



Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources Members:

Since 1876, the Minnesota Forestry Association (MFA) has been a leading advocate for private forestland owners to ensure sound forest stewardship. Privately-owned forestlands comprise 40% of Minnesota's forests. Well-managed forests, a complex endeavor, protect water quality and provide critical wildlife habitats. Private forests must also play a significant role in supplying the wood and wood fiber to the timber industry and in carbon sequestration planning and execution.

**Given the role private woodlands play in carbon sequestration, we write to the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (“LCCMR”) to express strong support for the proposal 2023-092 “Statewide Forest Carbon Inventory and Change Mapping” submitted by the Minnesota DNR.**

The availability of plot-based inventory (“PBI”) data is currently limited to public forest lands and needs expansion over private lands to capture their forests’ unique characteristics. This project will result in an accurate inventory needed to facilitate forestland owners’ entries into carbon markets. An estimated 1,000 plot-based inventories will be collected from private forestland to expand all-lands lidar forest inventory statewide. In addition, this proposal includes incentives and assistance to private landowners to opt-in to the MNDNR Division of Forestry’s PBI program, resulting in a more comprehensive and accurate forest inventory. The results will help expand forest structure, carbon stock, and improve change mapping across all types of land ownerships.

The data collected will illuminate the role forests play in carbon storage and sequestration and provide essential benchmark information for management planning and policy evaluation. In addition, the inclusion of private lands enables enhanced landscape and regional planning for many shared ownership natural resource priorities and values.

MFA would be pleased to provide any additional information the commission may need while making decisions regarding the funding of LCCMR proposals that maintain healthy forests. For additional information, contact Sam Richie at [srichie@fryberger.com](mailto:srichie@fryberger.com) or at (218) 301-9758.

Sincerely,

David Roerick  
President  
Minnesota Forestry Association

***Minnesota Forestry Association:  
An organization of, by, and for private woodland owners and friends***