

Minnesota Forest Resources Council

Strategic Planning Initiative

Council Mission

A 17-member organization statutorily designed to promote long-term sustainable management of Minnesota's forests as directed by the Minnesota legislature in the Sustainable Forest Resources Act of 1995 (SFRA - Minnesota Statutes §89A).

- **Pursue the sustainable management, use, and protection** of the state's forest resources to achieve the state's environmental, economic, and social goals.
- **Encourage cooperation and collaboration** between public and private sectors in the management of the state's forest resources.
- **Recognize and consider forest resource issues**, concerns, and impacts at the site and landscape levels.
- **Recognize the broad array of perspectives** regarding the management, use, and protection of the state's forest resources, and establish processes and mechanisms that seek these perspectives and incorporate them into planning and management.

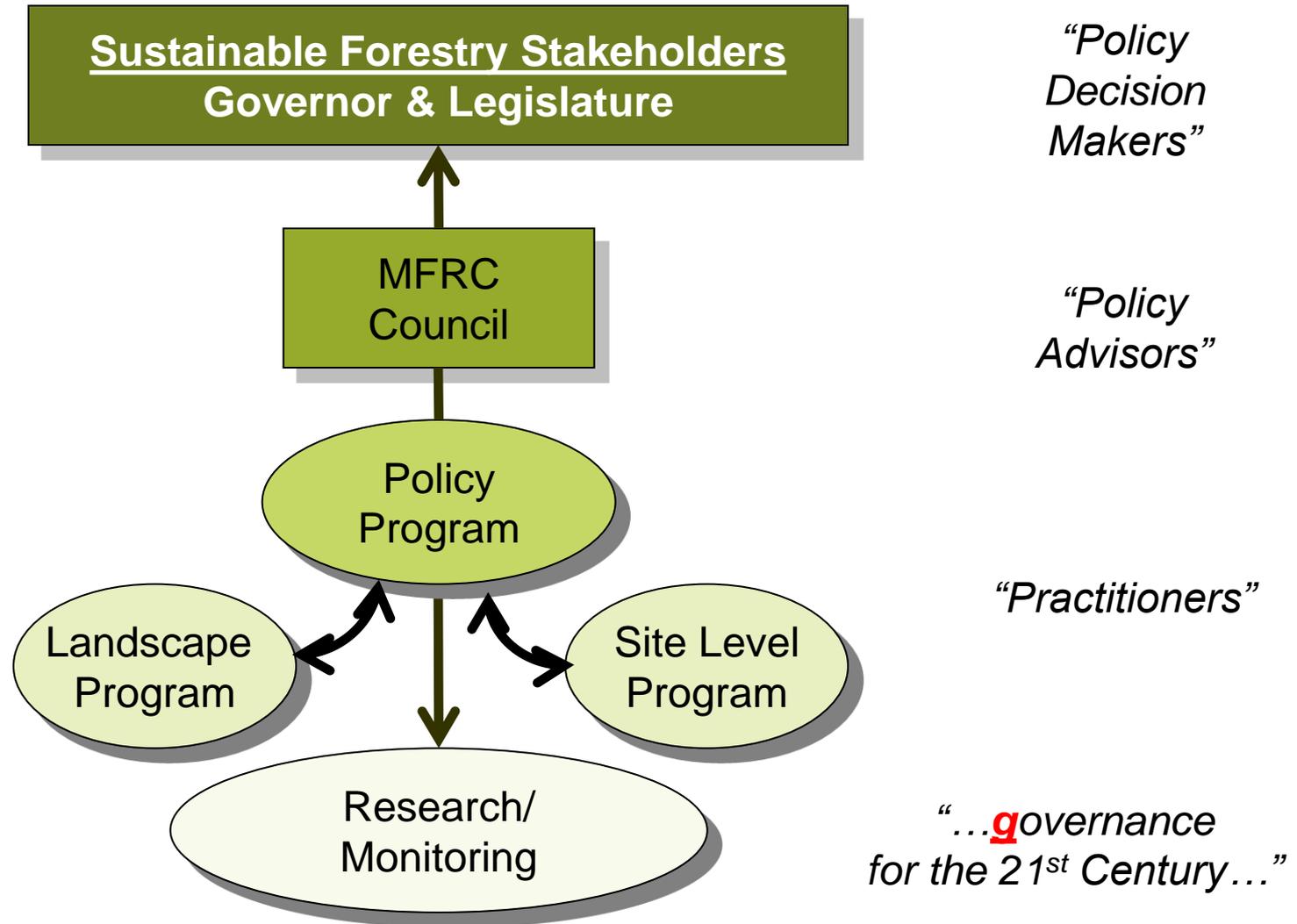


Council Roles

- **It advises the Governor and federal, state, county, and local governments** on sustainable forest resource policies and practices.
- **It develops and periodically revises site-level forest management guidelines** used by loggers and public and private forest owners statewide to assure sustainable forest resource management, use, and protection.
- **Via regional committees, it develops and coordinates the implementation of landscape plans for Minnesota's six major forested regions.** The plans describe desired future conditions for the region's forests over a long-term horizon as well as shorter-term goals and strategies to guide efforts by landowners, forestry professionals, and industry, tribal, and agency managers.
- **It supports forest resources research and monitoring** at statewide, landscape and site levels.



