

Chapter 1: Overview

DNR Forestry was established in 1911. Then known as the Minnesota Forest Service, we focused our efforts on protecting Minnesotans and their property from wildfires, which were a growing problem due to logging and settlement.

In the years since we have taken on many additional responsibilities. Today our job also includes managing state forest lands, gathering and sharing information on Minnesota's forests with other forest managers, promoting the use of forest products, and helping landowners and others value forests and keep them healthy and productive. The unifying aim of all of our work is to promote the conservation, enjoyment, and use of Minnesota's forest resources in a way that contributes to the state's economic health while nurturing and sustaining the health of our environment.

Because trees and forests are so large and so pervasive, it's easy to take them for granted. But we must actively care for them if we want future generations to enjoy their benefits as we do.

Increasing Challenge

Keeping Minnesota's economy and environment healthy has become more and more challenging in recent years. Forests are being fragmented as urban areas expand and people build second homes in rural recreational areas; this increases risks of wildfire damage and makes it more difficult to ensure that forests are managed strategically and sustainably. Growing interest in nontimber benefits derived from forests, such as forest-based recreation and ecological diversity, means a growing need to find ways to meet multiple demands concurrently. At the same time, increasing globalization has dramatically altered both our state's forest products industry and the markets that sustain it, making it more and more challenging to manage forests in a way



Forests are one of the main topics of *A Strategic Conservation Agenda 2003–2007*, established in 2004 as a tool for measuring progress toward DNR's mission. You can find the agenda online at www.dnr.state.mn.us/aboutdnr, or contact the DNR Information Center at 651-296-6157 or 888-646-6367.

DNR Forestry Mission

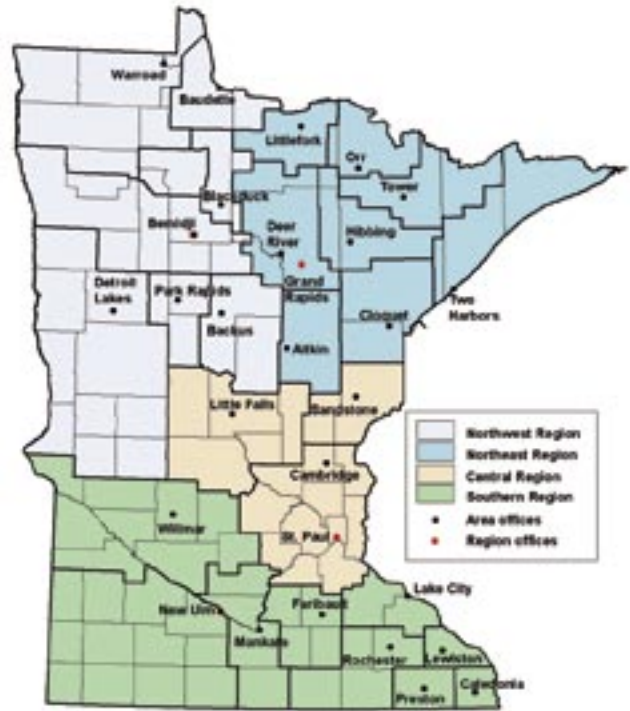
Through shared information, technology, and understanding, we empower others and ourselves to: sustain and enhance functioning forest ecosystems; provide a sustainable supply of forest resources to meet human needs (e.g., material, economic, and social); protect lives and property from wildfires; and provide a dollar return to the permanent school trust. To achieve this mission, we:

- manage state-owned forest lands
- prevent, manage, and fight wildland fires
- provide raw material for Minnesota's wood products industry
- gather and share information on Minnesota's forest lands
- grow trees from seeds and distribute them around the state
- help landowners manage their forests
- help local governments plan, plant, and care for trees
- educate Minnesotans about trees and forests
- promote responsible use of forest products
- provide funds to nonprofit groups and government agencies to grow and care for trees and forests.

Ecosystem: Living things and the physical and chemical environment in which they live.

that maintains their health and the health of the economic sectors that depend on them.

Minnesota’s forests represent much of what’s right with our state—a strong work ethic, concern for natural resources, a commitment to the future, a constant striving for cooperation and balance. DNR Forestry is committed to ensuring that Minnesota’s forests remain strong, healthy, and able to provide the full spectrum of benefits to humans and other living things today, tomorrow, and a hundred years from now.



Take a Tour of DNR Forestry! Information on DNR Forestry activities, Minnesota’s forests, programs and materials to help you care for your trees, and much more is available at DNR Forestry’s Web site, www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry.

