

# Action Plan: Wood Fiber Availability

## MFRP Minnesota Forest Futures Conference: TAKING ACTION!

Wednesday and Thursday: December 10-11, 2014  
 Arrowwood Lodge  
 Baxter, Minnesota

### Wood Fiber Availability

Recommendation # 1. Increase wood fiber availability on the market (Forest Service, DNR, Counties)

Action Steps / • Tasks	Responsible Parties Lead/Support Persons	Benchmarks	Timelines
<b>Action Step 1: Update Forest Inventory</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revisit the 2005 Cooperative Stand Assessment process to reevaluate its suitability for current needs.</li> <li>Convene large landowners to identify inventory needs, funding needs, and how to get it done.</li> </ul>	- Federal, state, and county forest managers - DNR Resource Assessment - UMN- Forest Resources -Legislature	Plan supported by major land owners developed by MFRP/MFRC.	TBD
<b>Action Step 2: FS meets allowable sale quantities included in forest plan</b>	- US Forest Service Supervisors	As presented in the forest plan.	Annually & during plan development every 10 yr.
<b>Action Step 3: State &amp; counties conduct baseline, unconstrained, timber output modeling</b>	- U of M assist with modeling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New work group is convened.</li> </ul>	-6 months: End of state

<p>("unconstrained" refers to restrictive policies such as ERF, protected areas, etc)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IIC convenes a MN forest modeling working group to identify consensus / broadly supported approaches to modeling.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- DNR RA</li> <li>- MFI</li> <li>- Counties</li> <li>- Other stakeholders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work group develops consensus model inputs and structure</li> <li>• New model outputs developed based on unconstrained data.</li> </ul>	<p>FY15.</p>
<p><b>Action Step 4: Enhancing leadership support to implement decisions leading to increased outputs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leadership to implement harvest targets and fiber availability must be supported internally in order to make real change on the ground.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- US Forest Service Supervisors</li> <li>- State/county forest mgmt divisions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seeking budgets, staff, resources to meet stated plans.</li> </ul>	<p>Annually through work plans, etc.</p>
<p><b>Action Step 5: Survey, identify, and quantify underutilized species</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Find ways to improve markets for available wood – basswood, ash, balsam fir, birch, pine pulpwood, other underutilized species.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- US Forest Service</li> <li>- State/county forest mgmt divisions</li> </ul>		<p>Ongoing</p>

**Recommendation # 2 Increase outreach to family forest landowners by professional foresters; emphasize pursuing financial incentive payments to help develop/implement mgmt. plans and promote timber harvests to attain landowner goals.**

<p><b>Action Steps /</b> • Tasks</p>	<p><b>Responsible Parties</b> <b>Lead/Support</b> <b>Persons</b></p>	<p><b>Benchmarks</b></p>	<p><b>Timelines</b></p>
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<p><b>Action Step 1: Increase statewide outreach efforts to private timberland owners to manage lands, resulting in increased timber outputs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landowner education through a variety of formats: Workshops, online, conferences, print materials, etc.</li> <li>• Support efforts to get landowners in their woods with a forester (MFA's Boots on the Ground may be one venue)</li> <li>• Focused support for consulting forester profession to provide outreach, marketing, and opportunities to promote private land management (Sagor / SFEC will contact DEED for possible collaboration on this)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MN DNR PFM and Wildlife Habitat Advisory <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ruffed Grouse</li> <li>• NWTf</li> <li>• Deer Hunters</li> <li>• Audubon</li> </ul> </li> <li>- MFA</li> <li>- USFS State and Private</li> <li>- NRCS</li> <li>- County land dept.</li> <li>- Private and industry consulting foresters</li> <li>- DEED help with consulting forester prof dev? (Heather Rand)</li> <li>- UMN: SFEC (targeting professionals) and/or Extension (for landowners)</li> <li>- MACF</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At least one high-profile landowner conference each year</li> <li>• Prominent website with materials for landowners who go looking</li> <li>• Specific outreach targeting SFIA and 2c – emphasize benefits (financial and other) of active management.</li> </ul>	<p>Annually for conference. Monthly / ongoing for web content updates, email newsletter, etc. Ongoing for other.</p>
<p><b>Action Step 2: DNR serve as coordinator to work with interested partners to increase efforts to promote forest management on private timberlands (primarily through Forest Stewardship Committee and new PFM system plan)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Eli Sagor to share recommendation with FFM Systems Working Group currently active under DNR Gary Michael's leadership (done)</li> <li>- Counties lead communications with adjacent landowners</li> </ul>	<p>e.g. regularly scheduled timber sale auctions as exemplified by Central MN Small Woodlot Owners</p> <p>e.g. county land dept. communications program with adjacent private landowners</p>	<p>1<sup>st</sup> qtr. 2015</p>

	about upcoming treatments. - Industry help with marketing and outreach	when county timber sale is sold  Add industry procurement / PFM forester capacity to support outreach	
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**Recommendation # 3 Develop comprehensive plan for identifying and accessing sites that can be made available for summer harvesting where site conditions and management objectives support non-frozen ground operations.**

