

How will we do it?

Minnesota Forest Resource Council

In 1995 the Minnesota Legislature created the Minnesota Forest Resources Council (MFRC) and gave it the job of ensuring 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 and divided the forested part of Minnesota into six "regional landscapes." These multi-county forest landscapes possess unique 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 tasked them with 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 Southeast Landscape Committee's response to those questions. It also provides suggestions on what each of us can do to help achieve the committee's vision.

Postage

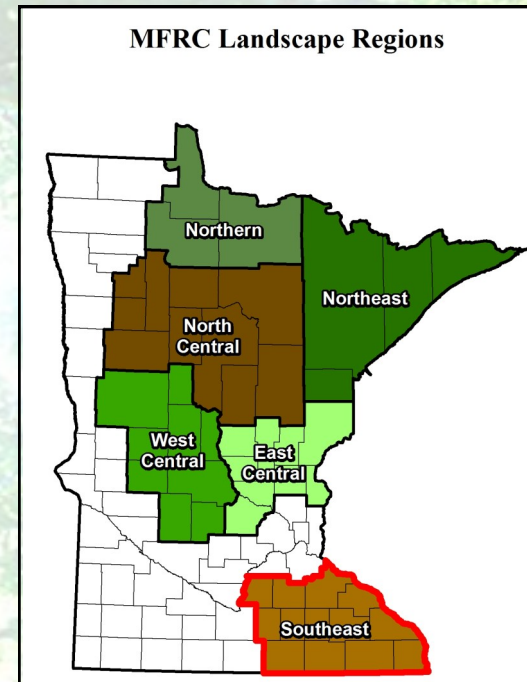
201A Green Hall
1530 Cleveland Avenue N
Saint Paul, MN 55108-6146



Managing Forests at the Landscape Level

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

Southeast Landscape Region



Covers:
5 million acres

Includes:
Dodge, Fillmore, Freeborn, Goodhue, Houston, Le Sueur, Mower, Olmsted, Rice, Steele, Wabasha, Waseca, and Winona Counties



Teaming up for Forests



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?

Minnesota's forests are owned by a great diversity of interests who's forestland ownership ranges from less than one acre to over one million acres. These forests provide many benefits including timber, habitat, recreation, jobs, clean air and water. To offer these benefits sustainably, the forests need to be managed in a way that reaches across ownership boundaries.



Where have we been and where are we today?

The Southeast Landscape

The Southeast Landscape covers about 5 million acres in thirteen Minnesota counties; Dodge, Fillmore, Freeborn, Goodhue, Houston, Le Sueur, Mower, Olmsted, Rice, Steele, Wabasha, Waseca, Winona. 14.5% of the region is forested (725,125 acres).

The region is home to some of the highest concentrations of biodiversity in the state. While agriculture and residential development have heavily impacted certain areas, high-quality forested ecosystems remain, especially in the eastern part of the region near the Mississippi Blufflands. Coordinated management of these forest resources is crucial for the sustainability of the region's wildlife, waters, ecological systems, and people.

Key Issues and Challenges

- Maintaining a sustainable and predictable supply of timber
- Demand for multi-use outdoor recreation opportunities
- Forest composition and wildlife habitat
- Wildfire and rural development
- Forest pests, invasive species, and disease
- Diverse ownership of forestlands
- Water quality
- Climate change
- Mining expansion
- Balancing ecological, economic, and social concerns

Where do we want to go?

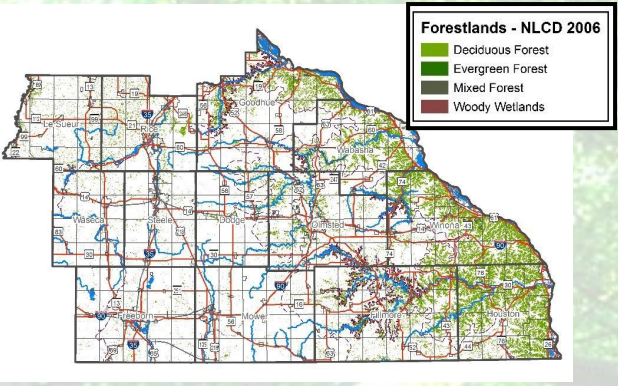
Southeast Landscape Goals

The Southeast Committee believes the following goals should be pursued over the next decade to promote sustainable forest resources across the region.

Goal 1, Ecological: Total forest land will be increased and fragmentation of forest land will be decreased. Forest health and quality will be protected and increased in addition to forest quantity.

Goal 2, Social: Southeast Minnesota's private forest landowners will receive consistent technical and financial resources to implement management strategies. Natural resources planning entities will coordinate to ensure consistent delivery of education and services to these landowners. Healthy forests (public and private) will positively impact public health and recreation in the region.

Goal 3, Economic: Forested landscapes in Southeast Minnesota will continue to support a vibrant forest products industry, support the recreation and tourism industry, and provide numerous ecosystem services. Research and project implementation will further our understanding of the full array and value of services provided by these forests.



Vegetation Goals

The Southeast Committee developed specific vegetation goals for the following Ecological Classification System Subsections.

Blufflands:

- 2011 upland forest, lowland forest, and lowland shrub vegetation cover, 507,723 acres.
- 2025 Forestland Cover Goal: increase by 40,000 acres (547,723 acres).

Rochester Plateau

- 2011 upland forest, lowland forest, and lowland shrub vegetation cover, 114,905 acres
- 2025 Forestland Cover Goal: increase by 20,000 acres (134,905 acres).

Oak Savanna

- 2011 upland forest, lowland forest, and lowland shrub vegetation cover, 56,453 acres
- 2025 Forestland Cover Goal: increase by 5,000 acres (61,453 acres)

Big Woods

- 2011 upland forest, lowland forest, and lowland shrub vegetation cover (42,727 acres)
- 2025 Forestland Cover Goal: increase by 10,000 acres (52,727 acres).

Minnesota River Prairie

- 2011 upland forest, lowland forest, and lowland shrub vegetation cover (3,317 acres).
- 2025 Forestland Cover Goal: maintain current total acreage of forestland, increase forest quality

How will we get there?

Get People Involved!

Whether you're an interested citizen, a city or township official, a member of a property-owner 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 Southeast Landscape Program:

- Visit MFRC webpage and review a copy of the [Southeast Landscape Plan](#) to learn more about the value of landscape planning, as well as the specifics of the Southeast Plan.
- Incorporate appropriate landscape planning goals, objectives, and action items at your site.

Many more opportunities for active involvement are available to you on the MFRC Website and in the Southeast Landscape Plan.

For more information, visit the following websites:

MFRC: <http://mn.gov/frc/>
DNR: www.dnr.state.mn.us
MFRP: www.mnforestpartnership.com