MFRC: Linking Policy & Practice



Meeting #1

- Timing
- Committee formation
- Identification of goals
- Mechanics
- Review of 89A
- Review of past planning efforts

Site-level Program

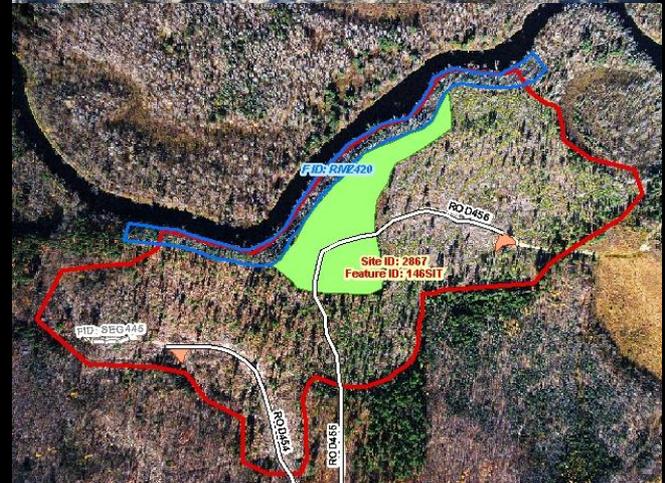
Overview and updates

Three primary areas

Forest Management Guidelines

Implementation monitoring

Research



Forest Management Guidelines

Task:

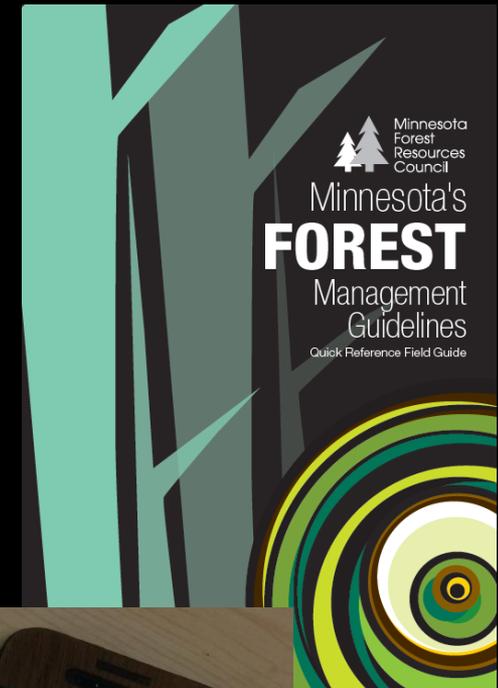
- 1) Develop and revise voluntary guidelines
- 2) Develop and assess implementation goals

Past efforts:

- Primary task since MFRC inception
- Three revisions, two economic assessments
- Implementation assessed
- Guidebook and field guide development

New / ongoing work:

- eFMG training program updated
- Implementation workshops / outreach
- Guideline app for mobile devices



Guideline Monitoring

Task:

- Periodic guideline implementation monitoring
- Council has broad oversight

Past efforts:

- 1300+ sites monitored / 5 reports
- Some outreach and training
- Funding and development of new approach

New / ongoing work:

- Annual monitoring of 3-4 watershed units
- Biennial reporting
- More outreach (effective, targeted)
- Database development (public access)

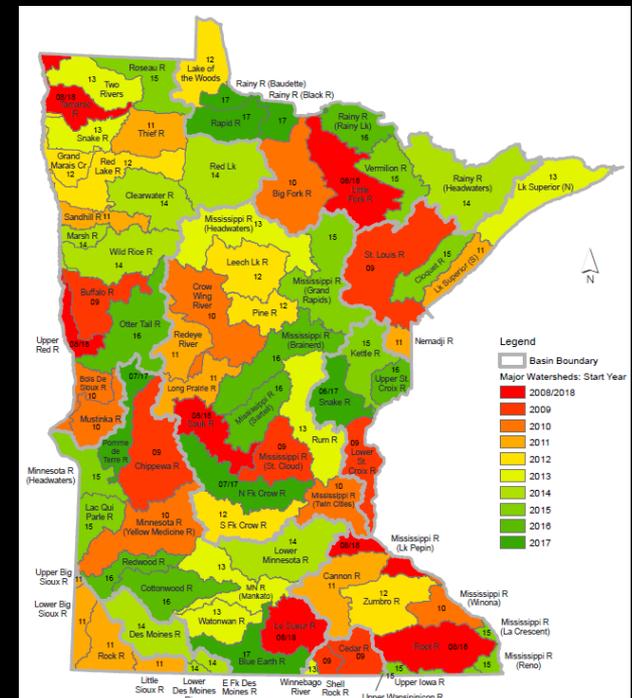
Timber Harvesting and Forest Management Guidelines on Public and Private Forest Land in Various Watersheds in Minnesota



