

What is the NSU SFRMP?

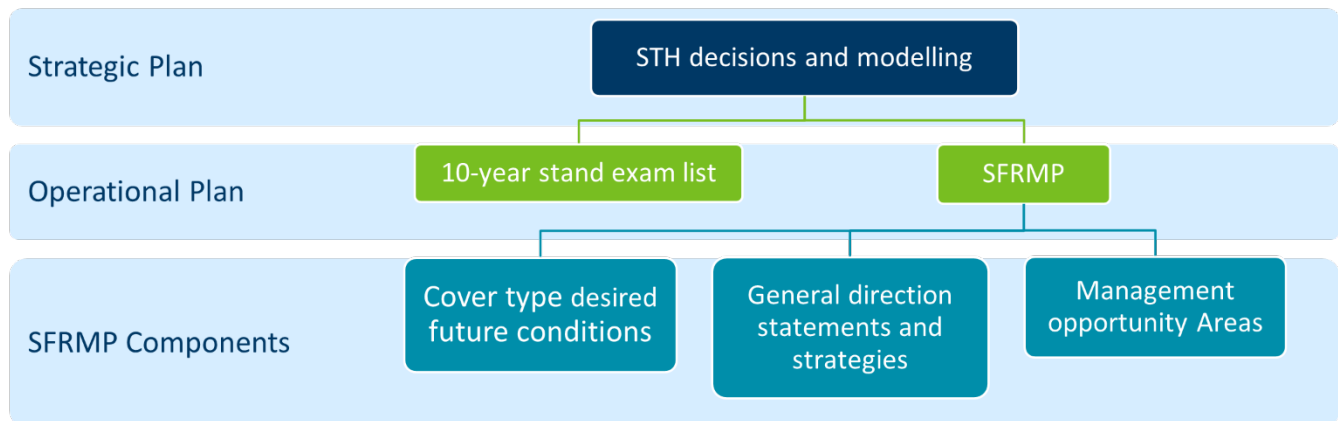
This section forest resource management plan (SFRMP) guides vegetation management on state-administered forest lands in the [Northern Superior Uplands Ecological Section](#). The plan complements the MN DNR’s [10-year stand exam list](#), which tells foresters which stands to examine for potential harvest, by telling them what they should consider as they make management decisions.



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

The DNR's Forest Resource Management Plan has three main components:

- [Sustainable timber harvest \(STH\) decisions](#) – strategic plan for how much volume the MN DNR will offer for sale annually from state-administered lands
- [10-year stand exam list](#) – operational plan for which forest stands to visit and evaluate for potential management
- [Section forest resource management plans](#) – narrative plans with ecological section-specific guidance for advancing landscape-level goals as we implement the 10-year stand exam list. SFRMP guidance includes:
 - Goals for the acreage of each cover type in the Section
 - Landscape-scale natural resource goals (general direction statements) and strategies
 - 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 NSU 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 NSU 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 state-administered lands contribute to meeting the DNR’s mission, the plan’s scope, 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 including 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**
 - Maintain a diversity of cover types across the Section.
- Future Condition**
 - Decrease aspen acres and increase other cover types, including red pine, white cedar, white pine, northern hardwoods, and others. (see Table 3.2 on Pg. 30).
- Direction**
 - 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**
 - 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 in greatest conservation need; wildlife habitat; climate change; riparian areas; disturbance from insects, disease, invasive species, wildlife, fire, and wind; timber productivity; cultural values; watershed protection; and climate change among others.
- Statements and Strategies**
- Management**
 - Include ruffed grouse management areas, old forest management complexes around old growth forests, deer winter habitat areas, and older forest patches, among others.
- Opportunity Areas**
 - Summary information for management opportunity areas, with maps and links to their management guidance documents, are found in the plan.

Examples of cover type conversion goals, a general direction statement, and a management opportunity area.

Cover Type	Current Acres	Conversion Acres
Aspen	198,270	-4,856
White cedar	32,865	957
Red pine	33,772	2,326

3.4 Wildlife Habitat

GDS-4: Provide a variety of habitat types and components at multiple scales simultaneously to support wildlife species found in the Section.

