**Project manager qualifications**

**Robert A. Slesak**

**Qualifications**

Rob is Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Forest Resources, University of Minnesota, and Director of Applied Research and Monitoring at the Minnesota Forest Resources Council. He is responsible for evaluation and development of Minnesota’s Forest Management Guidelines, assessing their effectiveness with monitoring and research, and conducting research to address existing and emerging threats to sustainable forest management. Rob has extensive experience addressing complex forest resource issues including the identification of information needs for efficient and effective solutions to the challenges of sustainable forest management. He is a principal investigator and project manager on several ongoing projects related to invasive species (including EAB and black ash), soil productivity, and forest sustainability, and has published a number of peer-reviewed journal papers related to these topics. Rob has a Ph.D in Forest Soils from Oregon State University, a M.S.in Forest Ecosystem Science from SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF), and a B.S. in Forest Resource Management from SUNY ESF. His research and professional interests are broadly focused on sustainable forest management, including identification of processes critical to ecosystem functions, evaluation of the potential for those processes and functions to be altered by management activities, and the application of management practices to restore degraded ecosystem functions.

**Organization description**

The Department of Forest Resources is part of the University of Minnesota, which is dedicated to the advancement of learning, sharing of knowledge, and to the application of this knowledge to benefit the people of the state, the nation, and the world

The Minnesota Forest Resources Council is a state-funded board that was established by the Sustainable Forest Resources Act to promote long-term sustainable management of Minnesota’s forests.