

Goal Summary

MFRC Northeast Landscape Forest Resources Plan



The following table summarizes the goals and objectives established by the Northeast Landscape Planning Committee in Section 6 of the Northeast Landscape Forest Resources Plan.

Forest Land Base
<p>Goal 1. Encourage the Retention of Forestland. Encourage the retention of forestland in community and natural resources planning and decision making processes.</p>
<p>Objective 1: Integrate Forest Resources Issues Into Regional and Local Land Use Planning. Advocate the integration of forest resources knowledge and information into land use planning and zoning processes in communities and counties throughout the region. Ensure forest resources interests are represented on county and city planning commissions and distribute information on forest resources to local governmental units in the region for their use in local land use planning.</p>
<p>Objective 2: Manage Development and Use in the Wildland-Urban Interface. Gather, organize, and distribute spatial data and related information about the wildland-urban interface in the region. Support the development and implementation of local, state, and federal government policies and programs that seek to minimize human-wildland conflicts across the region such as wildfire, emergency services, infrastructure, and human-wildlife interactions.</p>
<p>Objective 3: Restore Forestland. Advocate for the restoration of forestland and integrate the concept of restoring forest cover into resource management plans throughout the region.</p>
Vegetation and Terrestrial Wildlife
<p>Goal 1. Promote Sustainable Forest Management. Maintain forests that support a full range of ecological functions. Use economic and social goals and objectives as a way to help achieve ecological goals.</p>
<p>Objective 1: Support the Development and Use of Sustainable Silvicultural Systems and Prescriptions. Utilize forest management methods that employ appropriate silvicultural systems and prescriptions that ensure the protection, restoration, and enhancement of ecological functions and achieve ecological, economic, and social goals.</p>
<p>Objective 2: Continue Forest Resources Education and Training. Support and cooperate with efforts by partner organizations to provide ongoing training to foresters, loggers, family forest landowners, and others involved in forest resources management.</p>
<p>Objective 3: Increase Application of Sustainable Forest Management Practices to Private Forestlands. Promote private land management practices and educational programs that maintain or enhance the services and functions derived from family forest land management throughout the region.</p>
<p>Objective 4: Maintain Wildfire Management, Prevention, Pre-suppression, and Suppression. Develop and support mechanical fuel management and prescribed fire projects to realize the ecological benefits of such activities. Use these methods to limit high severity wildfires and restore wild-land fire to the ecosystem where ecologically appropriate and risks to life, property, and resource values can be controlled.</p>
<p>Objective 5: Control Forest Pests and Invasive Species that Negatively Affect Forest Health and Ecology. Coordinate control efforts across jurisdictional boundaries to limit infestation, damage, and the spread and establishment of forest pests and invasive plant species that negatively affect forest health and ecology.</p>
<p>Objective 6: Consider Climate Change in Planning. Consider the projected impacts of climate change when developing planning and designing management efforts to increase the adaptive capacity of forests across the region. Include information on the role of sustainable forest management in carbon sequestration and storage.</p>
<p>Goal 2. Maintain, Restore, and Enhance Native Biodiversity, Including Wildlife Habitat and Populations. Promote forest management practices that ensure the protection, restoration, and enhancement of terrestrial habitats in the region. Forest management should provide a variety of young and old age classes and structures to meet the ecological conditions needed to enhance or sustain viable populations of all existing native and desired non-native species.</p>
<p>Objective 1: Manage for a Mix of Forested Native Plant Community Growth Stages. Manage forested native plant communities in a range of growth stages to maintain, enhance, or restore native biodiversity. Ensure tree species are ecologically appropriate for the site and maintain the sites ability to adapt to a range of future conditions.</p>

