

Managing Your Forest in a Big Picture Context

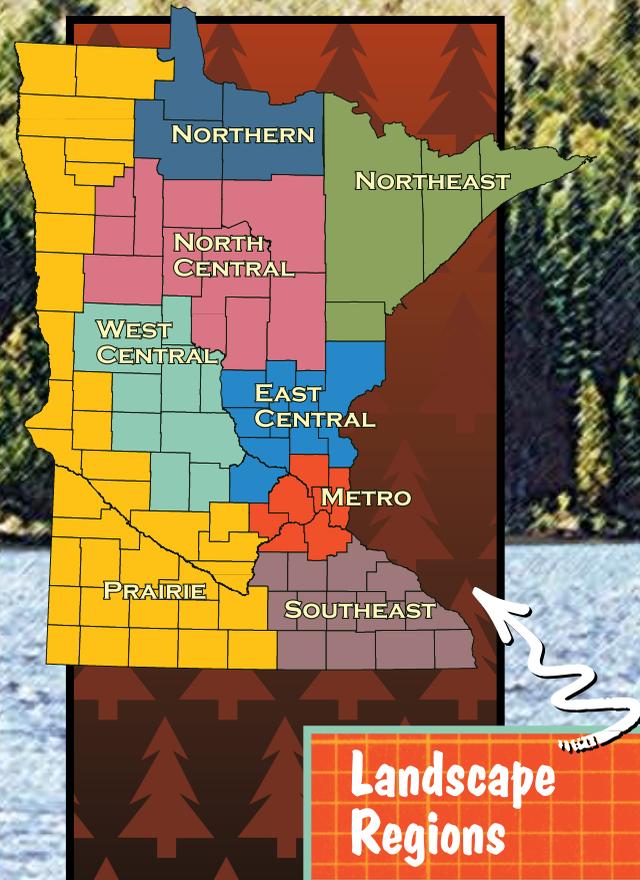
What Is Landscape Planning?

Landscape planning is a voluntary, consensus-based approach that brings together stakeholders that have an interest in the landscape (big picture). In each of the forested landscapes a regional committee is organized to identify desired future outcomes, goals, and strategies for the landscape.



Why Should I Care Or Be Involved?

Landscape planning provides landowners the opportunity to better understand how their site (forest, wetland, prairie) fits into the larger landscape picture. Regional committees consider inter-relationships between natural, economic, and social communities when developing on-the-ground approaches to sustainable forestry. The committees serve as a forum to address forest resource management challenges. You as a landowner can use this information to manage your forest in a big picture context.



An Introduction to Landscape Planning



Minnesota Forest Resources Council

www.frc.state.mn.us

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Minnesota Forest Resources Council
2003 Upper Buford Circle
St. Paul, MN 55108-6146
(651) 603-0109
www.frc.state.mn.us

The Process

The regional committees work to develop desired future outcomes that reflect how stakeholders want the forest resources in their landscape to look in 100 years. The goals are short-term benchmarks used to move toward the desired outcomes. The strategies are things landowners can do on their land to assist in meeting the landscape goals.

Landscape planning provides an excellent opportunity for collaboration of various land managers (private landowners, industry, counties, DNR, U.S. Forest Service) to discuss and coordinate ways they can work together to voluntarily implement landscape strategies to efficiently sustain Minnesota's forests.

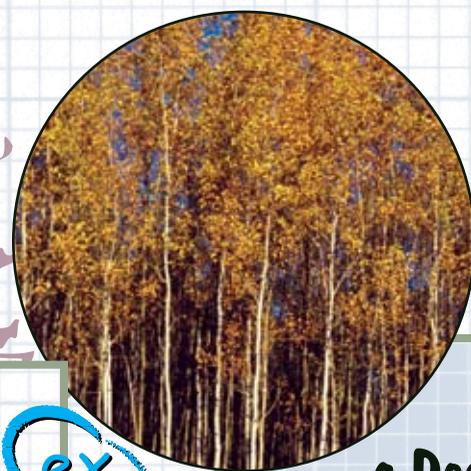
Forest monitoring is a critical component of landscape planning. Indicators, such as the amount of forestland, forest types, and age of forest, are measured for each landscape to determine if desired outcomes are being achieved. The information gathered is used to adjust the landscape goals and strategies as necessary to ensure a sustainable forest.

**Planning:
Identify Desired
Outcomes, Goals
and Strategies**

ex.

**Coordinate
and Implement
Landscape
Strategies**

**Monitor
Effectiveness**



An Example of a Desired Outcome, Goal and Strategy

In the North Central landscape, one part of the regional committee's desired outcome is to ensure the survival of a sustainable coniferous forest. They collectively determined that increasing white pine would help achieve this goal. As a result, they developed strategies that both public and private landowners can use to do this, for example planting white pine in mature aspen stands.



What Can I Do?

Depending upon your level of interest there are several things you can do:

- Find out what the desired outcomes, goals, and strategies are for the landscape you live in. For more information go to www.frc.state.mn.us
- Ask your stewardship plan writer to include appropriate landscape planning goals and strategies in your site plan.
- Join a regional committee.



What Is the Minnesota Forest Resources Council?

In 1995, The Minnesota State Legislature passed the Sustainable Forest Resource Act that established the Minnesota Forest Resource Council (FRC) and formalized the state's commitment to:

- consider and incorporate a broad array of perspectives regarding sustainable management, use, and protection of the state's forest resources to achieve the state's economic, environmental, and social goals;
- encourage cooperation and collaboration between public and private sectors in forest resource management;
- recognize and consider forest resource issues, concerns, and impacts at the site and landscape levels.

As one way to accomplish these tasks, FRC established the Landscape Program to facilitate planning over large landscapes that are defined by natural features and socially defined attributes.

