

Improving Timber Productivity Working Meeting March 27-28, 2007
Pre-Meeting Survey: Challenges Results by Category

SUMMARY OF CATEGORIES	
AC-16	Acreage available / land base / parcelization
CL-6	Climate change / global warming
EC-29	Economics / market forces / taxes
H-21	Harvesting / intensive management
ID-7	Insect & disease
IND-5	Industry / technology / machinery
NIPF-10	NIPF issues
PR-26	Public relations / society / marketing social acceptance
ST-14	Staff issues
EACH CHALLENGE GIVEN IN THE SURVEY IS LISTED HERE BY CATEGORY	
Each category has the number or amount of challenges per category	
Category-#	CHALLENGES
AC-16	Acreage available / land base / parcelization
AC	Forest fragmentation
AC	Parcelization
AC	A shrinking land base from which forest products will originate as industrial owners sell off their
AC	Potential increased timber access restrictions due to loss of industrial land base
AC	The trend toward ever-smaller parcel size is making less forestland available for timber production.
AC	Parcelization of industrial forest land base into NIPF landholdings
AC	Decrease of the timber land base.
AC	Demand on public ownership for other goods and services from the forest (especially the Forest Service and increasingly the state)
AC	High proportion of unproductive lands
AC	Urbanization (which increases stumpage/land values)
AC	Cooperation among ownerships
AC	Loss of forest land to other uses-development,sprawl, parcelization of larger tracts,and conversion to non-forested.
AC	parcelization and changing landowner objectives
AC	Declining USFS SNF timber supply & project gridlock.
AC	Increasing demand for houses and other non-forest users
AC	Sale of industrial land
CL-6	Climate change / global warming
CL	Climate Change
CL	Climate Change and negative impacts on forests and forest health (ok that's 5!)

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CL	climate change
CL	Global climate change
CL	Bulldozer effects of invasive pests and climate change.
CL	Things we can do nothing about, such as short growing season and poor soil types.
EC-29	Economics / market forces / taxes
EC	Better transportation system needed
EC	Better tax structure needed for timber management
EC	Reduce tax on forested lands.
EC	Higher taxes for private landowners
EC	Better markets to better diversify silviculture options
EC	Markets: Low Quality Hardwoods
EC	Develop diverse markets
EC	Poor markets for undesirable species.
EC	Increase marketability of all species
EC	Small inefficient timber sales
EC	Lack of economic incentive
EC	Develop an analysis (economic and otherwise) that demonstrates the wisdom and gains of improved management so as to draw investment in this management.
EC	The economics of increasing production inputs while stumpage prices are in the tank.
EC	Being able to fund an increasing program during decreasing budgets.
EC	Value of timber versus cost of management (markets)
EC	Fluctuating markets and lack of consistent market availability across state. Some areas able to utilize biomass and small diameter wood. Others struggle to get 3" top diameter utilization on aspen, spruce, etc.
EC	Fluctuating markets. Boom or Bust, like farming
EC	Maintaining a profitable market place.
EC	Markets remaining operative in MN
EC	Maintain strong, regional markets for the resource
EC	Market fluctuations
EC	Understanding Minnesota's role in the world timber market. Long term, how do we know that Minnesota is best suited to be a large and successful competitor in the world market timber or is there another socially or economically overriding niche for MN forests to hold?
EC	Understanding long term consequences so that we avoid a boom or bust situation.
EC	Stumpage prices are too low.
EC	Keeping stumpage prices up to encourage NIPF
EC	Utilization of all forest species regardless of condition
EC	Creating a more diverse industry that is resilient to a soft housing market
EC	Better markets for poor quality trees

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EC	Decreased stumpage prices diminishing the options for forest management to improve the timber value on forest lands. Leads to the question of how much more of our forested lands will be sold off for residential development?
H-21	Harvesting / intensive management
H	Forest certification.
H	Improve allowable harvest calculations, i.e., use harvest scheduling models with growth and yield components that fully address the potentials of higher (than present) levels of management. This step will clarify the motivation.
H	Develop a silviculture cooperative for practitioners, e.g., modeled on the MTIC and including demonstration
H	Recreation-caused site degradation.
H	Achieving timber productivity goals within a context of sustainable use that everyone understands
H	Better understanding of Silviculture
H	Extended Rotation Forestry & general rotation ages for some DNR Forestry SFRMP plans.
H	Encourage the US Forest Service to achieve their sustainable harvest levels.
H	Predation/Browse
H	Forest regeneration (artificial or natural) is inadequate. (thanks to deer/rabbit browse, shifting weather patterns, forest pests.)
H	Regenerating sites in light of the number of deer
H	Increasing volume harvested per acre.
H	Intense management of overmature timer.
H	Harvest stands on time
H	Meeting more than the minimum allowable cut.
H	Respond to mortality
H	Increase intensive. Silv. acres
H	Unbalanced age class distribution of aspen supply
H	adequate inventory information
H	Poor existing forest inventory
H	Lack of resources/investments in silviculture
ID-7	Insect & disease
ID	Forest health concerns may overwhelm anything we can reasonably accomplish
ID	Exotic pests
ID	Exotics, namely plants
ID	Invasive, exotic species.
ID	Pests
ID	invasives (bugs/disease/plants)

