

Minnesota Forest Resources Council

Tribal Relations, Communication, Coordination, and Consultation

The Minnesota Forest Resources Council (MFRC) is a sustainable forest resource advisory council established under MN Stat. 89A. The statutory purpose of MFRC is to “...develop recommendations to the governor and to federal, state, county, and local governments with respect to forest resource policies and practices that result in the sustainable management, use, and protection of the state's forest resources.” The Governor of Minnesota appoints a Chair and 15 stakeholder members to MFRC. The Minnesota Indian Affairs Council (MIAC) independently appoints one additional member representing Tribal interests to MFRC.

The State of Minnesota has government-to-government relationships with all 11 federal recognized Tribal governments (“Tribes”) located in Minnesota. The following Guiding Principles and Responsibilities were developed to maintain and enhance relationships, and to guide MFRC’s communication, coordination, and interaction with individual Tribes in accordance with [Minnesota Statute 10.65](#) Government-To-Government Relationship With Tribal Governments. MFRC is not an “agency” as defined by MN Stat. 10.65. Instead, MFRC’s responsibilities are defined as follows: MN Statute 10.65, Subd. 3(k) “Any agency or board that is not listed in the definition of agency in subdivision 2 is encouraged to and may engage in consultation and communication with the Minnesota Tribal governments for all matters that have Tribal implications.”

Governor-appointed and MIAC-appointed members to MFRC are advised, and MFRC staff are required, to adhere to the following Guiding Principles and Responsibilities during all MFRC activities with Tribal implications.

Guiding Principles for working with Minnesota’s 11 federally recognized Tribal governments:

1. Tribal Relations. MFRC encourages Governor-appointed and MIAC-appointed members, and requires MFRC staff, to complete and apply Tribal-State Relations Training promoting authentic and respectful MFRC relationships with federally recognized Tribes and Tribal members in Minnesota.
2. Communication. MFRC public communications will include consideration of unique Tribal rights, relationships, and cultures.
3. Coordination. MFRC will notify Tribal representatives and/or Tribal staff about landscape-level forest resource planning and coordination activities, and invite Tribal representatives and/or Tribal staff to actively participate in regional landscape committees. Additionally, the MIAC-appointed member of MFRC will routinely notify Tribal representatives and Tribal staff about MFRC matters.
4. Direct Outreach. MFRC shall initiate advance Direct Outreach to Tribal governments and/or their Tribal representatives when the MFRC seeks formal public review and comment of a document or plan. Direct Outreach will occur in writing, and in person meetings shall occur if requested by the individual Tribes. Any communications between MFRC staff and the MIAC-appointed member is not considered Direct Outreach.

5. Formal Consultation. Should Tribes request formal consultation with MFRC, MFRC shall elevate those requests to the Governor's Executive Director of Tribal-State Relations and the Governor's Director of Boards and Commissions for consideration and action.

Responsibilities

MFRC Executive Director is responsible for following these Guiding Principles and for directing MFRC staff in their application. The Executive Director serves as MFRC's primary contact and representative in all Tribal-MFRC relationship matters. The MFRC Executive Director communicates and seeks guidance from the MFRC Chair on Tribal-MFRC relationship issues. The Executive Director coordinates with and supports the MIAC-appointed member to the MFRC.

MIAC-Appointed Member serves as a full MFRC member with all associated privileges, responsibilities, and authorities to represent Tribal interests in MFRC actions. The MIAC-appointed member also serves on MFRC committees and is available to communicate with MFRC on any issues, actions, or plans for which Direct Outreach with Tribes is initiated. The MIAC-appointed member is encouraged to have an MFRC Alternate who monitors MFRC activities and is prepared to represent MIAC in the MIAC-Appointed member's absence. The MIAC-appointed member is responsible for maintaining contact information for the appropriate representatives and staff of the 11 Minnesota Tribes.

MFRC Chair provides general oversight of MFRC's Tribal relationship, communication, coordination, and direct outreach responsibilities and activities as carried out by MFRC Executive Director to ensure compliance with these Guiding Principles. The MFRC Chair is neither responsible for, nor has a role associated with, formal Tribal Consultations.

