

Committee Name:

**Assembly Committee – Rural Affairs and Forestry
(AC–RAF)**

Appointments

01hr_AC–RAF_Appt_pt00

Committee Hearings

01hr_AC–RAF_CH_pt00

Committee Reports

01hr_AC–RAF_CR_pt00

Clearinghouse Rules

01hr_AC–RAF_CRule_01–

Executive Sessions

01hr_AC–RAF_ES_pt00

Hearing Records

01hr_ab0000

01hr_sb0000

Misc.

01hr_AC–RAF__Misc__pt01

Record of Committee Proceedings

01hr_AC–RAF_RCP_pt00

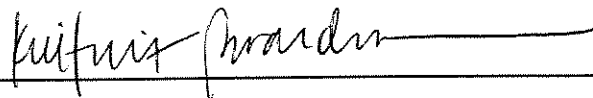
02-22-01 Public
Info Briefing

Committee Meeting Attendance Sheet

Assembly Committee on Rural Affairs and Forestry

Date: Feb. 22, 2001 Meeting Type: Public Informational Briefing
Location: North Hearing Room - State Capitol

<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Excused</u>
Rep. John Ainsworth, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Donald Friske	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Stephen Freese	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Gabe Loeffelholz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Tom Sykora	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Barbara Gronemus	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Mary Hubler	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Marlin Schneider	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Totals:	<u>8</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>



Kristina Boardman, Committee Clerk

(gov council organizing)
OCT 14-15
Forestry Town

Budget Amendment

Stewardship \$
Back to Forestry
Account

60M - Mill Tax
5M - Timber Harvest
TOURISM
Federal \$

Alterations
to Main Street Program

DNR support of
use-value legislation

Trust: We should examine:

[unintended consequences of use-value]

Farmers can't afford the taxes on area woodland — property taxes driven up from wealthy persons buying up forestland to build on.

Farmers are going to have 2 options:

- enter managed forest tax law
 - yet there is already a substantial backlog for management of these lands

or

Clear-cut the land
(obviously not a preferable option)

Gov's budget takes funding from the forestry account to pay down stewardship debts.

↳ budget amendment to retain some of these funds

Pastureization
of wooded land

rule:

Prioritizes sustainable forestry
for consulting foresters
(for both public and private jobs)

FORESTRY-RELATED GOVERNOR'S BUDGET ITEMS

Summary Item #17 – Forest Fire Control

The Governor recommends additional funding to improve forest fire suppression and control activities in the state.

- Local fire departments will receive an additional \$250,000 SEG annually in cost-share grants for fire prevention materials and fire suppression equipment and training.
- The Department will receive \$467,500 SEG in FY02 and \$393,500 SEG in FY03 to update forest fire communications and purchase fire suppression capital equipment.
- The cap will be raised on the forest fire emergency fund from \$500,000 to \$1 million to improve the department's ability to address difficult forest fire seasons.

Summary Item #18 – Private Forestry Assistance

The Governor recommends providing:

- 3.0 FTE forester positions and converting 5.0 FTE forester project positions to permanent to enhance assistance to private forest landowners (\$176,500 SEG in FY02 and \$139,500 SEG in FY03).
- Increased funding to contract with private foresters for development of managed forest land plans (\$150,000 SEG annually).
- Cost-sharing grants to private forest landowners to develop and implement management plans (\$250,000 SEG annually).
- Funding for sustainable forestry education projects for woodland owners (\$100,000 SEG annually).
- Funding to encourage innovative partnerships among landowners, such as wood cooperatives and landowner associations (\$100,000 SEG annually).
- \$156,000 SEG annually to support grant administration and forest tax law database maintenance.

Summary Item #19 – Forestry Program Changes

The Governor recommends additional funding to improve forest management and service to visitors of the state and county forests.

- Provide \$200,000 SEG annually to establish a grant program for implementation of sustainable forestry practices on county forest land and increase funding by \$122,000 SEG in FY02 and \$220,000 SEG in FY03 to provide aids to counties for county forest administrators.
- Provide \$400,000 SEG in FY02 to plan for the construction of a forestry demonstration and education center in the Milwaukee area.
- Provide \$172,000 SEG in FY02 and \$165,000 SEG in FY03 to contract for urban forestry specialists to provide technical assistance, education, and training to communities in south central and northeast Wisconsin. Also, expand eligibility for the urban forestry grant program to include counties, towns and nonprofit organizations.

