

DNR Forest Management Guideline Monitoring Program (V2.0)

MFRC Meeting

Shoreview, March 20, 2013

Dick Rossman, MN DNR

Rob Slesak, MFRC



History

SFRA mandates guideline monitoring

- DNR charged with programmatic aspects
- MFRC charged with oversight and direction

Monitoring is essential to the voluntary approach for guideline application

- Stakeholder demand
- Periodic reports used to guide training
- Linkages with certification programs

Program funding has been problematic

- MFRC funded the program – DNR conducted the work
- Allocation in FY13 = 17.5K. No allocation planned for FY14-15

Timber Harvesting and Forest Management Guidelines on Public and Private Forest Land in Minnesota



Photos courtesy of MNDNR & MFRC

2011 Monitoring Implementation Results

A report by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Respectfully submitted to the Minnesota Forest Resources Council



A new funding source

MFRC Letter to Commissioner Landwehr

- Maintain monitoring program
- Funding from non-general fund source

Clean Water Fund ID'd as most promising

- Needed to fit with CWF priorities (i.e., water)
- Enhance / expand existing program (i.e., not supplant)
- Maintain core functions of pre-existing programs

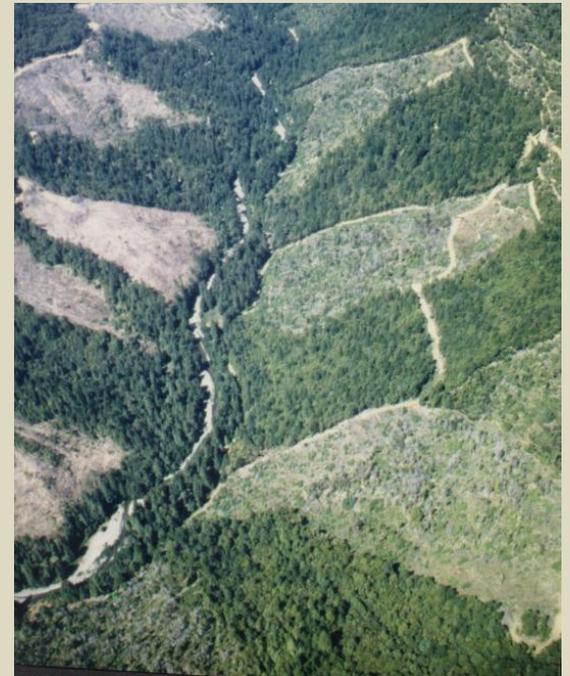
Proposal development

- MFRC and DNR staff collaboratively developed proposal
- Staff fostered internal (DNR) and external support for the proposal
- Clean Water Council has endorsed DNR recommended funding



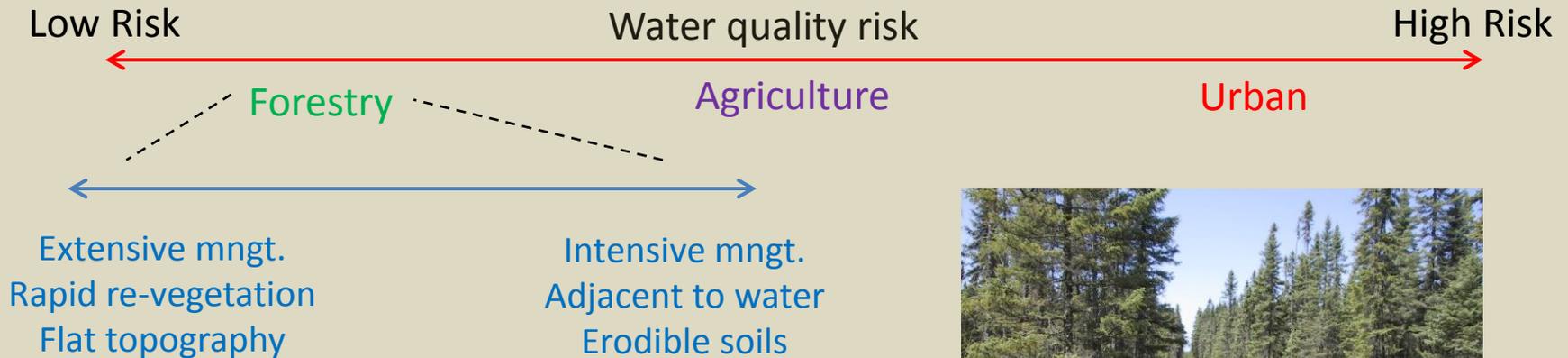
Quantify disturbance patterns

- Annually – focused on monitoring watersheds
 - *Establishes monitoring site pool
- Biennially - statewide (forested watersheds)
 - *generates information for risk assessment
- Process:
 - Satellite (Landsat) imagery
 - Ground or photo verification
 - Timber harvest, fire, blowdown, flooding, land use conversion



