



Department of Natural Resources Fact Sheet



2012-2013 BIENNIAL BUDGET FACT SHEET

State Forest Land Management

Expenditures: \$2,000,000 FY 2012 / \$2,000,000 FY 2013

(Forest Management Investment Account)

It is needed because

The Forest Management Investment Account (FMIA) is used to support reforestation, timber stand improvements, and administration of timber sales. Increasing the Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) appropriation from the FMIA by \$2 million each fiscal year and appropriating annually the revenue received in this account to the commissioner is essential for maintaining forest management activities on state forest lands, including school trust fund lands.

Minnesota's forests are natural assets that will depreciate if we do not carefully manage them. Conserving our forests will ensure a healthy, vibrant, and competitive Minnesota into the future. To meet growing expectations, the state's forests must be actively managed to enhance their productivity, health, and ecological integrity. For example:

- Industry needs healthy forests to ensure that a sustainable supply of high-quality wood fiber is available into the future.
- Growing forests are needed so they can continue as the cornerstone for connecting Minnesotans to the great outdoors.
- Growing forests are needed to ensure that the state's forested areas remain beautiful, ecologically healthy, and productive in the face of conservation challenges including exotic species, insects and diseases, wildfires, and land-use changes.

Major program elements

Increased FMIA investments are needed in four critical areas:

- Pre-commercial treatments of forest stands to increase forest health, productivity, and wildlife habitat.
- Updates to forest stand inventories and visits to reforested sites to determine the success of tree plantings.

- Maintaining the more than 2,000 miles of state forest roads for public access and state forest management needs.
- Implementing a cost certification strategy to generate approximately \$1 million annually.
- Maintaining DNR's role in supporting the state's timber industry by providing at least 800,000 cords of wood for sale annually.

Priority-setting

Priority for forest management activities include:

- Reinventory of selected forest stands to provide upcoming Subsection Forest Resource Management Plans (SFRMPs) with the most current information.
- Identification and prioritization of forest stands from the SFRMPS that will be field-visited and potentially treated, including harvested. The number of forest stands to be treated will be based on available funding.
- Identification of state forest roads that need work based on mitigating safety hazards and providing access for forest management work and recreational opportunities for the public.

Project locations

Project locations will be located within all DNR-administered forested lands, including school trust fund lands, forested wildlife management areas (WMAs), and forested state parks and trails.

Key measures and outcomes

The additional \$4 million from the FMIA in the FY2012-13 biennium will accomplish the following:

- Continue moving toward the goal of maintaining and improving habitat and achieving optimal timber productivity (growth and yield) on DNR-administered forest lands;

- Continue moving toward the goal of reinventorying DNR's forest land base on not more than a 15-year cycle;
- Maintain dual, third-party sustainable forest management certification on 4.8 million acres of DNR forested lands;
- Implement management guidelines for control of terrestrial invasive plants on DNR forested lands;
- Implement practices to minimize the anticipated effects of emerald ash borer and gypsy moth populations on DNR forested lands; and
- Consolidate holdings and develop prescriptive easements where needed to secure access and ensure management.

Financial implications (if appropriate)

The FMIA (M.S. 89.039) is dedicated to essential DNR forest management activities (reforestation, timber stand improvement, pest management, etc.) and timber sale program costs. DNR's current appropriation from the FMIA is \$11.093 million per year.

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