

What is the NMOP SFRMP?

This section forest resource management plan (SFRMP) guides vegetation management on state-administered forest lands in the [Northern Minnesota and Ontario Peatlands Ecological Section](#). The plan complements the DNR’s [10-year stand exam list](#), which tells foresters which stands to examine for potential harvest, by telling them what they should consider as they make management decisions. This plan replaces the two plans that formerly covered the NMOP Section: the Aggasiz Lowlands Subsection SFRMP and the portion of the “North 4” SFRMP that overlapped the Littlefork-Vermillion Uplands Subsection.

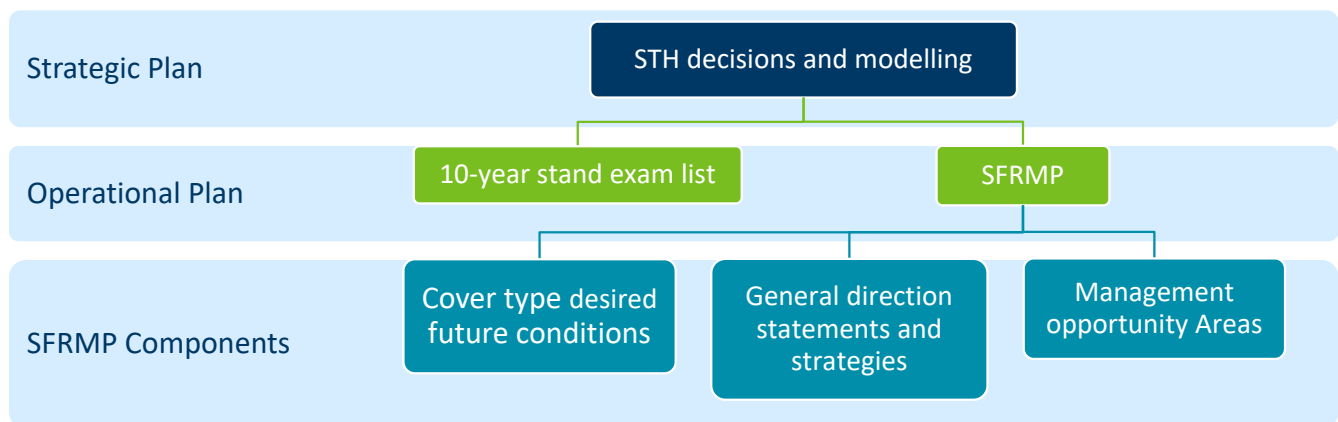


How does the SFRMP fit into DNR’s Forest Resource Management Plan?

After the [Sustainable Timber Harvest Analysis](#) was complete, the DNR updated its forest resource management planning process. Some DNR planning decisions (model parameters) and products (e.g. the 10 year stand exam list) that were formerly part of SFRMP are now determined or developed through separate processes. The current sustainable timber volume-offered target and 10-year stand exam list were developed outside of the SFRMP process using models based on ecological Section-specific data and assumptions.

Now, SFRMPs focus on providing guidance to managers as they implement the 10-year stand exam list and manage forest resources within the Section. The management guidance given by the SFRMPs includes:

- Goals for the acreage of each cover type in the Section, including cover type conversion goals
- General direction statements and strategies for achieving direction
- Identification of, and management guidance for, management opportunity areas, such as ruffed grouse management areas, that address forest values over areas larger than individual forest stands



How was the plan developed?

Work on this plan began in 2014, but was paused in 2016 to complete the DNR’s [Sustainable Timber Harvest Analysis](#). The DNR resumed planning for the NMOP SFRMP in 2019, following a Department decision on the statewide sustainable timber harvest level, and implementation of that decision through development of 10-year stand exam lists for all Ecological Sections of the state, including the NMOP Section. An interdisciplinary team, with members from the DNR Divisions of Ecological and Water Resources, Fish and Wildlife, and Forestry, developed the plan.

Northern Minnesota and Ontario Peatlands

Section Forest Resource Management Plan

What is in the plan?: Chapter Summaries

- Chapter 1** Descriptive information about the statutory basis for the plan, how DNR lands contribute to meeting DNR’s mission, the scope of the plan, the relationship of the plan to other planning processes, and summary information for the Section.
- Chapter 2** Descriptive information about broad, complex, interrelated natural resources issues in the ecological section.
- Chapter 3** Directive information on cover type desired future forest conditions, general direction statements and strategies for addressing the issues in Chapter 2, and management opportunity areas. This chapter also includes descriptive information on how the plan interacts with other policies, laws, and direction, and summary data from the 10-year stand exam list.

What is in the plan?: Future Direction

- Cover Type Desired Future Condition Direction**
 - Maintain a diversity of cover types across the Section
 - Convert approximately 1% of the aspen cover type to other cover types, including pines, white spruce, and northern hardwoods.
 - Increase within-stand diversity, by favoring species that are suited to sites (based on native plan community) and considering projected effects of climate change.
- General Direction Statements and Strategies**
 - Direction statements that are not prescriptive, but that provide guidance on addressing forest values including forest biodiversity; rare, threatened, endangered, special concern species and species of greatest conservation need; wildlife habitat; climate change; riparian areas; disturbance from insects, disease, invasive species, wildlife, fire, and wind; timber productivity; cultural values; and climate change among others.
- Management Opportunity Areas**
 - Include ruffed grouse management areas, old forest management complexes around old growth stands, deer winter habitat areas, and older forest patches, among others.
 - Management guidance was developed local interdisciplinary forest coordination partners in DNR.
 - Summary information for management opportunity areas, with maps and links to their management guidance documents, are found in the plan.

Examples: cover type change goals, a general direction statement, and a management opportunity area map.

| Cover Type | Change |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Aspen/Balm-of-Gilead | ↓5,200 ac to other cover types |
| Northern hardwoods | ↑1,000 ac from aspen |

GDS-1B: Manage within stands to reflect the composition, structure, and function of native plant communities.

