

Forestry Affairs Committee

Chair – Jim Marshall

Co-Chair – Jeff Borling

Mission Statement

To keep the Chamber membership and the community informed about Forestry Affairs and be actively involved in supporting the Chambers policies as they relate to the federal, state, and county forest industry and the economy of the State of Minnesota.

Goals for 2012

Actively support the MN Chamber's Environment & Natural Resource's Policy Committee in their effort to keep forestry issues a high legislative priority statewide. Issues include, but are not limited to: accountability for public forest plans, permit streamlining, and timber harvest levels that are economically, ecologically and socially sustainable.

Continue to encourage interagency cooperation to develop and maintain OHV trails.

Encourage business people to join their Chambers of Commerce and become involved in Forestry Affairs.

Work with other Chambers and encourage them to promote multiple-use sustainable forest management.

Actively support the development of bio-fuels & bio-mass businesses and monitor government subsidies regarding forest industries.

Review and Comment on county, state and federal forest management plans and distribute those comments to committee members, monitor plan implementation, and support efforts to maintain stable funding for forest management.

Partner with the MN DNR to maintain long-term stable funding from timber sales, which would be dedicated to the Division of Forestry and designated to generate reliable timber sale and recreation outputs and actively support key forest legislation.

Continue to promote the Grand Rapids Area as the Forest Center of Minnesota.

Utilize the Forest History Center, the MN Forestry Association (MFA), the Forest Education Awareness Program (FEAP) and other groups to educate the general public regarding the value of healthy forest management practices that support multiple-use concepts and the importance of promoting forest policies that sustain the economic health of our communities.

Support private forest landowner's management rights and encourage them to actively and sustainably manage their forests. Legislatively support continuation of the SFIA and 2c tax programs. Support forest management education for NIPF landowners and stewardship plan writers.

Actively support third party certification on forested lands in Minnesota.

Discourage fragmentation and parcelization and encourage consolidation of forestlands.

Continue to promote conservation easements on large industrial forestlands and the work of the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.