

PRIVATE FOREST STEWARDSHIP

INDICATOR: Acres of private forest lands with forest stewardship plans

WHY IS THIS INDICATOR IMPORTANT?

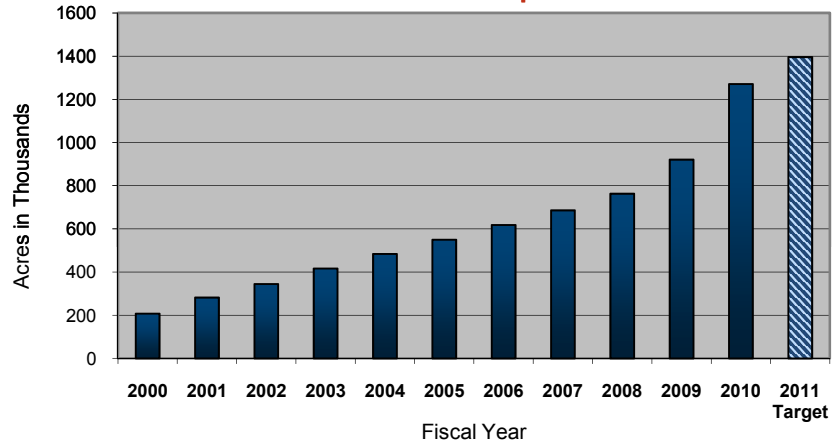
Some 147,000 individuals and organizations (excluding industry) own 40 percent of Minnesota's forest land. Much of this land consists of small woodlots under increasing development pressure. The Forest Stewardship Program offers landowners a viable alternative to selling their land for development in the form of management expertise and cost sharing for tree planting and other activities. Participating landowners pursue sustainable forestry goals, including improving wildlife, maintaining water quality, and applying sustainable timber harvesting.

WHAT IS DNR DOING?

Minnesota leads the nation in Forest Stewardship Program enrollment. In 2008, we celebrated as we enrolled the millionth acre under a stewardship plan.

TARGET: Complete stewardship plans for 125,000 acres of forest in FY 2011 with plans for 25,000 acres completed by DNR staff and the remainder by private consultants, Soil and Water Conservation District personnel, and industry foresters. DNR's long-term target is to have 50 percent (2.5 million acres) of nonindustrial private forest land 20 acres or larger in size under stewardship plans. The combination of trained staff to write stewardship plans and the popularity of two tax relief programs has led to record numbers of new forest stewardship plans being written since 2008.

Cumulative Number of Acres with Forest Stewardship Plans



Nearly 1.3 million acres have been enrolled in forest stewardship plans.



Eli Sager

Stewardship plans promote sustainable management of private forest lands.

LEARN MORE ABOUT:

- Minnesota Forest Stewardship Program at: www.mndnr.gov/grants/forestmgmt/stewardship.html
- National stewardship programs information: www.na.fs.fed.us/stewardship/index.shtm