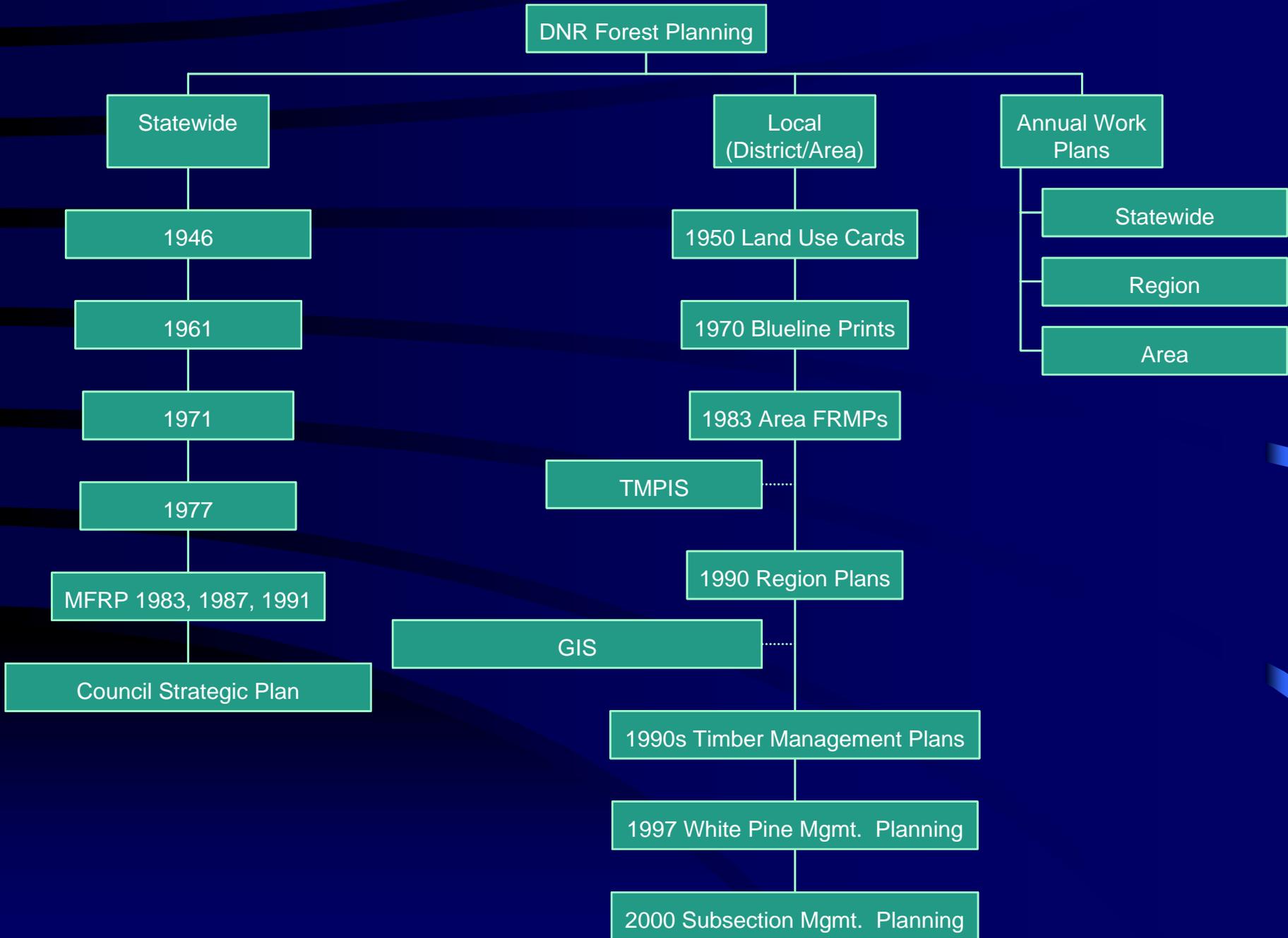


**DNR Subsection Forest
Resource Management
Planning**

SFRMP



What is SFRMP?

