

Identification and Assessment of Operational Opportunities to Enhance Management and Health of Forests in Minnesota.

A McIntire-Stennis supported project

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

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Approximately one-third of Minnesota is forested with a diversity of hardwood and softwood tree species. Over time and in the absence of management, these forests can become unhealthy and unproductive because of overcrowding and increased competition for light, water and nutrients.

Active forest management, including timber harvesting, can maintain and improve the health and vigor of forests and make them better able to limit tree mortality associated with a variety of stressors. But, active management can also result in the spread of forest invasive plants by equipment working on multiple sites. This project examines opportunities and barriers associated with increasing the level of active management on Minnesota's forests.

Specifically, it focuses on those opportunities and barriers on family forest and public lands as well as the role that logging businesses play in controlling the spread of forest invasive plants.



About McIntire-Stennis

The McIntire-Stennis program, a unique federal-state partnership, cultivates and delivers forestry and natural resource innovations for a better future. By advancing research and education that increases the understanding of emerging challenges and fosters the development of relevant solutions, the McIntire-Stennis program has ensured healthy resilient forests and communities and an exceptional natural resources workforce since 1962.



COLLABORATION

University units, public agencies, forest industry organizations, and various nongovernmental organizations.



25

Collaborating agencies and organizations.

IMPACT

Minnesota's forests are healthy through active management, limiting the impact of invasive forest plants, insects and other stressors.



95%

Surveyed foresters and loggers in counties where 95% of Black Spruce harvested in Minnesota.



350

Minnesota logging business owners are better equipped to identify and manage invasive plants.



1,000,000

Acres of forestland planted across the US in 2020 with a received National Interest Exemption.