

Sustainable Foraging Task Force



Meeting #9: January 14, 2026

Today's purpose

- This is a working meeting.
- Our focus will be to:
 - **Dialogue** to improve understanding, and
 - **Make revisions** to recommendations.
- By the end of today's meeting, we hope to **increase support / consensus** of drafted task force recommendations.

Timeline

- **Today (January 14):** Discuss potential revised language of recommendations. Make additional revisions as needed.
- **January 14-20:** Task force members continue to offer ideas for improvement. *This could be through a 1:1 conversation with MAD and/or sharing written ideas.*
- **January 23:** Revised recommendations sent to task force in preparation for 1/27 meeting.
- **January 23-27:** Task force members carefully review recommendations to prepare for vote.
- **January 27:** Vote on recommendations.

Ongoing: Share written ideas for report content.

Interview themes: Known context (Slide 1 of 4)

DNR lands: 5.6 million acres, 4 biomes, 59 state forests, school trust acres, forested lands, 1800 wildlife management areas, 66 state parks, nine recreation areas, 9 waysides, 166 scientific and natural areas, 700 aquatic management areas. **Managed by different divisions within DNR and each have different goals, laws, statutes, and rules**

Foraging occurs for a **variety of** reasons – food, medicine, recreation, art, and cultural **purposes**.

More people on lands requires **more resources to monitor and educate**.

Foraging may not be perceived by all stakeholders as a **legitimate recreational activity** on state lands, like hunting or fishing.

Interview themes: Shared hopes (Slide 2 of 4)

- Clear, simple recommendations resulting in accessible foraging on state lands.
- Recommendations accepted by DNR and legislature.
- Balanced, finding middle ground
- Support for cultural practices, including those of MN tribes

Hope we can provide suggestions for new rules or new guidance that is clear and understandable, meets the recreational needs/desires of multiple groups.

That legislature can act upon recommendations. Be very thoughtful that they are as specific as possible so that they're actionable.

Have recommendations that are acceptable to both pro-foraging open access and natural resource managers that want to conserve.

There are certain culturally significant species for our task force to be aware of.

Interview themes: Shared concerns (Slide 3 of 4)

- Balancing accessibility now, with conservation long term
- Balancing individual rights today, with protection for tomorrow

Not erring too far in either direction. Trying to protect nature by keeping us out of it, or foraging rules too wide and not being good stewards. Thoughtful, clear approach. "I do think we can come up with something that allows humans to forage and also allows nature to thrive."

