

Overview of the Minnesota Forest Resources Council Landscape Program

Update to the Council:
Preparing for the 2009 Legislative Session

Shoreview, Minnesota
May 21, 2008



Geographic Context & Scale



Six Forested Landscapes

- East Central (4.0 M ac.)
- Northern (4.4 M ac.)
- North Central (8.3 M ac.)
- Northeast (7.4 M ac.)
- Southeast (4.9 M ac.)
- West Central (5.1 M ac.)



Which landscape do you live and work in?

Regional Committee Roles



Each regional committee shall:

- include **representative interests...**
- serve as a **forum...**
- identify and implement an **open and public process...**
- **integrate** its report...
- facilitate landscape **coordination...**
- identify and facilitate opportunities for **public participation...**
- identify sustainable forest resource **goals and strategies...**
- provide a **regional perspective** to the council...

Committees have complex, evolving roles...

Landscape Management



What is landscape level management? Steps in process?

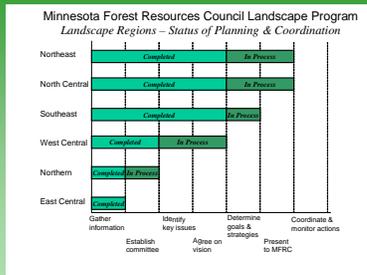
1st Era – Planning paradigm – “Landscape Planning”

2nd Era – Planning & coordination paradigm.

3rd Era – Comprehensive paradigm, includes:

- Planning
- Coordination
- Implementation
- Monitoring & Evaluation

2003 Council Presentation



We have moved well beyond this paradigm...

Current Status



So where are we at now?

- All landscape plans have been completed and approved.
- Each region has an active committee in place.
- Committees are focused on coordination and implementation.
 1. Outreach & education projects.
 2. Research projects.
 3. Opportunity area projects.
- Committees are also developing monitoring/evaluation systems and looking ahead on 2nd generation plans.

Biggest achievement – growing realization of the comprehensive nature to landscape-level management.

Current Committee Projects



- **NE Region** – Manitou, Sand Lake/Seven Beavers, Border Lakes (HOC), Vermilion River/Echo Trail.
- **NC Region** – pine regen/deer browse research study, Leech Lake area, Crow Wing County, 3-county water plan project.
- **N Region** – NPC training for field foresters, forest products industry survey, public access/wildlife habitat MIS project.
- **SE Region** – annual landowner workshops, Zumbro & Whitewater watersheds, Forest Legacy sites.
- **WC Region** – Wadena and Otter Tail county pilots.
- **EC Region** – Four Corners Pilot Forestry Project.

The list of projects is growing...

Resources for Partners



What resources are we developing for our partners?

- **Regional Committees** – a platform or forum for addressing both regional and local forestry issues.
- **Landscape Plans + PR** – a policy framework for coordinating and promoting sustainable forest management.
- **GIS Maps and Data** – multiple levels & scales needed, a lot more interpretation for far more users is needed.
- **Funding** – seed moneys for local and regional sustainable forestry projects.
- **Legislative Connection** – committees advise the Council, the Council advises Governor, Legislature and others.

Tools to help our partners implement the landscape plans...

Council-Committee Interface

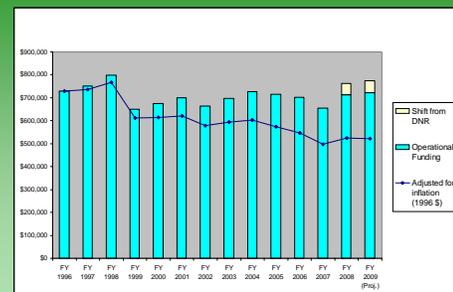


How are we strengthening this working relationship?

- Annual reports and LA Program Updates.
- Recommendations letters to Council.
- Council member at committee meetings – Mary Richards hosted the Fall 07 WC Committee meeting.
- Summit meetings – April 07 and Jan 08.
- Annual Council tours – committees to take lead in hosting, SE Committee 1st to take on this summer.
- Policy development – MFRP Timber Productivity Process, MFRC Policy Initiatives, and more.

What are other ways to build this two-way dialogue?

MFRC Budget



LA Program Needs



Two areas of need:

- **More Horsepower** – increased staff capacity to get more things done for the regional committees.
- **More Project Funding** – increased project funds to get more integrated sustainable forest resource projects done.

Returns and Impacts



What will we get with increased support?

- **More success** – in implementing the 6 landscape plans.
- **More ownership** – in implementing the plans by our partners.
- **More partner investment** – with increased ownership comes more willingness to financially support.
- **More efficient** – use of research and knowledge in sustainable forest management practices by our partners.
- **Better policy** – ideas and approaches for the Governor, Legislature and others.
- **Better forests. Better quality of life.**

Call for Collaboration



Building on both new as well as proven ways...to get the job done!