- Provide \$157,200 SEG in FY02 and \$148,200 SEG in FY03 to address the anticipated increase in requests from communities for gypsy moth suppression education and research efforts in central and southern Wisconsin.
- Provide \$708,000 SEG in FY02 and \$650,000 SEG in FY03 for regional and northern forest operations, facility maintenance and capital equipment purchases.
- Provide \$184,800 annually to improve the diversity and qualifications of forester recruits.

Division of Forestry Requests Not Approved in the Governor's Budget

- Monitoring Forestry Master Plans
\$40,000 SEG in FY02 and \$400,000 SEG in FY03
- Forestry Education and Awareness
\$30,000 SEG in FY02 and \$80,500 SEG in FY03



John Ainsworth

State Representative • 6th Assembly District

Chair: Assembly Committee on Rural Affairs

MEMORANDUM

To: Members, Assembly Committee on Rural Affairs and Forestry

From: Chairperson John Ainsworth

Date: January 24, 2001

Re: Committee Policies

Attached to this memorandum, please find a copy of the Policies and Procedures for the Rural Affairs and Forestry Committee for the 2001-2002 legislative session. These policies and procedures represent general guidelines for committee proceedings that I believe will assist us in performing the committee's functions. Given the time constraints and the nature of the legislative process, I understand that strict adherence to the attached guidelines will not always be possible.

Should you have any questions regarding these policies or procedures, or any other operation of the Rural Affairs and Forestry Committee, please do not hesitate to give Committee Clerk Kristina Boardman or me a call at 266-3097.



Assembly Rural Affairs and Forestry Committee *Policies and Procedures*

Committee Meetings:

- The Assembly Committee on Rural Affairs and Forestry regularly meets in the North Hearing Room (second floor) of the State Capitol. The Committee's regular meeting day is "odd Thursdays".
- The Legislative Council Staff Attorney assigned to the committee is David Lovell.
- To the extent possible, I will try to hold hearings only on formally introduced proposals for which a hearing notice has been printed in the Weekly Schedule of Committee Activities.
- Hearings and Executive Sessions will start on time; please notify the Committee Clerk (Kristina Boardman) if you are unable to attend or will be late.

Attendance:

- The Committee Clerk will not take a formal roll call for attendance, but will instead mark members present as they attend. The attendance roll at public hearings will be held open until the adjournment of the hearing.
- The attendance roll at executive sessions will also be held open until the adjournment of the hearing. Committee members must be present while the committee is in session in order to vote. If a member is absent while a vote is taken in executive session, the roll will be held open until the executive session is completed in order to permit the absent member to vote. If a committee member is unable to vote during a committee executive session, the member may contact the Committee Clerk to indicate how he or she would have voted if present (the member's votes will not, however, be included in the reported vote on the committee's recommendation).

Amendments:

- Amendments to proposals to be taken up in executive session should be in written form; preferably drafted by either the Legislative Reference Bureau or Legislative Council Staff. Amendments should be distributed to the Committee Clerk at least 24 hours in advance of an executive session. This deadline is to allow sufficient opportunity for full committee distribution and review. Exceptions to the 24-hour notice may be possible for minor technical or other non-controversial amendments.

January 25, 2001

Daniel Meyer
IDEA Associates
241 Shore Acres Drive
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

Dear Mr. Meyer:

Please find enclosed a copy of the hearing notice for the Assembly Committee on Rural Affairs and Forestry meeting on February 22, 2001. I assume that you are already familiar with this meeting, per your discussions with Gene Francisco.

I sincerely appreciate your willingness to address the committee regarding budget proposals that the Governor's Council on Forestry supports, as well as the status of the "recently" created Division of Forestry. Should you have any additional questions regarding this committee meeting, please do not hesitate to contact my Committee Clerk, Kristina Boardman.

Thank you again for your participation.

Sincerely,

JOHN AINSWORTH
State Representative
6th Assembly District

JA/khb

February 7, 2001

Darrell Bazzell, Secretary
Department of Natural Resources
101 South Webster Street
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Secretary Bazzell:

Congratulations on your recent appointment as Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources. As Chairperson of the Assembly Rural Affairs and Forestry Committee, I look forward to working with you in the future regarding topics of departmental interest.

For your information, the Assembly Committee on Rural Affairs and Forestry is holding a Public Informational Briefing on:

Thursday, February 22, 2001
9:00 A.M.
North Hearing Room (2nd Floor) – State Capitol

The Committee will be viewing the DNR video, "Forest Story – Restoring Wisconsin's Treasure" as well as receiving testimony from Gene Francisco, Administrator of the Division of Forestry, and Dan Meyer, Chairperson of the Governor's Council on Forestry. A copy of the hearing notice has been enclosed for your review.