Photo courtesy of Mike Houser, Foretech Corporation

2014 and 2015 Monitoring Implementation Results

A report by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Forest Management Guideline Implementation Monitoring Program Respectfully submitted to the Minnesota Forest Resources Council



Research

Task: conduct research related to:

- Guideline effectiveness
- Sustainable mngt, forest health

Past / ongoing work:

- Biomass harvesting
- EAB / black ash
- Infrastructure (landings)
- Disturbance mapping 1972-current

New / proposed work:

- Leave tree effectiveness
- Erosion control effectiveness / risk
- Jack pine regeneration
- Soil operability (proposed)
- Lowland conifer management (proposed)



Dissemination

Presentations – guidelines, research

Symposiums – research review,
forests soils

Short courses - NASP (Lake States
module)

SFEC Education Advisory Committee



Landscape Program Overview and Updates



Landscape Program – Planning

- **Acknowledge the interactions** of complex sustainable forest resources, multiple ownership patterns, and local to international economic forces;
- **Give equal consideration** to the long-term economic, ecological, and social needs and limits of the state’s resources;
- **Foster productivity** of the state’s forests to provide a diversity of sustainable benefits at site and landscape levels;
- **Enhance the ability** of the state’s forest resources to provide future benefits and services;
- **Foster no net loss of forest land**;
- **Encourage appropriate mixes of forest cover types and age classes** to promote biological diversity and viable habitats;
- **Encourage collaboration and coordination** with multiple constituencies in planning and managing forest resources;
- **Address the environmental impacts and implement mitigations** as recommended in the GEIS.



Landscape Program – Coordination

- **Support and maintain** the regional landscape committees.
- **Expand and sustain outreach.**
- **Promote implementation** of the landscape plan through partners' management plans.
- **Actively support forest policy development** – example: 2011 forest policy recommendation letters.
- **Develop regional priorities** to guide investment in the regions – examples: 25-Year LSOHC Vision, State Forest Action Plan.
- **Promote and support cross boundary projects** that demonstrate effective ways to implement the landscape plans as well as partners' plans (NFs, tribal, DNR, counties, private)
- **Support landscape level monitoring.**



Landscape Management

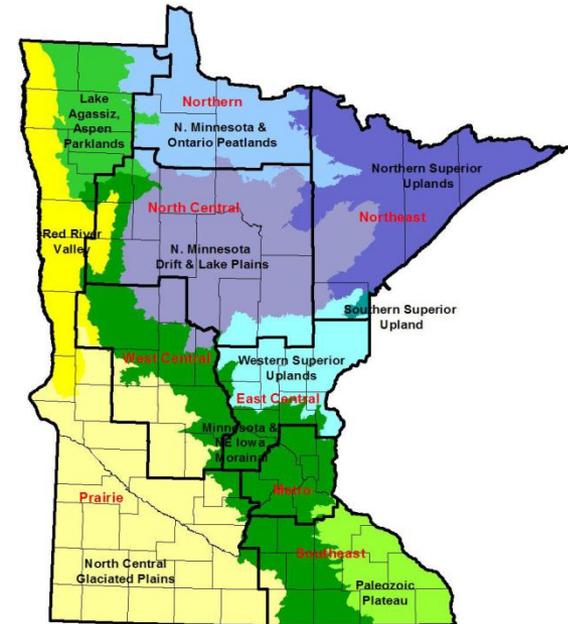
Four interrelated phases:

- Planning.
- Coordination.
- Implementation.
- Monitoring & Evaluation.

*We build and support partnerships
in every phase,
across all ownerships...*

Six Forested Landscapes

- East Central (4.0 M ac.)
- Northern (4.4 M ac.)
- North Central (8.3 M ac.)
- Northeast (7.4 M ac.)
- Southeast (4.9 M ac.)
- West Central (5.1 M ac.)



“Landscape” = “Region”



Planning Accomplishments

- Completed six 1st generation landscape plans (1998-2005).
- Completed two amendments – North Central (2004), Northern (2010)
- Completed two 2nd generation landscape plans – Northeast (2014), Southeast (2014)
- 2nd generation North Central landscape plan process now underway.
- Northern, West Central and East Central to be revised by 2021.



