

**Family Forest Actions**  
*Progress Report*

**1. Strategy: Build capacity for forest stewardship.**

Responsible Party	Action	Specific Task	Timeline	Status	Comments
<b>DNR</b> – Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	<b>1.1 Build the capacity of professionals to deliver technical assistance to non-industrial private forest landowners.</b>	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>		
<b>MFA</b> – Minnesota Forestry Association	<b>1.2 Build the capacity of professionals to deliver technical assistance to non-industrial private forest landowners.</b>	1.2.1 Develop promotional strategies to increase interest in Woodland Stewardship Program.	<i>Pursue professional advertisement agency advice.</i>		
<b>MLEP</b> – Minnesota Logger Education Program	<b>1.3 Build the capacity of professionals to deliver technical assistance to non-industrial private forest landowners.</b>	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>		

**Family Forest Actions**  
*Progress Report*

			<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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**Family Forest Actions**  
*Progress Report*

**2. Strategy: Enhance the availability of incentives meaningful in encouraging forest practice implementation on family forestlands.**

Responsible Party	Action	Specific Task	Timeline	Status	Comments
<b>American Tree Farm System</b>	<b>2.1 Study and recommend means to trade carbon credits.</b>	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>		

**Family Forest Actions**  
***Progress Report***

DNR - Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	<b>2.2 Address property tax and SFIA law changes.</b>	2.2.1 Promote landowner participation in law changes.	<i>Increase annual plan applications by 1,000 above current annual levels.</i>		
	<b>2.3 Increase the amount of cost-sharing funds available to implement practices recommended in stewardship plans.</b>	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>		
	<b>2.4 Study and recommend means to trade carbon credits.</b>	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	<b>2.5 Address property tax and SFIA law changes.</b>	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	<b>2.6 Increase the amount of cost-sharing funds available to implement practices recommended in stewardship plans.</b>	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	<b>2.7 Increase the amount of cost-sharing funds available to implement practices recommended in stewardship plans.</b>	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>		

**Family Forest Actions**  
*Progress Report*

<b>MFA -</b> Minnesota Forestry Association	<b>2.8 Address property tax and SFIA law changes.</b>	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>		
	<b>2.9 Increase the amount of cost-sharing funds available to implement practices recommended in stewardship plans.</b>	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>		
<b>MFRC -</b> Minnesota Forest Resources Council	<b>2.10 Study and recommend means to trade carbon credits.</b>	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>		

**Family Forest Actions**  
*Progress Report*

**3. Strategy: Retaining family forestlands**

Responsible Party	Action	Specific Task	Timeline	Status	Comments
<b>DNR - Minnesota Department of Natural Resources</b>	<b>3.1 Identify and implement priority strategies resulting in retention of family forestlands and continued supply of timber products from those lands.</b>	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>		
<b>MFRC - Minnesota Forest Resources Council</b>	<b>3.2 Identify and implement priority strategies resulting in retention of family forestlands and continued supply of timber products from those lands.</b>	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>		
<b>University of Minnesota</b>	<b>3.3 Identify and implement priority strategies resulting in retention of family forestlands and continued supply of timber products from those lands.</b>	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