

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.

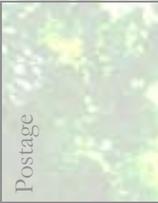
Recognizing the need to manage forests on a large scale, the MFRC set up a landscape-level forest resources program. A team of 50 individuals divided the forested part of Minnesota into six "regional forest landscapes"—multi-county areas with similar social, economic and ecological characteristics.

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 North 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.



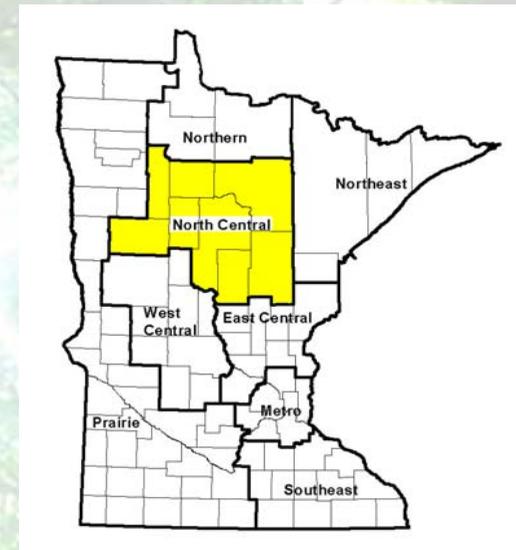
2003 Upper Buford Circle
St. Paul, MN 55108-6146



Managing Forests at the Landscape Level

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

North Central Landscape Region



Covers:
5.5 million acres

Includes:
Aitkin, Becker, Cass, Clearwater, Crow Wing, Hubbard, and Itasca counties, and the southern half of Beltrami County



Teaming up for Forests



North Central Minnesota landscape
Photo courtesy of MN DNR

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 North Central Landscape Region

The North Central Landscape Region covers 5.5 million acres in Aitkin, Becker, Beltrami (southern portion), Cass, Clearwater, Crow Wing, Hubbard, and Itasca counties. Forestland cover in the southern portion of the North Central region has decreased since pre-settlement times. This is also true throughout the landscape for the following species: ash, aspen, balm of giliad, bur oak, cherry, basswood, red oak and sugar maple.

The region's population is expected to increase dramatically in the upcoming years. The North Central region is also known to have a relatively high level of poverty.

Key Issues and Challenges

- Fragmentation of landscape by development
- Development of riparian corridors
- Ecosystem sustainability
- Timber harvest sustainability
- Population is expected to continue to increase rapidly
- Maintaining water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, recreation, and tourism

Desired Future Conditions of the North Central Landscape

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

- **Increased Conifers.** There will be an increased component of red, white and jack pine, cedar, tamarack, spruce and fir.
- **Natural Patterns and Functions.** Forests will have a range of species, patch sizes, and age classes that more closely resemble natural patterns and functions within this landscape.
- **Protected Forest land.** The amount of forest land and timberland will not decrease using FIA definitions for timberland and forest land. Large blocks of contiguous forest land that have minimal inclusion of conflicting land uses will be created and/or retained for natural resource and ecological benefits and to minimize land use conflicts (referred to as “natural resource emphasis areas”).
- **Protected Natural Shoreline.** In large blocks of contiguous forest land, critical natural shoreline will be retained on lakes for scenic, wildlife, water quality and other natural resource values.



Regeneration checks



Forestry field tour

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 North Central Landscape Program:

- Visit www.frc.state.mn.us and review a copy of the North Central Landscape's Forest Resource Management Plan to learn more about the value of landscape planning, as well as the specifics of the North Central Landscape 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 North 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