Relative Risk Assessment

- Qualify *relative* risk to water quality



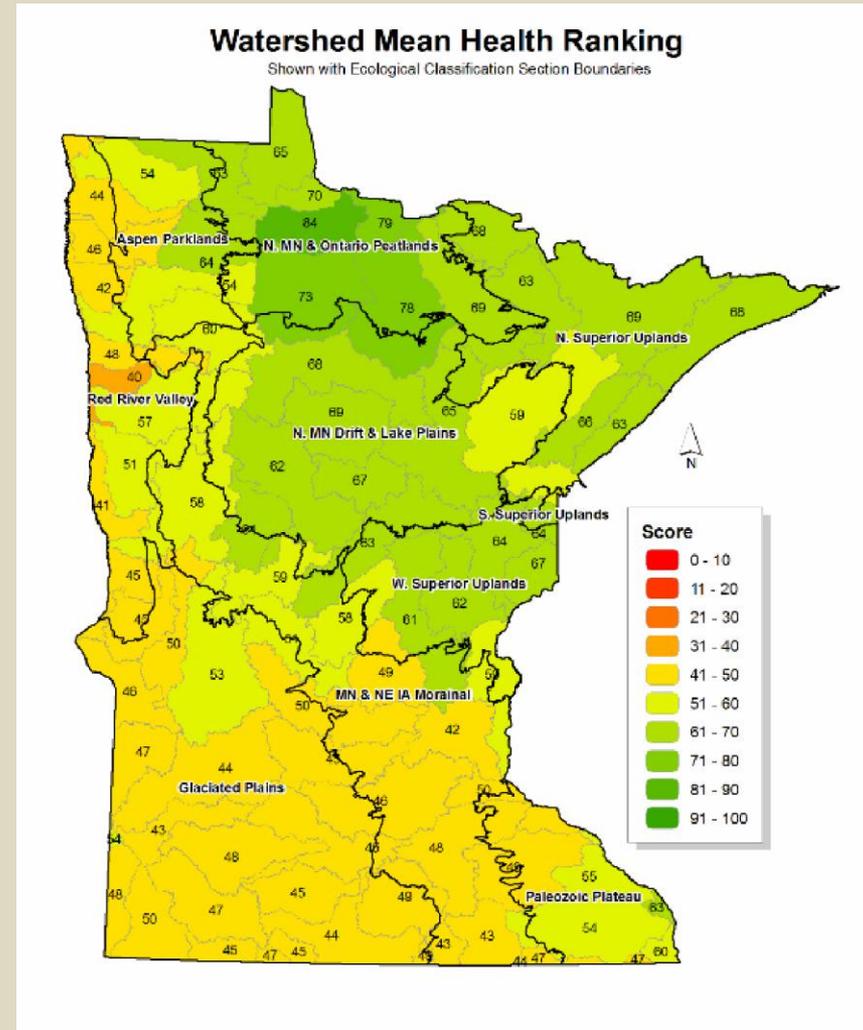
- Based on:

- Disturbance metrics
- Guideline implementation
- Watershed characteristics
 - *existing land use, geomorphology, road density, cover types, etc.



Education & Outreach

- Targeted efforts based on steps 1, 2, and 3.
- Customized for each watershed
- Biennial report on landscape and statewide implementation
- Coordinate with MFRP, landscape committees, WRAP committees...
- Promote forestry as part of the solution to water quality issues



Key benefits and outcomes

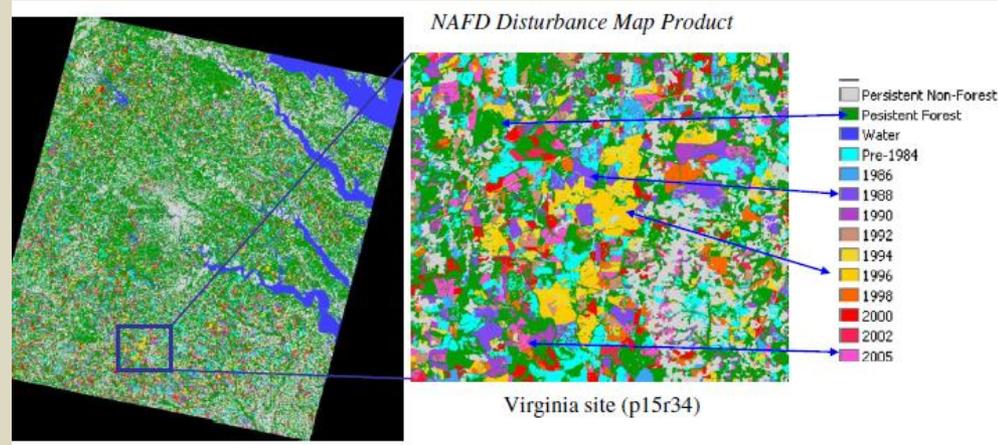
- Potential source of recurring funds
- Core functions of monitoring program are maintained
- Voluntary guideline approach is enhanced and strengthened
- More fully comply with charge of the SFRA
- Data generated at scales useful for application
- Positions forestry to be a key player in water-related issues

Challenges

- Timely reporting with doubled monitoring intensity
- Developing a relevant and robust risk metric
- Partnering for efficient education and outreach
- Obtaining unified support for the enhanced program

Activity in FY13

- Praying funds are allocated!
- Resource Assessment conducting R&D on disturbance assessment



- Identifying existing spatial data utility and availability
- Preparing to hit the ground running

Example output of
Vegetation Change Tracker
(Thomas et al. 2011)

Biennial Report

Imagery analysis
Summer 2013

Funding starts July 1, 2013

Field monitoring
Spring 2015

Site selection and Pre-site data
Fall/winter 2013/14

Outreach & Education

Biennial Monitoring Cycle

Site selection and pre-site data
Fall/winter 2014/15

Field monitoring
Spring 2014

Risk Assessment

Imagery Analysis
Summer 2014

