

FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM & MN FORESTS FOR THE FUTURE



DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

Accomplishments:

- 360,000+ acres in easement
- 9,000+ acres fee land acquired

Threats:

44 percent of MN forests (or 7.5 million acres) are at risk of fragmentation or conversion to non-forest uses

Economic Impacts:

- MN lakes support an \$11 billion tourism industry
- Small game hunting generates \$1.3 billion+ annually
- The state's wood products industry generates \$9.5 billion and employs 62,000.
- Over \$80 million is received by landowners for timber stumpage annually.

Minnesota Forests for the Future is a voluntary conservation easement program administered by the DNR Division of Forestry to protect and conserve private working forest lands throughout Minnesota for environmental, economic & recreational benefits.

Public Benefits | Critical forest lands identified for the program ensure forests of significance are preserved permanently. Lands enrolled in the program protect watershed health, provide habitat for wildlife and rare species, ensure a consistent source of timber and other forest products, and can continue to be used for outdoor recreation.

How it Works | Lands protected by these voluntary easements stay in private ownership. To be eligible for the program, the private land enrolled must provide at least **one** of the following public benefits:



Protection of large forest blocks or tracts of adjacent forest land



Fish & wildlife habitat, water quality or other environmental benefits



Opportunities for traditional forest uses including management through timber harvest



Public recreational opportunities like public access or public recreation trails



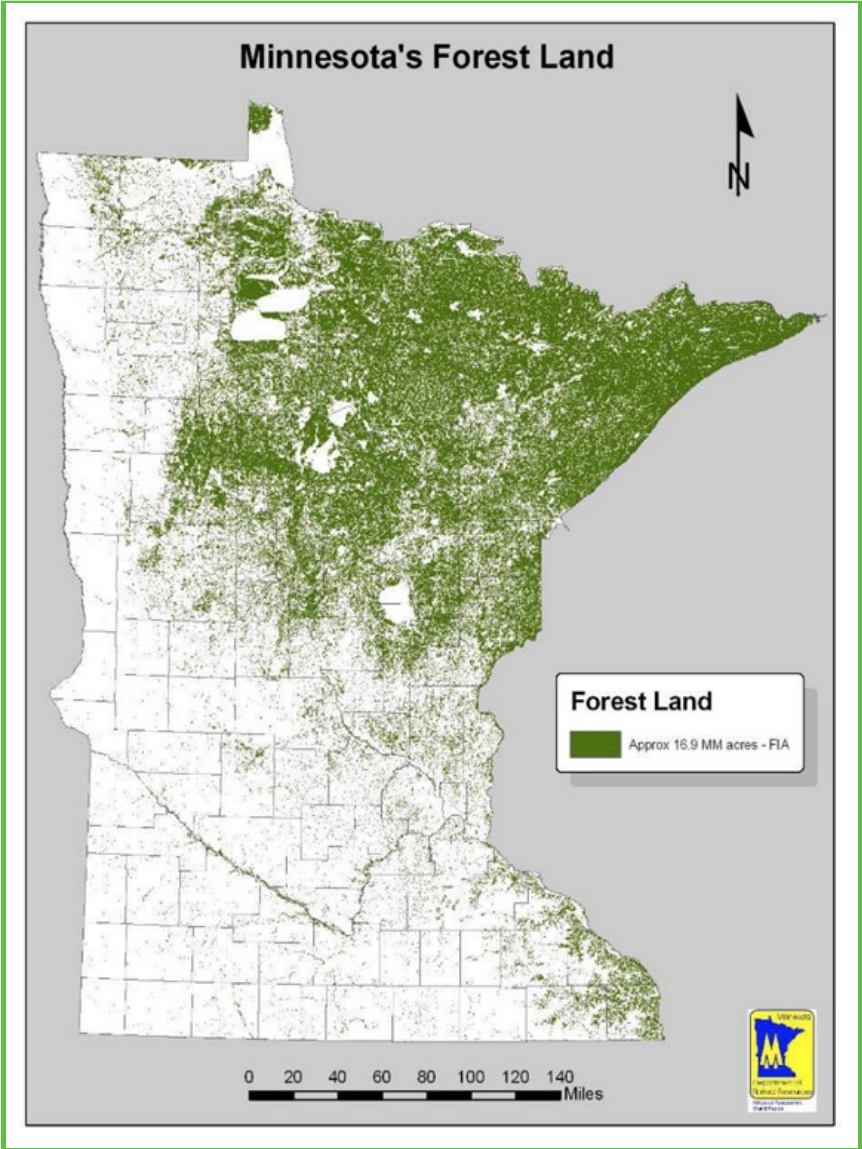


St. Louis County Easement



Itasca County Easement (Sugar Hills)

Program Requirements | Easements are customized to the property, but permitted uses allows forest management including timber harvesting and firewood cutting, hunting and fishing, outdoor recreation, maple syrup production, nature observation, and other traditional forest uses. Landowners work with DNR to establish a Forest Stewardship Plan and schedule annual monitoring visits. Easements prohibit forest conversion to industrial, commercial or residential uses or development/subdivision. The easements stay with the property if it is transferred or sold to another landowner.



Matching Investments:

Forests for the Future pairs with funding from the **Federal Forest Legacy Program** to leverage State investments that advance working forest land protection.

Non-profit organizations have helped leverage funds in key geographies by matching State investments.

Multiple external partners provide support with land-owner outreach and partnership coordination including **The Nature Conservancy, Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape, County SWCDs and BWSR staff.**

Program Contact:

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