

Document Title	Source	Date	URL or Address
St. Louis County 2010-2012 Land Department Business Plan	St. Louis County	2010	Land Department Government Services Building 320 West 2 nd Street, Room 607 Duluth MN 55802

VISION

St. Louis County Land Department's vision is to provide the optimum combination of benefits from tax forfeited trust lands through leadership and a commitment to a standard of excellence in the management of the Tax Forfeited Trust Lands for the people of St. Louis County.

ISSUES (Major Issues)

1. Wood and fiber availability and forest productivity health
2. Maintenance of the working forestland base
3. Social, economic, and environmental forces
4. Forests
5. Tax forfeited land administration
6. Special sites
7. Extractives
8. Recreation

GOALS (Department Goals) (# links to issue)

1. Maintaining and improving forest health and productivity (1, 2, 3, 4, 7).
2. Providing opportunity for tourism and recreation (8).
3. Protecting wildlife habitat, soil resources, and water quality (3, 4).
4. Providing raw material for local industry and financial return to the County and taxing districts (1,5,7).
5. Providing scientific research (1,2,3,4).

STRATEGIES (Tactics, Initiatives, Actions Steps, and Management Approach) (# links to goal)

1. The department shall conduct field inspections using inspection checklists and site prescriptions to compare performance on activities that occur on State tax forfeited lands in St. Louis County. Corrective action will take place if the quarterly summary of inspections indicates that performance is below 85% compliance in any given area (1).
2. The department shall follow its green-up requirement that provides for visual quality. Trees in clearcut harvest areas are at least three years old or five feet high at the desired level of stocking before adjacent areas are clearcut. Average size of clearcut harvest areas do not exceed 120 acres, except when necessary to respond to forest health emergencies (2).

3. The department shall minimize chemical use required to achieve management objectives while protecting employees, neighbors, the public, and the forest environment (3).
4. The department shall reforest after final harvest, unless delayed for site-specific environmental or forest health considerations, through artificial regeneration within two years or two planting seasons, or by planned natural regeneration methods within five years (4).
5. The department and/or through cooperative efforts with other partners, will provide in-kind support or funding for forest research to improve forest health, productivity, and sustainable management of forest resources, and the environmental benefits and performance of forest products (5).
6. Work with other government agencies, research institutes to cooperatively define forest conditions and common goals for ecosystem sustainability (1, 2, 3).
7. New management techniques are being integrated into forestry practices to enhance ecological integrity (1,3).
8. Determine whether it is in the public's best interest to return tax forfeited lands to private ownership or to retain lands for resource management; larger blocks of contiguous tax forfeited lands are more suitable for retention and smaller, isolated parcels located near roads and utilities are more suitable for sale or exchange (4).
9. Manage a minimum land base of 879,00 acres for the long term (4).
10. It is not the intent to set aside and designate all special site candidates, but rather to identify, designate, and manage "good examples" (Issues, 6).
11. Procedure of identifying, nominating, reviewing, and designating special sites (Issues, 6).
12. Special Site locations and management guidelines which protect the site from destructive disturbance is made available to the staff (Issues, 6).
13. Education of staff (5).
14. Procedure of identifying, nominating, reviewing, and designating special sites (5).
15. Inventory of potential gravel resources in the county (4).
16. Continue Forest Recreation Specialist on staff (Issues, 8).
17. Continue to cooperate with public and private partners to designate and locate motorized and non-motorized trails, and resolve and mitigate land-use conflicts (Issues, 8).
18. Continue to carry out the Recreation Cabin Leasing program in a manner that minimizes undesirable social or environmental effects which does not conflict with other important or dominant uses of the lands and resources (Issues, 8).