<p>Objective 2: Manage for Structural Within-Stand and Between-Stand Diversity. Manage forested NPC stand vegetation conditions to promote a diversity of structural and spatial patterns necessary for the range of native species found in northeastern Minnesota.</p>
<p>Objective 3: Create, Manage, Maintain, or Increase Large Contiguous Forest Patches. Maintain or increase large contiguous forest patches which provide habitat for numerous native game and non-game wildlife species in the region. This should include large patches of young and old forests which support the species depending on each of these habitats.</p>
<p>Objective 4: Identify and Maintain Regionally and Globally Significant Areas. Collaborate with stakeholder groups to identify, maintain, restore, and enhance priority natural communities and significant areas in the region.</p>
<p>Objective 5: Identify and Maintain Endangered and Threatened Species and their Habitats. Collaborate with stakeholder groups to identify, protect, maintain, restore, and enhance habitats required by native species whose continued persistence in the region is in question.</p>
<p>Water Resources and Aquatic Wildlife</p>
<p>Goal 1. Maintain and Enhance Water Resources. Forest management policies, programs, projects and practices will help maintain or enhance water resources and watershed health in the region.</p>
<p>Objective 1: Integrate Forest and Water Resources Management. Facilitate and support the integration of forest and water resources management to provide high quality water, sustainable hydrology, water quantity, and soil productivity necessary to support ecological functions and watershed health at multiple hydrologic scales.</p>
<p>Objective 2. Develop Collaborative Efforts to Sustainably Manage for Healthy Watersheds in the Region. Coordinate the implementation of forest management strategies that support the sustainable management of water resources throughout the region with a specific focus on developing collaborative efforts in the Lake Superior North, Lake Superior South, and Nemadji watersheds. Forest resource professionals and stakeholders should be actively involved with ongoing watershed management practices and planning (e.g. Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS) process that is coordinated by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.)</p>
<p>Objective 3: Implement Site-Level Guidelines and other Relevant Best Management Practices to Protect Water Resources. Implement best management practices to maintain appropriate flow regimes and soil productivity, minimize erosion, soil compaction, soil displacement, and nutrient loss.</p>
<p>Objective 4: Support Aquatic Habitat Quality. Forest management and policies will help maintain or improve lake, stream, and riparian habitat quality and watershed health.</p>
<p>Objective 5: Consider Climate Change in Planning for and Management of Water Resources and Aquatic Wildlife. Consider climate change science in planning for and management of water resources and aquatic wildlife across the region.</p>
<p>Forest Products</p>
<p>Goal 1: Enhance Forest Health and Productivity. Enhance forest health and productivity to ensure a sustainable supply and availability of forest resources suitable for the region.</p>
<p>Objective 1: Manage for a Mix of Site Appropriate and Marketable Forest Cover Types That Support Forest Based Economies. Support a diverse and robust forest-based economy by utilizing native plant community information to reflect potential tree composition and diversity across the range of anticipated future conditions. Manage for site appropriate and marketable tree species to increase stand quality, manage risk, and attain productivity goals.</p>
<p>Objective 2: Provide Quality Timber and Healthy Forests Within Reasonable Transportation Distance to Markets. Utilize the forest products industry to create and maintain healthy sustainable forests within reasonable transportation distance of the existing mills and in other portions of the region to promote new and expanding markets where forest management is needed to achieve resource goals.</p>
<p>Objective 3: Control Forest Pests. Control infestation, damage, and spread of pests that affect forest health and productivity in a cost effective way. Support efforts by partners across the region to limit the establishment and spread of forest pests through early detection, treatment, and ongoing forest management.</p>
<p>Objective 4: Limit Wildfire Damage. Develop and support fuel load management projects to limit unwanted high severity wildfires. Periodically inventory and assess key areas in the region where these projects should be implemented.</p>
<p>Objective 5: Reduce Forest Mortality. Recognize the cycles and time horizons of natural outbreaks or disturbances and look for opportunities to reduce forest mortality and capture economic value prior to mortality across the Landscape including collaboration on cross-boundary projects.</p>

