Council Mission

A 17-member organization statutorily designed to promote long-term sustainable management of Minnesota’s forests as directed by the Minnesota legislature in the Sustainable Forest Resources Act of 1995 (SFRA - Minnesota Statutes §89A).

• Pursue the sustainable management, use, and protection of the state’s forest resources to achieve the state’s environmental, economic, and social goals.

• Encourage cooperation and collaboration between public and private sectors in the management of the state’s forest resources.

• Recognize and consider forest resource issues, concerns, and impacts at the site and landscape levels.

• Recognize the broad array of perspectives regarding the management, use, and protection of the state’s forest resources, and establish processes and mechanisms that seek these perspectives and incorporate them into planning and management.
Council Roles

- It advises the Governor and federal, state, county, and local governments on sustainable forest resource policies and practices.
- It develops and periodically revises site-level forest management guidelines used by loggers and public and private forest owners statewide to assure sustainable forest resource management, use, and protection.
- Via regional committees, it develops and coordinates the implementation of landscape plans for Minnesota’s six major forested regions. The plans describe desired future conditions for the region’s forests over a long-term horizon as well as shorter-term goals and strategies to guide efforts by landowners, forestry professionals, and industry, tribal, and agency managers.
- It supports forest resources research and monitoring at statewide, landscape and site levels.
MFRC: Linking Policy & Practice

Sustainable Forestry Stakeholders
Governor & Legislature

MFRC Council

Policy Program

Landscape Program
Site Level Program

Research/ Monitoring

“Policy Decision Makers”

“Policy Advisors”

“Practitioners”

“…governance for the 21st Century…”
Meeting #1

• Timing
• Committee formation
• Identification of goals
• Mechanics
• Review of 89A
• Review of past planning efforts
Site-level Program

Overview and updates
Three primary areas

Forest Management Guidelines

Implementation monitoring

Research
Forest Management Guidelines

**Task:**
1) Develop and revise voluntary guidelines
2) Develop and assess implementation goals

**Past efforts:**
- Primary task since MFRC inception
- Three revisions, two economic assessments
- Implementation assessed
- Guidebook and field guide development

**New / ongoing work:**
- eFMG training program updated
- Implementation workshops / outreach
- Guideline app for mobile devices
Guideline Monitoring

Task:
- Periodic guideline implementation monitoring
- Council has broad oversight

Past efforts:
- 1300+ sites monitored / 5 reports
- Some outreach and training
- Funding and development of new approach

New / ongoing work:
- Annual monitoring of 3-4 watershed units
- Biennial reporting
- More outreach (effective, targeted)
- Database development (public access)
Research

Task: conduct research related to:
- Guideline effectiveness
- Sustainable mngt, forest health

Past / ongoing work:
- Biomass harvesting
- EAB / black ash
- Infrastructure (landings)
- Disturbance mapping 1972-current

New / proposed work:
- Leave tree effectiveness
- Erosion control effectiveness / risk
- Jack pine regeneration
- Soil operability (proposed)
- Lowland conifer management (proposed)
Dissemination

Presentations – guidelines, research
Symposiums – research review, forests soils
Short courses - NASP (Lake States module)
SFEC Education Advisory Committee
Landscape Program
Overview and Updates
Landscape Program – Planning

- Acknowledge the interactions of complex sustainable forest resources, multiple ownership patterns, and local to international economic forces;
- Give equal consideration to the long-term economic, ecological, and social needs and limits of the state’s resources;
- Foster productivity of the state’s forests to provide a diversity of sustainable benefits at site and landscape levels;
- Enhance the ability of the state’s forest resources to provide future benefits and services;
- Foster no net loss of forest land;
- Encourage appropriate mixes of forest cover types and age classes to promote biological diversity and viable habitats;
- Encourage collaboration and coordination with multiple constituencies in planning and managing forest resources;
- Address the environmental impacts and implement mitigations as recommended in the GEIS.
Landscape Program – Coordination

- **Support and maintain** the regional landscape committees.
- **Expand and sustain outreach.**
- **Promote implementation** of the landscape plan through partners’ management plans.
- **Actively support forest policy development** – example: 2011 forest policy recommendation letters.
- **Promote and support cross boundary projects** that demonstrate effective ways to implement the landscape plans as well as partners’ plans (NFs, tribal, DNR, counties, private)
- **Support landscape level monitoring.**
Landscape Management

Four **interrelated** phases:
- Planning.
- Coordination.
- **Implementation.**
- Monitoring & Evaluation.

