



Department of Natural Resources Fact Sheet



2016-2017 BIENNIAL BUDGET FACT SHEET Sustainable Funding for the Minnesota Forest Resources Council \$200,000 FY16/ \$200,000 FY17 [General Fund]

It Is Needed Because

The Minnesota Forest Resources Council (MFRC) base funding was reduced from \$780,000 in fiscal year 2009 to \$580,000 in fiscal year 2012. This request restores funding to prior levels and meets current operational needs. The MFRC is key to the success of forestry in Minnesota. In December 2014, MFRC completed the *Report on the Competitiveness of Minnesota's Primary Forest Products Industry*. If implemented, the 27 recommendations in this report will advance the competitive position of Minnesota's forest industry. This request allows MFRC to lead implementation of the recommendations. The MFRC also maintains the Minnesota forest management guidelines that support the certification of 4.8 million acres of state land under the Sustainable Forestry Initiative and the Forest Stewardship Council programs.

In addition, to meet the requirements of the Sustainable Forest Resources Act (MS 89A.06), MFRC must develop multi-ownership forest landscape plans faster. Landscape plans provide a context for public and private timber harvests and forest management plans.

Major Program Elements

- MFRC will advise the governor, legislature, and public agencies on:
 - Retaining and creating Minnesota jobs through enhanced competitiveness of the state's forest industry.
 - Addressing forest health threats.
- Evaluate and improve forest management guidelines used on public and private forests.
- Support DNR's compliance with forest certification program requirements.
- Accelerate updates of legislatively mandated forest landscape plans.

Key Measures and Outcomes

- Increase the number of jobs provided by Minnesota's forest industry, key to overall economic vitality of the state. In 2013, Minnesota forest industry provided 63,200 jobs.
- Support certification on 4.8 million acres of DNR-administered lands. Forest certification is critical to Minnesota's market competitiveness.
- Provide timely advice to public agency officials regarding threats to forest health, which directly affects Minnesotans' livelihood and well-being. This protects Minnesota forest industries, resort and tourism businesses, and all communities from millions of dollars in potential losses, and helps protect the quality of our environment.
- Reduce time to finish landscape plans by 33 percent. This increases public and private landowner capacity to plan and implement timber harvesting and forest management projects while sustaining high-quality natural resources to support long-term needs.

Fiscal Impacts

- \$150,000 to implement recommendations in the competitiveness report.
- \$250,000 to advise the governor, legislature, and agencies on sustainable forest management and forest health threats, maintain and improve forest management guidelines, and revise two additional forest landscape plans.

For Further Information, Please Contact:

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