<p>Objective 6. Look for Opportunities to Provide Forest Products While Achieving Multiple Resource Objectives. Use active management as a tool to achieve goals and objectives for the following Resource Topics: Vegetation and Terrestrial Wildlife, Forest Products, Recreation, Water Resources and Aquatic Wildlife, and Social and Cultural Values.</p>
<p>Goal 2: Retain, Expand, and Diversify the Regional and Local Forest-based Economies. Encourage the retention, expansion, and diversification of regional and local forest-based economies by fostering increased collaboration and cooperation.</p>
<p>Objective 1: Develop and Implement a Forest Industry Retention/Expansion Plan. Develop and implement a retention/expansion plan that addresses the issues the forest products industry is facing. Work with economists, business, economic development organizations, foresters, ecologists, natural resource managers, social scientists, and marketing professionals on this initiative.</p>
<p>Objective 2: Support Local Wood Markets and Developing Forest Product Technologies. Support the development of new specialty forest products, biomass power generation, chemical cellulose, and other developing technologies. Support the development of financially viable small scale biomass projects and integrate these projects with locally based fuel load reduction efforts. Coordinate these efforts with local, regional, and state economic development commissions to support the retention and development of local wood product markets.</p>
<p>Objective 3: Increase Certified Lands. Increase, improve, and streamline forest certification to grow national and global markets for forest products from the region and the state.</p>
<p>Objective 4: Improve and Maintain the Permanent System-level Road Network. Work with partners to ensure long-term collaborative planning, development, and maintenance of the region’s permanent system-level road network.</p>
<p>Objective 5: Increase Opportunities for Sustainable Summer Timber Harvesting. Support programs and projects that improve and maintain public infrastructure that would allow access to areas that can be safely and sustainably harvested in non-frozen-ground conditions.</p>
<p>Recreation</p>
<p>Goal 1. Promote High Quality Forest-based Experiences for People Recreating in the Region. Promote high quality forest-based experiences by focusing on supporting and protecting significant regional assets including cultural values, recreation opportunities, historical landscape features, natural resources, and aesthetic qualities of the forest that contribute to northeastern Minnesota’s social and economic vitality.</p>
<p>Objective 1: Ensure Sustainable Access and Use of Public Lands and Waters. Support programs and projects that ensure sustainable access of public lands and waters in the region for multiple motor and non-motorized uses.</p>
<p>Objective 2: Enhance Fish and Wildlife-Related Recreation. Support projects that enhance existing native and desired non-native forest-based fish and wildlife populations which address current and future interests and needs.</p>
<p>Objective 3: Maintain Visual Quality and Scenic Corridors. Support the development and implementation of projects such as the scenic byway program that promote and maintain the scenic qualities of the region. Implement MFRC Best Management Guidelines for Visual Quality to ensure forest management activities do not negatively impact the visual quality of the region, especially along those travel routes that have high visual sensitivity.</p>
<p>Goal 2: Enhanced Visitor Experience and Increased Visitor Knowledge of Outdoor Recreation Opportunities. Public and private recreation providers work together to enhance visitor experience and increase visitor knowledge of the wide range of available opportunities.</p>
<p>Objective 1: Increase Awareness of Outdoor Recreation Opportunities. Support the development and distribution of information on regional outdoor recreation opportunities and the benefits of sustainably managed natural resources on recreation. Explore ways to increase the public’s awareness of forest-based recreation opportunities.</p>
<p>Objective 2: Expand and Develop Forest-based Recreation. Support recreational planning efforts and implementation projects being developed by federal, state, and local entities.</p>
<p>Minerals</p>
<p>Goal 1. Forest Resources Issues are Considered in Minerals Exploration, Mining Development, and Associated Land Use Planning. The potential positive and negative impacts of minerals exploration and mining development on the region’s forest resources are considered during the permitting and planning process.</p>

