

From: [Brian Huberty](#)
To: [Becca Nash](#)
Cc: [Diana Griffith](#)
Subject: Re: Public Testimony for the April 20 Meeting
Date: Thursday, April 15, 2021 10:28:24 AM

Subject: Forest Inventory and Forest Carbon Credits

Forest inventory and forest carbon credits should be a future focus area for an in-depth discussion with LCCMR members and the Minnesota forestry community to look into the coming year.

Preserving trees has become a big business for carbon offsets this past year. Just take a look at this recent Wall Street Journal article:

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/preserving-trees-becomes-big-business-driven-by-emissions-rules-11598202541>

The MN DNR and the MN Forest Resources Council (MFRC) are teaming up with the Minnesota Forestry Association to address the lack of forest inventory information across private (non-industrial) woodlands which is critical to know for landowners to take advantage of future forest carbon credits. This coalition was working on a combined LCCMR proposal but time, COVID and our own institutional barriers proved too much to get a workable solution written up before the submission deadline.

Regardless, the idea of quantifying our forest carbon across all lands is now more important than ever. As the WSJ article indicates, there has been an eruption of carbon credit companies and organizations. Yet most private woodland owners do not have a forest inventory (species, condition, size and density) which may make it problematic for future forest carbon credits. With over 80,000 private, non-industrial, woodland ownership making up 40% of our forested landscape, it is imperative to start mapping and monitoring this for all lands including private woodlands across the state as outlined in the State statutes for MFRC. This is important not only for future carbon credits but for wildfire prevention as well.

The good news is the Minnesota DNR Resource Assessment group and the University of Minnesota have already researched and have begun implementing approaches using higher resolution LIDAR which should help Minnesota stay ahead of this demand for forest carbon credits on state lands. But the question remains on how to expand this forest inventory idea to private, non-industrial, woodlands because woodland owners do not have the capacity to do it themselves.

Have LCCMR board member Norm Moody lead this discussion since he is intimately familiar with this topic.

Sincerely,
Brian Huberty, VP
Minnesota Forestry Association
(651) 706 6426 cell
brian@minnesotaforestry.org