

FOREST CERTIFICATION ACROSS MINNESOTA COUNTY MANAGED LANDS

Who we are

- ▣ 2.8 million acres total administered by 15 Counties
- ▣ Nine Counties certified by FSC, SFI or ISO 14001 for a total of 2.45 million acres
- ▣ FSC: Lake, Aitkin, Itasca, Cass
- ▣ SFI/ISO: St. Louis
- ▣ FSC/SFI: Beltrami, Carlton, Crow Wing, Koochiching

Why did we seek Certification?

- ▣ The right thing to do
- ▣ Transparency
- ▣ Site level Guidelines
- ▣ Cost of doing business
- ▣ Market demands
- ▣ 2003 Governor's Report
- ▣ Potential added income
- ▣ Addresses Landscape Planning

Where are we today

- ❑ Market needs are not the same
- ❑ Public involvement in forestry has increased
- ❑ Cost of audits relatively low compared to State level audits
- ❑ Confirms safe and sound practices to County Boards and Advisory Committees
- ❑ Procedures and policies are in place and have become "routine business"
- ❑ Awareness by forest managers of all forest users

Concerns to Remain Certified in the future

- ❑ Remaining certified is now year by year
- ❑ Constant changing of Standards, one - upping between FSC - SFI
- ❑ Little difference between FSC and SFI
- ❑ Differences in interpretations of standards by auditors
- ❑ Fading support from County Boards (budgets, local concern, disappearing markets)
- ❑ No added markets/preference for loggers
- ❑ Double standard for US versus International

Concerns to Remain Certified in the Future (cont.)

- ❑ Increased work load for small departments
- ❑ No increase of revenue to County Land Depts.
- ❑ Changes in Forest Products Industry
- ❑ Changes in makeup - direction by County Board
- ❑ Market move from 100% to Mixed, DNR can supply Certified fiber.


