

## **Kilgore**

### **Developing a Certification Framework for Minnesota's Family Forests**

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In late summer 2004, the University of Minnesota's Department of Forest Resources received a grant from the Blandin Foundation to identify opportunities for increasing the amount of certified Minnesota family forest land. Specific objectives of the study were to: evaluate existing forest land certification systems available to Minnesota's family forest owners; understand Minnesota family forest landowner attitudes toward and interest in forest land certification; understand Minnesota logger attitudes toward and interest in logger certification, evaluate the likelihood of enrolling a substantial amount of Minnesota family forest land in a certification program, and develop a strategy for increasing the amount of Minnesota certified family forest land. Data was collected using mail surveys, structured meetings with small groups of Minnesota family forest owners, and reviews of forest land certification systems in the U.S. and elsewhere. The study concluded that while significantly increasing the amount of family forest land that is certified will be a formidable challenge, there are actions that can be taken to expand the use of forest certification on the state's family forests. The study's findings and conclusions, as well as recommendations for advancing the level of certification activity among Minnesota's family forest owners will be discussed.

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