



## A SIGNIFICANT FORESTRY LAW

In 1995 the Minnesota Legislature adopted the Minnesota Sustainable Forest Resources Act (SFRA), one of the state's most significant forestry laws. The act established policies and programs to ensure sustainable use and management of our state's forests. Sustainability means meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Sustainable forestry is a proactive form of management that provides for the multiple uses of the forest by balancing a diversity of both present and future needs.

## ABOUT MFI

Minnesota Forest Industries (MFI) is an association representing the state's forest products companies. MFI members encourage conservation, proper forest management and industry development that foster sound environmental stewardship, multiple use of timber lands and sustainable long-term timber supply.

For additional information, please log on to [minnesotaforests.com](http://minnesotaforests.com).

### MFI Members

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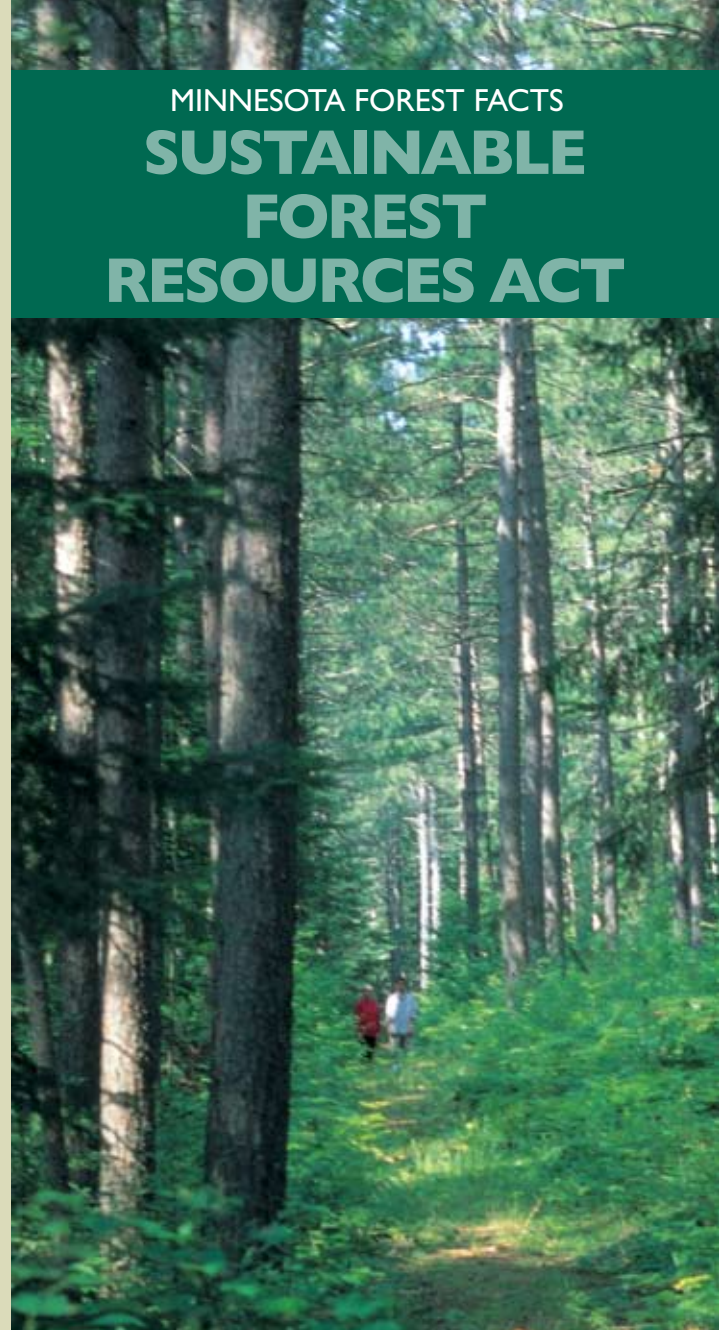
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# MINNESOTA FOREST FACTS SUSTAINABLE FOREST RESOURCES ACT

## BALANCING PRESENT AND FUTURE NEEDS



MINNESOTA FOREST INDUSTRIES

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# WAYS THE SUSTAINABLE FOREST RESOURCES ACT HELPS MINNESOTA'S FORESTS

## **The Forest Resources Council coordinates implementation.**

The Forest Resources Council is a 17-member, governor-appointed body whose responsibility is to coordinate SFRA implementation and serve as an advisory group to government and land management organizations on sustainable forest resource policies and practices. Members represent a range of public and private organizations including research and higher education, conservation and environmental groups, tourism, labor organizations, hunting interests, and forest products.



## **Comprehensive timber harvesting and forest management guidelines.**

These SFRA guidelines are a menu of valuable decision-making tools that include recommendations for riparian forest management, forest wildlife habitat, soil productivity, historic and cultural resource protection, water quality, and visual quality.

## **Monitoring practices and conditions.**

The SFRA directs the Department of Natural Resources to carry out a program to evaluate the extent to which the timber harvesting and forest management guidelines recommended by the Forest Resources Council are achieving their intended objectives.

## **Landscape-level forest resource planning and coordination.**

This is a way of assessing the impact of forest management activities across large forested areas. It's a forum where forest landowners and stakeholders can collaborate to address forest resource issues over broad regions of Minnesota's forests, enabling long-range forest resources planning across land ownerships and forest types.

## **Biomass and riparian advances.**

The Forest Resources Council has developed and adopted biomass harvesting guidelines, the first guidelines of this type in the United States, regarding sustainable removal of woody biomass from logging residue on timber harvest sites.

The FRC's Riparian Science Technical Committee recently completed a report on advances in scientific understanding of forest management impacts on riparian areas. The FRC is reviewing these findings and judgments as it develops an economic analysis to guide future decisions about riparian activities.

Both of these efforts are further ensuring effective use and protection of Minnesota's forests.



## **Continuing education.**

Loggers created the Minnesota Logger Education Program as a means to promote high operation standards and enhance professionalism within the timber harvesting community. Also, a partnership was created between the MN Forest Resources Council, MN Association of County Land Commissioners, MN Department of Natural Resources, MN Land Management Information Center, University of MN and the U.S. Forest Service to enhance the access and use of forest resources data.

For more information, visit the Forest Resources Council Web site at [www.frc.state.mn.us](http://www.frc.state.mn.us).



*This guidebook is a statewide effort to enhance forest management practices on natural resources.*