

Note: numbering is for ease of reference and does not indicate priority

Number	Ideas, suggestions, comments that could become, or inspire, recommendations	Comments
1	There are people for whom foraging is important to sustenance. Could we give them more latitude vs. someone who does this for fun and can go to grocery store? Could permissions be based on need?	
2	How should “personal use” be defined — by volume, intent to sell, or other criteria?	
3	Should “commercial use” include or exclude trade, barter, or gifting?	
4	Gray areas- cultural or community gathering, educational uses. Do we have (or need) a different category?	
5	Ecosystems, species populations, and environmental conditions change over time due to climate shifts, land use, and other pressures. Regular review ensures that foraging rules stay relevant, evidence-based, and responsive to current conditions—supporting both conservation and access goals. Ensures that conservation attention and any potential limits on foraging are targeted to species truly at risk, rather than applying blanket restrictions. Supports sustainable foraging practices while maintaining access for abundant and resilient species.	
6	Consider the long-term view: what is recommended now may not be correct in the future. Flexibility to adapt to changes in climate, species, ecology	
7	Making foraging safer... plant misidentification, contamination, pesticide exposure, pollutants, heavy metals and site conditions-public safety	
8	Update current information/regulations/guidelines to plain language, make it easier for "regular people" to understand	
9	Something to help MN residents identify different land types (state parks, forests, WMAs, SNAs etc.) and what rules apply there	

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10	How should non-edible/decorative/non-timber forest products (cones, leaves, branches, moss, etc.) be categorized to differentiate them from the edible/medicinal items that are the focus of this task force? Clear examples: berries vs. pinecones vs. wildflowers, etc.	
11	Additional education and outreach. Not always clear on websites: what can/should, etc. Voluntary compliance: knowing and understanding why laws exist, choosing to abide by them and encouraging others. Adding to what DNR is already doing and/or based on what they're doing that does/doesn't work well	
12	Low-impact items with short seasonal window - spoil, become woody or toxic, go out of season. Naturally self-limiting. Weather and timing restrict overharvest	
13	Assess when foraging can support ecological management — in certain cases, encouraging foraging of overabundant or invasive species could help manage their spread while engaging the public in stewardship. Note concerns about spreading invasive species when transporting what has been gathered.	
14	Ensuring compliance with the Noxious Weed Law maintains consistency with existing environmental regulations and prevents unintentional spread of harmful species. Should foraging of invasive species be encouraged (for control) or restricted (to prevent spread of seeds/spores)? What training or educational materials are needed to prevent unintentional transport or replanting of invasive species?	
15	Develop a “Forage Freely” list for certain invasive or overpopulated species like garlic mustard, invasive mushrooms, and others	

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16	Education is extremely important: how to forage safely and sustainably, using minimal disturbance methods, and leaving some for regeneration	
17	Making foraging information available in multiple languages supports equity, inclusion, and environmental stewardship. Which languages and cultural communities should be prioritized- Hmong, Somali, Spanish, Ojibwe, Dakota, etc.	
18	Visual Aids: Use icons, photos, color-coded symbols to communicate key information, QR codes	
19	DNR focus would be on how to forage safely (from the perspective of conservation and personal physical safety while foraging (not which specific species is or isn't safe to eat)	
20	Current rules aren't really species-specific. How could the law or regulation be set up with a "trigger" - if there is a critical or at-risk species, the law goes into effect. Like hunting and fishing, only put limitations or prohibition on certain species	
21	Add a survey to existing licensure - do you forage? What do you forage? Hunting, fishing, trapping, park passes- building on existing licensing systems to learn more about who forages, what they gather, where and purpose- personal, cultural, commercial	
22	Consider equity: upholding tribal sovereignty and distinct treaty rights and consider that many Minnesotans have cultural, familial, and immigrant traditions of foraging that should be considered too	
23	Educate law enforcement and the public; foraging is sometimes misunderstood as trespassing, theft, suspicious behavior	
24	Increase everyone's access to land where they can forage, including Indigenous people not affiliated with federally recognized tribes	

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25	More information about what is allowed, with specifics. Many people who forage want to follow the rules but find the regulations unclear, inconsistent, or difficult to locate. Provide clear, accessible, and detailed public information about what foraging activities are allowed on Minnesota's public lands.	
26	Create foraging limits and enforcement policies that target harmful practices without restricting responsible foragers. Overly broad restrictions can create frustration, inequity, and loss of connection to the land, while doing little to stop the few individuals who cause actual harm (large-scale harvesting, habitat destruction, or commercial resale without permit)	
27	Shared stewardship opportunities. Encourage partnerships between DNR and foragers to benefit, improve, and sustain species/areas	
28	Minnesota successfully manages many natural-resource activities like fishing, hunting, and trapping through a framework of permissions, seasons, and education—not blanket prohibitions. Applying a similar model to foraging would normalize it as a valued outdoor activity	
29	Dedicate funding to collect data and research the ecological, cultural, and economic impacts of foraging in Minnesota.	
30	Legislation requires recommendations for reduced-price foraging permits. How to approach?	