Should you be interested in taking this committee meeting opportunity to introduce yourself to members, I would be more than willing to work you into the schedule. Feel free to contact my committee clerk, Kristina Boardman, at 266-3097 if you are interested in attending.

Once again, congratulations!

Sincerely,

JOHN AINSWORTH
State Representative
6th Assembly District

JA/khb
Enclosure:1

Redell, Carol

From: Ken & Laurel [sloan@nnex.net]
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2001 8:19 PM
To: Rep.Ainsworth
Subject: Re: Rural Affairs and Forestry Committee

Representative Ainsworth,

Thanks for getting back to me so quickly. It does look like it would be best to just send you some thoughts that may be useful when the time comes to evaluate the merits of Rep. Gards proposal. I will put something to together and send it to you.

Thanks again for your consideration!

Ken Sloan

----- Original Message -----

From: Rep.Ainsworth <Rep.Ainsworth@legis.state.wi.us>
To: <sloan@nnex.net>
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2001 10:26 AM
Subject: Rural Affairs and Forestry Committee

Mr. Sloan:

Thank you for your e-mail message expressing support for Representative Gard's proposal to split the DNR. This topic is likely to receive some attention at the meeting, although the proposal is not formally before the committee for discussion.

The meeting on the 22nd is organized more as an informational briefing to get committee members up to speed on what topics are likely to receive attention this biennium. Committee members will be viewing a video and receiving testimony from two invited speakers. While you are always welcome

to attend a committee meeting, this meeting may not be the best to share your thoughts and concerns regarding Representative Gard's proposal. However, should you wish to provide written testimony regarding this topic,

I am more than willing to distribute your testimony to all committee members.

Thank you again for your note. Please let me know if I may be of any future

assistance.

Sincerely,

JOHN AINSWORTH
6th Assembly District

Boardman, Kristina

From: Rep.Ainsworth
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2001 10:26 AM
To: 'sloan@nnex.net'
Subject: Rural Affairs and Forestry Committee

Mr. Sloan:

Thank you for your e-mail message expressing support for Representative Gard's proposal to split the DNR. This topic is likely to receive some attention at the meeting, although the proposal is not formally before the committee for discussion.

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Thank you again for your note. Please let me know if I may be of any future assistance.

Sincerely,

JOHN AINSWORTH
6th Assembly District

Boardman, Kristina

From: Ken & Laurel [sloan@nnex.net]
Sent: Friday, February 09, 2001 2:38 PM
To: Representative Ainsworth
Cc: Representative Ainsworth; Representative Friske; Representative Freese; Representative Loeffelholz; Representative Sykora; Representative Gronemus; Representative Hubler; Representative Schneider
Subject: Hearing testimony - Feb 22 Hearing

Dear Representative Ainsworth,

My name is Ken Sloan, a retired forester who used to work for the DNR. You may remember me from my testimony on the Division of Forestry at your Committees hearing in Laona last year.

I understand your Committee on Rural Affairs and Forestry plans to hold an Informational Briefing on February 22. With the recent interest on the part of Rep. Gard to split off the Forestry and Parks programs into a separate department, I would like to register my support for such a move.

There are a number of excellent reasons for such a change and I would like to bring them to the attention of your committee. How do you suggest I go about that? Can I submit written testimony, or would it be best to ask to appear at the hearing? Please let me know the procedure to do whichever you think best.

Thank you very much for your continued interest in Wisconsin Forestry.

Ken Sloan
8181 Denoyer Drive
Minocqua, WI 54548

715-356-4552

sloan@nnex.net <<mailto:sloan@nnex.net>>



GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON FORESTRY

STATE OF WISCONSIN

Reply to: 241 Shore Acres Drive
Wisconsin Rapids WI 54494
715/423-7550
Fax: 715/423-7550
February, 21, 2001

Dan Meyer
Chairman
Wisconsin Rapids

William "Butch" Johnson
Vice Chairman
Hayward

John Ahl
Black River Falls

Miles Benson
Wisconsin Rapids

Sen. Roger M. Breske
Eland

Leon Church
Appleton

Richard Connor
Long Lake

Gene Francisco
Madison

Rep. John Gard
Peshtigo

Robert Govett
Stevens Point

Steve Guthrie
Minocqua

Byron Hawkins
Bangor

Richard Hall
Oshkosh

James Holperin
Eagle River

Rachel Jordan
Dodgeville

Tim Laatsch
Wisconsin Rapids

Nick Moncel
Eau Claire

Cathy Nordine
Land O'Lakes

Thomas Schmidt
Neenah

Eugene Schmit
Tomahawk

Rep. Lorraine Seratti
Spread Eagle

Robert Skiera
Milwaukee

Assembly Committee on Forestry and Rural Affairs
Representative John Ainsworth, Chair
P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Assemblyman Ainsworth and Committee Members;

