Hierarchy of Forest Plans in Minnesota

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Minnesota has approximately 16.7 million acres of forestland. About half is public and half private. Plans for forest management have been developed for most but not all of these lands. Wildlife is, in most cases, one part of these plans.

DNR Forests for the Future: A plan that mainly addresses conservation easements on forested lands statewide.

Minnesota Forest Resources Council Plans Landscape Plans: These plans focus on six major forested landscapes statewide. They cross all ownerships.

National Forest Plans: These are ten to fifteen year plans for the Superior National Forest, including a companion plan for the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, and the Chippewa National Forest. They cover approximately three million of the 16.7 million acres of Minnesota Forestland.

Subsection Forest Resource Management Plans: These are primarily vegetative management plans, including timber harvest, for 4.8 million acres of state forestland managed by DNR Forestry and Wildlife Divisions.

County Land Management Plans: Fifteen northern and central Minnesota Counties manage 2.8 million acres of forestland. These plans guide land management including timber harvest on most of these acres.

Industrial Land Forest Plans: Forest and other industrial forestland owners have plans for about one million acres of owned land.

Tribal Forest Plans: Some of Minnesota's eleven tribes have forest plans for the several hundred thousand acres of tribal forestland.

Stewardship Plans: Some of Minnesota's 150,000 family forest owners have plans covering 10 to 15 percent of the six million acres of family privately owned forestland.

This is not an exhaustive list. There are other plans specifically addressing forest wildlife. The land management and forest plans I summarized address forest wildlife and biological diversity conservation to various degrees.