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ID	Exotic species and their effect on regeneration and forest composition.
IND-5	Industry / technology / machinery
IND	Lack of cut to length machines
IND	Modernization of production facilities to improve Minnesota's competitiveness in a global market.
IND	The logging community lacks appropriate harvesting and forwarding equipment that will be needed for biomass harvesting, intermediate stand treatments, and other non-traditional silviculture. This equipment is either unaffordable, or not yet available in the US.
IND	Long-term logging infrastructure
IND	Equipment limitations
NIPF-10	NIPF issues
NIPF	Getting practices implemented on family forests
NIPF	NIPF owner expectations
NIPF	Private landowner education
NIPF	Low interest in timber from NIPF landowners
NIPF	Timber productivity is a low priority for private woodland owners
NIPF	Relate improving timber productivity to the landowners' goals.
NIPF	Resist the temptation to increase the regulatory control of timber harvest, the result of which is NIPF landowners turning their backs on timber harvest as an activity now worth the time and hassle.
NIPF	Obtaining more wood from NIPF lands.
NIPF	Eliminate "free" government assistance to NIPF owners
NIPF	Assuring stewardship of NIPF land as wood is cut.
PR-26	Public relations / society / marketing social acceptance
PR	Lack of understanding by the public and policy makers about the importance of forest productivity to the future health of the forest and the forest products industry.
PR	Instill a societal value to protect MN's forest land base from development.
PR	Develop a belief that the harvest of wood serves the public interest.
PR	Education of urban populations to understand where consumer goods come from and the need for forest management.
PR	The urban public is largely ignorant of the need to increase timber productivity, and will not support more intensive management if it is perceived to be at the expense of other ecological or recreational uses of forestland.
PR	Lack of social acceptability of intensive silvicultural practices
PR	Public perceptions and reactions to harvesting
PR	Getting the "forester community" more involved within their local communities (e.g. planning commissions, school boards, etc – have them look at it as their civic duty rather than have to be compensated by their employer to participate).

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PR	Potential negative perceptions from others who will see this as just another way for us to want to increase harvest levels or leave even less in the woods after a harvest
PR	Expanding the perspective beyond maximizing wood & fiber quality & production.
PR	Lack of marketing / PR capacity
PR	Forestry sector has a poor public image
PR	A limited focus on productivity could have a negative message to the general public who has broader interests in Minnesota's forests
PR	Achieving a common understanding of goals and objectives
PR	The public's unwillingness to cut our own wood.
PR	Resistance from ecologists, wildlifers, fisheries, and environmental groups.
PR	Gaining public/interest group support
PR	Better working relation between and within organizations so all environmental issues are addressed.
PR	Accomplishing collaborative planning to get projects accomplished without appeals and litigation.
PR	The opposition to active forest management by some groups, agencies and individuals.
PR	Alternative Viewpoints
PR	Balancing the needs for recreation, wildlife, water quality, sensitive habitats and timber on an ever decreasing base of forest lands
PR	The lack of a long term perspective on the impact of not doing active forest management.
PR	Too many different #1 priorities
PR	Conflict over forest management – polarized environment
PR	Lack of recognition of the diversity of forest products markets.
ST-14	Staff issues
ST	Get the younger generation to take an interest in natural resource management.
ST	TIME for professionals to do quality management
ST	Too few foresters to effectively manage the forest to the standards implied by ecological information that is in development.
ST	Provide adequate professional staff to achieve outcomes.
ST	Too little \$\$\$ for staffing forest management efforts.
ST	Staffing resources
ST	Developing the will at the agency/staff level to get the job done
ST	Taking the initiative to provide the needed funding
ST	Lack of training and awareness of new research.
ST	Lack of time and funds to invest in increasing MN's timber productivity.
ST	The amount of retirements we will be seeing in the next 10 years. Not many entry level employees are on-board to train.

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ST	The age class of existing professionals is reaching the retirement age. Getting good replacement staff for turnover that will be occurring is going to get more difficult. The loss of experience is going to create a knowledge gap.
ST	Forest managers being overridden/overtaken/demoralized by other interests prevent them from following silvicultural guidelines for forest management.
ST	Declining logger capacity