

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT ACTION TEAM

Strategy: **Develop and share information, expertise and resources for management in Minnesota**

Action Step 1: Re-invigorate and strengthen the Minnesota Interagency Information Cooperative (IIC)

Tasks	Responsible Parties	Benchmarks
Support supplemental budget request of \$250,000 in funding for the Minnesota IIC.	UM-Dept. of Forest Resources; MDNR; MFRC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final approval of budget request by Governor.
Establish support for IIC in the Legislature.	MDNR; MFRC; UM; MFRP.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish list of supporting interests by 11/07.
Create advisory panel for IIC to help provide structure, support and establish priorities.	MFRC; MFRP as Advisory Panel to IIC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IIC Advisory convened by 8/08.

Action Step 2: Improve forest inventory and forest management opportunity analysis capabilities

Tasks	Responsible Parties	Benchmarks
Facilitate coordinated and focused re-inventory efforts and updating processes across county and state lands.	IIC, MFRC, MDNR, MFRP Advisory Committee, Counties.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding strategy/proposal developed for re-inventory of county-administered forested lands by 1/08. Common inventory attributes and standards identified by 12/08. Ongoing inventory coordination process in place by 12/08.
Estimate future timber yields and management costs for alternative silvicultural treatment options for specific forest stand types in Minnesota.	IIC, MDNR, major forest landowners/managers/researchers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set of initial estimates for statewide application by 4/08.
Develop statewide timber supply analysis using the most recent FIA inventory to analyze sustainable timber harvest levels.	IIC, IIC Advisory Team, MFRC, MDNR, Major forest landowners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft of analysis by 11/08.
Develop analyses for specific county ownership(s) using the best available site-specific inventory information.	IIC, Counties, IIC Advisory Team.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft of work plan for one county by 11/08. Analysis completed for one or two cooperating counties by 7/09.

<p>Using combined site-specific inventory information for multiple ownerships and growth projections developed as described above, develop analyses to help identify forest management strategies that improve important spatial characteristics of the landscape for wildlife while also providing increased timber outputs for Minnesota's forest industries. Integrate efforts with <i>Action Step 3</i> aimed at developing new site-specific silvicultural treatment options.</p>	<p>IIC, IIC Advisory Team.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft work plan for one MFRC Regional Landscape Committee by 12/08. • Complete analyses for one MFRC regional Landscape Committee by 7/09.
<p>Provide workshop(s) for presenting and discussing results of IIC analyses as well as results of similar analyses by major Minnesota landowners.</p>	<p>IIC, IIC Advisory Team, MFRC, major forest landowners.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop focused on re-inventory and growth projections using best technology and cost effective practices 7/08. • Workshop on results of statewide analyses by 12/08. • Conduct workshop sharing the results of county analysis by July 2009. • Conduct workshop to share results of landscape analysis by 9/09.

Action Step 3: Improve the knowledge base through a statewide research and demonstration program. Increase research and create demonstration areas emphasizing new silvicultural systems designed to increase timber productivity, bio-fuel production and address regeneration issues in certain forest types while protecting the environment.

Tasks	Responsible Parties	Benchmarks
Create web based clearing house of current research and demonstration areas.	IIC, MFRC, UM Extension, landowners, researchers, educators.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IIC organizes task group planning meeting January-February 2008. IIC and UM Extension creates website/template cataloging existing research and demonstration sites by end of 2008 (funding dependent: maybe a good student project).
Utilize clearinghouse to identify gaps and potential needs for further research and demonstration sites.	IIC, MFRC, UM Extension, landowners, educators, researchers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IIC holds task group meeting after draft website is done to determine gaps 1/09 - 2/09. Research and demonstration proposals forwarded to funding entities. IIC acts as clearing house to track progress of filling the gaps. Gaps filled by end of 2009, in concept, (implementation will take longer).
Develop sites to fill the gaps.	Academic and agency silviculture experts to serve as advisors to landowners including industry and agencies (e.g. UPM Blandin Paper, Forest Capital Partners, Potlatch, DNR, USFS, counties)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agencies and private landowners, who volunteer a site, develop it (2010) including signage and acreage.
Find volunteers to "sponsor"/"adopt" one-two research or demonstration sites.	MFI member companies, DNR, USFS, counties, UM for own sites; MFRC, UM Extension for web site maintenance; local forestry affairs committees as site sponsors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing maintenance for a 10-year period. Access and fresh literature developed. Research results published, added to website, etc.

Acronyms:

IIC - Interagency Information Cooperative
 MDNR – MN Department of Natural Resources
 MFI – Minnesota Forest Industries

MFRC – MN Forest Resources Council
 MFRP – MN Forest Resources Partnership
 UM – University of Minnesota
 USFS – US Forest Service

NOTE:

This is a compressed document, highlighting the action steps. More details and background about this Action Team and its strategies can be found on the MFRP Website www.mnforestpartnership.com. You are encouraged to visit the website and download the complete information regarding this Action Team.