

SILVICULTURE ACTION TEAM

Strategy 1: Increase the use of long-term stand-level management plans - prescriptions - that consider the full spectrum of silvicultural practices and technologies and apply the most appropriate for increased productivity

Action Step 1-A: Write prescriptions that consider the life of the stand from stand initiation to final harvest

Tasks	Responsible Parties	Benchmarks
Develop and implement policies that encourage the preparation of prescriptions using all available knowledge such as ECS, insects and disease information, soils, etc.	Public forestry agencies; timber companies.	MFRP review policies by MFRP by October 2008.
Develop a prescription writing workshop for forestry agencies to share ideas on preparing effective prescriptions to insure adequacy and commonality of prescriptions.	MFRP	Workshop scheduled during summer of 2008.
Develop harvesting technologies to allow efficient harvesting of small-diameter material.	UM, timber industry, logger groups.	MFRP review progress in developing emerging small-diameter harvesting technologies by October 2009.
Support research to develop optimal thinning strategies by MFPRC and UM.	Productivity Cooperative	Report progress to MFRP by October 2009.
Promote the use of biomass.	Public forestry agencies; timber companies.	MFRP review efforts by agencies and companies by October 2008.

Action Step 1-B: Use the full range of silvicultural systems to meet productivity goals, capture mortality, and increase stand quality

Tasks	Responsible Parties	Benchmarks
Coordinate the development of a workshop, which demonstrates the range of silvicultural systems and options possible.	MFRP	Develop plans and draft curriculum by October, 2008; offer workshop by summer of 2009.
Develop demonstration areas that show the range of options for silvicultural systems appropriate for MN forests types, NPC's and environmental conditions.	DNR, Counties, timber industry.	MFRP review plans for demo areas by the agencies and companies by October, 2008; first demo area available for viewing by October 2009.
Implement a user-friendly modeling system that considers all facets of forest management and indicates the appropriate entry times for management activities.	DNR, Counties, timber industry.	December 2008.
Land managers should develop a method to determine stands of high risk and low volume and implement a harvest strategy to capture mortality and regenerate unproductive stands.	Land Managers	Develop HRLV criteria by July 1, 2008.
Identify and Develop a harvest strategy for timber products at a more appropriate age to reduce mortality (culmination of MAI/economic rotation ages) for products be produced (pulpwood/saw logs).	Land Managers	Develop strategy to harvest stands at more productive ages by July 1, 2008.

Action Step 1-C: Control infestation, damage, and spread of forest pests (invasive and endemic species/diseases and deer) that affect forest productivity

Tasks	Responsible Parties	Benchmarks
Collaboration and coordinated efforts between ownerships, interest groups and agencies (similar to MIFC).	MFRC, MFRP, Forest Protection Task Force.	October 2008.
Application of research findings to the field (often there is a disconnect).	University system, DNR Pathologists, Management Foresters.	October 2008.
Bulletins (or something, Internet?) that compiles known information in one location.	Coordinate with Information Strategy.	December 2008.
Educate the public and legislators about the problems associated with high deer numbers (focus on reaching the urban population).	MFI, MFRC, Wildlife managers.	Coordinated action plan developed by 1/1/08.
Introduce legislation to ban recreational deer feeding.	MFRC, MFI, MFRP, MN Deer Hunter Association.	January 2009.

Strategy 2: Enable loggers to be more self-directed when conducting first-entry thinnings

Action Step 2-A: Public agencies should ensure that their timber sale policies allow and promote logger-select thinning, with appropriate performance standards

Tasks	Responsible Parties	Benchmarks
Prepare a report to the MFRP including the following information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Results of an analysis of timber sale policies that identify organizational barriers and opportunities for logger-select thinnings; • Baseline of how many sales and acres have been in logger select sales over the past five years; and • Projection of how many acres and sales the organization can promote and support during the 5-year period of 2009-2014. 	Land Commissioners, Forest Supervisors, State Foresters, Procurement Managers, NIPF managers, Wood Brokers.	October 2008.

Action Step 2-B: Build on existing logger training programs (MLEP, Vermillion CC, etc.)

Tasks	Responsible Parties	Benchmarks
Recognize loggers for training.	Mill Managers, Procurement Managers.	January 2008.
Sponsor Career Days to promote recruitment of the next generation of loggers.	MFI, MFRC, MFRP, ACLT.	June 2008.
Lobby Legislature to increase \$\$\$ for logger education.	MFI, MFRC, MFRP, ACLT.	June 2008.
Develop a training module focused on self-directed logging operations, Master Logger Certification.	Dave Chura, MLEP; Dixon Shelstad Vermilion CC; Mark Jensen, Bemidji CC, etc.	August 2008.
Develop thinning criteria that is easily implemented.	MFPRC, Field Foresters.	June 2008.
Develop policies to allow only qualified (trained) loggers to bid on logger-select thinning sales.	Land Commissioners, Forest Supervisors, State Foresters, Procurement Managers, NIPF managers, Wood Brokers.	January 2010.

