

# Sustainable Foraging Task Force



Meeting 10: January 27, 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.

# 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
8. January 6, 2026 – 11:00am-1:00pm	Recommendations: discuss and refine
9. January 14, 2026 – 11:00am-1:00 pm	Working session to discuss and refine recommendations
<b>10. January 27, 2026 – 10:00am-noon</b>	<b>Recommendations: finalize. Voting will occur and decisions will be made.</b>
11. February 10, 2025 – 10:00am-noon	Report: discuss draft legislative report

# 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

# Agenda

- Welcome and purpose
- Agenda and introductions
- High level overview of legislative report
- Grounding and recommendations discussion
  - **Part 1:** Individually, use fist to five to test consensus on each recommendation
  - **Part 2:** Recognize where consensus exists
  - **Part 3:** Discuss recommendations where consensus does not exist and make revisions to increase support
- Vote on each recommendation, using revised language.
- Next steps
- Public input
- Adjourn



# Introductions

# Review of legislative report

- Introduction, e.g.,
  - "...foraging is a recognized recreational activity and a respected cultural practice deeply rooted in MN history and tradition"
  - TF values (conservation, increased access...)
  - Background on enabling legislation
  - Areas of expertise/communities represented by members
- Meetings and methodology
  - Data informing the recommendations (TF interviews, TF meetings, public listening sessions)
  - Recommendation development/review process
- Approved recs (possibly with context/narrative around each)
- Conclusion/next steps
- Appendixes, e.g., enabling legislation, TF charter, unapproved recommendations, overview of presentations and testimonies, materials from each meeting

# Executive summary of recommendations (1 of 7)

## **Recommendation 1: Develop a new statute that codifies foraging for personal, non-commercial use as a legitimate recreational and cultural activity on DNR managed state lands and waters.**

- The task force recommends a new statute to codify foraging as allowable on DNR managed state lands and waters and to establish definitions for non-commercial personal use, commercial use, honorable harvest, and products allowed to be harvested. The new statute would only require permits for products on a protected species list.

# Executive summary of recommendations (2 of 7)

## **Recommendation 2. Proactive study of foraging and its impacts in Minnesota**

- The task force recommends funding to collect data, monitor, and research the impacts of foraging, including an evaluation of statute/rule changes resulting from the task force's work. This proactive study would include partnership with foragers and research experts.

# Executive summary of recommendations (3 of 7)

## **Recommendation 3. Develop education and training to support best management practices for foraging.**

- The task force recommends funding to develop foraging education and training for the public using a collaborative approach with DNR and partners. The resources should be easily accessed by the public with no or minimal cost. In addition, the DNR should ensure consistent information and messages are shared internally among staff to support consistent implementation and to reduce potential misunderstandings.

# Executive summary of recommendations (4 of 7)

## **Recommendation 4. Use plain language to provide clear and accessible information that makes it easier for the public to understand statutes and rules on DNR-managed state lands and waters.**

- The task force recommends the use of plain language to provide clear and accessible information that makes it easier for the public to understand statutes, rules, and Traditional Ecological Knowledge related to foraging on DNR-managed state lands and waters.

# Executive summary of recommendations (5 of 7)

## **Recommendation 5. Improve DNR's permit process for foraging on DNR-managed state lands and waters.**

- The task force recommends funding to improve DNR's permitting systems and processes to increase accessibility and reduce barriers to obtaining permits for the collection of items on the protected species list. Recommended changes include making permits available online, accepting electronic payments, and reducing the cost.

