

Sustainable Foraging Task Force



Meeting 4: October 21, 2025

Welcome and purpose

- Welcome
- Adoption of previous meeting minutes
- Task Force purpose, duties, operating agreements

Purpose of Task Force

Gather and review information on the impact of foraging on species resilience, ecosystem health, and other aspects of Minnesota's biomes, solicit public input when appropriate, and develop recommendations for foraging guidelines reduced-price foraging permits.

Recommendations must be specific, actionable, and consistent with Indigenous and other cultural practices and traditions.

The task force must submit a written report to the commissioner of natural resources and to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with primary jurisdiction over natural resources policy.

The recommendations must detail proposals for changes or additions to statute or rules.

Duties of Task Force

- **gather and review data and information**, including **traditional ecological knowledge**, on the **impact of foraging** on species resilience, ecosystem health, and other aspects of Minnesota's diverse biomes;
- **review existing regulations** governing foraging activities on **state lands**;
- **develop recommendations** for science-based, including traditional ecological knowledge, **foraging guidelines for state lands** that balance public access and foraging opportunities with conservation needs. The recommendations must be in the form of **draft statutory or rule language and must be consistent with Indigenous and other cultural practices and traditions**;
- develop **recommendations for increasing public understanding of sustainable foraging practices** that include safety and ecological considerations;
- **solicit public input**, when appropriate; and
- develop **recommendations for reduced-priced foraging permits**.

Operating agreements

- Say your name before speaking
- If online, cameras on whenever possible
- Come to meetings prepared. Review agenda and materials in advance.
- Take space, make space
- Refrain from side conversations
- Show respect to members and presenters
- Be open-minded and curious about others' opinions, viewpoints, and lived experiences
- Recognize that time or research may be needed before questions are answered
- Focus on the issue, not the people
- Assume good intent but acknowledge harm

Task Force meetings

Meeting	Purpose/focus (<i>italics: tentative or details to be confirmed</i>)
1. August 20, 2025 – noon-2:00pm	Learning: foraging basics
2. September 9, 2025 – 10:00am-noon	Learning: MN and other states' statutes & rules
3. October 8, 2025 – noon-2:00pm	Learning: DNR information; MN foraging history and context
October 20, 2025 – 10:00am-noon	Foraging field trip, Ft. Snelling State Park
4. October 21, 2025 – 10:00am-noon	Learning: traditional foraging practices
Various dates and times in Nov., Dec.	Public listening sessions for input from members of the public
5. November 18, 2025 – 10:00am-noon	Learning: <i>TBD, may include scientific, cultural, interest groups</i> Recommendations: ideas, including those noted in meetings etc.
6. December 2, 2025 – 10:00am-noon	Recommendations: create and discuss; <i>additional learning</i>
7. December 16, 2025 – 10:00am-noon	Recommendations: discuss and refine; <i>additional learning</i>
8. January 6, 2026 – 11:00am-1:00pm	Recommendations: refine
9. January 27, 2027 – 10:00am-noon	Recommendations: finalize
10. February (date and time TBD)	Report: discuss draft

Agenda

- Welcome and purpose
- Agenda and introductions
- Panel: Traditional foraging
- Reactions to field trip
- Discussion: Scope of task force, continued
- Next steps
- Public input
- Adjourn

- Name and organization



Panel discussion

Field trip reactions



Scope of task force

Decisions from last meeting

- In scope
 - DNR-administered state lands
 - Personal use
 - Terrestrial plant species (edible, medicinal)
 - Mushrooms
- Out of scope
 - Tribal, federal, private lands
 - Commercial use
 - Maple syruping and wild rice
 - Aquatic plant and animal species
 - Insects

Clarification/continued discussion

- State parks vs. state forests
- State lands not administered by DNR
- County-managed state lands
- Forest products (parts of trees)

Next steps

- Public listening sessions
 - 90 minutes
 - Three online, one in person
 - Online: regionally focused (but all testifiers welcome)
 - Task force member role:
 - Help promote
 - Join **one** as an observer
 - Schedule
 - Tuesday 11/18, 1:00-2:30pm, in person (after TF meeting)
 - Wednesday 11/19, 8:30-10am, online. Focus: North
 - Thursday 11/20, 3:00-4:30pm, online. Focus: South
 - Wednesday 12/3, 11:30am-1pm, online. Focus: Central
- Sessions typically include
 - Pre-published questions to help testifiers organize their thoughts
 - Short presentation on TF purpose, efforts so far, etc.
 - Testimonies; individuals are asked to provide name and contact info in case TF wants to follow up
 - Time limits may be longer, depending on attendance
 - Sessions will be recorded

- Welcome! Please introduce yourself:
 - Name
 - Location/region
 - Group/organization/community you represent (if applicable)
- Ground rules
 - Limit comments to 2 minutes (additional information in writing is welcome)
 - Respect and appreciate diversity of thought
 - Focus on ideas, not people
 - If you disagree, disagree respectfully
- Reminder: this meeting is open to the public, livestreamed and being recorded

- Adjourn

Thank you