



Department of Natural Resources Fact Sheet



2012-2013 BIENNIAL BUDGET FACT SHEET Native Plant Community Inventorying and Mapping Expenditures: \$1,000,000 FY 2012 / \$1,000,000 FY 2013 (Game and Fish Fund – Heritage Enhancement Account)

It is needed because

The Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) Ecological Classification System is a scientific framework for managing natural resources. ECS tools (native plant community maps, databases, and field guides) help managers select appropriate management treatments to optimize timber production and wildlife populations, protect water and soil, and address critical habitat needs during forest management activities.

A one-time appropriation from the Heritage Enhancement Account of \$1 million in FY 2012 and \$1 million in FY 2013 is needed to enhance the department's Ecological Classification System.

Major program elements

This initiative supports core ECS tools. DNR will continue to inventory and map native plant communities. DNR also will develop silvicultural interpretation for each native plant community. Silvicultural interpretation based on the ecological characteristics of native plant communities is the basis for foresters, wildlife managers, park managers, and other land managers to sustainably manage state forest lands.

Priority-setting

Priority for inventorying and mapping:

1. Additional contiguous blocks of state forest lands adjacent to areas already mapped.
2. Landforms where there are gaps in classifications due to the complexity of forested plant community types.

Priority for silvicultural interpretations:

1. Mesic hardwood and fire-dependent plant communities that do not have silvicultural interpretations.
2. Wet forest communities, particularly those that support ash.

Project locations

Projects will be located primarily in the Laurentian Mixed Forest Province and the Eastern Broadleaf Forest Province.

Key measures and outcomes

Outcomes include:

- Inventory and map native plant communities on 100,000 acres of state forest lands each year of the biennium.
- Continue to complete silvicultural interpretations of 30 forested plant communities where interpretations do not currently exist – there are approximately 50 forested native plant communities in Minnesota.

Financial Implications (if appropriate)

The \$1 million appropriation in FY2012 and FY2013 will enable accelerated native plant community work to continue.

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