

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 Northern 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.



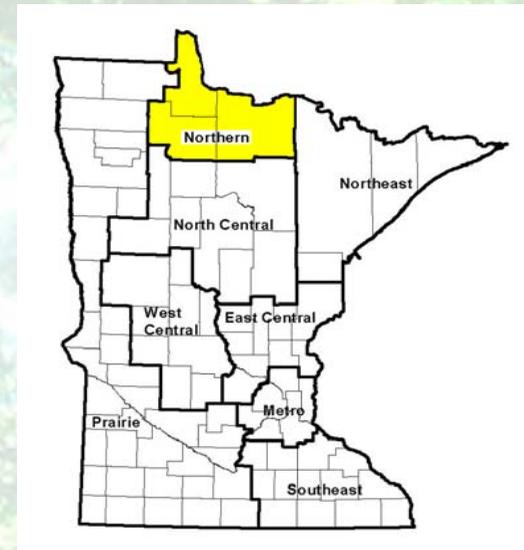
2003 Upper Buford Circle
St. Paul, MN 55108-6146



Managing Forests at the Landscape Level

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

Northern Landscape Region



Covers:

4.4 million acres

Includes:

Koochiching and Lake of the Woods counties, and the northern half of Beltrami County



Teaming up for Forests



Northern 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 Northern Landscape Region

The Northern Landscape Region covers 4.4 million acres in Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, and Beltrami counties. The Northern landscape region is 38% forested and sparsely populated, with 65% of all land publicly owned. The region is challenged socio-economically and includes the only heavily forested county in Minnesota to experience population decline from 1990 to 2000 (Koochiching). Most of the historically forested areas are still forested, though the mix of tree species has changed.

The region's population is fairly stable but aging. Poverty and unemployment are higher than average.

Key Issues and Challenges

- Need more economic development
- Impacts from global economy
- Job retention and creation
- Protection of public access
- Parcelization of forestland
- Forest productivity
- Biodiversity
- Environmental awareness and public participation

Desired Future Conditions of the Northern Landscape

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

- **Vibrant Economy.** A vibrant economy capable of sustaining the Northern Landscape's population and communities.
- **Sense of Place.** A landscape with a distinctive identity where residents and visitors have a strong sense of place and that fulfills social needs.
- **Thoughtful and Balanced Management.** A region that balances social needs and natural resource planning.
- **Healthy and Sustained Ecosystem.** A maintained, viable, and healthy functioning ecosystem on the landscape.



Committee meeting



Logging trail in Koochiching County



Township road in Koochiching County

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 Northern Landscape Program:

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