On behalf of the members of the Governor's Council on Forestry I would like to express the Council's overwhelming support for the forestry initiatives in the Department of Natural Resources 01-03 Biennial Budget Request. The Governor's Council on Forestry, which includes members from a broad range of forestry interests, has worked closely with the Chief State Forester and his staff to ensure that the Department's forestry budget requests focus on critical sustainable forest management issues.

A review of the Forestry Account revenue and expenditures indicates that less than half of the Forestry Account funds are dedicated to implementing the statewide forestry program that provides the foundation for the protection and sustainable management of Wisconsin's forests. We think that it is time to focus more of the forestry account revenue on promoting and implementing sustainable forestry practices that improve and maintain the economic, social and environmental benefits from our 16 million acres of forest land.

Forestry is extremely important to Wisconsin. The forest industry sector is the second largest industry sector in the state with shipments valued at nearly \$20 billion – the largest of any state in the nation. Wisconsin also leads the nation in paper production and forest industry compensation with a \$3.5 billion payroll. Forest-based recreation brings in another \$3 billion annually. The forest industry is one of the top three employers in 42 of Wisconsin's 72 counties. While we are rightfully proud to be called "America's Dairyland", it is often overlooked that forests cover nearly half of Wisconsin's total land area and that our forest industry is larger than both agriculture and tourism combined.

The forest industry is a very competitive industry. Over 80% of the industrial forest lands in Wisconsin have changed hands in the last two years as have many of our lumber and paper manufacturing facilities. There are few home grown companies left in the forest industry in Wisconsin.

We need to keep and build on our existing forest industry by maintaining our competitive edge. We can help do that by maintaining a strong commitment to forestry and keeping our forests productive and sustainable. More and more of the 30% of Wisconsin's forests that are publicly owned are being removed from forest production because of conflicting public uses. On the other hand, of the 70% of Wisconsin's forests that are privately owned, over 80% (nearly 10 million acres) are owned by small private forest

landowners. These non-industrial private forestlands produce nearly two-thirds of the raw materials for Wisconsin's forest industry. Our competitive edge lies with the long term sustainability and availability of these lands for forest products. We also stand to further benefit from the social and ecological values and benefits that are realized through the sustainable management of these forests.

The Governor's Council on Forestry believes that the DNR's forestry budget request, including the 23 private forestry assistance positions contained in the addendum submitted to the Department of Administration, is a targeted investment that will facilitate maintaining the viability and sustainability of Wisconsin's second largest industry sector and our 16 million acres of forests. Recognizing the important role played by the private sector, the Department's request focuses the role of Department foresters on those functions most effectively and appropriately handled by the State, while adding and expanding initiatives that promote public/private partnerships and an expanded role for professionals in the private sector. The Council believes that this budget initiative is appropriately using Forestry Mill Tax dollars as intended by the legislature when it established this ongoing funding source for sound forest management in Wisconsin.

Thank you for your consideration of these important budget initiatives. We look forward to working with you, Governor McCallum and the Wisconsin Legislature in support of the forestry budget requests as the Final State Budget develops.

Sincerely,


Dan Meyer
Chairman

Testimony of Gene Francisco, State Forester
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry
for the
Committee on Rural Affairs and Forestry
Thursday, February 22, 2001

Good morning Mr. Chairman and Committee members. My name is Gene Francisco. I am the Chief State Forester and Administrator of the DNR Division of Forestry. Thank you for the opportunity to visit with you about a number of important issues facing Wisconsin's forests. As outlined in the video you just viewed; forests and forestry have come a long way in the last 100 years in Wisconsin. How our citizens have viewed and used the forests during this period has had a profound effect on the condition of our forests today. I would like to take this time to brief you on some of the important emerging forestry issues facing Wisconsin that will have a similar profound impact on what our forests will be like in the future.

The Division of Forestry with input from our partners and interested publics recently identified emerging forestry trends and issues that were included in a November 2000 publication called "Wisconsin Forests at the Millennium". These and additional issues will be addressed as we develop a statewide strategic plan outlining a vision for the 16-million acres of forest in Wisconsin.

