

# Sustainable Foraging Task Force



Meeting 7: December 16, 2025

# Welcome and purpose

- Welcome
- Adoption of previous meeting minutes
- Task Force duties, legislative report, and operating agreements

# Duties of Task Force

1. **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;
2. **review existing regulations** governing foraging activities on **state lands**;
3. **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**;
4. **develop recommendations for increasing public understanding of sustainable foraging practices** that include safety and ecological considerations;
5. **solicit public input**, when appropriate; and
6. **develop recommendations** for reduced-priced **foraging permits**.

# Legislative report

- By February 28, 2026, the task force must submit a written report containing its **findings** and **recommendations** 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.
- Recommendations must be **specific** and **actionable**.
- The report must detail proposals for changes or additions to statute or rules to effectuate the task force's recommendations.

# Operating agreements

- Say your name before speaking
- If online, cameras on whenever possible (especially while speaking)
- 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: other locations (Wisconsin DNR, Washington County DNR) Recommendations: review ideas, including those noted in meetings
6. December 2, 2025 – 10:00am-noon	Recommendations: create and discuss
<b>7. December 16, 2025 – 10:00am-noon</b>	<b>Recommendations: discuss and refine</b>
8. January 6, 2026 – 11:00am-1:00pm	Recommendations: refine
9. January 27, 2026 – 10:00am-noon	Recommendations: finalize
10. February 10, 2025 – 10:00am-noon	Report: discuss draft

# Agenda

- Welcome and purpose
- Agenda and introductions
- Key takeaways from listening sessions
- Introduce and practice using Mural
- Discussion of recommendations
- Next steps
- Public input
- Adjourn

# Introductions

- Name, role, organization







Key takeaways from listening sessions

# Listening sessions

- 5 listening sessions held
- Approximately 35 total public participants. Note a few individuals attended multiple sessions.
- Themes from final two listening sessions (December 3<sup>rd</sup> and December 11)
  - **Education before enforcement.** People seek guidance on ethical and sustainable foraging. A better understanding of what, how, when is it allowed.
  - **Low barrier permitting, if permits needed at all.** Streamline the process. Balance access with data informed policy making. Consider permits only for specific activities such as large groups or whole plant harvest.
  - **Grounding in Indigenous rights and traditional ecological knowledge strongly supported.** Foraging is a way of life and a treaty reserved right.
  - **Regenerative foraging suggested as an approach to consider.** Proactive interaction with public spaces. Leaving land and plants healthier and ensuring resources for future generations.
  - **Expanded foraging access builds broader base of people connected to/caring for the land.** Equity and access are concerns for community members without access to private land.

*Are there any additional observations that the members who participated would like to raise up? Please add them to the chat.*





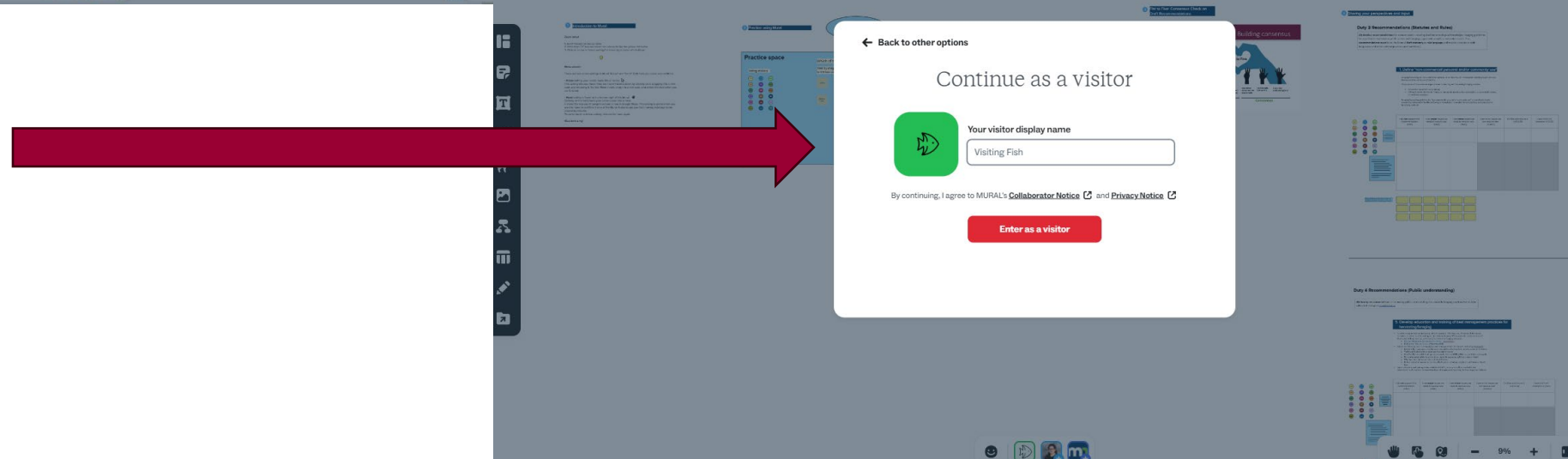
# Transition to Mural





1. Enter as visitor

2. Add your name in the box



# Building consensus

If your vote is a fist, one, or two, be ready to 1) explain your concern, and 2) suggest changes that would get you up to a three WITHOUT losing the supportive votes of others.



I do NOT support this recommendation.

I see MAJOR issues we need to resolve now.

I see MINOR issues we need to resolve now.

I see minor issues we can resolve later.

I'm fine with this as it is.

I love this! I will champion it.

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**Lack of Consensus**

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**Consensus**



# Recommendations

- 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



# Next steps

- Written public comments due 12/31. Remind your communities.
- Share written ideas for improvement to recommendations based on today's discussion and written public input (email staff).
- Next meeting (1/6): Refine recommendations.



## MN SUSTAINABLE FORAGING TASK FORCE LISTENING SESSIONS

**Purpose:** Gather public input on forging in Minnesota. Sign up for more information and for the links to join us at any of these listening sessions.

**Info:** [lcc.mn.gov/foraging/meetings.html](http://lcc.mn.gov/foraging/meetings.html)

You can always provide input and recommendations to the Task Force by emailing [nick.nero@lcc.mn.gov](mailto:nick.nero@lcc.mn.gov) no later than December 31.

**Dates:**

- Dec 3 @ 11:30 AM to 1 PM - Zoom
- Dec 11 @ 6:30 to 8 PM - Zoom



# Adjourn

- Adjourn

# Thank you