

Forest Industry Data Classification



Summary

Each year, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) collects data via a voluntary survey from a subset of the 800 forest products companies located in Minnesota. This data is used to create analyses and reports on the status and trends of the forest products sector.

The status and trends reports contain aggregated forest industry data. The DNR does not report on company-specific data to avoid inadvertently impacting the surveyed companies by sharing data that is not generally available about all forest products companies. However, some mill and business owners are concerned that company-specific data could be released absent a provision in the Minnesota Data Practices Act identifying that data as “not public.” As a result, these businesses are not providing complete information in response to the DNR survey. Defining this data as “not public” would address these concerns and facilitate more accurate and comprehensive status and trends reports regarding Minnesota’s forest products sector.

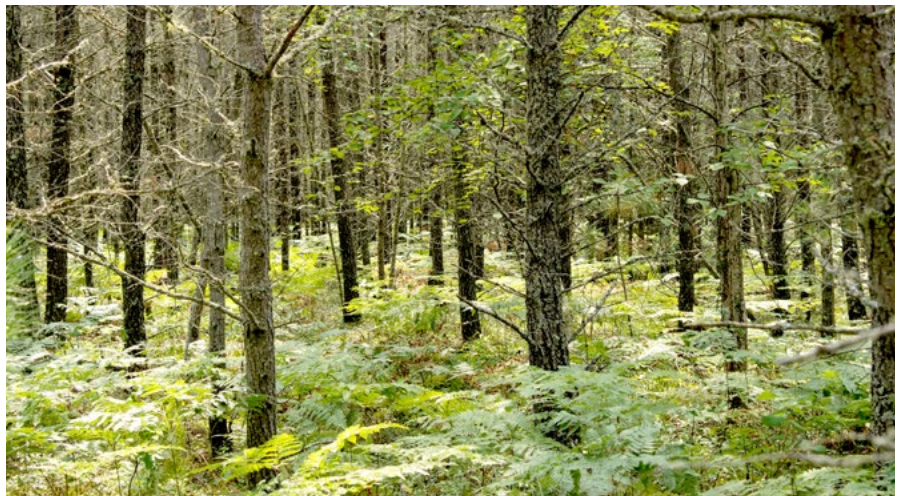
Related Facts

Minnesota has more than 17.5 million acres of forest land.

Minnesota’s forest products industry:

- Is the 5th largest manufacturing sector in the state
- Supports more than 69,000 Minnesota jobs
- Generates over \$18 billion in annual gross sales
- Provides nearly \$500 million in tax revenue for state and local governments

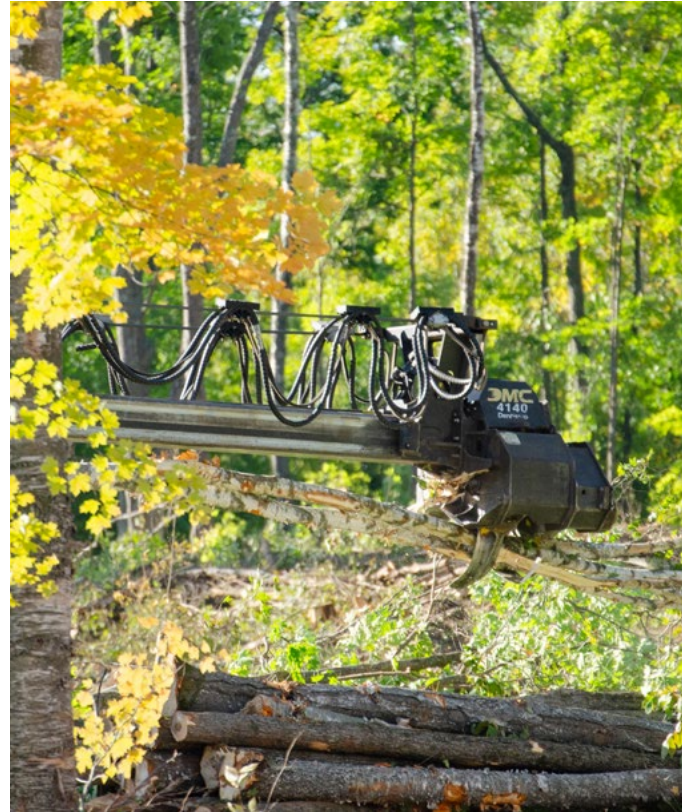
The forest industry in Minnesota includes pulp, paper, packaging, oriented strand board, siding, pallets, railroad ties, utility poles, cabinets, wood furniture, specialty products, bio-energy, logging, and forest management.



Current and accurate data is essential when making decisions about forest resource management, including potential business development. Accurate and reliable forest resource and industry data allows lawmakers, state and local governments, research institutions, and business owners to make decisions that best support a successful, sustainable future for Minnesota's forests.

Proposal

This proposal would designate certain types of forest products industry data collected by the DNR as not public data. The proposal limits the extent of the "not public" data designation to data collected by voluntary survey that most businesses would consider sensitive, proprietary, or that might put them at a competitive disadvantage if made public.



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