# Executive summary of recommendations (6 of 7)

## **Recommendation 6. Establish a mechanism for DNR to engage regularly with foraging stakeholders**

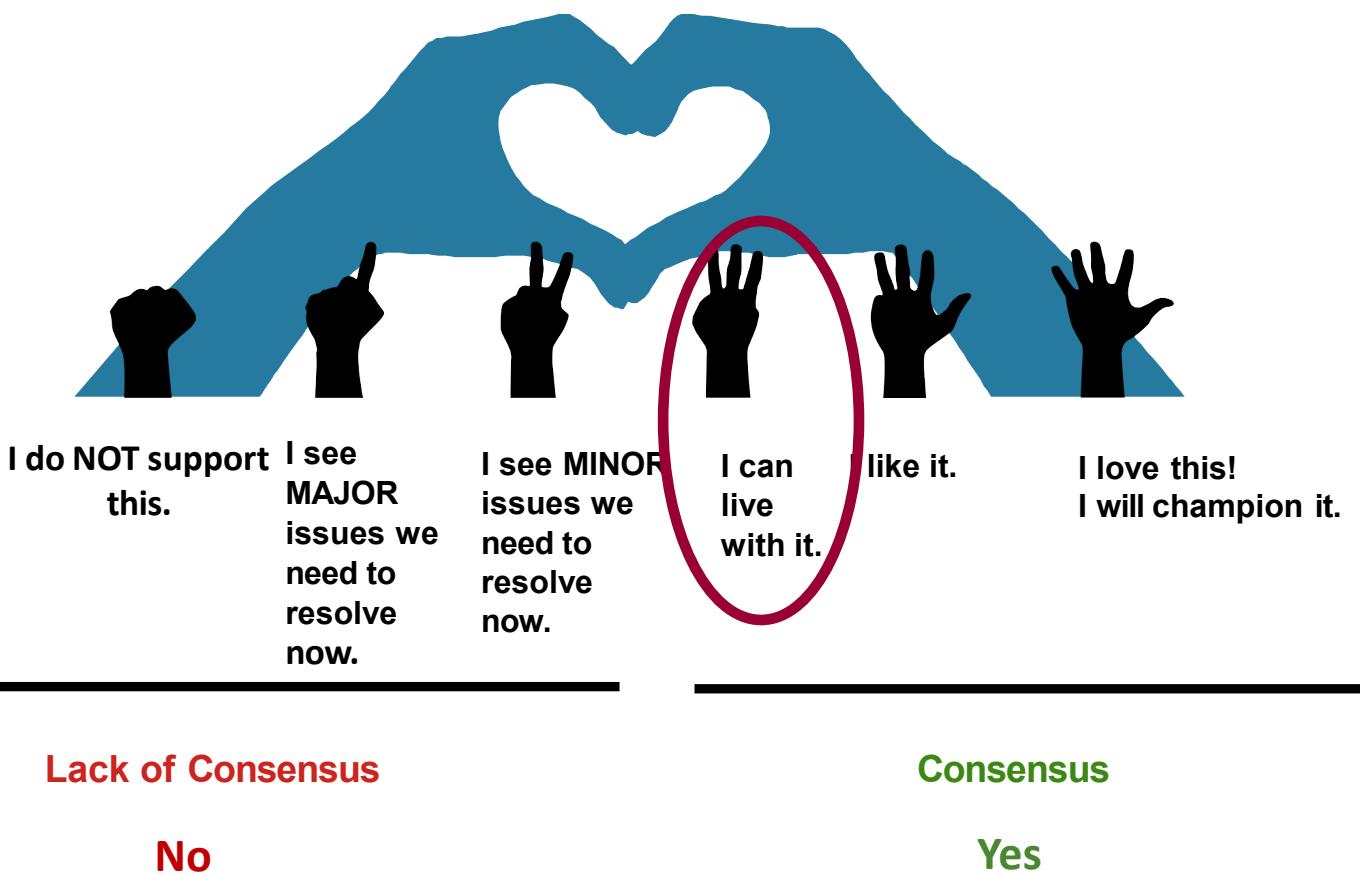
- The task force recommends the DNR establish a mechanism for regular engagement with foraging stakeholders to maintain open lines of communication. Regular engagement helps ensure that foraging statutes and rules stay relevant, are evidence-based, include Traditional Ecological Knowledge, and are responsive to current conditions—supporting both conservation and access goals.

