

# Minnesota Forests for the Future Program Project and Funding Update

**Overview:** Minnesota Forests for the Future Program was established by the Minnesota Legislature and utilizes funding made available from a variety of sources to Minnesota DNR to protect environmentally important private forests, primarily through the purchase of permanent conservation easements. Projects conserve private working forests throughout Minnesota that contain timber, scenic, recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, threatened and endangered species and other cultural and environmental values. Forty-four percent of Minnesota’s forests, or approximately 7.5 million acres, are at risk of fragmentation or conversion to non-forest uses.

**Current proposal:** Minnesota Forests for the Future Phase IX (9) requests \$3,919,900 to protect 4,349 acres of forest land through acquisition of 3,329 acres of permanent working forest conservation easement and 1,020 acres of strategic fee title acquisition across the state.

**Current funding and project updates:**

	ML Year	Program Title	Approp Amount	Original AP Acres	Current Acres Complete	Current Dollars Spent	Anticipated Leverage In AP	Actual Leverage (in progress)
(a)	2018	MN Forests for the Future Phase VI (6)	\$1,473,000	1,220	472	\$782,400	\$150,000	\$900,000
(b)	2019	MN Forests for the Future Phase VII (7)	\$4,573,000	2,400	240	\$391,700	\$305,000	\$1,000,000

- (a) MN Forests for the Future Phase VI (6) is in progress with 6 conservation easements for an additional 1,173 acres currently entering appraisal phase; all pre-appraisal work has been completed including title review.
- (b) MN Forests for the Future Phase VII (7) is in progress with 3 conservation easement acquisitions in the option stage for a total of 1,680 additional acres; contracts and plans are in place for restoration and enhancement activities on 1000 acres which will be completed according to crew schedules and timing related to field conditions.

**Questions? Please contact:**

Christine Ostern – Forest Legacy Coordinator  
 Department of Natural Resources –Division of Forestry  
 525 Lake Ave. S., Suite 415, Duluth, MN 55802  
 Phone: 218/302-3253 (office) 218/343-1790 (cell)  
 Email: [Christine.Ostern@state.mn.us](mailto:Christine.Ostern@state.mn.us)