

Find out more:

Aquifer recharge as a tool to replenish groundwater reserves

by Freshwater

Are we using too much groundwater too fast?

Minnesotans want and need assurances that they will have dependable groundwater supplies. Replenishment of groundwater should keep up with withdrawals. Where groundwater is overdrafted, we may need recharge as a tool to augment groundwater supply.

Groundwater at risk

Some groundwater reserves are shrinking: groundwater is being used faster than it is being replenished by rainfall.

Minnesota needs to fund an aquifer recharge study to understand the range of options and costs involved to enhance and replenish our groundwater resources.

Building groundwater resilience

Three sequential steps build groundwater resilience:

- 1) Reduce groundwater use
- 2) Reuse groundwater before discarding it
- 3) Recharge groundwater

We are already working on the first two but some parts of the state may need to have the third tool — recharging groundwater — in place in order to avert an economic crisis.

Given the uneven distribution of groundwater across the state, each region requires its own solutions. Freshwater is asking the Legislature to direct the Water Resources Center to conduct a two-year, interdisciplinary study including a stakeholder process to identify areas where groundwater recharge makes both economic and geologic sense and report back to the Legislature during the 2020-21 session.



HF 1141, SF1643

A Solution

Direct the Water Resources Center to conduct a two-year, interdisciplinary, facilitated study including a stakeholder process for \$350,000 to identify areas where groundwater recharge makes both economic and geologic sense and report back to the Legislature during the 2020-21 session.

Study Bill Components

Component	Benefit
Examining potential to recharge groundwater in water-stressed parts of the state	Will help us determine if this tool is appropriate
Reviewing the approaches to manage recharge in geologically appropriate areas	Will help us understand where this tool is best suited
Assessing the economic returns of groundwater recharge options	Will determine if this approach could increase economic security and stability of a region
Identifying policy options, costs and barriers to recharge groundwater	Will allow tool to be ready when and where it is needed