Check it out!

Statewide Presence

DNR Forestry employees are found throughout the state: in the DNR headquarters in St. Paul and in four regional offices, 27 area offices, and 35 field stations around the state.

For information about DNR Forestry, trees and forests, managing your trees, using state forest lands, or related topics, contact the DNR forester near you:

<p>Northeast Region Forestry Headquarters: 1201 E. Highway 2 Grand Rapids, MN 55744-3296 218-327-4418</p> <p>Area Offices: Aitkin 1200 Minnesota Ave. S. Aitkin, MN 56431 218-927-4040</p> <p>Cloquet 1604 S. Highway 33 Cloquet, MN 55720 218-879-0880</p> <p>Deer River P.O. Box 157 403 Division St. Deer River, MN 56636-0157 218-246-8343</p> <p>Hibbing 1208 E. Howard St. Hibbing, MN 55746 218-262-6760</p>	<p>Littlefork 421 3rd Ave. P.O. Box 65 Littlefork, MN 56653-0538 218-278-6651</p> <p>Orr P.O. Box 306 4656 Highway 53 Orr, MN 55771-0306 218-757-3274</p> <p>Tower 650 Highway 169 Tower, MN 55790 218-753-2580 x 260</p> <p>Two Harbors 1568 Highway 2 Two Harbors, MN 55616 218-834-6602</p>	<p>Central Region Forestry Headquarters: 1200 Warner Rd. St. Paul, MN 55106 651-772-7925</p> <p>Area Offices: Cambridge 800 Oak Savanna Ln. S.W. Cambridge, MN 55008 763-689-7101</p> <p>Little Falls 16543 Haven Rd. Little Falls, MN 56345-6401 320-616-2450 X 228</p> <p>Sandstone 613 Highway 23 S. Sandstone, MN 55072 320-245-6789</p>
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Southern Region

Forestry Headquarters:

P.O. Box 607
1200 S. Broadway LL
New Ulm, MN 56073-0607
507-359-6048

2300 Silver Creek Rd. N.E.
Rochester, MN 55906
507-285-7428

Area Offices:

Caledonia
603 N. Sprague St.
#2 Ag Service Center
Caledonia, MN 55921
507-724-5261 x 5

Faribault
1810 N.W. 30th St.
Faribault, MN 55021
507-333-2012

Lake City
1801 S. Oak
Lake City, MN 55041
651-345-3216

Lewiston
P.O. Box 279
Highway 14 & Fremont St.
Lewiston, MN 55952
507-523-2183

Mankato
1160 S. Victory Dr.
Mankato, MN 56001
507-389-6713

New Ulm
P.O. Box 607
1200 S. Broadway LL
New Ulm, MN 56073-0607
507-359-6057

Preston
912 Houston St. N.W.
Preston, MN 55965
507-765-2740

Rochester
2300 Silver Creek Rd. N.E.
Rochester, MN 55906
507-285-7433

Willmar
4566 Highway 71 N.
Suite 1
Willmar, MN 56201
320-231-5164

Northwest Region

Forestry Headquarters:

6603 Bemidji Ave. N.
Bemidji, MN 56601-8669
218-755-2891

Area Offices:

Backus
P.O. Box 6
Backus, MN 56435-0006
218-947-3232

Baudette
206 Main St. E.
Baudette, MN 56623
218-634-2172

Bemidji
2220 Bemidji Ave. N.
Bemidji, MN 56601-3896
218-755-2890

Blackduck
417 B Forestry Dr. N.W.
Blackduck, MN 56630
218-835-3161

Detroit Lakes
14583 Cty. Highway 19
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501
218-847-1596

Park Rapids
607 First St. W.
Park Rapids, MN 56470-1312
218-732-3309

Warroad
1101 Lake St. N.E.
Warroad, MN 56763-2407
218-386-1304

Why Care for Forests?
Trees and forests are important to Minnesotans for many reasons. They provide habitat for living things. They are a valued source of wood, paper, and other renewable materials. They offer refreshment and renewal through outdoor recreation and beauty. They help protect soil, water, and air quality. They absorb carbon dioxide and so help moderate global warming.

Other Useful Contact Information:

- Burning Permits: contact your local DNR office (see above)
- Report Questionable Forest-Related Activity: 888-234-3702
- DNR Main Information Number: 651-296-6157 or 888-646-6367
- DNR Web site: www.dnr.state.mn.us

