Through the years, Minnesota’s forests have withstood catastrophic fires, drought and flood, threats by insects and disease, and overharvesting by zealous timber barons in the 1800s and early 1900s. For the last 100 years, the DNR Division of Forestry has been around to protect and care for those forest resources.

June 22, 2011, marked the 100th anniversary of the Division of Forestry. On this date 100 years ago, the Minnesota Forest Service, precursor to the Division of Forestry, was formed. Although this one date pinpoints the beginning of the division, all sorts of things have taken place throughout the year to celebrate its 100 years. Following is a list of those memorable accomplishments:

**Historical book:**
- Developed the 104-page history book *Connected to Our Roots: 100 Years of Growing Forests in Minnesota*. It’s mostly pictorial, containing 200 photos that are enhanced with captions. It received a first-place award from the Association for Conservation Information and an Award of Merit from the Minnesota Association of Government Communicators (MAGC). Available from the [Minnesota Forestry Employees Association](#) or [Minnesota’s Bookstore](#).

**Internal products and publications:**
- Developed a 100-year anniversary logo, which received an Award of Merit from MAGC
- Distributed anniversary banners to central office, three region offices, 20 area offices, and 40 field stations
- Provided an anniversary calendar, hat, and lapel pin to 400 division employees
- Created an anniversary tabletop display for use at events
- Produced special anniversary editions of *Roots*
  - [2011](#)
  - [2010](#)
- Prepared a 100-year anniversary PowerPoint, available for [online viewing](#). Provided each region and area office with a CD of the PowerPoint.
Online public information:

- Developed 100-year anniversary website (23 pages)
- Developed historical forestry tidbits, which were emailed to DNR staff and placed online
  - First Sawmills
  - Logging Camps: The Early Years
  - The Great Hinkely Fire
  - Township Fire Wardens: How It All Began
  - Pillsbury State Forest
  - Minnesota’s Logging Railroads
  - Peak Logging Years
  - William T. Cox and the Minnesota Forest Service

External products and publications:

- Created a historical timeline display for the 2011 Minnesota State Fair, which highlighted the history of the Division of Forestry
- Issued a news release titled “100 Years of Growing Forests in Minnesota” on 1/24/11
- Issued a radiobite titled “100th Anniversary,” narrated by Dave Epperly on 6/22/11
- Created an anniversary poster that was distributed to 1,000 State Fair attendees and mailed to 3,500 educators and natural resource professionals
- Contracted the writing of the article “A Century for the Trees” for the March-April 2011 issue of the Minnesota Conservation Volunteer magazine
- Received permission to publish online Don Wilson’s book Be a Forest Ranger
- Facilitated events in Minnesota’s state forests:
  - Horseback riding in Pillsbury State Forest
  - Arbor Month in Richard J. Dorer Memorial Hardwood State Forest
  - Canoeing the Crow Wing River to Huntersville State Forest
  - Ruffed grouse hunting in Golden Anniversary State Forest
- Worked with the governor’s office to issue a Division of Forestry Centennial Proclamation
- Celebratory events with retirees:
  - Oct. 12 – Northwest Region and Bemidji Area
  - Dec. 7 – Central Office
  - Dec. 14 – General Andrews Nursery (recognizing the old Moose Lake District)
  - Dec 16 – Cloquet Area
  - Dec 20 – Warroad

Archived and preserved historical artifacts and information:

- Inventoried and scanned historical documents and photos, currently housed at the DNR central office
- Collaborated with the Minnesota Digital Library to scan 20 historical annual reports dating from 1895 to 1918 for the Minnesota Reflections collection. An announcement will be made when the annual reports are available for viewing.