We build and support partnerships in every phase, across all ownerships…

"Landscape" = "Region"
Planning Accomplishments

• Completed six 1st generation landscape plans (1998-2005).
• Completed two amendments – North Central (2004), Northern (2010)
• Completed two 2nd generation landscape plans – Northeast (2014), Southeast (2014)
• 2nd generation North Central landscape plan process now underway.
• Northern, West Central and East Central to be revised by 2021.
Coordination Accomplishments

- Convened over 310 regional committee meetings.
- Hosted workshops/webinars on landscape plans, met with LGUs, distributed plan outreach documents.
- Developed forest policy recommendation letters.
- Developed regional investment priorities – LSOHC, state Forest Action Plan.
- Co-sponsored, support, manage 8 federal grants with DNR Forestry to support private forest management projects ($1,557,600 federal, $2.0M+ state, local private).
- Project funding development – Grant writing, letters of support, seed moneys – catalyst for over $20M.
- Convened 3 Council-regional committee summits.
Policy Program

• Advise the Governor, Legislature, and various levels of government regarding sustainable forest policies
• Evolved over time, increased emphasis
• Examples:
  – Competitiveness study (continues to be valuable)
  – Led SFIA stakeholder group
  – Other issues including (fire funding, clean power plan, parcelization, private forest management).
Other MFRC related programs

• Information Management Committee
  – Policy focus, IIC oversight, Trends, Communication

• Research advisory committee
  – Identify priority research needs
  – Collaboration between research organizations
  – Linkages between disciplines
  – Interaction between researchers and practitioners
Other MFRC related programs con’t

Interagency Information Cooperative
• Coordinate development of forest resource data
• Promote development of information systems
• Examples:
  – Implementing a common format and methodologies for forest inventories
  – Analysis of MN’s forestlands and their management
Moving Forward

• June XX, meeting of the strategic planning committee (facilitated)
  – Develop and utilize decision criteria (issues)
  – Identify and rank priority issues

• July 20, conduct organization analysis (SWOT) (facilitated)
  – Present and discuss committee results regarding priority issues
Moving Forward, Con’t

• August XX, meeting of strategic planning committee (facilitated)
  – Examine structural issues
  – Make recommendations

• September 21/22 (facilitated)
  – Major portion of meeting devoted to reviewing a draft plan
Engagement Strategy
Who/How do we engage?

- MFRC Council Members
- Staff (both information role and substantive role)
- Regional committee members
- External stakeholders
- Legislators
- Others
2011 Forest Policy Letters

**North Central Committee**
- Forest Health and Productivity
- Land Administration
- Parcelization / Fragmentation
- Water Resources

**Northeast Committee**
- Forest Health and Productivity
- Forest Products Industry
- Parcelization / Forest Fragmentation
- Tax Policy

**West Central Committee**
- Forest Based Economic Development
- Forest Health / Water Quality
- Parcelization / Fragmentation
- Private Forest Management

**East Central Committee**
- Forest Health / Private Forest Management
- Market Development
- Parcelization / Forest Fragmentation
- Water Quality and Forests

**Southeast Committee**
- Forest Health / Climate Change / Invasive Species
- Parcelization
- Value of Sustainably Managed Private Forests
- Water Quality / Forest Connection

*Regional perspectives to support Council policy development…*
Data needs

- Forest conditions
- State of forest industry
- Climate trends
- Status of invasives
Collaboration Pays

A better way to get the job done…
FMG Monitoring Report

Development of a coordinated outreach plan
Outreach – monitoring report

2 questions:

1) What’s the objective - change or promotion?
   - improved implementation / planning
   - increased awareness of guideline use

2) Who are the intended audiences?
   - practitioners, managers, planners
   - legislators, interest groups, general public
Objective – enact change / improve utilization of data

Approaches
- Logger / forester training (SFEC, MLEP)
- Targeted DNR training / workshops
- Coordinated assessment with MFRP (implementers)
- Incorporate findings into MFRC Landscape plans
- Engage in watershed scale plan development (WRAPS, OWOP)

Audiences: many that we have traditionally or recently engaged with (practitioners)
Objective – promotion, increased awareness of guideline use

Approaches
- Social media / website (e.g., “Closer looks”)
- Journal / news articles
- Targeted presentations to key groups (CWC, other DNR divisions, interest groups)
- Engage directly with policy makers / governor (e.g., opportunities to tie into ag. buffer initiative)

Audiences: many that we have traditionally not engaged with who may not know that the MFRC exists