# Executive summary of recommendations (7 of 7)

## **Recommendation 7. Establish a five-year evaluation period during which limits on new foraging policy will apply.**

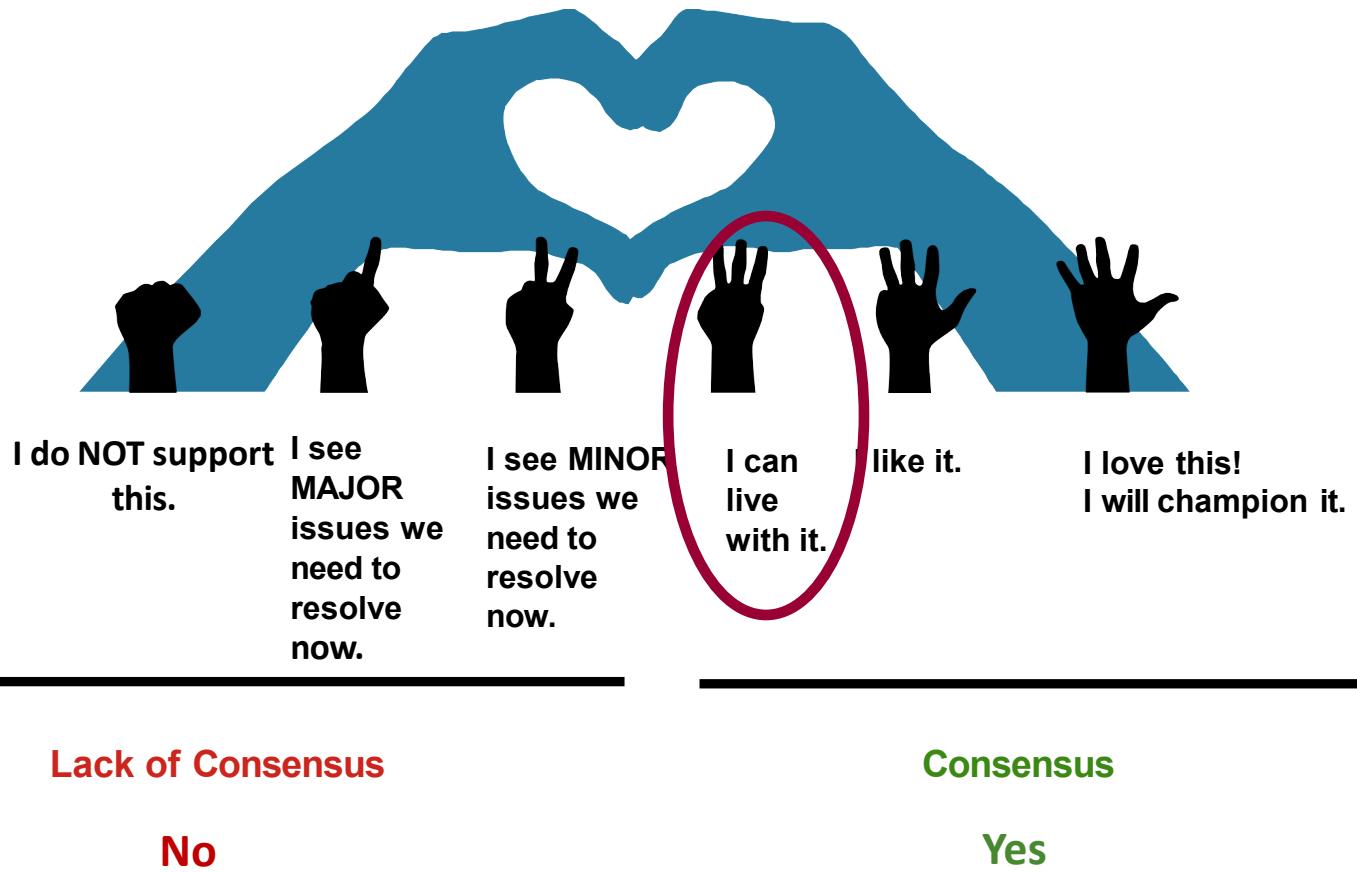
- The task force recognizes that the changes outlined in the recommendations above require time for data collection, monitoring, and research to evaluate ecological, cultural, and economic impacts. This recommendation establishes a defined evaluation period of five years to support collaborative review by the legislature, DNR, and foraging partners before additional policy and regulatory changes are considered.