- DNR plan for vegetation management on forest lands administered by DNR Forestry and Wildlife.
- Using ECS subsections as the basic unit of delineation.

DNR Forestry Areas and

ECS Subsection Boundaries

July 27, 1999 Version

-  DNR Region Boundaries
-  DNR Forestry Area Boundaries

REGION 1 BEMIDJI

- 111 Bemidji Area
- 116 Bagley Area
- 117 Blackduck Area
- 121 Warroad Area
- 123 Wannaska Area
- 131 Baudette Area
- 161 Park Rapids Area
- 162 Alexandria Area
- 163 Detroit Lakes Area

REGION 2 GRAND RAPIDS

- 221 Deer River Area
- 222 Effie Area
- 234 Hibbing Area
- 241 Orr Area
- 245 Tower Area
- 251 Cloquet Area
- 253 Two Harbors Area
- 255 Grand Marais
- 261 Littlefork Area

REGION 3 BRAINERD

- 311 Brainerd Area
- 312 Little Falls Area
- 321 Backus Area
- 323 Pequot Lakes Area
- 331 Hill City Area
- 334 Aitkin Area
- 342 Moose Lake Area
- 344 Hinckley Area
- 351 Cambridge Area
- 353 St. Cloud Area

REGION 4 NEW ULM

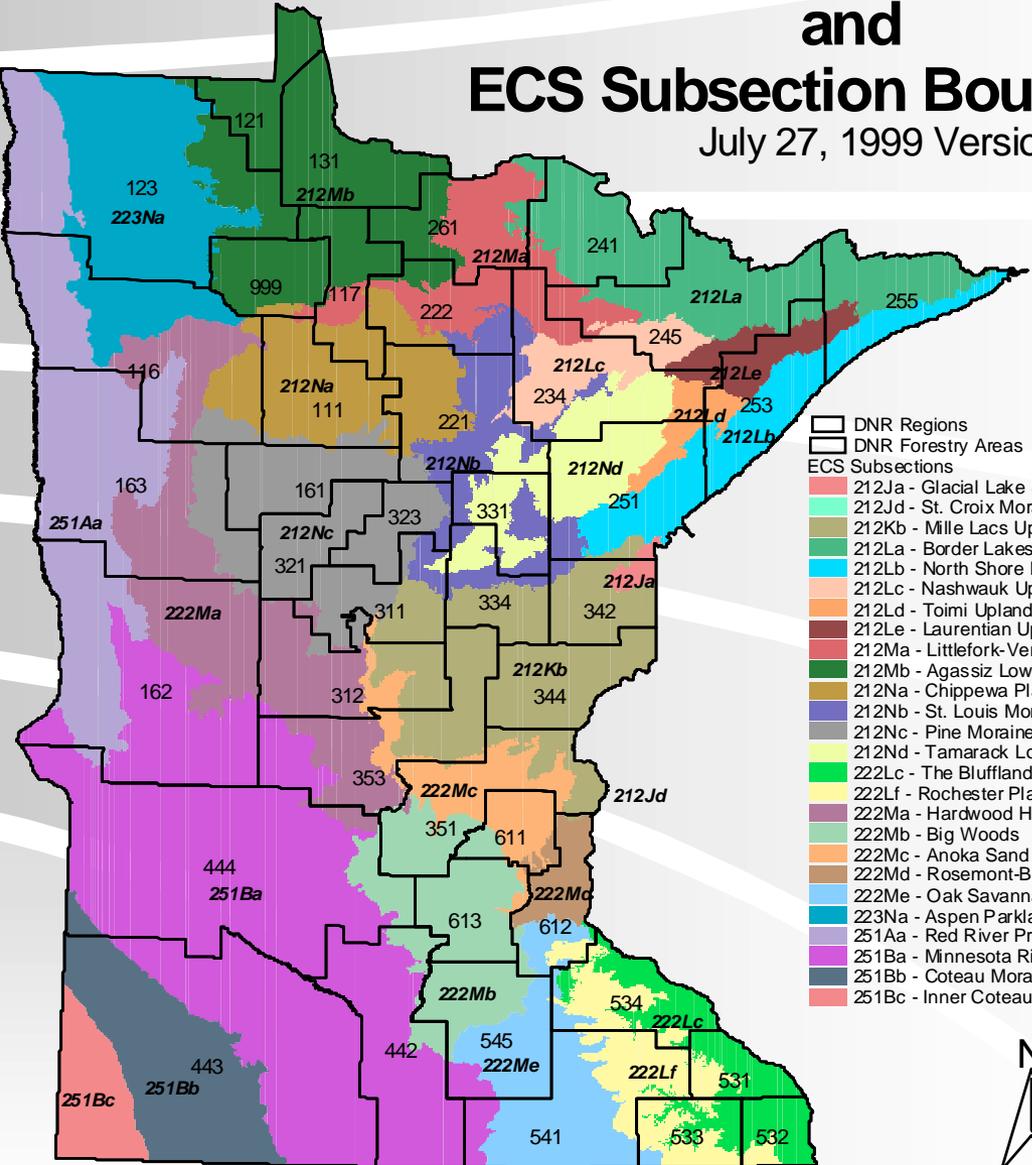
- 442 Mankato Area
- 443 New Ulm Area
- 444 Wilmar Area

