



Department of Natural Resources Fact Sheet



2008 CAPITAL BUDGET State Forest Land Reforestation Governor's Recommendation: \$3,000,000

It is needed because

Reforestation ensures all harvested state forest lands are reforested with an appropriate balance of forest types, maintaining and restoring the productivity and diversity of Minnesota's state forests. Reforestation regenerates forests damaged by catastrophic events, such as wildfires and insect and disease outbreaks. It also maintains forests as large carbon sinks, playing an important role in meeting the state's goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Reforestation improves a long-term asset that increases in value over time. Forests return millions of dollars to Minnesota's economy in the form of forest products and secondary products, recreational opportunities that support the tourism industry, and ecological values that sustain our quality of life.

Specifically, reforestation addresses M.S. 89.002, subd. 2 that requires:

- ◆ All harvested state forest lands are reforested;
- ◆ State forests are maintained in appropriate forest cover, planting stock, growth rate, and health; and
- ◆ Productivity on state forest lands damaged by natural causes or in a poorly stocked condition are restored.

This request also supports Minnesota Climate Change Advisory Group priority AFW-5: Forest Management Programs to Enhance GHG Benefits.

Major project elements

This funding will provide for site preparation and the planting and seeding of sites on state forest lands.

Site preparation (\$1 million):

- ◆ Utilizing both mechanical and chemical means to reduce competition and prepare suitable planting/seeding bed

Planting and seeding (\$2 million):

- ◆ Purchasing seeds and seedlings to meet reforestation objectives

- ◆ Securing reforestation equipment and supplies to better ensure seedling survival during planting
- ◆ Contracting or hiring labor to plant trees

Priority-setting

Reforestation needs are identified by foresters in the field when harvesting ends or in response to natural disasters such as insect outbreaks, fire, and wind damage. Priority reforestation is given to sites that may be lost to invading, undesirable species if not reforested promptly, and to sites with little or no opportunity to reforest naturally. Meeting subsection planning objectives, particularly for conversion to other tree types than the original, is also given a higher priority for artificial regeneration.

Project locations

There are approximately 30,000-35,000 acres of state forest lands reforested each year. These lands are scattered among 58 state forests. Of the total acres reforested each year, approximately 10,000 acres are reforested through planting and seeding, and about 5,000 acres are site prepped for planting and seeding annually.

Key measures and outcomes

Healthy, resilient forests are sustainably managed to provide recreational opportunities, ecological values (water quality, habitat, and carbon sequestration), and economic forest products.

- ◆ Reforestation of all harvested state forest lands is ensured through site preparation on approximately 8,000 acres and planting and seeding on about 12,000 acres over the next two years.

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State Forest Land Reforestation

DNR PROJECT PRIORITIES AS OF JANUARY 2008

General Project Locations

