



Public Concerns Registration Process

Addressing your
concerns over
timber harvesting
and forest
management
practices

Public Concerns Registration Process

The Public Concerns Registrations Process (PCRP) is a service for YOU—individuals who are interested in sustaining Minnesota's forest resources and the many benefits they provide. Run by the Minnesota Forest Resources Council (MFRC), this program is a way for you to register concerns you have about specific timber harvesting and forest management practices you see in Minnesota.

The PCRP lets landowners, foresters, and loggers know about your concerns and encourages sustainable management of Minnesota's forests. It is not a program for taking punitive measures to stop logging or resolve disputes over forest management activities.



You Call If you see specific timber harvesting or forest management activities that concern you, call **888-234-3702** or register your concern on the web at <http://mn.gov/frc/index.html>

You will speak to MFRC staff who will send you a short form to gather information about your concern. MFRC staff begins looking into the concern when they receive your completed form.

How Does It Work

MFRC staff will confirm the exact location of the property and contact everyone involved- the landowner, logger, forest manager and others as needed. Staff explains that a citizen has registered a concern about forest management being done on the property and explores the forestry practices in question to find out what has occurred.



Education: When appropriate, the MFRC distributes educational materials to all parties associated with the concern. These materials might include the most recently updated timber harvesting and forest management guidelines, fact sheets about options for crossing streams to minimize harvesting equipment impacts to waterways, biological reports on the natural vegetation of Minnesota, or marking timber from private woodlands.

Action: Finally, MFRC staff distributes a report describing the concern to the landowner, logger, forester, and you. This report indicates whether any forest management rules were not followed appropriately and points out forest management guidelines that could have been used. The report also recommends actions that can mitigate any problems on the site, or describes actions already being taken to lessen forest management effects on property.



What to Expect from the PCRP

The MFRC cannot impose punitive measures through the PCRP. Therefore, the MFRC will not take legal action or resolve disputes between parties over contractual or legal issues regarding forest management activities.

However, the PCRP allows you to:

- 1) formally let the MFRC know your concerns about forest management activities you see;
- 2) be a catalyst for mitigation of any problems on site;
- 3) learn more about forest management and guidelines for sustainable forestry.

Landowners, loggers, and foresters also benefit by becoming more aware of public concerns regarding forest management, and learning more about guidelines for sustainable forest management.

Using PCRP Information

Summaries of concerns registered through the PCRP will help the MFRC better understand citizens' expectations for how Minnesota's forests should be managed. The MFRC can use these insights in deciding which, if any, additional forest management guidelines are needed and recommending continuing education programs for forestland managers and owners, loggers, and citizens.

Acceptable Timber Harvest or Forest Management Practices

Appropriate forest management or timber harvesting practices are those that allow landowners to meet their land management objectives while also protecting forest resources.

An example of a landowner's objective is

- A private landowner wants to generate income through timber harvest to help her two children pay for college, but also wants to maintain habitat for the many birds on the property.
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Minnesota's landowners, loggers, and foresters use a variety of timber harvesting and forest management practices. The specific practices they use depend on a combination of factors that make every timber sale unique, such as size and species of trees, topography, proximity to lakes or rivers, wildlife habitat, historic and cultural resources on the site, and current wood markets.

Each landowner has his or her forest management objectives, which determine the specific practices they use. Minnesota's primary forest landowners are: federal, state, and local governments; forest industry; nonindustrial private forest landowners; and American Indian tribes.



Regulating Timber Harvest and Forest Management Practices



Minnesota uses a voluntary approach to achieve sustainable forestry in order to avoid the costs and inefficiencies often associated with legal regulation. Landowners, loggers, and natural resource managers have voluntary timber harvesting and forest management guidelines to help them protect historic and cultural resources, riparian areas, soil productivity, visual quality, water quality, wetlands, and wildlife habitat. Minnesota does have some laws that all public and private forest landowners must follow when managing the forest, such as laws protecting cemeteries and endangered species. An array of other laws, rules, and agency procedures govern public forestland management. Private forest landowners do not need a permit to cut trees, but in certain instances do need a permit to cross a stream with logging equipment. They also may have to follow restrictions on timber harvesting imposed by various local units of government. For instance, counties have shore-land ordinances that public and private owners must follow not only when harvesting trees, but also when building next to water bodies.

**You can find the online Public
Concerns Registration form at:**

**[http://mn.gov/frc/public-concerns-
registration.html](http://mn.gov/frc/public-concerns-registration.html)**



If you have a concern about timber harvesting
or forest management practices you see, call
the Minnesota Forest Resources Council toll
free at:

1-888-234-3702 or visit the web at

<http://mn.gov/frc/index.html>

Minnesota Forest Resources Council

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