

How will we do it?

In 1995 the Minnesota Legislature created the Minnesota Forest Resources Council (MFRC) and gave it the job of ensuring that Minnesota's forests are able to meet the state's economic, environmental, and social needs now and in the future.

Recognizing the need to manage forests on a large scale, the MFRC set up a landscape-level forest resources program. A team of 50 individuals divided the forested part of Minnesota into six "regional forest landscapes"—multi-county areas with similar social, economic and ecological characteristics.

Regional Landscape Committees

The MFRC then brought together landowners, land managers, and others interested in forests within each landscape and gave them the job of answering three questions for their forests:

- *Where have we been, and where are we today?*
- *Where do we want to go?*
- *How will we get there?*

This brochure summarizes the East Central Landscape Committee's response to those questions. It also provides concrete suggestions on what each of us can do to help achieve the committee's vision.



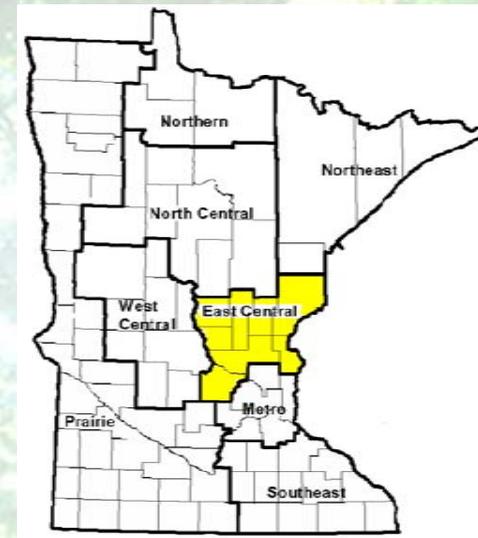
2003 Upper Buford Circle
St. Paul, MN 55108-6146



Managing Forests at the Landscape Level

A cooperative approach to sustainability for public, private, and tribal landowners

East Central Landscape Region



Covers:

3.7 million acres (5,750 square miles)

Includes:

Benton, Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, Pine, Sherburne, and Wright counties, and the eastern half of Morrison County (east of the Mississippi River)

Teaming up for Forests



East Central Minnesota landscape

What is landscape-level forest management?

Landscape-level forest management is when public, private, and tribal landowners and citizens cooperatively develop and carry out a coordinated plan for forests covering thousands or millions of acres.

Why is it important?

Changes in land ownership are carving Minnesota's forests into smaller and smaller parcels. Yet the benefits we seek from forests — timber, habitat, recreation, jobs, clean air and water — depend on their integrity on a much larger scale. If forests are to provide such benefits sustainably, we need to manage them in a way that reaches across ownership boundaries.



Where have we been, and where are we today?

The East Central Landscape Region

The East Central Landscape Region covers approximately 3.7 million acres in Benton, Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, Morrison (eastern portion), Pine, Sherburne, and Wright counties. The East Central Landscape Region has lost much of its forestland since European settlement. The region has seen a noticeable decrease in bur oak.

Below are a list of key assets and issues for the East Central Landscape region.

Key Issues and Challenges

- Impacted water quality
- Forest regeneration
- Soil erosion and sedimentation
- Growth management
- Native vegetation
- Need for coordinated management and enforcement efforts
- Timber stand improvement
- Habitat loss and fragmentation
- Loss of wildlife and vegetation biodiversity
- Exotic species, diseases and pest outbreaks
- Environmental awareness and public participation
- Wildlife populations

Desired Future Conditions of the East Central Landscape

In 100 years, the East Central Landscape Region will have the following characteristics:

- **Healthy and Sustained Forests.** Forests in the East Central Landscape will be healthy and sustained for the long term in an ecologically appropriate manner.
- **Improved and Protected Water Quality.** Landowners, local officials and resource managers will recognize together that healthy forests and wetlands in this landscape are key to protecting good water quality and quantity.
- **Multiple Uses of Forest Resources.** A full range of forest products will be produced in the landscape in a sustainable manner.
- **Balanced and Managed Land Development.** Land use and development across the landscape whether urban and rural areas will respect and sustain healthy forests.
- **Coordinated Collaborative Management.** The planning process for the East Central landscape will have entered into its tenth generation.
- **High Quality of Life.** People living, working and recreating the East Central Landscape will enjoy a high quality of life more closely connected to the forests and the landscape.



Maple tree near Mille Lacs Lake



East Central Minnesota landscape

How will we get there?

Get People Involved!

Whether you're an interested citizen, a city or township official, or a member of a lake association or other nonprofit organization, there are many ways to get involved. Remember, **you don't have to be a forester to be concerned about—and do something about—sustaining and managing our state's forests.**

How can I get involved?

Here are two initial steps for getting involved and learning more about the East Central Landscape Program:

- Visit www.frc.state.mn.us and review a copy of the **East Central Landscape's Forest Resource Management Plan** to learn more about the value of landscape planning, as well as the specifics of the East Central Plan.
- Incorporate appropriate landscape planning goals, objectives and action steps at your site.

Many more opportunities for active involvement are available to you on the MFRC Website and in the East Central Landscape Plan.

For more information, visit the following websites:

MFRC: www.frc.state.mn.us
DNR: www.dnr.state.mn.us
MFA: www.mnforest.com

