

# Sustainable Foraging Task Force



Meeting 8: January 6, 2026

# 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
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
<b>8. January 6, 2026 – 11:00am-1:00pm</b>	<b>Recommendations: discuss and refine</b>
9. January 27, 2026 – 10:00am-noon	Recommendations: finalize. <b>Voting will occur and decisions will be made.</b>
10. February 10, 2025 – 10:00am-noon	Report: discuss draft

# Agenda

- Welcome and purpose
- Agenda and introductions
- Discussion with DNR on their input and reactions to the draft recommendations
- Ending discussion and reaching closure
- (Re) introduce and practice using Mural
- Discuss and refine recommendations
- Public input
- Report update and brainstorm
- Next steps
- Adjourn

# Introductions

- Name, role, organization





# Ending discussion and reaching closure

Task force discussions will seek consensus using a gradients of agreement scale ([Fist to Five](#) tool) to ensure the six duties of the task force are executed.

Every effort will be made to address members' concerns before decisions are made.

A formal process to finalize the complete list of recommendations developed by the task force will be followed on **January 27**:

- Voting will only take place if a simple majority of members is present. With 18 members appointed, the presence of 10 members will be a simple majority and represent quorum.
- Each member shall have one vote, regardless of their affiliation or role on the task force.
- There is no voting by proxy.
- Participants can choose to abstain from a vote.
- The decision to include a recommendation will require a “yes” vote from 80% of voting participants.

While these recommendations are advisory, the task force's input will inform the decisions of DNR staff, the commissioner of natural resources, and legislative committees with primary jurisdiction over natural resources policy.

# Decision Making Processes

## Testing Consensus Today



I do NOT support  
this.

I see  
**MAJOR**  
issues we  
need to  
resolve  
now.

I see **MINOR**  
issues we  
need to  
resolve  
now.

I can  
live  
with it.

I like it.

I love this!  
I will champion it.

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Lack of Consensus

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Consensus

## Voting for Inclusion January 27

If 80% of you vote YES the recommendation is **approved** for inclusion in the report. This means if all 18 members vote on Jan. 27, three people can vote NO and the recommendation would still be approved.



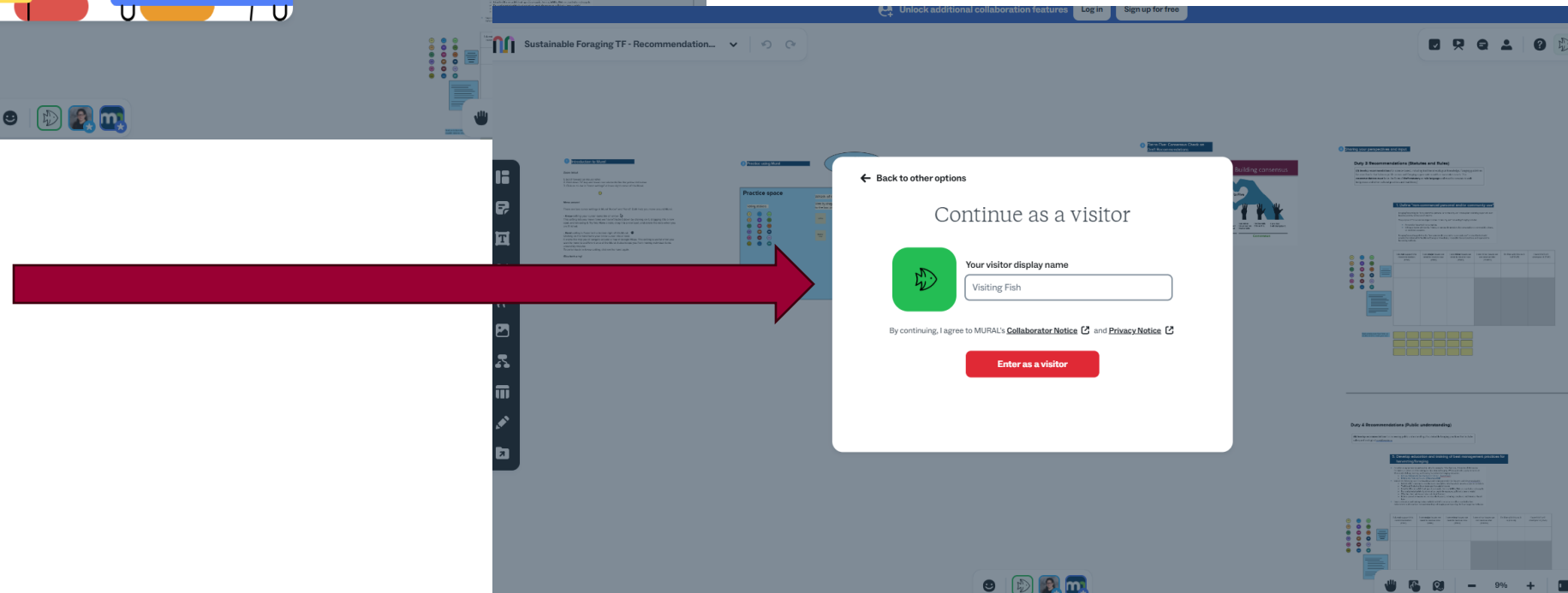


# Transition to Mural



1. Enter as visitor

2. Add your name in the box







# 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

# Report update

- Walk through table of contents
- Will be expanded and order may change

# Report brainstorm



# Next steps

- **This Friday (1/9):** Task force members share written ideas for improvement, especially if have major or minor issues to staff.
- **January 13:** Revised recommendations sent to task force and DNR for additional edits.
- **January 20:** Deadline for task force members to shared additional written ideas for improvement.
- **January 23:** Revised recommendations sent to task force in preparation of 1/27 meeting.
- **January 27:** Vote on recommendations.
- **Ongoing:** Consider report content; share written ideas (email staff)

A graphic with a blue background and a photo of a person in a field. The text is white and green. The title 'MN SUSTAINABLE FORAGING TASK FORCE MEETINGS' is at the top. Below it, the text 'We invite the public to share input or recommendations related to foraging by contacting Nick Nero at [nick.nero@lcc.mn.gov](mailto:nick.nero@lcc.mn.gov) no later than December 31.' is shown. Then, 'We always provide an opportunity for public comment at the end of each meeting, whether attending in person or virtually.' is displayed. At the bottom, two dates are listed in green text on black boxes: 'January 6 - 11 AM to 1 PM' and 'January 27 - 10 AM to 12 PM'.

**MN SUSTAINABLE  
FORAGING TASK  
FORCE MEETINGS**

We invite the public to share input or recommendations related to foraging by contacting Nick Nero at [nick.nero@lcc.mn.gov](mailto:nick.nero@lcc.mn.gov) no later than December 31.

We always provide an opportunity for public comment at the end of each meeting, whether attending in person or virtually.

- **January 6 - 11 AM to 1 PM**
- **January 27 - 10 AM to 12 PM**

Please refer to the website link below, as the location may be subject to change.

<https://www.lcc.mn.gov/foraging/meetings.html>

# Adjourn

- Adjourn

# Thank you