Coordination Accomplishments

- Convened over 310 regional committee meetings.
- Hosted workshops/webinars on landscape plans, met with LGUs, distributed plan outreach documents.
- Developed forest policy recommendation letters.
- Developed regional investment priorities – LSOHC, state Forest Action Plan.
- Co-sponsored, support, manage 8 federal grants with DNR Forestry to support private forest management projects (\$1,557,600 federal, \$2.0M+ state, local private).
- Project funding development – Grant writing, letters of support, seed moneys – catalyst for over \$20M.
- Convened 3 Council-regional committee summits.
- Regional committees hosted 4 annual Council mtgs/tours (2008, 2009, 2012, 2013).



Policy Program

- Advise the Governor, Legislature, and various levels of government regarding sustainable forest policies
- Evolved over time, increased emphasis
- Examples:
 - Competitiveness study (continues to be valuable)
 - Led SFIA stakeholder group
 - Other issues including (fire funding, clean power plan, parcelization, private forest management).

Other MFRC related programs

- Information Management Committee
 - Policy focus, IIC oversight, Trends, Communication
- Research advisory committee
 - Identify priority research needs
 - Collaboration between research organizations
 - Linkages between disciplines
 - Interaction between researchers and practitioners

Other MFRC related programs con't

Interagency Information Cooperative

- Coordinate development of forest resource data
- Promote development of information systems
- Examples:
 - Implementing a common format and methodologies for forest inventories
 - Analysis of MN's forestlands and their management

Moving Forward

- June XX, meeting of the strategic planning committee (facilitated)
 - Develop and utilize decision criteria (issues)
 - Identify and rank priority issues
- July 20, conduct organization analysis (SWOT) (facilitated)
 - Present and discuss committee results regarding priority issues

Moving Forward, Con't

- August XX, meeting of strategic planning committee (facilitated)
 - Examine structural issues
 - Make recommendations
- September 21/22 (facilitated)
 - Major portion of meeting devoted to reviewing a draft plan

Engagement Strategy

Who/How do we engage?

- MFRC Council Members
- Staff (both information role and substantive role)
- Regional committee members
- External stakeholders
- Legislators
- Others

2011 Forest Policy Letters

North Central Committee

- Forest Health and Productivity
- Land Administration
- Parcelization / Fragmentation
- Water Resources

Northern Committee

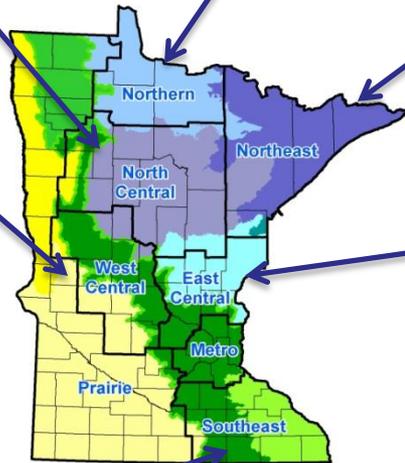
- Forest Health
- Forest Products Industry / Woody Biomass
- Parcelization / Forest Fragmentation
- Tax Policy

Northeast Committee

- Forest Health and Productivity
- Forest Products Industry
- Parcelization / Fragmentation
- Water Quality

West Central Committee

- Forest Based Economic Development
- Forest Health / Water Quality
- Parcelization / Fragmentation
- Private Forest Management



East Central Committee

- Forest Health / Private Forest Management
- Market Development
- Parcelization / Forest Fragmentation
- Water Quality and Forests

Southeast Committee

- Forest Health / Climate Change / Invasive Species
- Parcelization
- Value of Sustainably Managed Private Forests
- Water Quality / Forest Connection

Regional perspectives to support Council policy development...



Data needs

- Forest conditions
- State of forest industry
- Climate trends
- Status of invasives

Collaboration Pays



*A better way
to get the job done...*

FMG Monitoring Report

Development of a coordinated
outreach plan

Outreach – monitoring report

2 questions:

- 1) What's the objective - change or promotion?
 - improved implementation / planning
 - increased awareness of guideline use
- 2) Who are the intended audiences?
 - practitioners, managers, planners
 - legislators, interest groups, general public

Objective – enact change / improve utilization of data

Approaches

- Logger / forester training (SFEC, MLEP)
- Targeted DNR training / workshops
- Coordinated assessment with MFRP (implementers)
- Incorporate findings into MFRC Landscape plans
- Engage in watershed scale plan development (WRAPS, OWOP)

Audiences: many that we have traditionally or recently engaged with (practitioners)

Objective – promotion, increased awareness of guideline use

Approaches

- Social media / website (e.g., “Closer looks”)
- Journal / news articles
- Targeted presentations to key groups (CWC, other DNR divisions, interest groups)
- Engage directly with policy makers / governor (e.g., opportunities to tie into ag. buffer initiative)

Audiences: many that we have traditionally not engaged with who may not know that the MFRC exists