

# SAVE OUR FORESTS

## Healthy Forests Require Forest Management

Public (county, state and federal) and private forest management depends on the timber industry as the resource to perform the silvicultural landscape prescription services necessary to achieve and maintain healthy forests in Minnesota. Forests that provide environmental, recreational, and economic benefits.

*"We don't manage the forests, the loggers do it for us."*

*-Mark Holsten (Former MN DNR Commissioner to Gov Tim Pawlenty)*

### HEALTHY FORESTS CONTRIBUTE TO:



Outdoor Recreation and Tourism



Carbon Sequestration



Rural Jobs



Revenue to Support Communities and Schools



Wildlife Habitat



Wildfire Reduction



### CERTIFIED FORESTS

The State of Minnesota (DNR), and other public land management entities, employ certified timber management practices that are required for forest land and forest product certification through the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) and the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).

These certification programs are recognized standards that allow Minnesota forest products to compete in the global market. **Without loggers trained to meet these standards and perform harvest operations, the certification cannot be maintained.**

### CARBON SEQUESTRATION



Trees are carbon magnets, absorbing CO<sub>2</sub>, storing it and retaining it in finished products. Healthy forest are vital to this cycle. Unmanaged forests are unhealthy forests that are prone to, disease and mortality from invasive species; and are susceptible to wildfires. All of which reduce their ability to sequester carbon; and, in the case of wildfire, emit carbon and CO<sub>2</sub>. **Without loggers harvesting mature timber or removing dead and diseased timber Minnesota's forests cannot remove as much carbon and CO<sub>2</sub>.**



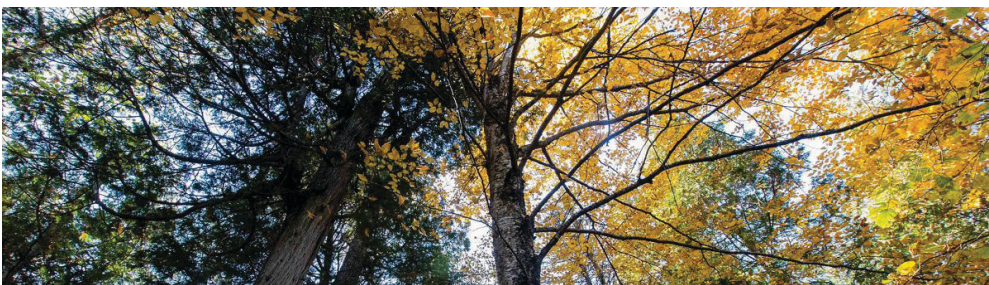
### ECONOMIC IMPACT



The Minnesota Timber and Forest Products industries are the fifth largest manufacturing sector providing over \$16 billion in economic impact and create 62,000 jobs. Thirty percent of all wood fiber in Minnesota comes from DNR administered forest lands. Local governments and schools receive revenue from timber harvested from public lands. **Without loggers, the economic impact of Minnesota's timber industry is not sustainable.**

All of the benefits referenced regarding healthy forest management practices are dependent upon a small subset of Minnesota's forest industry – Loggers. **In fact, it is estimated that only 1500 "in the woods" workers harvest and transport the raw materials** that supports the forest management objectives of public and private land managers and the primary / secondary forest products mills that utilize this timber resource.

Minnesota has lost over half of the forest products mills over the past 13 years. **The COVID-19 pandemic has directly attributed to the closure of the Duluth Verso mill. This has resulted in a reduction in logging infrastructure and capacity.** Maintaining the remaining logging infrastructure and capacity is vital to: supporting the public and private sustainable forest management objectives; contributing to reducing climate change, mitigating invasive species impacts; improving wildlife habitat; supporting outdoor recreation development; reducing the threat of wildfires; and supplying the remaining forest products mills and future mills.



### BOTTOM LINE

Minnesota DNR Timber Permits (contracts) have minimal contract modification allowances and represent a potentially devastating liability to loggers. [The Timber Permits; Market Changes Cancellation and Extension](#) legislation introduced will provide the authority for the MNDNR to provide timber permit modifications, similar to that provided by some county land management departments. **This critical assistance and relief will enable logging companies to survive the industry impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, allow them to remain in business, and continue to provide the services necessary for sustainable forest management and healthy Minnesota forests.**