a stylized, overlapping design of green and yellow shapes. The text "2024 MINNESOTA DNR ROUNDTABLE" is centered within the design.

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# Stay Engaged With the DNR After the Roundtable

- Check your email or visit [mndnr.gov/roundtable](https://mndnr.gov/roundtable) after the event for continuing discussion, photos and video.
- Follow up with fellow attendees and presenters to continue the discussion.
- Join an advisory group at [mndnr.gov/advisory-groups](https://mndnr.gov/advisory-groups)
- Connect with public engagement opportunities at [mndnr.gov/engagement](https://mndnr.gov/engagement)
- Sign up for email updates at [mndnr.gov/mail\\_updates](https://mndnr.gov/mail_updates)
- Follow the DNR on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

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