



**Minnesota Forest Resources Council Resolution 2022-2**  
**“Contributing to Minnesota’s Climate Change Goals**  
**by Increasing Minnesota Nursery Capacity”**

1. **WHEREAS**, Minnesota’s forests provide critical benefits for the economy, recreation, wildlife, clean water, biodiversity, and greenhouse gas mitigation; and
2. **WHEREAS**, the state forest nursery once produced over 12 million seedlings per year to support those benefits, but now produces < 4 million; and
3. **WHEREAS**, the State Nursery is outdated, inefficient, and incapable of producing containerized seedlings; and
4. **WHEREAS**, a modernized state forest nursery and additional private nurseries could play a critical role in mitigating climate change and increasing other benefits forests provide; and
5. **AND WHEREAS**, per Minnesota Statutes 89A Subd2, it is the role of the Minnesota Forest Resources Council to recommend policies and practices that: foster the productivity of the state’s forests to provide a diversity of sustainable benefits at site levels and landscape levels; enhance the ability of the state’s forest resources to provide future benefits and services; and foster no net loss of forest land in Minnesota;
6. **BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED**, the Minnesota Forest Resources Council recommends enhancing nursery capacity in both State run and privately owned forest nurseries by:
  - a. Upgrading State Forest Nursery facilities by 2027, to produce both containerized and bare-root seedlings, using modern technology to track seed-source locations, while minimizing risks to seeds that are stored on site.
  - b. Increasing State Forest nursery production from current capacity of 4 million trees per year to 10 million trees per year by 2027, to double SFN capacity again by 2032, and to continue to increase SFN production capacity as necessary to plant up to 1 million acres of new forest by 2050.
  - c. Providing long-term contracts and other incentives to support the expansion of private nursery operations in furtherance of reforestation goals.

7. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Minnesota Forest Resources Council recommends enhancing tree seedling capacity, production, and delivery by:
- a. Promoting collaborative efforts to reforest 1-million acres of appropriate non-forested lands by 2050.
  - b. Incentivizing private land tree planting through cost-share programs, partnerships, and projects to fully utilize planned increases in nursery stock.
  - c. Increasing funding for state forest nursery staff and contracted seed collectors to ensure adequate labor for the entire process from collecting seed to preparing seedlings for distribution.
  - d. Utilizing tree seed orchards, localized tree storage/distribution centers, and other nursery supply diversification strategies.
  - e. Re-evaluating the current “enterprise” model for the State Nursery that depends upon annual seedling sales to cover operational costs.
  - f. Removing legislative prohibitions on state forest nursery production capacity and seedling sales.
  - g. Implementing quality assurance strategies to improve seedling survival, tree genetics, disease resistance, and species suitability for changing climate.

Motion adopting **“Contributing to Minnesota’s Climate Change Goals by Increasing Minnesota Nursery Capacity”** (MFRC Resolution 2022-2) as a 2022 priority policy recommendation of the Minnesota Forest Resources Council; and directing the MFRC Chair to submit the resolution to The Honorable Governor Timothy Walz, and to the Chairs and Ranking Minority Members of the appropriate House and Senate Committees of the Minnesota State Legislature.

AYES (11) Craig Engwall, Janet Erdman, Kathleen Preece, Katie Fernholz, Kim Berns-Melhus, Kory Cease, Mike Kilgore, Pete Aube, Rick Horton, Keith Karnes, Jim Manolis

NAYS None

ABSTAIN (1) Forrest Boe

ABSENT (4) Bob Owens, Connie Cummins, Deb Theisen, Scott Pittack



Attested to by:

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Pete Aube, Chair, Minnesota Forest Resources Council

01/18/2022

Date