Because nearly 70 percent of the forests in Wisconsin are in private ownership, implementation of the strategic plan to address these major issues will depend on the cooperation of the forest industry and over a quarter of a million individuals who own the forests. The state can play an important role in guiding the future direction of forest stewardship by demonstrating sustainable forestry practices on our State Forests that forest landowners can view and emulate. And through programs offering technical and financial assistance encouraging forest landowners to care for the forests today without jeopardizing the future of the resources. We are proposing budget initiatives to support this strategy.

The forestry initiatives included in the proposed '01-'03 budget address a number of the emerging issues identified by the public. The top five issues identified through the statewide forest assessment process were invasive exotics, private forestry assistance, increasing development of forest land, multiple use of forests and the importance of public forests.

Invasion of several exotic plants primarily in Southern Wisconsin is changing the face of our forests. Buckthorn and honeysuckle are choking out small tree seedlings that if were left to grow would become the future forest. Gypsy moth, is a top concern to many members of the public, both urban homeowners and rural forest landowners. 20 eastern Wisconsin counties are under a gypsy moth quarantine with defoliating moth populations established in Milwaukee and the Fox River Valley. Gypsy moths have been trapped in every county of the state. Two of our budget initiatives will provide money to begin eradicating exotic plants in our southern state forests and establish a program to help communities suppress defoliating gypsy moth populations.

The demand for qualified professional forestry assistance is many times greater than the combined ability of public agencies, private associations and private enterprise to handle. Less than 25% of our non-industrial private forest land is being managed with the guidance of a professional forest management plan and less than 20% of the timber harvested on these lands is being harvested with the assistance of a professional forester.

Wisconsin has been providing forestry guidance and forestry incentive programs to woodland owners since the 1920s. Private landowner service provided by DNR foresters has been fairly consistent since the 1960s at about 10,000 on-site assists per year. In the intervening decades, however, the number of private landowners has roughly doubled and the value of private forestland has skyrocketed. Today, current programs are able to give professional forestry guidance to about only 20% of the non-industrial private forest landowners (NIPF) over a fifteen-year time period.

The non-industrial private forests in Wisconsin provide two-thirds of the timber used by the state's forest products industries. These lands also are an important source of recreational opportunities, protect the high quality of water in the state and provide many other environmental, social and economic benefits to the state. Therefore, an increased state investment in sustainable forestry assistance to private, non-industrial forest landowners results in many benefits to Wisconsin's citizens, our statewide economy and to the natural resources. The following combination of enhancements will maintain the ability of the Forestry Division and its partners to provide an appropriate level of assistance to forest landowners:

- We are revising work priorities to more efficiently utilize our current staff.
- We are building stronger partnerships with private enterprises (including private consulting foresters) and other groups that can help in the effort
- Since implementation of Farmland Use Value Assessment, the Department has experienced nearly a 75% increase in Managed Forest Law (MFL) applications. That equates to an increase in workload equal to 16 FTE. DNR foresters will process about 3,000 MFL enrollments this year. To help manage this workload, funding to contract with private foresters for MFL plan-writing services has been requested. Given the sudden rise in Managed Forest Law applications, contracting at the current \$300,000 level into future biennia may not be sufficient to meet the workload associated with MFL plan development.
- The Department is also requesting more forestry staff to address the most critical shortfalls around the state.
- The Department's request will add twenty-three foresters over the 2001-2003 biennium. These new field foresters would be expected to:

- increase statewide private forestry assistance by 22%
- improve forest tax mandatory practices implementation to about 85%

Division foresters currently have over 14000 backlogged requests for forestry assistance. Many of these are mandatory Forest Tax Law practices.

Land use is of utmost concern to the Department and to our forestry partners. As development continues to encroach upon forestland in Wisconsin fragmentation of the large blocks of rural forests has numerous economic, ecological and social implications. As people with urban attitudes and expectations move into rural areas and lakefront developments, the management and uses of the forests are often impacted. This forest fragmentation can also affect the ecological integrity of the forest. The increasing wildland-urban interface caused by housing developments in the forest pose extreme challenges to our forest fire managers. Our budget requests include some specialized fire communication and safety equipment to deal with these issues as well as an increase in the fire department grant program to help fire departments better prepare for the unique challenges posed by the wildland-urban interface.

