

Desotelle

Paper Title: Findings of the Riparian Science Technical Committee – A Brief Overview

Authors: Riparian Science Technical Committee convened by the MN Forest Resources Council

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The Riparian Science Technical Committee (RSTC) has completed a report that includes an extensive scientific literature review of the functions and indicators associated with riparian management zones and varying tree basal areas. The project was initiated in 2004 by the MN Forest Resources Council (MFRC) as part of its effort to address questions, topics, and issues associated with the Voluntary Site-Level Forest Management Guidelines for riparian areas. From an initial search of more than 500 papers, over 200 papers were reviewed extensively to determine the state of the science for riparian functions associated with habitat, geochemistry, and hydrology in conjunction with various waterbody types. Although the findings are complex, this study is the first of its kind in the region and will provide guidance for an economic analysis of the RSTC findings in 2008. In addition, the MFRC will use the results of the RSTC report and economic analysis to consider future guideline changes, research priorities, and monitoring program needs.

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