

Sustainable Foraging Task Force



Meeting 11: February 10, 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
10. January 27, 2026 – 10:00am-noon	Recommendations: finalize. Voting will occur and decisions will be made.
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
- Legislative report
- Public input
- Reflections
- Next steps
- Adjourn
- Group photo for members (optional)



Introductions

Legislative report

- Does the narrative and framing align with what you want legislators to understand?
- Are key messages clear?
- Are there any gaps in context?
- Does this represent your work well?

- Welcome! Please introduce yourself:
 - Name
 - Location/region
 - Group/organization/community you represent (if applicable)
- Ground rules
 - Limit comments to 2 minutes
 - 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

Reflections on our work together



What has been most meaningful about your participation?

What surprised you during our work together?



What accomplishment are you most proud of?

How do you think our work will make a difference?



What advice would you give to a future task force?

How will you carry forward what you have learned?

Next steps

- Finalize report and submit to designated recipients and legislative library
- Draft legislation
- Continue conversations

- Adjourn
- Group photo
 - Opt in or opt out
 - Zoom attendees: turn camera off if opting out
 - In-room attendees: gather by the screen

Thank you