<p>Objective 1: Participate in Responsible Mining Development Planning. Participate in the planning and permitting of mining operations in the region. Provide relevant information about forest resources to mining interests and permitting agencies so that forest resources are protected and maintained.</p>
<p>Objective 2: Integrate Minerals Exploration and Mining Development Considerations into Land Use Planning. Develop land use plans that consider and integrate projected minerals exploration and mining development activities and how those activities intersect with forests and forest management in the region.</p>
<p>Social and Cultural Uses and Values</p>
<p>Goal 1. Promote High Quality Forest-based Experiences for People Living, Working, and Visiting the Region. Promote high quality forest-based experiences by focusing on supporting and protecting significant regional assets including cultural values, recreation opportunities, historical landscape features, natural resources, and aesthetic qualities of the forest that contribute to northeastern Minnesota’s social and economic vitality.</p>
<p>Objective 1: Maintain Cultural Resources. Preserve cultural resources by working with partners in the region including tribal treaty rights and interests, community organizations, and similar interest groups to develop forest management projects that help sustain their ways of life and cultural traditions. Maintain cultural heritage resources in the region where forest management occurs.</p>
<p>Objective 2: Promote Connections Between Forest Resources and Local Communities. Support the development and implementation of projects that seek to strengthen the interconnections between public lands, natural resources, and local communities.</p>
<p>Objective 3: Support Community Forestry. Support the development and implementation of community forestry projects that promote a variety of public and private benefits.</p>
<p>Goal 2. Encourage Sustainable Land Use. Encourage the integration of sustainable forest resources management concepts including wildfire management into community planning and decision making processes.</p>
<p>Objective 1: Support Coordinated and Collaborative Planning. Advocate coordination and integration of planning efforts between public and private landowners and land management agencies.</p>
<p>Objective 2: Continue to Implement Community Wildfire Protection Plans. Support the development and implementation of community wildfire protection plans by local governmental units in the region. Integrate concepts from the National Fire Cohesive Strategy, Firewise programs, and climate change projections into policies and projects.</p>
<p>Objective 3: Ensure Sustainable Access and Efficient Transportation. Support programs and projects that ensure sustainable access and transportation for multiple forest resources.</p>
<p>Objective 4: Support Private Forest Land Ownership and Management. Support outreach programming, stewardship planning, and project implementation that increase satisfaction and benefits family forestland owners perceive from owning and managing private woodlands. These include recreational use, providing wildlife habitat, timber sales, etc.</p>
<p>Objective 5: Consider Climate Change in Land Use Planning. Integrate climate change projections into land use planning efforts across the region.</p>
<p>Goal 3. Strengthen Public Awareness. Increase awareness about the importance and benefits of sustainably managed natural resources in the region.</p>
<p>Objective 1: Expand Natural Resources Outreach Programs. Support the development and distribution of information about sustainable natural resources policies, programs, projects, and practices for people living, working, and recreating in the region.</p>
<p>Objective 2: Increase Outreach through both Traditional and New Partnerships. Increase outreach and awareness about sustainable forest management by participating in the development of projects by partners in the region. Link and combine public outreach and education efforts on these projects in ways that support the implementation of the Northeast Landscape Plan.</p>

The following table summarizes the long-term goals established by the Northeast Landscape Planning Committee in Section 7: Vegetation Management Framework of the Northeast Landscape Forest Resources Plan.

Fire-Dependent Forest/Woodland NPC System (FD)
FDn32: Northern Poor Dry-Mesic Mixed Woodland
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase jack pine component throughout all growth stages. - Manage forests to ensure defensive spaces around communities and infrastructure.
FDn33: Northern Dry-Mesic Mixed Woodland
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase the red and white pine components in all growth stages. - Increase the paper birch and red pine components in the young growth stage (0-35 yrs). - Increase characteristics found in the mature (55-125 yrs) and old (125+ yrs) growth stages of the community. - Manage forests to ensure defensive spaces around communities and infrastructure. - Increased private land stewardship plans and cross-boundary implementation.
FDn43: Northern Mesic Mixed Forest
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FDn43a: White-Red Pine Forest <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Increase the white and red pine component. o Increase the mature and old growth stage of red and white pine. - FDn43b: Aspen-Birch Forest <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Increase the white pine and white spruce component. o On suitable sites where viable markets exist, manage forests for short-lived species such as aspen and paper birch to provide perpetuation of the aspen/birch community. - Manage forests to ensure defensive spaces around communities and infrastructure. - Increased private land stewardship plans and cross-boundary implementation.
Mesic Hardwood Forest NPC System (MH)
MHn35: Northern Mesic Hardwoods and MHn45: Northern Mesic Hardwoods (Cedar)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase and/or maintain the white pine, yellow birch, paper birch, white spruce, and white cedar components. - Expand or favor mesic hardwood forest types. - Improve maple timber health and quality. - Maintain critical habitats such as upland cedar. - Increased private land stewardship plans and cross-boundary implementation.
MHn44: Northern Wet-Mesic Boreal Hardwood-Conifer Forest
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase the white spruce component in the mature and old growth stages. - Maintain a healthy and productive aspen component in the young growth stage.
Acid Peatland NPC System (AP)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintain this community on the landscape.
Forested Rich Peatland NPC System (FP)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintain forest cover in this plant community. - Reduce tamarack mortality.
Wet Forest NPC System (WF)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase tamarack and white spruce component. - Manage black and green ash within the context of the spread of emerald ash borer. - Protect critical forest habitats, especially white cedar cover types and riparian forests along cold water streams. - Maintain forest land cover in order to protect and maintain water table levels.