Minnesota's Decorative Forest Products

Guarding Our Treasure



MFRP
MINNESOTA FOREST RESOURCES PARTNERSHIP



The Minnesota ‘Gift’

Did you know?

- the evergreen wreath you hang on your door…



- the Balsam tree you put in your living room…

- the birch porch pot you place on your doorstep…

These resources from Minnesota’s forests contribute to a multi-million dollar industry in the state.

So, what is the problem?



"Decorative forest products,"
(Balsam boughs, birch poles, spruce tips, red oiser dogwood, among other decorative resources from the woods)
are the victims of illegal harvesting from Minnesota's public and private forests. Theft from Minnesota's forests has become a **persistent**, **illegal** and **dangerous** activity in the northern woodlands of the state.

Why is this a problem?

- **Environmental Impacts:** Illegally removing boughs, tops or poles can cause significant site damage, disrupt ecosystems and reduce wildlife habitat. Illegal harvest can kill trees or make them vulnerable to disease and pests.

- **Economic Consequences:** The sale of holiday greens is an important seasonal industry for legitimate harvesters, landowners, and local businesses. Illegal harvesting undermines their livelihoods and the sustainability of the industry.

- **Property Rights:** Collecting greens from private or public property without permission or permit is trespass and theft.

- **Forest Management:** Illegal theft interferes with the management of productive and healthy lands and forests, as well as compromises the conservation of, and recreation on these lands.

A Collaborative Solution

Addressing this issue requires a partnership of all stakeholders, including gatherers, buyers, law enforcement, retail sellers, and the public who purchases decorative forest products.

Help us:

- Seek legislation to increase penalties for theft
- Suport local enforcement to investigate and prosecute illegal activity on public and private lands
- Partner with honest and law-abiding decorative products gatherers and buyers to self-police their industry
- Encourage decorative products retailers and garden/landscape centers not to purchase forest greenery without asking where the resource came from, and who is doing the harvesting



Interested in helping wrap up this problem?

Your participation, your concern and your involvement are key to stopping the theft and preserving these gifts from Minnesota's forests. For more information, contact:

MFRP
MINNESOTA FOREST RESOURCES PARTNERSHIP

218.759.7730

or

katy@paulbunyan.net