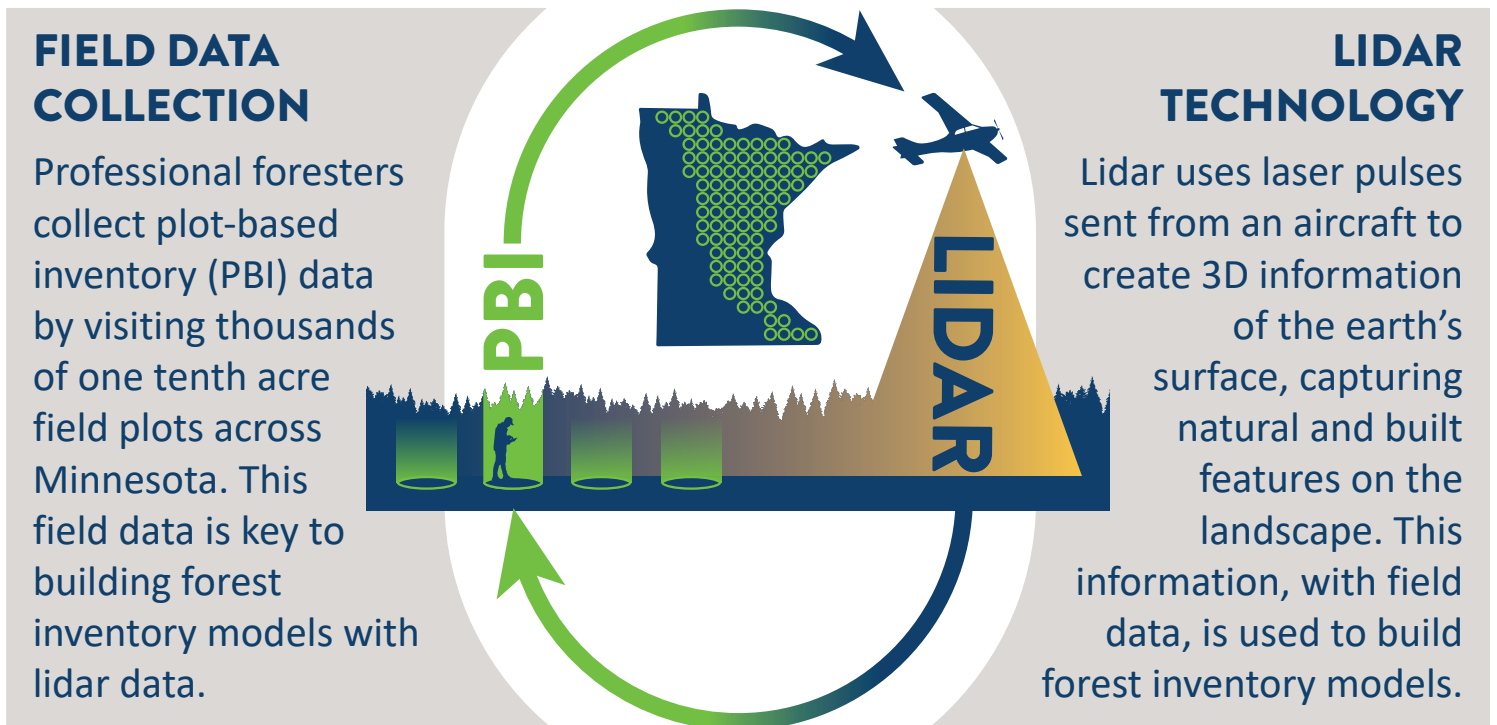# FOREST INVENTORY AND UNDERSTANDING YOUR WOODS

Forest inventory provides data on the type, number, and size of trees in forests. This information is important for forest management decision making. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Resource Assessment Program (RA) uses lidar technology, combined with field plot data, to create precise and current forest inventory information of our dynamic forest landscape.

FIELD DATA COLLECTION

Professional foresters collect plot-based inventory (PBI) data by visiting thousands of one tenth acre field plots across Minnesota. This field data is key to building forest inventory models with lidar data.

LIDAR TECHNOLOGY

Lidar uses laser pulses sent from an aircraft to create 3D information of the earth's surface, capturing natural and built features on the landscape. This information, with field data, is used to build forest inventory models.

PBI FOR PRIVATE LAND OWNERS

Until now PBI has been collected primarily on public lands. Expanding PBI to private forest lands will provide landowners and managers valuable information needed to maintain the beauty, health and resilience of Minnesota's forested ecosystem. **We need help from private woodland owners!** New project areas are rolling out across the state. Forest landowners interested in participating are encouraged to check out our project area map and reach out to learn more!

PBI BENEFITS

- Relevant and current data for land management
- Detailed information on woodland health
- Improved information for wildlife habitat management
- Better understanding of forest carbon storage potential
- Insight into impacts for water quality and flood mitigation

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