The acquisition of a variety of specialized equipment will:

- improve communications between fire management staff
- monitor weather conditions

- allow others to see fire tractors in smoky conditions
- improve the Department's ability to fabricate specialized fire-fighting equipment
- improve the capability of the Department to suppress forest fires

The existing Forest Fire Protection grant program was permanently established in the last biennial budget. The requests for funds from this program have exceeded the funds available (\$525,000) every year since its inception. In FY 2000, there were 242 applications from Fire Departments totaling \$986,000 in grant funds. We are requesting \$250,000 in additional Forestry SEG funds to fund this grant program at \$775,000. This would fund the grant program with \$448,000 in Forestry SEG funds and \$327,000 in Federal State Fire Assistance funds.

As people move from the country to the cities and suburbs the increasing urbanization of our state population has created a basic disconnect between many of the state's urban residents and our natural resources. To address this low level of forestry awareness, we're proposing a forestry education and awareness center in Milwaukee County.

A Forestry education center in Milwaukee County would provide this urban audience with hands-on displays and demonstrations of the importance of forestry and forest management to the state's economy, employment, environment, recreation and overall quality of life. This initial funding would support preliminary planning for a Forestry Education Center. We see this as a mutually beneficial project, helping students and residents of the Greater Milwaukee area become more familiar with this valuable natural resource while returning Mill Tax dollars to Milwaukee County.

Another top issue identified by the public deals with the compatibility of multiple forest uses. Because of the growing demands on our forests, they must be used for a variety of benefits. In particular, we've seen a growing demand on our forests for an ever-increasing array of recreational uses. In addition to these social needs, the economic and ecological needs also continue to increase. Some of these are compatible while others require tough decisions and extensive public input to decide on the best mix of uses. The budget request for new mapping technology will assist in these decision-making processes.

During the 2001/03 biennium, the Forestry Division would like to move into electronic mapping of fires and forest stands and to the use of global positioning technologies. To begin to accomplish this technological change, forty-four mapping grade GPS systems are necessary. GPS will add efficiency to the mapping projects the Forestry staff are always implementing. GPS would greatly reduce the time required to map areas of interest such as fire boundaries, acreage within a stand of trees, or the exact location of an endangered plant

As our growing populace places more extensive and diverse demands on our forests, the conflict is most acutely felt on the public forests. The federal, state, county and local forests have, to varying degrees, been subject to increasing conflicts between various interests. The federal forests have had increasing pressure to decrease timber harvests. Since the demand for forest products has not decreased, this has meant increased pressure on other forest owners to meet society's wood needs. Counties are the largest public forest landowner in Wisconsin with 15% of the forest land base. The Division of Forestry has had an ongoing partnership to provide technical forestry assistance to the County Forest program for over seventy years, as identified and required by s. 28.11 Wis. Stats. The level of technical forestry assistance each county forest receives has been specifically defined by mutual agreement and identified in Department Handbook since 1994. Short-term workload items are identified annually to improve sustainable forest management on County Forest lands. One of our forestry budget proposals would strengthen the

counties' ability to meet the increasing demands on Wisconsin forests by providing sustainable forestry grants for short term projects.

Other forestry budget initiatives in the 2001-03 biennial request include:

1. Funding to maintain base operations

Forestry's operational expense budgets, which directly support the accomplishments of 405 positions statewide, are experiencing funding shortfalls across the state. These shortfalls are documented and are contributing to an inability for Regional teams to adequately complete their work plans and therefore customer complaints. The shortfall is caused by a number of factors:

- Costs associated with fire detection from aircraft and towers have increased annually. Aircraft costs have increased twenty percent from the last fiscal year.
- Limited Term Employees wages for State Forest and fire tower personnel are significantly below market value. Wage increases are part of this request.
- The replacement of equipment in a timely manner is necessary to maintain personnel safety and effectiveness.
- The request also includes funding to maintain the ability to cover basic costs for telecommunication, utilities, travel, snow removal, janitorial services, tree marking paint, fire suppression foam and the other on-going operational costs.
- Funding is also requested to support the implementation of sustainable forestry practices on Department, non-state forest, conservation properties.
- Funding to contract for the analysis and preparation of incomplete state forest master plan assessments.
- Base funding is no longer adequate to provide the level of training necessary to meet the ever-changing scientific understanding of forest ecology.