# Test consensus (Rec 1 of 7)



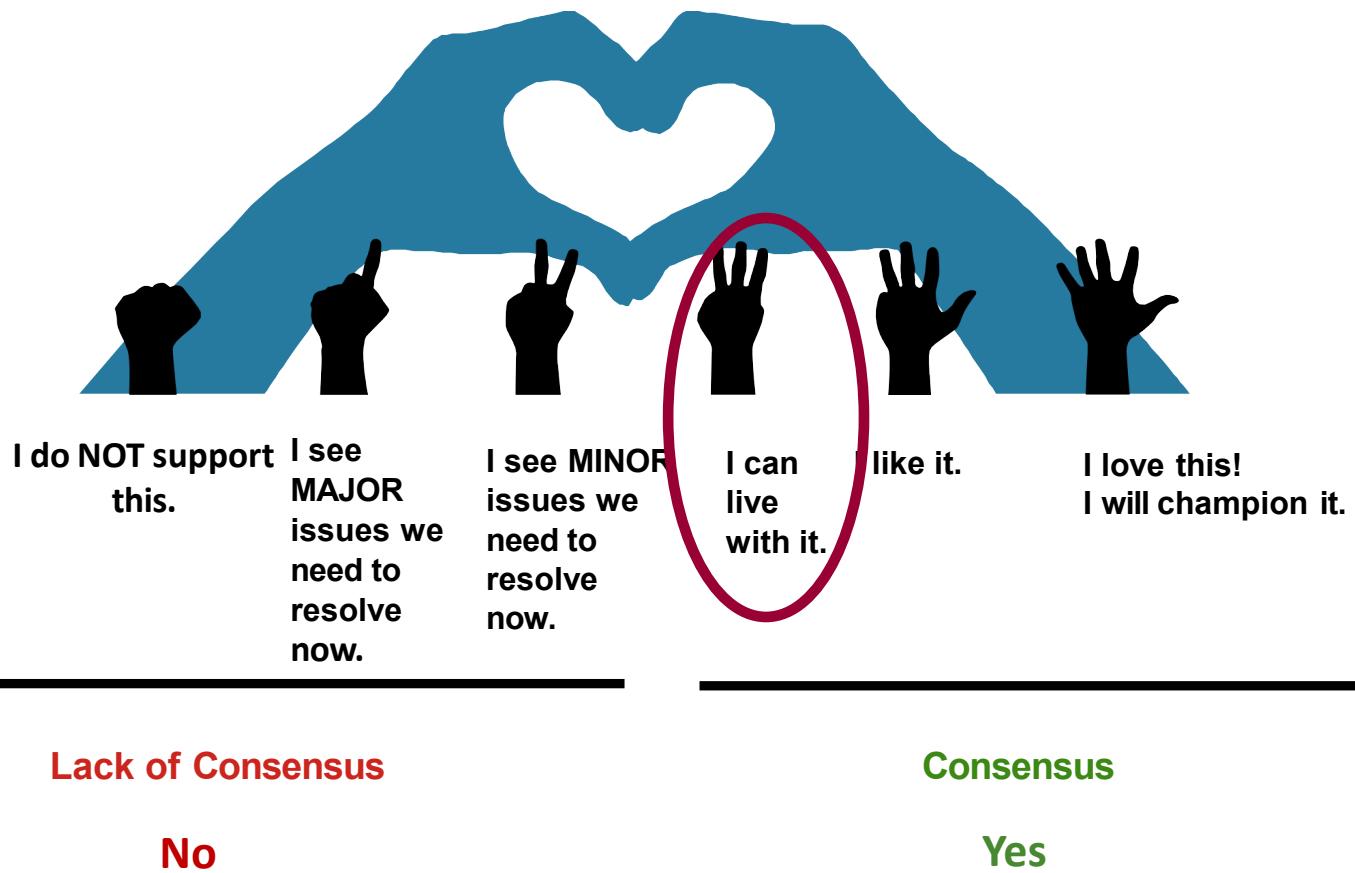
**Recommendation 1:**  
Develop a new statute that codifies foraging for personal, non-commercial use as a legitimate recreational and cultural activity on DNR managed state lands and waters.

