



Minnesota Counties Sustainable Forest Cooperative Procedures

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| LD- P1 | Sustainable Forest Management Policy | | |
| Owner: Bruce Cox | Approver: MCSFC | Version 1 | Revision Date: January 3, 2006 |

As the manager of public lands in the County, the Land Department operates on a commercial basis and is required to ensure that an optimal financial return is attained from the use of the forest lands managed by the Land Department. At the same time the Land Department also has a duty to the people of the county to maintain the recreational and other social values of the forest resource and to protect the long term sustainability of the resource. Sustainable forest management is about striking a balance between economic, social and environmental values in a manner that protects all of these values over time.

The Land Department is committed to the principles of sustainable forest management and will manage the lands in our care in accordance with those principles. We will establish a sustainable forest management system (SFMS) that will help us achieve and be environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial and economically viable. Through our SFMS we commit to:

- Protect the integrity and longevity of forest lands under our management;
- Comply with all applicable laws, regulations and voluntary guidelines.
- Acquire and maintain third party certification to the Sustainable Forest Management principles;
- Plan and conduct forest management activities in a manner that:
 - protects and maintains biodiversity across the forest ecosystem;
 - prevents damage and protects forest health and productivity;
 - minimizes chemical use;
 - protects the integrity of riparian areas
 - minimizes aesthetic impact;
 - protects threatened and endangered species and their habitat;
 - conserves areas with special attributes such as cultural, ecological, geological, economic or social attributes; and
 - promotes efficient utilization.
- Promote and incorporate applied research and technology to improve sustainable forest management.
- Enhance public recreation values by providing opportunities for dispersed recreation on County lands.
- Provide public education on forest ecology, sustainable forest management and the economic value of forests.
- Solicit public input on forest management plans, policies and county performance.
- Communicate our performance to the county board, employees, the public and other stakeholders.
- Ensure the capability of our employees and field operators to perform their responsibilities with the highest degree of professionalism.
- Continually improve performance of the SFMS through regular reviews and audits.

Please see **LD-P2 Statement of Operational Commitments** for more detail on each of the above commitments.