<p><b>Action Step 1:</b> Use forest inventory systems to help ID areas of potential summer operability/conduct inventory and id areas suitable for summer access</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop output-based site prescriptions to provide guidance for land managers. Can't prescribe equipment, but can we prescribe outputs in context of rutting, compaction, etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- DNR-DOF</li> <li>- County forestry depts.</li> <li>- USFS National Forests</li> <li>- For outreach: MNSAF chapters?</li> <li>- MFRP role for coordination</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Quantify current summer harvest levels</li> <li>- Develop new targets for improvement</li> <li>- ID demonstration sites (set goal for # demo sites) on state, county, and private lands for summer operability distributed around the state. Include visits to these sites in NR mgr workshops such as MNSAF chapter meetings?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- April 2015</li> <li>- May 2015</li> <li>- First demos July-Sept 2015? Thereafter, ongoing</li> </ul>
<p><b>Action Step 2:</b> Explore ways to increase road maintenance budgets to improve existing roads and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MFRP primary coordinator role</li> </ul>		Ongoing

<p>provide spur roads to access timber stands (not new road construction or lengthy system improvement investments)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Explore available tools / mechanisms to get this done</li> <li>- Stewardship contracting on NF lands</li> <li>- Road maintenance contracts bundled with state and county timber sales: New tool?</li> <li>- Explore possibility for bonding dollars through the legislature</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- TPA / ACL</li> <li>- DNR-DOF</li> <li>- County forestry depts.</li> <li>- USFS National Forests</li> <li>- Legislature: Bonding request?</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Action Step 3:</b> Develop new NR manager education around opportunities for increased summer harvests: How to assess summer harvest potential on a given site?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- New workshop offered 2015 by SFEC and MLEP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SFEC, DNR, UMN-FR, etc</li> <li>- MLEP</li> </ul>	<p>New workshop offered 2015 by SFEC and MLEP</p>	<p>Summer/fall 2015</p>

**Recommendation # 4 Increase revenue for public and private forest landowners by encouraging them to conduct larger volumes sales. (i.e., more volume per sale)**

<p><b>Action Step 1:</b> Encourage use of larger sales to increase efficiency and financial return</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Quantify current sale size distribution on each of the large land ownerships</li> <li>- See what can be learned from the DNR’s “super-permit” experiment on the north shore. Can this be replicated, are there ways to emulate this effort to increase flexibility?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- USFS – Chippewa and Superior NF</li> <li>- DNR</li> <li>- counties</li> <li>- consulting foresters</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Quantify current sale size distribution on each of the large land ownerships</li> <li>- Set targets / goals to increase number of large sales</li> <li>- Share what is learned from super-permit process</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- April 2015</li> <li>- May 2015</li> <li>- First demos July-Sept 2015? Thereafter, ongoing</li> </ul>
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**Recommendation # 5 Conduct pine thinning's year-round**

<p><b>Action Step 1:</b> Communication efforts with foresters and loggers can provide useful information on stand protection describing desired outcomes would allow for all season stand access. Also communication about real vs. perceived risk associated with spring / early summer thinning's.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Logger training, possibly logger and forester mixed trainings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- USFS – Chippewa and Superior NF</li> <li>- DNR</li> <li>- counties</li> <li>- consulting foresters</li> <li>- MLEP and SFEC for joint logger-NR manager trainings</li> <li>- MNSAF role?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- New workshops exploring risk associated with spring thinning's</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- By summer 2016</li> </ul>
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Eli S Sagor 1/13/15 8:42 AM

**Comment [1]:** Some comments were received that suggested that some restrictions on summer pine thinning operations may not be as necessary as previously believed (ex. pine beetles).

**Recommendation # 6 Employ additional tools, such as the purchase of permanent conservation easements, to ensure the protection of high value forest lands and associated timber supply (Legislature, DNR, LSOHC).**

<p><b>Action Step 1:</b> The wood fiber availability working groups provided support for the SFIA working group revision recommendations and the legislative initiatives contained in the competitiveness report that strengthen the use of permanent conservation easements.</p>	<p>MFRC Legislature MFA</p>	<p>-</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Legislative Session</li> </ul>
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**Recommendation # 7 Enhance the effectiveness of the Sustainable Forestry Incentive Act (SFIA) at providing a multitude of benefits including increased timber supply, slowed parcelization, maintenance of water quality and maintenance of public recreational access (Legislature, DNR, Department of Revenue).**

<p><b>Action Step 1:</b> Support the findings and recommendations of the SFIA work group.</p>	<p>MFRC Legislature MFA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hearings</li> <li>- Committee Input</li> <li>- Landowner outreach</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Legislative Session</li> </ul>
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**Recommendation # 8 A** delegation led by DNR should work collaboratively with the SRI, FSC and ATFS certification systems to establish recognition of the Minnesota Master Logger Certification program as a credible third-party certification program (DNR, MLEP, MFI, MFA).

<b>Action Step 1:</b> Not discussed.		-	-
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