



Mission

Carlton County Tax Forfeited Land Management Plan

I.1

Mission

The mission of the Carlton County Land Department is *to professionally manage the County's forest land base in accord with Minnesota Statutes 282 and to improve the quality and value of the County's forest land resources.*

I.2

Management Approach

Carlton County adopts the approach that its responsibility is *to manage the resource*, for multiple uses placing its focus on long-term goals and objectives. This approach recognizes the inherent tension in seeking to balance social desires, economic needs, and ecological imperatives and accepts the challenge to "assure the continuity of the forests and human institutions that appreciate and depend upon them."¹

The County understands that the landscape it inherited resulted from a century of activity little of which, at least not until the past thirty years, was intentionally directed at sustaining the forest resource. Within this historical framework the County intends to create a future forest that is "natural" in character and context.

Finally, the County recognizes the complexity of the forested landscape and the limits of human knowledge about it. Even as the County presents this strategic plan with its 100-year outlook, there is awareness "of the very tentative state of our current knowledge and the iterative nature of learning. We begin, finally, to appreciate that each management prescription is a working hypothesis whose outcome is not entirely predictable."² This is a plan which will be implemented stand by stand, one year at a time, with the lessons learned used to revise and improve subsequent versions of the plan.

I.3

Certification

In 2001 Carlton County's forests were certified under the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI). The County sought this certification to assure the public and consumers of products from the forest that the lands are being managed in an environmentally, economically, and socially sound manner. The County intends to manage its forests in a fashion that will retain this certification.

¹ Behan, R.W. "Scarcity, Simplicity, Separatism, Science – and Systems", in *Creating a Forestry for the 21st Century*, edited by Kathryn A. Kohm and Jerry F. Franklin, Island Press, 1997.

² Introduction, *Creating a Forestry for the 21st Century*, edited by Kathryn A. Kohm and Jerry F. Franklin, Island Press, 1997.