REGION 5 ROCHESTER

- 531 Lewiston Area
- 532 Caledonia Area
- 533 Preston Area
- 534 Lake City Area
- 541 Rochester Area
- 545 Faribault Area

REGION 6 METRO

- 611 North Metro Area
- 612 East Metro Area
- 613 West Metro Area



-  DNR Regions
-  DNR Forestry Areas
- ECS Subsections**
- 212Ja - Glacial Lake Superior Plain
- 212Jd - St. Croix Moraine
- 212Kb - Mille Lacs Uplands
- 212La - Border Lakes
- 212Lb - North Shore Highlands
- 212Lc - Nashauk Uplands
- 212Ld - Toimi Uplands
- 212Le - Laurentian Uplands
- 212Ma - Littlefork-Vermillion Uplands
- 212Mb - Agassiz Lowlands
- 212Na - Chippewa Plains
- 212Nb - St. Louis Moraines
- 212Nc - Pine Moraines & Outwash Plains
- 212Nd - Tamarack Lowlands
- 222Lc - The Blufflands
- 222Lf - Rochester Plateau
- 222Ma - Hardwood Hills
- 222Mb - Big Woods
- 222Mc - Anoka Sand Plain
- 222Md - Rosemont-Baldwin Plains and Moraines
- 222Me - Oak Savanna
- 223Na - Aspen Parklands
- 251Aa - Red River Prairie
- 251Ba - Minnesota River Prairie
- 251Bb - Coteau Moraines
- 251Bc - Inner Coteau

30 0 30 60 Miles



Scope of SFRMP

- Initial focus is on future forest composition goals and vegetation management strategies.
- Appropriate SFRMP issues are directly affected by, or directly affect, management of vegetation on DNR lands.
- Issues are likely to be defined by
 - Forest vegetation conditions and trends
 - Threats to forest vegetation
 - Vegetation management opportunities
- Potential to be more comprehensive in the future.

Common SFRMP Issues

- Age-class distributions
- Forest composition changes
- Patch management & corridors
- Within stand diversity (species and structure)
- Timber productivity and harvest levels
- Areas of high biodiversity significance
- Riparian area management
- Forest road access management

SFRMP Products

- Assessment and Issues
- Strategic Plan/Direction
 - Desired future forest composition "goals" (DFFCs)
 - Strategies to achieve DFFCs
 - Stand selection criteria consistent with DFFCs and strategies.
- Operational Plan
 - 7-year stand examination list
 - Road access needs

SFRMP Process Objectives

- Effectively informs and involves the public and stakeholders.
- A process that is credible to most.
- A clear process that is well communicated to the public (i.e., transparent).
- Can be completed in each subsection within 12 months.
- Reasonable and feasible within current staffing levels and workloads.
- Results in improved forest management.

