

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
7. December 16, 2025 – 10:00am-noon	Recommendations: discuss and refine
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 3rd 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.

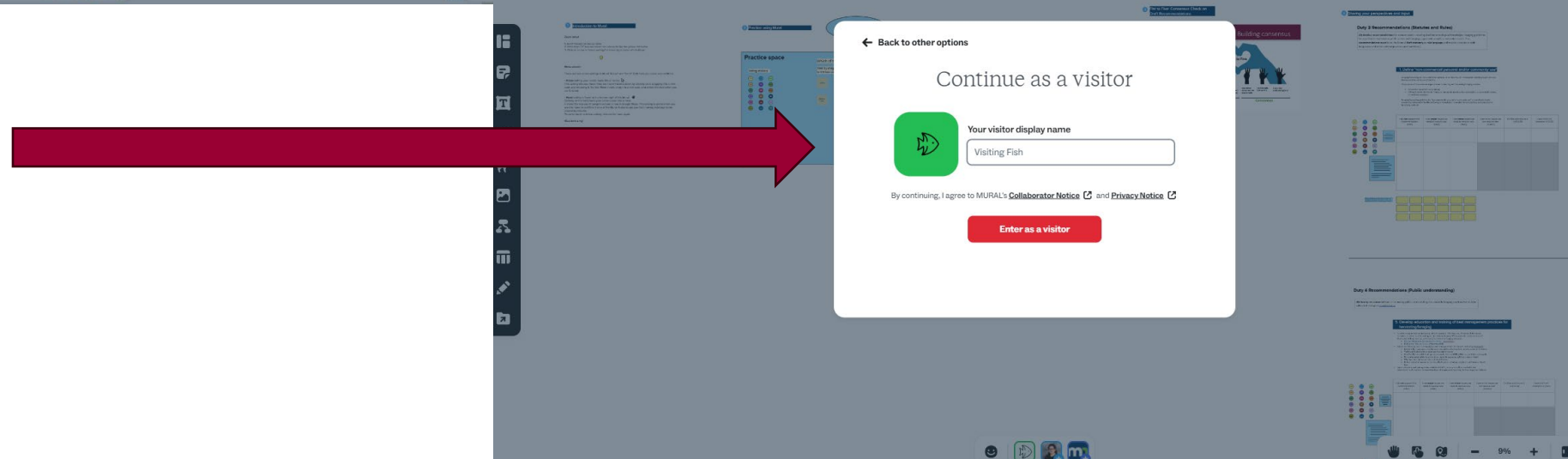


Transition to Mural



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.

Lack of Consensus

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

You can always provide input and recommendations to the Task Force by emailing 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