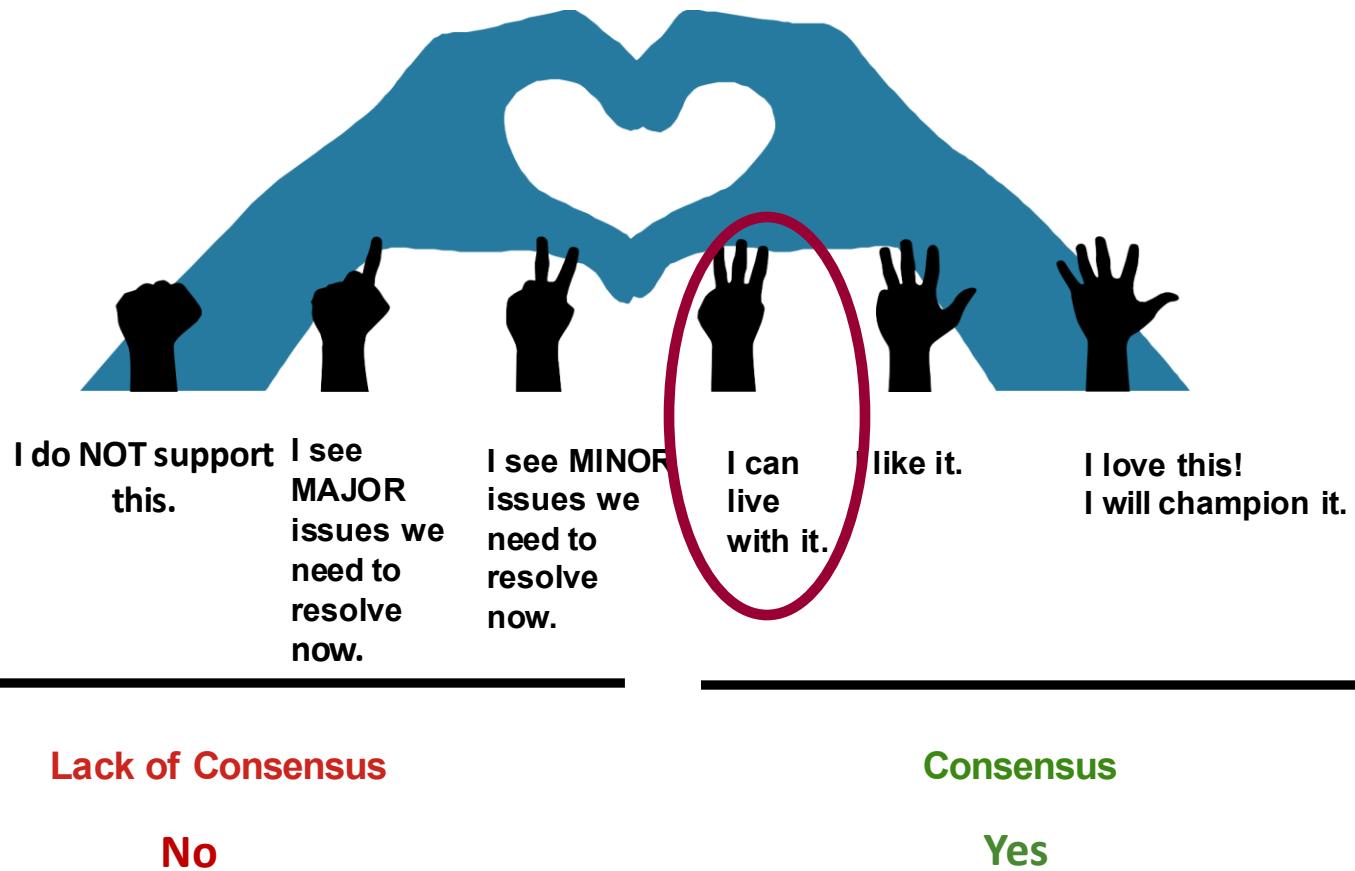
Some might consider sustainable foraging to mean very limited quantities and locations. Others might say we've been foraging in Minnesota for 100 years and haven't seen any species being affected. If not detrimental, why do we need rules and regs? "Don't make rules – we've been doing it and doing fine". Finding that balance.

Interview themes: Important Actions for Consideration (Slide 4 of 4)

- Defining **key terms** (e.g. sustainable foraging, boundary of personal use)
- Clarify how **different rules apply to different lands**
- Determine when a **permit** is needed
- Explore **certification or education programs** (model from other outdoor recreation programs)
- Explore potential **ripple effects** of expanded foraging (good and bad)
- Consider **whether different rules, rights or restrictions** apply to different groups/foraging purposes (e.g., tribal or non-tribal members, food or medicine)
- Consider development of **standard criteria that would trigger limits on foraging**
- Recognize that we are **not going to solve all of the issues** across the landscape... and what we come up with may be **the best for now**, but not appropriate in 5 years

Decision Making Processes

Increase Support / Consensus Today



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**.

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

Updates to Recommendations

Definitions	Statute and Rulemaking	Permits	Access	Research	Public Education Communication
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Incorporates definition of commercial	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Codifies foraging for personal, non-commercial• Directs DNR to work with MDA• Proposes a 5- year limit on further restrictions to foraging beyond the new statute	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Permit required <u>only</u> for harvesting roots/whole plants or for items on protected list• Update/streamline current permitting process and system	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Foraging allowed on all DNR lands with the exception of SNAs• Aquatic areas remain as outlined in current statute/rules	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fund allocation to support foraging research in Minnesota	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fund allocation to support foraging education for the public• Establish regular, ongoing dialogue with stakeholders
1	2, 8 and 10	2 and 7	2 and 8	6 and 10	4, 5 And 9

Closing and reminder of what's ahead

- **January 14-20:** Task force members continue to offer ideas to achieve compromise and improve consensus. *This can be through a 1:1 conversation with MAD and/or sharing written ideas.*
- **January 23:** Revised recommendations sent to task force in preparation of 1/27 meeting.
- **January 23-26:** Task force members carefully review recommendations to prepare for vote.
- **January 27:** Vote on recommendations.

Ongoing: Share written ideas for report content.

Adjourn

- Adjourn

Thank you