

# FOREST CERTIFICATION

**INDICATOR:** Acres of state-administered lands approved for forest certification

## WHY IS THIS INDICATOR IMPORTANT?

Forest Certification recognizes sustainable and responsible forest management. Consumers can be confident that products displaying a forest certification logo were grown, harvested and produced in a sustainable manner. In the U.S., the three major Forest Certification systems are the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), and The American Tree Farm System.

Meeting the requirements for certification has improved DNR forest management practices and our interdisciplinary coordination. Certification has also increased the competitiveness of Minnesota's forest products. Maintaining Forest Certification demonstrates DNR's dedication to sustainable and responsible forest management.

## WHAT IS DNR DOING?

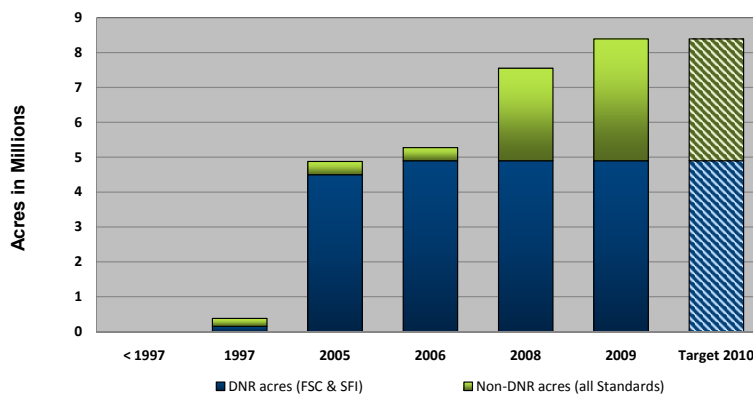
Beginning in 1997, DNR and the Aitkin County Land Department sought Forest Certification for 378,000 acres of state and county-administered forestlands in Aitkin County. These were the first public forest lands to be certified in the United States.

Support for Forest Certification has continued to grow. In response to market demand and the Governor's Task Force Report on the Competitiveness of Minnesota's Primary Forest Products Industry, DNR obtained dual (FSC & SFI) certification for all DNR Forestry and Fish and Wildlife-administered lands in the forested region of the state, 4.8 million acres in all, in 2005.

## TARGET: Maintain DNR's dual forest certification on 4.8 million acres of state-administered forest lands.

In order to maintain certification, DNR must make improvements to policies or procedures that don't meet certification standards. These improvements, called Corrective Action Requests (CARs), are identified during periodic audits. As we make the improvements identified in CARs, we fine tune our management and insure the sustainability of Minnesota's forest resources.

## Forest Certification



**DNR is a leader in forest certification. To date 4.8 million acres of state-administered lands have dual certification. DNR is also assisting private landowners in obtaining certification.**



**DNR staff and auditors discuss forest management practices and improvements during an annual forest certification audit.**

## LEARN MORE ABOUT:

- Forest Certification at: [www.mndnr.gov/forestry/certification](http://www.mndnr.gov/forestry/certification)