



Isanti SWCD Staff

Get to know Doug!

Douglas Page works as a Land Protection Specialist throughout the Rum River Watershed in Isanti and Mille Lacs Counties.

What is your background? As a kid, I could usually be found collecting critters in the creeks and ponds throughout my neighborhood. That desire to be close to nature eventually drove me to seek a career in wildlife biology where I worked on various research and invasive species management projects around Minnesota as well as the Gulf Coast, Utah, California, and the Northern Mariana Islands. After more than a decade in that field, I decided I wanted to shift my focus to landscape-level conservation that would have a broader range of benefits to both people and wildlife. That was when I started working for a land trust in northern California that focused on conservation easements on working ranches and timber properties. Now I am bringing those skills back to my home state to help ensure that kids will always have plenty of critters and clean water like I did.

Why did you want to work with the Isanti SWCD? Conservation is my passion and I really enjoy helping landowners be better stewards, which benefits us all. Public lands get plenty of attention from managers and experts, but private lands can be overlooked, which is why I appreciate the work the SWCD's do. I like that landowner participation is voluntary; we just provide the knowledge to help understand what the benefits are and the support when a landowner wants to take action. I am also fortunate that my work stretches into Mille Lacs County and is focused on one of the coolest (in my opinion) rivers in the state.

What do you like to do? Most of my hobbies have one common thread: food. I enjoy cooking, fishing, hunting, foraging, gardening, canning, and keeping small livestock. Once I get settled somewhere with enough space, I plan to get back into gardening and raising ducks and goats. For now, most of my time outside of work is spent with my wife and son on mini adventures around the area to find the best parks or visiting with family.