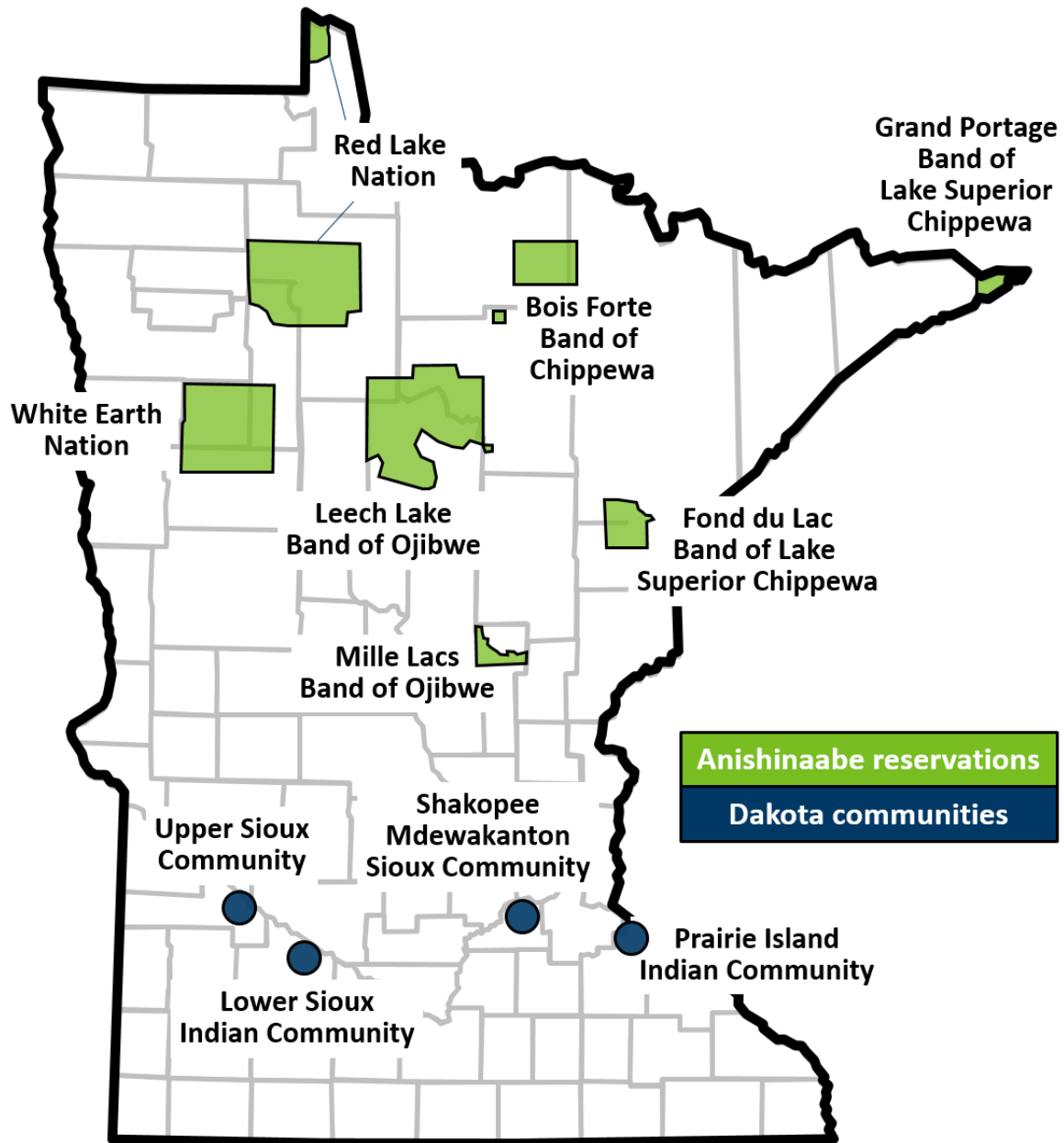
Minnesota Forest Resources Council

1530 Cleveland Ave. N., St. Paul, MN 55108

<https://mn.gov/frc/>

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Tribal nations sharing geography with Minnesota



For more information on Minnesota's Anishinaabe reservations and Dakota communities: <https://mn.gov/indian-affairs/>

Anishinaabe Reservations in Minnesota

Tribal Nation	Shares land with	Administered by
<u>Zagaakwaandagowiniwag / Bois Forte Band of Chippewa</u>	Koochiching, Itasca, St. Louis counties	Executive Director, Tribal Council
<u>Nah-gah-chi-wa-nong / Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa</u>	Carlton, St. Louis counties	Chairperson, Business Committee
<u>Gichi-Onigaming / Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa</u>	Cook County	Chairperson, Tribal Council
<u>Gaa-zagaskwaabiganikaag / Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe</u>	Beltrami, Cass, Hubbard, Itasca counties	Chairperson, Tribal Council
<u>Misi-zaaga'iganiing / Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe</u>	Mille Lacs County	Chief Executive, Band Assembly, Tribal Court
<u>Mis-Qua-Mi-Saga-Eh-Ganing / Red Lake Nation</u>	Beltrami, Clearwater counties	Chairperson, Tribal Council, advised by Hereditary Chiefs
<u>Gaa-waabaabiganikaag / White Earth Nation</u>	Becker, Clearwater, Mahnomen counties	Independent executive, legislative, and judicial branches

Dakota Communities in Minnesota

Tribal Nation	Shares land with	Administered by
<u>Cansa'yapi / Lower Sioux Indian Community</u>	Redwood County	Tribal Council
<u>Tinta Winta / Prairie Island Indian Community</u>	Goodhue County	Tribal Council
<u>Mdewakanton / Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community</u>	Scott County	Business Council
<u>Pezihutazizi / Oyate (Upper Sioux Community)</u>	Yellow Medicine County	Board of Trustees