

Family Forest Actions
Progress Report

1. Strategy: Build capacity for forest stewardship.

Responsible Party	Action	Specific Task	Timeline	Status	Comments
DNR – Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	1.1 Build the capacity of professionals to deliver technical assistance to non-industrial private forest landowners.	1.1.1 Evaluate existing programmatic costs/benefits; encourage increased consultant base; seek \$\$ for plan writing.	<i>March 2008</i>		
		1.1.2 Implement tools for tracking/reporting accomplishments.	<i>March 2008, develop proposed metrics and obtain comments; implement metrics for tracking technical assistance.</i>		
		1.1.3 Develop programs/tools to support/track family forest certification and certified wood harvest from private lands.	<i>Pursue third party certification; promote use of certified loggers; implement tracking mechanisms to monitor certification; provide training to foresters/service providers about opportunities for certification; provide incentives and/or benefits to private landowners participating in certification program.</i>		
		1.1.4 Develop promotional strategies to increase interest in Woodland Stewardship Program	<i>Pursue professional advertisement agency advice.</i>		
MFA – Minnesota Forestry Association	1.2 Build the capacity of professionals to deliver technical assistance to non-industrial private forest landowners.	1.2.1 Develop promotional strategies to increase interest in Woodland Stewardship Program.	<i>Pursue professional advertisement agency advice.</i>		
MLEP – Minnesota Logger Education Program	1.3 Build the capacity of professionals to deliver technical assistance to non-industrial private forest landowners.	1.3.1 Develop programs/tools to support/track family forest certification and certified wood harvest from private lands.	<i>Pursue third party certification; promote use of certified loggers; implement tracking mechanisms to monitor certification; provide training to</i>		

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			<i>foresters/service providers about opportunities for certification; provide incentives and/or benefits to private landowners participating in certification program.</i>	
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2. Strategy: Enhance the availability of incentives meaningful in encouraging forest practice implementation on family forestlands.

Responsible Party	Action	Specific Task	Timeline	Status	Comments
American Tree Farm System	2.1 Study and recommend means to trade carbon credits.	2.1.1 Carbon Committee could consider policy modifications to ensure use of wood as raw material; work with American Tree Farm System to serve as an aggregator of carbon credits or identify third party; propose legislation to develop program similar to California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006.	<i>December 2008: Identify a course of action.</i>		
		2.1.2 Develop training program around recommended framework to encourage family forestland owners to participate in carbon trading.	<i>July 2009: Training program in place.</i>		

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DNR - Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	2.2 Address property tax and SFIA law changes.	2.2.1 Promote landowner participation in law changes.	<i>Increase annual plan applications by 1,000 above current annual levels.</i>			
	2.3 Increase the amount of cost-sharing funds available to implement practices recommended in stewardship plans.	2.3.1 Organize representatives from forestry interests to attend local SWCD working group meetings to provide input for raising priority of cost share allocations for forestry.	<i>Each of 91 SWCD working groups will have had a forestry rep or landowner attend local meeting.</i>			
		2.4 Study and recommend means to trade carbon credits.	2.4.1 Ask MFRC or Forest Research Advisory Committee to explore feasibility of carbon trading/emerging energy opportunities and recommend course of action.	<i>October 2008, MFRC forms committee of stakeholders to address opportunities/barriers to carbon trading and recommend system.</i>		
			2.4.2 Carbon Committee could consider policy modifications to ensure use of wood as raw material; work with American Tree Farm System to serve as an aggregator of carbon credits or identify third party; propose legislation to develop program similar to California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006.	<i>December 2008: Identify a course of action.</i>		
	2.4.3 Develop training program around recommended framework to encourage family forestland owners to participate in carbon trading.	<i>July 2009: Training program in place.</i>				
DNR, along with Department of Revenue	2.5 Address property tax and SFIA law changes.	2.5.1 If/when law changes are enacted, conduct local training sessions at DNR area offices for all agency foresters, consultants, and local officials.	<i>Within one year of enacted law.</i>			
DNR, along with SWCD forestry committees	2.6 Increase the amount of cost-sharing funds available to implement practices recommended in stewardship plans.	2.6.1 Collaborate with resource-based interest groups to encourage extra forestry incentive payments for specific practice offered through cost share programs that coincide with interests of members.	<i>March 2008: All potential groups that provided similar funding under previous LCMR cost sharing program has been approached.</i>			
DNR, along with plan writers and SWCD	2.7 Increase the amount of cost-sharing funds available to implement practices recommended in stewardship plans.	2.7.1 Promote availability of cost sharing funds to family forest landowners through contacts with woodland owners/local media.	<i>No woodland owner refused plan for cost sharing practice due to shortage of funds.</i>			

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MFA - Minnesota Forestry Association	2.8 Address property tax and SFIA law changes.	2.8.1 Prepare letter to tax committee chairs in House/Senate showing support for change in vetoed tax bill and attach enhanced version of property tax law.	<i>January 2008</i>		
		2.8.2 Garner support from other natural resource-based agencies for proposed changes.	<i>February 2008, Send letter with listing of supporters.</i>		
		2.8.3 Be prepared to testify at 2008 Legislature in support of law changes.	<i>February 2008</i>		
		2.8.4 Promote landowner participation in law changes.	<i>Increase annual plan applications by 1,000 above current annual levels.</i>		
	2.9 Increase the amount of cost-sharing funds available to implement practices recommended in stewardship plans.	2.9.1 Organize representatives from forestry interests to attend local SWCD working group meetings to provide input for raising priority of cost share allocations for forestry.	<i>Each of 91 SWCD working groups will have had a forestry rep or landowner attend local meeting.</i>		
MFRC - Minnesota Forest Resources Council	2.10 Study and recommend means to trade carbon credits.	2.10.1 Carbon Committee could consider policy modifications to ensure use of wood as raw material; work with American Tree Farm System to serve as an aggregator of carbon credits or identify third party; propose legislation to develop program similar to California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006.	<i>December 2008: Identify a course of action.</i>		

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3. Strategy: Retaining family forestlands

Responsible Party	Action	Specific Task	Timeline	Status	Comments
DNR - Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	3.1 Identify and implement priority strategies resulting in retention of family forestlands and continued supply of timber products from those lands.	3.1.1 Support funding to secure resources to conduct forestland retention and parcelization research and inclusion in Governor's budget.	<i>January 2004-08 Funding of research proposal.</i>		
MFRC - Minnesota Forest Resources Council	3.2 Identify and implement priority strategies resulting in retention of family forestlands and continued supply of timber products from those lands.	3.2.1 Form an ad hoc task force to identify relevant issues pertinent to family forestland retention, parcelization, and timber availability.	<i>March 2008: Establishment of committee and id of issues and policy tools.</i>		
		3.2.2 Support funding to secure resources to conduct forestland retention and parcelization research and inclusion in Governor's budget.	<i>January 2004-08 Funding of research proposal.</i>		
		3.2.3 Conduct research and develop recommendations for decision-makers.	<i>January 2008-June 2009: Assessment of trends, drivers and effects of parcelization; assessment of broad and integrated set of policy approaches; provide decision makers with recommendation.</i>		
University of Minnesota	3.3 Identify and implement priority strategies resulting in retention of family forestlands and continued supply of timber products from those lands.	3.3.1 Conduct research and develop recommendations for decision-makers.	<i>January 2008-June 2009: Assessment of trends, drivers and effects of parcelization; assessment of broad and integrated set of policy approaches; provide decision makers with recommendation.</i>		

Acronyms:

SFIA – Sustainable Forest Incentive Act

SWCD – Soil & Water Conservation District