Action Step 2-C: Provide incentives such as low interest loans for loggers to purchase harvesting equipment most appropriate for thinning sales

Tasks	Responsible Parties	Benchmarks
Guarantee contracted wood can be delivered regardless of temporary market conditions.	Mill Managers, Procurement Managers.	January 2008.
Offer logger-select thinning sales.	Land Commissioners, Forest Supervisors, State Foresters, Procurement Managers, NIPF managers, Wood Brokers.	January 2008.
Pressure lending institutions to make loans.	Area Chambers of Commerce	November 2007.
Lobby Legislature to subsidize interest rates for equipment loans.	MFI, MFRP, ACLT, Area Chambers of Commerce.	May 2008.

Strategy 3: Use ecological classification systems to better match site, species, and silvicultural prescriptions

Action Step 3-A: Provide classes through different venues depending on the audience

Tasks	Responsible Parties	Benchmarks
While doing performance reviews, provide the opportunity for training in ECS.	Forestry supervisors	Performance review for fiscal/calendar year 2008.
Determine the number of employees that need training so classes and funding are available.	Forestry supervisors	Provide summary of numbers and needs to MFRP by October, 2008.
Provide additional sessions of the Ecological Silviculture class as needed to fulfill the practitioner needs.	SFEC	Offer session(s) during calendar 2008.
Evaluate and change classes to reflect the use of ECS and how to integrate ECS with silvics and ecology. Develop outreach workshops on ECS.	University of Minnesota, Community Colleges.	Report how ECS is or will be integrated into curricula by October 2008.
Mentor co-workers and network with other groups to keep people informed and provide continual improvement in the use of ECS.	Experienced users and trained individuals.	Initiate immediately.

Action Step 3-B: Provide the tools to implement an ECS

Tasks	Responsible Parties	Benchmarks
Evaluate and provide new growth and yield models correlated to ECS.	Researchers (University of Minnesota, USFS, NRRI).	Progress report made to MFRP by October 2008.
Provide field demonstration sites with documentation on forestry activities performed. The information for the sites would reside in one location that anyone could access.	Land Management Organizations (USFS, State, Counties, Private Industrial, TNC) and Research Groups (University of Minnesota, USFS, NRRI).	See Action 1-B.
Utilize established inventories as a base to assess what needs to be changed, added, or modified so inventory data is compatible across ownerships.	Land Management Organizations (USFS, State, Counties, Private Industrial, TNC), MFRC.	Provide progress report to MFRP by October 2009.
Compile the information needed for a Minnesota Plant ID book.	Botanists, Natural Heritage Program, MDNR.	Complete a web version by May 2008.
Work together to provide silvicultural interpretations/suggestions by plant communities. Create demonstration sites using these interpretations/suggestions to provide “on-the-ground” examples.	Forest Ecologists and Foresters (Land Management Organizations and Research Organizations).	DNR serve as coordinator of this effort. provide a progress report to MFRP by October 2008.

Tasks Step 3-C: Capitalize on existing monitoring systems and change and/or modify as needed

Tasks	Responsible Parties	Benchmarks
Evaluates the effectiveness of implementing an ECS; establish case studies to begin documentation.	Foresters and Forest Managers (Land Management Organizations).	Provide preliminary assessment and progress report by October 2009.
Monitor planting survival rates, stocking levels, number of intermediate entries, fiber quality, variety of available products, health (insect and disease problems), and volume.	Field Foresters (do measuring), Agency Analysts (report to management the trends).	December 2008; Annual Report
Provide resources for a monitoring system.	Managers, Investors, Legislators.	Seek funding via legislature during 2009 session.

Acronyms:

ACLT – Associated Contract Loggers & Truckers
 CC – Community College
 MDNR – MN Department of Natural Resources
 MFRC – MN Forest Resources Council
 MFI – MN Forest Industries
 MFPRC - MN Forest Productivity Research Cooperative
 MFRP – MN Forest Resources Partnership
 MIFC – MN Interagency Fire Center
 MLCP – MN Logger Certification Program

ECS – Ecological Classification System
 HRLV – High Risk Low Volume
 MAI – Mean Annual Increment
 MLEP – MN Logger Education Program
 NIPF – Non-Industrial Private Forest
 NPC – Native Plant Community
 NRCS – Natural Resources Conservation Service
 NRRI – Natural Resources Research Institute
 TNC – The Nature Conservancy
 USFS – US Forest Service
 UM – University of Minnesota

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.