



Photo by Derek Montgomery

MINNESOTA PEATLANDS RESTORATION

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In Minnesota, **peatlands** cover almost 6 million acres, but nearly 472,000 acres have been drained and converted to agriculture, roads, mining and other uses – releasing carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Another 400,000 to 477,000 acres have been degraded by partial drainage, emitting roughly 38,000 metric tons of carbon a year. Restoring ditched peatlands can help bring back the carbon-capturing abilities of these ecosystems and help prevent major carbon emissions from peat fires and rapid decomposition. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in Minnesota is working with partners to develop a strategy to protect and restore peatlands as an important component of an overall climate change mitigation strategy.

OBJECTIVES

- Research methods for effectively maintaining existing peatland carbon stores and avoid their loss to the atmosphere as carbon dioxide.
- Study the amount methane released by rewetting peatlands to ensure the carbon storage benefits outweigh the methane released.
- Target restoration projects to ensure the most carbon storage per dollar spent.

PATHWAYS FOR SCALING



This project has the potential to demonstrate a pathway for selling high-quality, scientifically-proven credits in carbon markets.



This project will also help lay the groundwork for other places with extensive peatlands (e.g. Alaska, Canada) to protect and restore peatlands for carbon storage.

LOCATION

Minnesota

FUNDING AMOUNT AND SOURCES

\$600,000; Bezos Earth Fund

PROGRAM PARTNERS

The Nature Conservancy, University of Minnesota, USDA Forest Service, Ecosystem Investment Partners.



Peatlands are a type of wetland containing a high amount of partially decayed organic matter, retaining an incredible amount of carbon. Peatlands cover just 3% of the earth's surface but store twice as much carbon as the world's forests combined.

SUCCESSES TO DATE



Established a research program to assess impact of peatland restoration on methane emissions and carbon storage over time at multiple sites.



Mapping and analysis to help target peatland restoration, with the goal of restoring an additional 59,000 acres by 2030.

For more information about this and other innovative and scalable projects implementing Natural Climate Solutions in the U.S., please visit www.usnature4climate.org/building-ambition/.