# Test consensus (Rec 2 of 7)



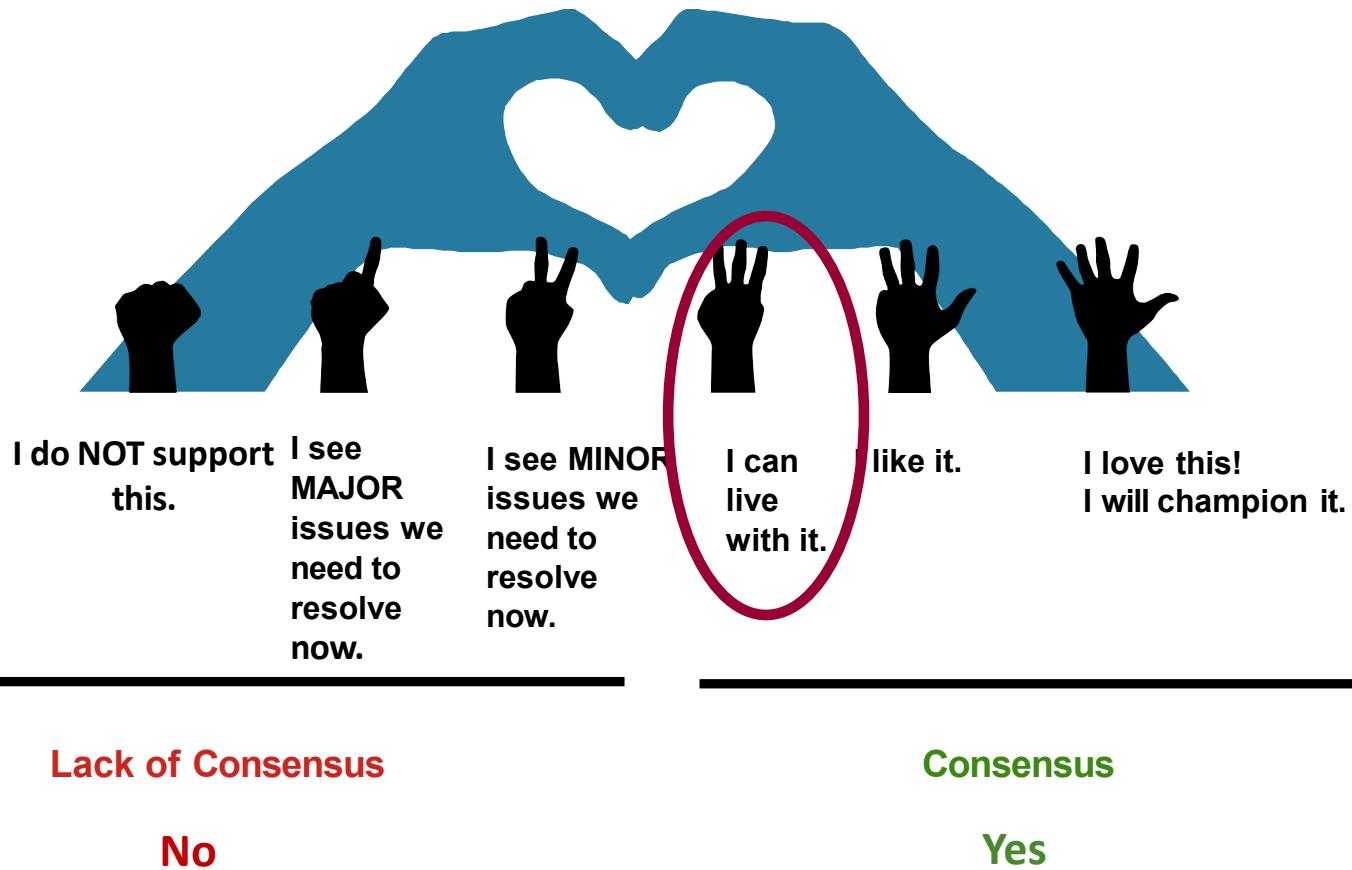
**Recommendation 2:**  
Proactive study of  
foraging and its  
impacts in  
Minnesota