2. Forestry recruitment, hiring, mentoring and training

The Department's Forestry program lacks a well-balanced, consistent, comprehensive, statewide recruitment, hiring, mentoring and training program for entry-level foresters. Such a program would focus on attracting a diverse pool of competitive candidates and preparing our employees to effectively promote sustainable forestry and provide a comprehensive suite of services to diverse clients. This funding request would:

- support coordination and technical support for the hiring process
- support the travel, training and cover moving expenses for the trainees
- fund medical testing
- establish an intern program and support the internships

3. Urban forestry assistance

Over the last decade, Wisconsin has seen a new emphasis on urban conservation, environmental quality and sustainability. One of the department's responses was the development of an urban forestry assistance program. The tremendous success of this urban forestry effort has created an unfulfilled demand for assistance, a demand that continues to increase. As demand increases, the level of service to existing partners declines, as does the ability to service new requests and create new partnerships.

This budget request would form a public/private partnership and annually contract for urban

forestry specialists. The specialists would advance urban forest ecosystem management in the Department's South Central Region and Northeast Region under the direction of the Forestry Division Regional Urban Forestry Coordinator. The specialists would be located in the regions and would work with DNR staff on a daily basis.

4. Monitoring of Forest Sustainability at the Northern State Forests

The Department is directed to manage the State Forests using the principles of sustainable forestry in order to assure that they can provide a full range of benefits for present and future generations. To lay the groundwork for this management strategy, the Department completed a series of forest assessments that established information on the condition of these forests. These assessments, combined with the public input received through the development of the state forest master plans, have identified a range of ecological and social criteria which need to be monitored in order to assure that the Department is meeting the goals of sustainable forestry. This is a request for funding to design and implement a system to monitor resource sustainability on the northern state forests.

5. Developing a lowland Forest Habitat Type Classification System

Forested wetland ecosystems are critical to maintaining the high quality of Wisconsin's water resources. Better ecological knowledge is needed for the management and maintenance of this forest type. Therefore, funding is requested to contract for the development of a Lowland Forest Habitat Type Classification System. This would provide ecological and silvicultural information needed to improve sustainable forest management of forested lowlands in Wisconsin.

In addition these budget requests, I would also like to update you on another important forestry initiative.

The Forest Legacy Program (FLP), a federal assistance program administered through the states, is another important tool to deal with the forest fragmentation issue we discussed earlier. The program is designed to identify environmentally important private forestlands threatened by conversion to non-forest uses. The goal is to protect important forest areas and aid in conservation through the purchase of property easements. This program authorizes the USDA Secretary of Agriculture, upon request by a state, to grant funding for a state to carry out the Forest Legacy Program, including the acquisition by the state of lands and interests in lands. Seventy-five percent of the funds to acquire lands can come from the Federal government through the Forest Legacy Program. State, local and private interests must come up with the remainder.

Easements purchased may include a variety of property rights, but most often involve the exclusion of development or subdividing. Any restrictions placed on the land are carried over in the event of sale. All landowners that join must volunteer and a state can not claim eminent domain to acquire lands. Easements allow landowners to continue using their forests in traditional ways while preventing the conversion of these forests to agriculture, residential areas, or commercial developments. While easements established under the Forest Legacy Program may not specifically address public recreation, a landowner may allow public recreation on his or her land as long as it does not conflict with the Forest Legacy Program. Conservation easements and the Forest Legacy Program offer an alternative to outright government ownership of land while protecting private forestland from conversion to non-forest uses.

As part of the program application process, Wisconsin prepared a statewide Assessment of Need (AON) to highlight environmentally important forestland in danger of being converted to non-

forest uses in the next decade. Wisconsin has been accepted into the program and has been awarded \$1 million to begin acquiring conservation easements.

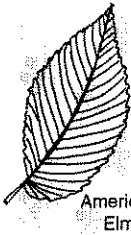
There are 1.1 million acres of industrial forests in Wisconsin. During the last two years over 80% of those lands have changed hands as companies have been sold or restructured. An emerging corporate philosophy of divestiture of forestlands from their production facilities is on the rise across the nation putting these lands at a high risk of subdivision and sale. This new tool provides an excellent opportunity for a public - private partnership to address serious fragmentation issues facing Wisconsin forests.

As I mentioned earlier, the Department is working with interested citizens and interest groups to prepare a statewide forest plan that addresses priority trends and issues. Over 2,000 people completed a survey regarding trends and issues facing Wisconsin forests. Results of the survey will be presented this afternoon via a statewide web-based conference. Once a draft plan has been prepared, we'll also hold public meetings around the state to gather additional input. This project is another example of public and private forest landowners working together to assure sustainable forests meet the needs of today's citizens as well as those of future generations.
Thank You.

