

Forestry Affairs Committee

Chair – Terry Weber
Co-Chair – Jim Marshall

Mission Statement

To keep the Chambers membership 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 by:

Goals for 2010

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 co-operation 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.

Encourage appropriate development of bio-fuels and monitor government subsidies regarding forest industries.

Provide input to land use plans of the federal, state, and county agencies and support landowner's rights to manage their lands.

Comment on forest management projects in the Chippewa & Superior National Forest and distribute those comments to committee members in order to encourage their participation.

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.

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

Find specific ways 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 forest management education of non-industrial private forestland owners and stewardship plan writers.

Support demonstration of traditional and innovative forest management practices for policymakers, interested organizations and the general public.

Actively support key forest legislation; including stable funding for forest management.

Actively support Third Party Certification of private and public lands.

Actively support the Grand Rapids City and Itasca County Land Use Plans.

Discourage fragmentation and parcelization and encourage consolidation of forestlands.