# Test consensus (Rec 3 of 7)



**Recommendation 3:**  
Develop education and training to support best management practices for foraging.

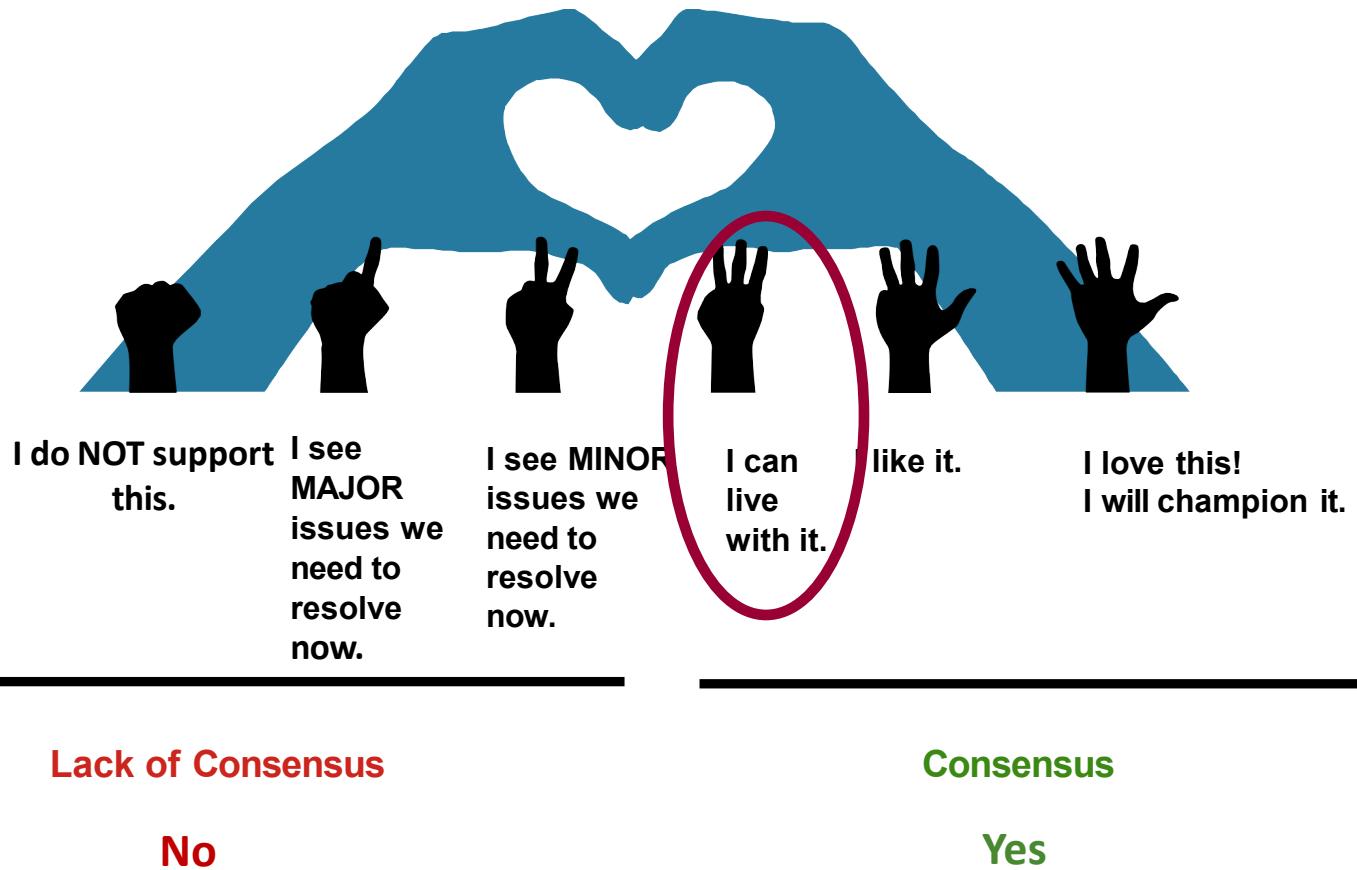
# Test consensus (Rec 4 of 7)



