

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.	Final approval of budget request by Governor.
Establish support for IIC in the Legislature.	MDNR; MFRC; UM.	Establish list of supporting interests by 11/07.
Create advisory panel for IIC to help provide structure, support and establish priorities.	MFRC; MFRP as Adviosry Panel to IIC.	IIC Advisory convened by 8/07.

**Action Step 2:** Improve forest inventory and forest management 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 Panel.	Funding strategy/proposal developed for re-inventory of county-administered forested lands by 1/08. Common inventory attributes and standards identified by 7/08. Procedures, technology and cost-effective practices workshop conducted by 7/08. Ongoing inventory coordination process in place by 7/08.
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.	Set of initial estimates for statewide application by 4/08.
Develop statewide timber supply analysis using the most recent FIA inventory to	IIC, IIC Advisory Team, MFRC, MDNR, Major forest	Draft of analysis by 11/08.

analyze sustainable timber harvest levels.	landowners.	
Develop analyses for specific county ownership(s) using the best available site-specific inventory information.	IIC, Counties, IIC Advisory Team.	Draft of work plan for one county by 11/08. Analysis completed for one county by 7/09. Conduct workshop sharing the results of county analysis by Fall 2009.
Using combined site-specific inventory information for multiple ownerships and results and growth projections associated with steps 3-5 described above, develop analyses to help identify forest management strategies that improve important spatial characteristics of the landscape for wildlife while also providing timber for Minnesota's forest industries. Integrate efforts with Acton Item 3 efforts aimed at develop new site-specific silvicultural treatment options.	IIC, IIC Advisory Team.	Draft work plan for one MFRC Regional Landscape Committee by 12/08. Complete analyses for one MFRC regional Landscape Committee by 7/09. Conduct workshop to share results of landscape analysis by 9/09.
Provide workshops for presenting and discussing results of IIC analyses as well as results of similar analyses by major Minnesota landowners.	IIC, IIC Advisory Team, MFRC, Major forest landowners.	Workshop focused on Action Steps 1-2 by 4/08. Workshop on results of statewide analyses for Action Step 3 by 12/08.

**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.	IIC organizes task group planning meeting January-February 2008. IIC and UM Extension create 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.	IIC holds task group meeting after draft website is done to determine gaps 1/09 - 2/09. Research 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 silviculture experts to serve as advisors to landowners, landowners industry, agencies (e.g. UPM Blandin Paper, Forest Capital Partners, Potlatch, DNR, USFS, counties)	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.	Ongoing maintenance for ca. 10-year period. Access, garbage cleanup, 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](http://www.mnforestpartnership.com). You are encouraged to visit the website and download the complete information regarding this Action Team.

OR

The rationale, alignment with Governor’s Task Force recommendations, and additional information on the Information Management Action Team deliberations is available on the Minnesota Forest Resources Partnership Web Site: [www.mnforestpartnership.com](http://www.mnforestpartnership.com)