



## Minnesota Forest Resources Council

**Minnesota's forests** provide tremendous benefit to all our citizens, including a wealth of resources such as clean drinking water, timber, wildlife, and biodiversity. Covering one-third of the state's land area, forests are vitally important to many of the state's economies, communities and environments. To help the many public and private interests in Minnesota's forests work together and ensure the sustainability of these resources, it is important to manage forests through a shared vision and policies that are integrated with the practices implemented on the ground.

In 1995, the Minnesota Legislature created the **Minnesota Forest Resources Council** (MFRC) as part of a comprehensive approach for sustaining our forests via the Sustainable Forest Resources Act (SFRA – § 89A). The MFRC is a forum where diverse interests discuss and resolve issues regarding the management of Minnesota's forests. The MFRC has helped depoliticize forestry in Minnesota by focusing on collaboration and science. The MFRC promotes long-term sustainable management of Minnesota's forests in three primary ways:

- Advise the Governor and federal, state, and local governments on sustainable forest resource policies
- Coordinate site- and landscape-level forest management approaches across all ownerships in the state
- Conduct and support forest resources research to guide *science-based solutions* to complex management issues

[mn.gov/frc](http://mn.gov/frc)

The Minnesota Forest Resources Council (MFRC) is a 17-member board created under MN statute 89a to develop recommendations on sustainable forest management policies and practices. Council members are appointed by the governor and represent a wide range of forest resource interests.

**Representing:**

Commercial Logging Contractors  
Conservation Organizations  
County Land Commissioners  
Department of Natural Resources  
Environmental Organizations  
Forest Products Industry  
Games Species Management  
Indian Affairs Council  
Labor Organizations  
Nonindustrial Forest Landowners  
Research and Higher Education  
Resort and Tourism Industry  
Secondary Manufacturing  
USDA – Forest Service



Every four years, the MFRC develops a set of strategic forest resource policy initiatives. The current policy priorities are:

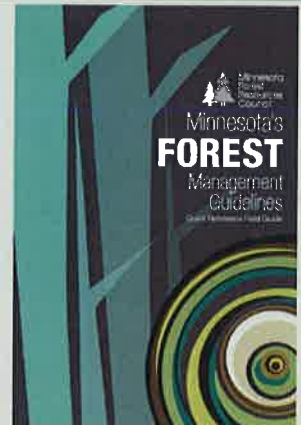
- Competitiveness of the forest products industry
- Water quality and forests
- Private forest management
- Terrestrial invasive species

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## What does the MFRC do?

### Managing Sites

We develop and update forest management guidelines to ensure that loggers, foresters and landowners are using effective practices to sustain and conserve our forest resources. The MFRC's voluntary forest management guidelines are a set of practical, science-based practices for protecting wildlife habitat, soils, water quality, wetlands, aesthetics, and historic and cultural resources. These guidelines are widely used by loggers, managers and owners of private and public lands, to minimize impacts to forest resources during management activities such as timber harvesting.



### Managing Landscapes

We assist landowners and citizens in sustaining and enhancing the resources of Minnesota's six major forested regions. Landscape level planning and coordination is a way of assessing and promoting forest resource sustainability across large forested landscapes. The Landscape Program supports six regional landscape committees that serve as a forum where forestland owners and stakeholders work together to address forest resource issues in their regions.

### Research and Monitoring

We conduct and support key research that improves forest management and the sustainable use of forest resources. These efforts include work conducted by the MFRCs **Research Advisory Committee (RAC)** and its **Applied Research and Monitoring Program**. Some recent work includes:

- Identification of priority forest resource research needs by the RAC
- Assessing guideline effectiveness related to wildlife, soils, and water
- Assessing effects of forest management on water quality
- Evaluating effect of climate on soil operability during harvesting
- Determining impacts of EAB on forests and the development of mitigation strategies



The MFRC also provides oversight and program direction to monitoring programs administered by the DNR, including monitoring implementation of the forest management guidelines at recently harvested sites in forested watersheds of the state.

### Forest Policy

We advise the Governor, legislature and public agencies on sustainable forest policies. Since 2001, the MFRC has advised the Governor and legislature on retaining large areas of forestland, strengthening Minnesota's position in the global forest products market, increasing bioenergy use, mitigating and adapting to climate change, fighting invasive species, forestland taxation and federal roadless areas. In 2010, at the request of the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council, the MFRC and Minnesota Forest Resources Partnership identified high priority opportunities for conserving forest habitat in Minnesota.