## Recommendation 4:

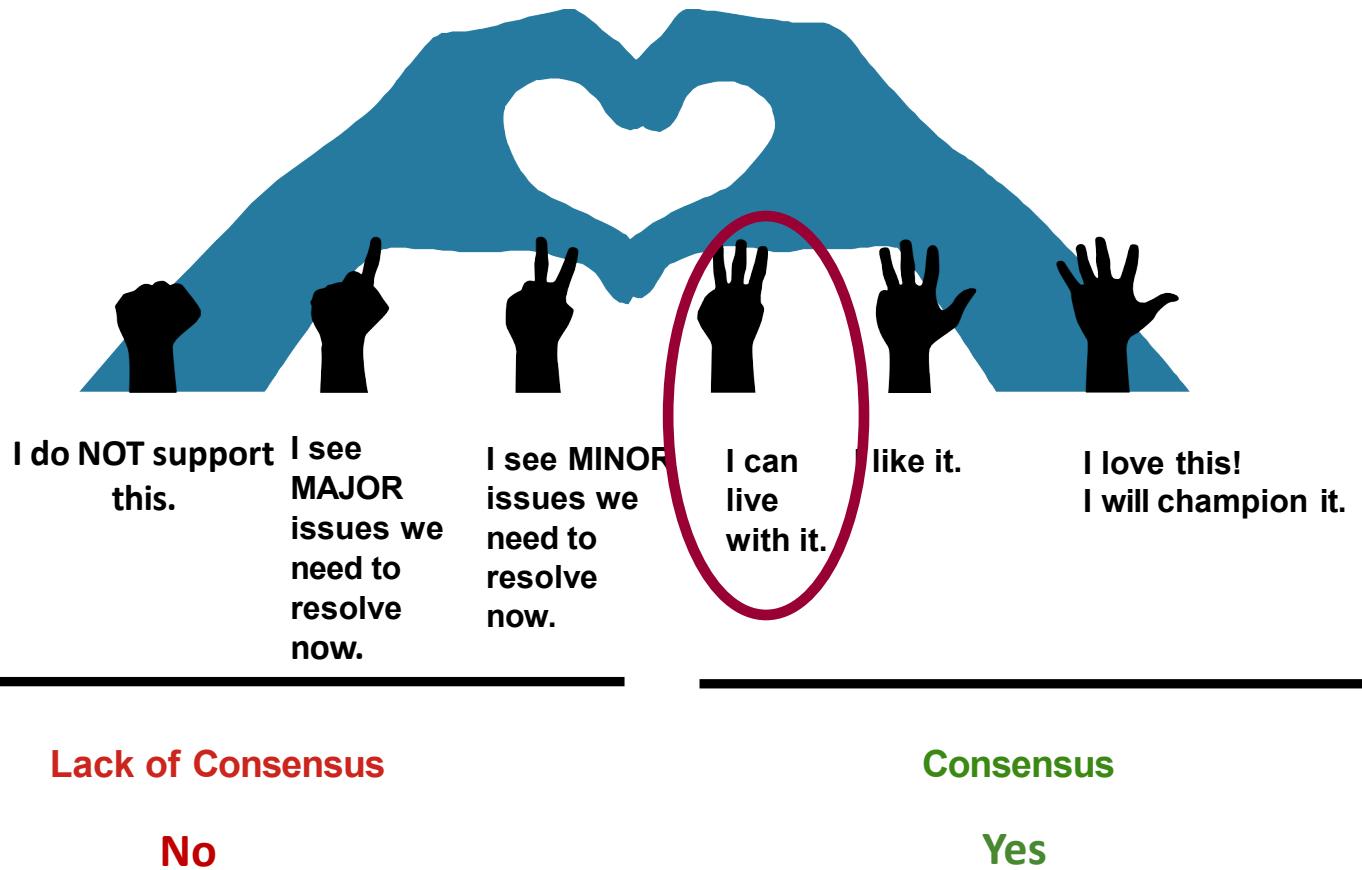
Use plain language to provide clear and accessible information that makes it easier for the public to understand statutes and rules on DNR-managed state lands and waters.

