

How will we do it?

In 1995 the Minnesota Legislature created the Minnesota Forest Resources Council (MFRC) and gave it the job of ensuring that 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. A team of 50 individuals divided the forested part of Minnesota into six "regional forest landscapes"—multi-county areas with similar social, economic and ecological characteristics.

Regional Landscape Committees

The MFRC then brought together landowners, land managers, and others interested in forests in each landscape and gave them the job of 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 East Central Landscape Committee's response to those questions. It also provides concrete suggestions on what each of us can do to help achieve the committee's vision.



2003 Upper Buford Circle
St. Paul, MN 55108-6146

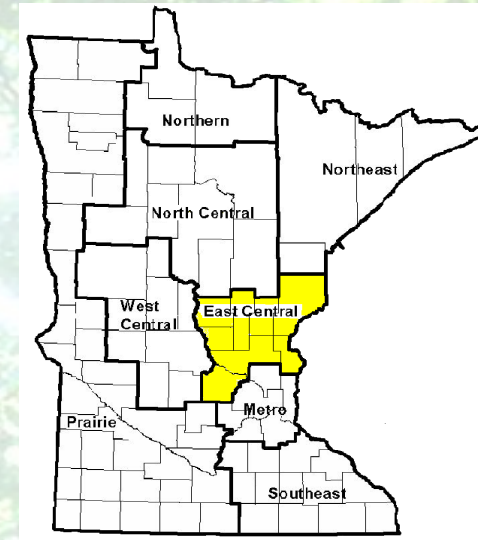


Name:
Organization:
Address:

Managing Forests at the Landscape Level

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

East Central Landscape Region



Covers:

3.7 million acres (5,750 square miles)

Includes:

Benton, Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, Pine, Sherburne, and Wright counties, and the eastern half of Morrison County (east of the Mississippi River)

Minnesota Forest Resources Council



Teaming up for Forests



East Central Minnesota landscape
Photo Courtesy of MFRC

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?

Changes in land ownership are carving Minnesota's forests into smaller and smaller parcels. Yet the benefits we seek from forests—timber, habitat, recreation, jobs, clean air and water—depend on their integrity on a much larger scale. If forests are to provide such benefits sustainably, we need to manage them in a way that reaches across ownership boundaries.

Where have we been, and where are we today?

The East Central Landscape Region

The East Central Landscape Region covers approximately 3.7 million acres in Benton, Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, Morrison (eastern portion), Pine, Sherburne, and Wright counties. The forests in the region have suffered significant changes not only in recent times during the development boom but over a much longer period of time.

Below is a list of some of the key issues and challenges facing people of the East Central

Key Issues and Challenges

- **Rapid population growth due to proximity to the Twin Cities.**
- **Growing land development pressures often resulting in the removal of the remaining forests.**
- **Declining water quality.**
- **Increased demand for outdoor recreation and tourism.**
- **Historic loss of forestland, over 1.0 million acres lost in the region over the last 100 years.**
- **Loss of biodiversity and critical habitat.**
- **Remaining forests often are low grade hardwoods with lower commercial values.**



Where do we want to go?

East Central Landscape Goals

The Planning Committee believes the following goals should be pursued over the next ten to twenty years to promote sustainable forest resources across the region.

Ecological Resource Initiatives

- Goal 1. Protect forest ecosystems.
- Goal 2. Increase forestland.
- Goal 3. Improve water quality.
- Goal 4. Advance resource knowledge.

Economic Resource Initiatives

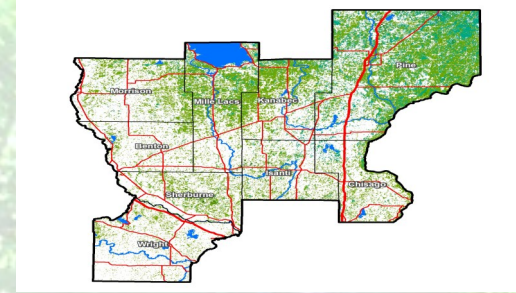
- Goal 1. Promote sustainable timber production that will ensure an adequate supply of timber resources for local, regional and state industries. Encourage the expanded use of forest products harvested from the region including secondary forest products industry and niche markets.
- Goal 2. Balance and manage growth with resource protection.
- Goal 3. Promote forestry-based recreation/tourism.

Social Resources Initiatives

- Goal 1. Increase Public Awareness.
- Goal 2. Promote the wellbeing of the people and working in the East Central landscape through sustainable forest management.

Administration/Coordination/Financial Initiatives

- Goal 1. Increase coordination.
- Goal 2. Increase public involvement and strengthen local leadership.
- Goal 3. Enhance technical assistance.
- Goal 4. Expand financial resources.



Vegetation Goals

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

Mille Lacs Uplands Subsection

- Presettlement forest vegetation cover— 68.0 percent (1,711,100 acres).
- 1992 forest vegetation cover— 34.4 percent (865,700 acres).
- 2025 forest vegetation cover— 41.1 percent (1,034,700 acres).

Anoka Sand Plain Subsection

- Presettlement forest vegetation cover— 16.8 percent (124,300 acres).
- 1992 forest vegetation cover— 16.6 percent (122,900 acres).
- 2025 forest vegetation cover— 16.8 percent (124,300 acres).

Big Woods Subsection

- Presettlement forest vegetation cover— 70.4 percent (288,000 acres).
- 1992 vegetation cover— 5.5 percent (22,600 acres).
- 2025 forest vegetation cover— 18.5 percent (75,680 acres).

Hardwood Hills Subsection

- Presettlement forest vegetation cover— 68.3 percent (6,000 acres).
- 1992 forest vegetation cover— 9.2 percent (800 acres).
- 2025 forest vegetation cover— 20.9 percent (1,840 acres).

How will we get there?

Get People Involved!

Whether you're an interested citizen, a city or township official, or a member of a lake association or other nonprofit organization, there are many ways to get involved.

How can I get involved?

Here are two initial steps for getting involved and learning more about the East Central Landscape Program:

- **Visit www.frc.state.mn.us and review a copy of the East Central Landscape's Forest Resource Management Plan** to learn more about the value of sustainable forestry.
- **Work with a forester to incorporate the appropriate landscape level goals into a plan for managing your woodland.**

Remember, you don't have to be a forester to be concerned about—and do something about—sustaining and managing our state's forests.

For more information, visit the following websites:

MFRC: www.frc.state.mn.us
DNR: www.dnr.state.mn.us
MFA: www.mnforest.com