

## The Missing Link: YOU

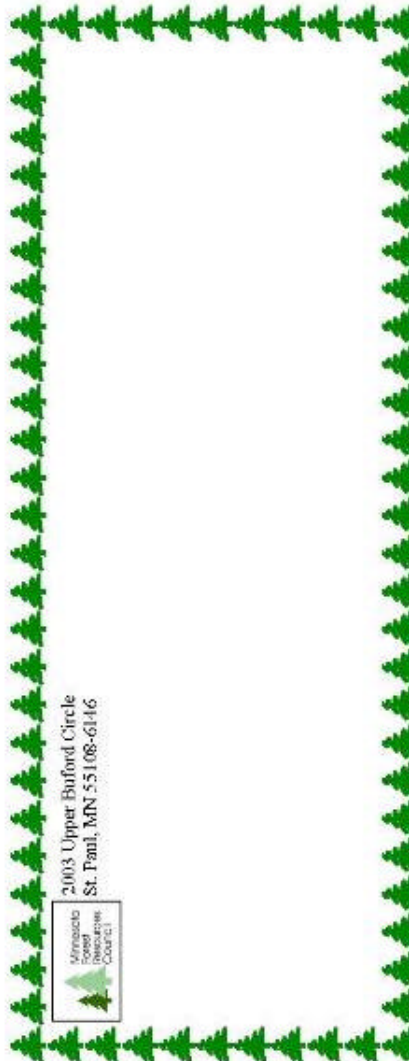
Meshing private landowner goals with the goals of an entire landscape is a challenge. Some DFCs are specific to public land administration; others require activities difficult for a private landowner to undertake.

It is the belief of the Landscape Program, however, that many desired future conditions can be met: acre-by-acre. As a plan writer, that is where you come in.

The Landscape Program is looking to the public and private plan writers to assist private landowners in managing their woodlands in a way that contributes to the desired future conditions of the landscape regions where their forests grow.



Bird's eye-view of West Central Landscape  
Photo courtesy of Wadena County, 2012



2003 Upper Buford Circle  
St. Paul, MN 55108-6146



## Planning Across Landscapes: A Plan Writer's Guide

### West Central Landscape



#### Covers:

5.5 million acres

#### Includes:

Douglas, Kandiyohi, Meeker, Otter Tail, Pope, Stearns, Todd, and Wadena counties and the western half of Morrison County (west of the Mississippi River)

Minnesota Department  
of Natural Resources



Minnesota Forest  
Resources Partnership

Minnesota Forest  
Resources Council



## A Brief History of Landscape Planning



West Central Committee Meeting  
Photo courtesy of MFRP

In 1995, the Minnesota State Legislature passed the Sustainable Forest Resources Act. It formalized the state's commitment to a number of goals, including: *Recognizing and considering forest resource issues, concerns, and impacts at the site and landscape levels.*

The **Landscape Program** was formed to facilitate planning over large landscapes. Six forested regional landscapes were defined: *Northern, North Central, Northeast, West Central, East Central, and Southeast.*

Within each landscape, **volunteer Regional Landscape Committees** were organized to identify the region's key forest resource issues and plan ways to address them. The committees are diverse! They include: forest owners, land planners, public agencies, tribes, and academia.

A key work of the Landscape Committees has been envisioning how the forest resources in their landscape will look in 100 years; in other words, their **Desired Future Conditions (DFCs)**.

## What You Can Do For Private Landowners & the Landscape

The following are suggestions of what you, as a plan writer, can do to help landowners take into consideration the larger landscape when managing their lands.

- Provide descriptions of the landscape for your landowner-client. Make him/her familiar with the concept of the "larger picture."
- Discuss compatibility of landscape DFCs with the private landowner's goals.
- When applicable, show a relationship between the landowner's goals and their individual type management recommendations.
- Advise and highlight on-the-ground management activities that will contribute to the landscape DFCs, as well as meet the goals of the landowner.
- Increase the landowner's knowledge of the Landscape Program; connect the landowner with the landscape committee in their region, and encourage his/her involvement. Contact information is listed in this brochure.
- Advise and highlight on-the-ground management activities that will contribute to the following West Central Landscape DFCs, as well as meet the goals of the landowner.



## Desired Future Conditions of the West Central Landscape

In one hundred years, the West Central Landscape Region will have the following characteristics:

- ✓ **Healthy Forest and Prairie Ecosystems.** Forest and prairie ecosystems are healthy, resilient, and functioning providing sustainable economic and/or recreational opportunities.
- ✓ **Quality Water Resources.** Water resources are managed to sustain their health for people and provide critical habitat for many species of plants and animals.
- ✓ **Natural Resource Businesses.** Viable and geographically diverse natural resource businesses that advocate the long term stewardship of community resources exist and grow in the landscape.
- ✓ **Increased Education and Awareness.** Public is well educated relative to environmental concerns and how to obtain technical assistance.
- ✓ **Cooperation and Coordination.** Cooperation and coordination between agencies, interest groups, and private landowners has resulted in effective communication, planning, and natural resource management.



Forestry Workshop at St. John's  
Photo courtesy of MFRC



Timber Harvest in Todd County  
Photo courtesy of MFRC

## Web-based and other Resources of the Landscape Program

For more information regarding the goals and strategies for implementing the DFCs, please refer to the West Central Landscape Plan located on the MFRC website.

**MFRC Landscape Program**  
[www.frc.state.mn.us/Landscape/Landscape](http://www.frc.state.mn.us/Landscape/Landscape)  
(in left panel, click on West Central link)

### Contact Information:

Minnesota Forest Stewardship Program  
Private Forest Program Coordinator  
DNR Forestry  
500 Lafayette Road, Box 44  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
Phone: (651) 259-5261  
[www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/forestmgmt/stewardship](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/forestmgmt/stewardship)

Minnesota Forest Resources Partnership  
PO Box 3155  
Bemidji, MN 56619  
218-759-7730  
[www.mnforestpartnership.com](http://www.mnforestpartnership.com)

Minnesota Forest Resources Council  
2003 Upper Buford Circle  
St. Paul, MN 55108  
(651) 603-0109  
[www.frc.state.mn.us](http://www.frc.state.mn.us)