Why SFRMP?

- Need for new management plans in many Forestry Areas.
- Need to improve public awareness/involvement in DNR forest management planning (i.e., opening the "black box").
- Need for interdisciplinary approach to address complex forest management issues.

Why Limited Scope?

- Immediate need for new plans in many Forestry Areas.
- High public and stakeholder interest in vegetation/timber management issues.
- Potential is high for more comprehensive forest or natural resources planning processes to bog-down or die under their own weight.

Why Subsections?

- Consistent with internal and external desire to manage forests more on an ecological basis.
- Lands within subsections have more in common than with artificial administrative boundaries.
- Easier to provide consistent direction across and suitable for a subsection.
- Fewer plans than doing it by Area (17 vs. 40).
- GIS capabilities now make it easier to do plans on ecological landscape basis.

Why Subsections?

- The DNR ECS has been used for other landscape planning/assessment efforts.
 - Old Growth Forest designations (subsection).
 - Extended Rotation Forest Guideline (subsection).
 - Wildlife habitat analyses (LTAs)
 - White pine initiative (subsection).
 - RNV (section)
 - MFRC landscape assessments (section).

Challenges with Subsections

- DNR Area-level boundaries do not coincide with subsection boundaries.
- ECS subsection boundaries will likely be revised periodically.
- Area annual work plans will come from subsection plans completed at different times . . . some new, some old.
- Most Area staff will be involved in multiple subsections planning processes (more time).

Key Aspects of SFRMP

- A **Department** plan (i.e., interdisciplinary, consent-based process)
- Department involvement and support.
- A defined and documented process.
- Public review/input opportunities.
- Aggressive time schedules
- Adaptive

Key Concerns from Evaluations

- Unclear or inconsistent expectations
- Process taking too long, too much staff time.
- Difficulty resolving most contentious issues.
- Difficulty understanding and incorporating new, evolving, and complex information.
- Balancing multiple values and policy direction.

Revision Highlights

- Smaller teams
- Neutral, trained facilitators (3 division funding)
- Clearer conflict resolution process and timelines
- Shorter timelines and public review periods.
- Better team preparation.
- Clearly defined assessment and responsibilities
- Identify and defined common SFRMP issues

Revision Highlights (cont.)

- Detailed guidance for more difficult issues
 - Revised ERF approach.
 - Incorporating Rare Feature information.
 - Identifying ecologically important lowland conifers
 - Desired age-class distribution (even-aged types).
 - Patch management.
 - Identifying high risk/field visit stands
 - Incorporating open land management (i.e., brushlands)
 - Addressing public comments.

Subsection Planning Teams

- Limited to DNR staff
- 12-20 members, now reduced to 7.
- Interdisciplinary
 - Forestry (1 Region, 2 Area)
 - Wildlife (1 Region, 2 Area)
 - Ecological Services (1 Region)
- Supported by neutral, trained facilitators and Forestry planners.
- Work Groups involve additional field staff.

Modeling

- Spreadsheet model
 - Project changes in age-classes and forest composition decades into the future
 - Incorporating harvest criteria
 - Determine movement towards desired future condition
- Interactive use of ArcView and data layers
 - Building in spatial components of plans
 - Identifying stands proposed for treatment
- Future options?
 - Off-the-shelf
 - Research products
 - Build our own

Other Learnings

- Team selection is critical
- Decision deadlines and DR process important
- Finish what's started before moving on
- More definition is better
- Efficiencies doing multiple plans together
 - Same team
 - Same public review process
- Land classifications need to be considered

SFRMP Schedule