# Test consensus (Rec 5 of 7)



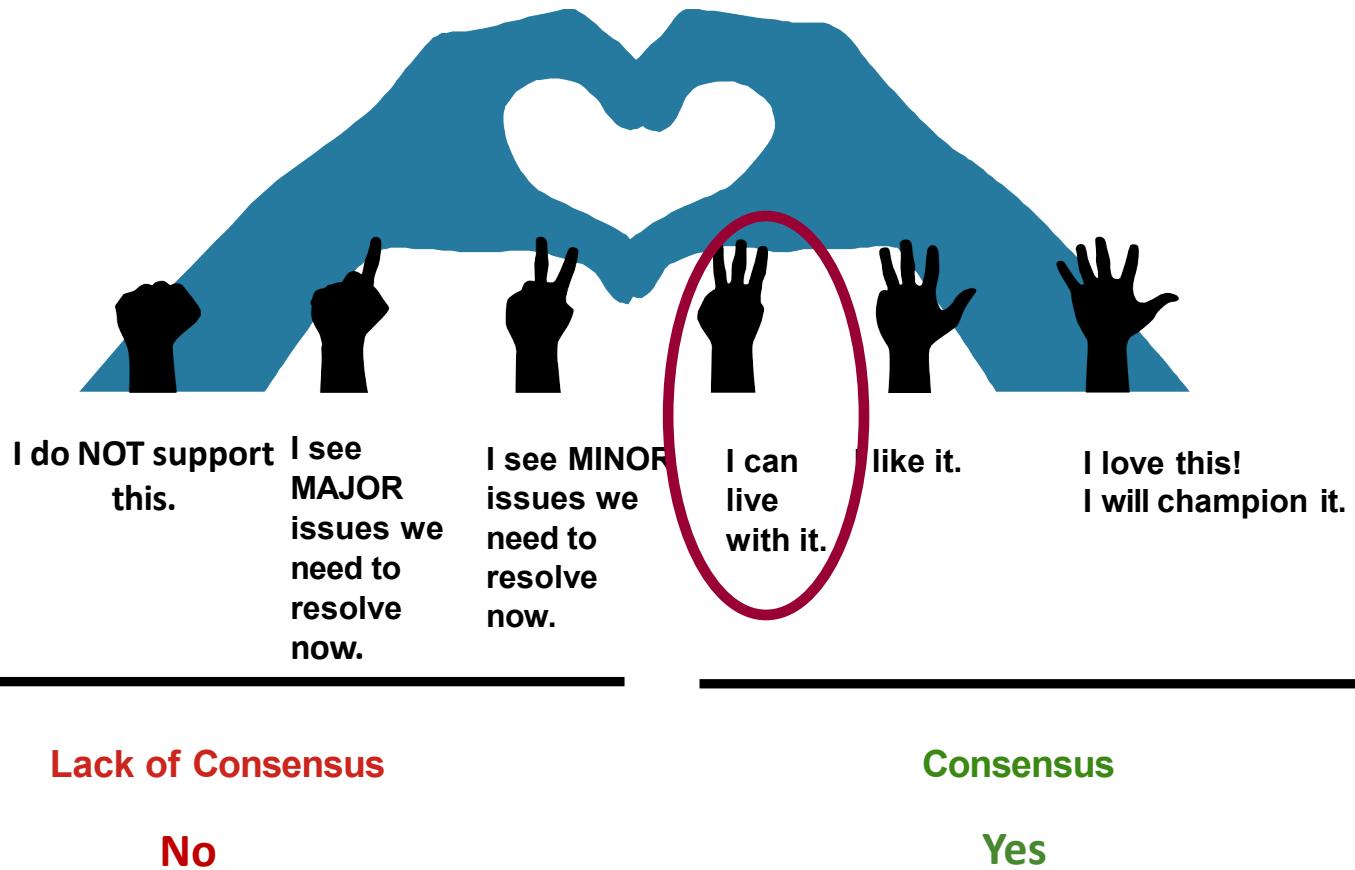
**Recommendation 5:**  
Improve DNR's permit process for foraging on DNR-managed state lands and waters.

# Test consensus (Rec 6 of 7)



**Recommendation 6:**  
Establish a mechanism  
for DNR to engage  
regularly with foraging  
stakeholders.

# Test consensus (Rec 7 of 7)



**Recommendation 7:**  
Establish a five-year evaluation period during which limits on new foraging policy will apply.

# Ending discussion and reaching closure

## A formal process to finalize the recommendations developed by the task force will be followed today:

- 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.



No

Yes

- 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

- **February 10:** Final task force meeting (Focus: Review draft legislative report)
- **Invitation:** Consider report content; share written ideas (email staff)

# Adjourn

- Adjourn

# Thank you