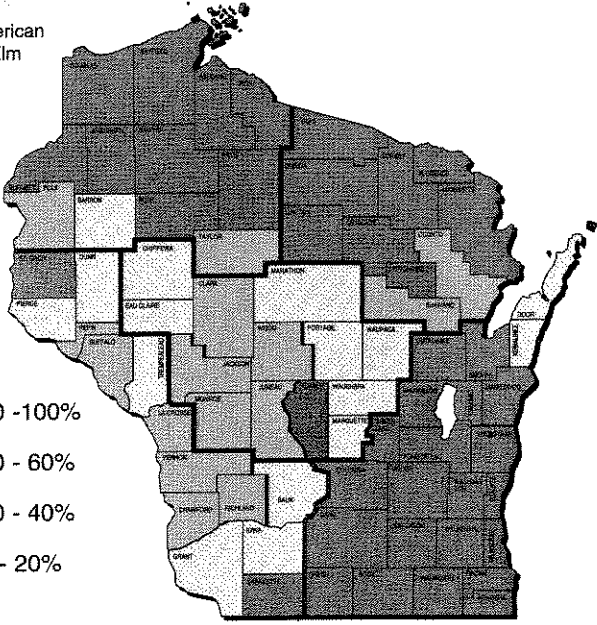


Questions
and
Answers
about

WISCONSIN
FORESTS



1. How much forested land does Wisconsin have?

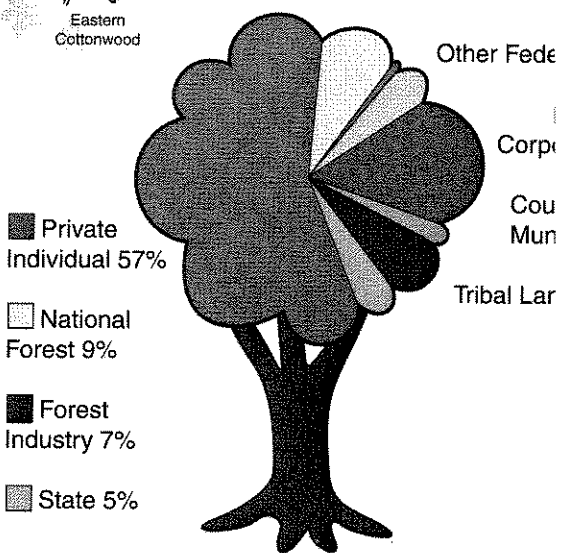


- 60 -100%
- 40 - 60%
- 20 - 40%
- 0 - 20%

Wisconsin's total land area is 34.7 million acres. Land growing trees covers 16 million acres or 46%. Most forested land is in the northern part of the state.



3. Who owns and cares Wisconsin's forests?



Most forested land in Wisconsin...57%...is by individual landowners like farmers, hom hunting partners, investors and others. owned by federal, state, county or tribal ments. 11% is owned by private corpora



2. How old are Wisconsin's forests?

Many southern Wisconsin forests were cleared for agriculture by the late 1800s. Forests in the north were heavily cut for timber by the early 1900s. Therefore, almost all the mature trees you see today are less than 125 years old. Thousands of acres of pines were planted across the state in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps.



4. Deforestation is a big concern. How much forest land does Wisconsin lose year?

Unlike some parts of the world, Wisconsin has been gaining forest acreage, not losing. After heavy logging early in the 20th century, much land was burned and converted to agriculture. But, since the much marginal crop and pastureland has planted with trees so the state now has forest land than at any time since invent began in 1936.



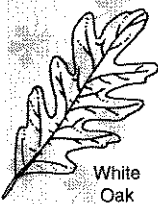


Black
Ash

**6. Still, can't we just
our wood products
somewhere else and
Wisconsin's woods**

We could, but the forest is not hospitable to the great diversity of plants and animals. One with young, old and average trees, and a variety of species. Since fires, insects and tree diseases are controlled today, one must make room for young trees to harvest those near the end of their life cycle. Trees properly not only provide natural events like fire provides society with hundreds of useful wood products. The alternative is to use nonrenewable wood imported from

that, unlike Wisconsin, do not manage in a sustainable fashion.



White
Oak

5. But I see log trucks on the road all the time. This harvesting must be having some effect.

Of every 1,000 live trees over ten feet tall in Wisconsin this year, 80 will die from severe weather, insect damage, crowding, disease or old age. Only 4 of the thousand will be harvested by loggers. However, 98 new trees will grow past the ten foot mark during the year. Therefore, in Wisconsin, annual wood growth exceeds harvest for most species.

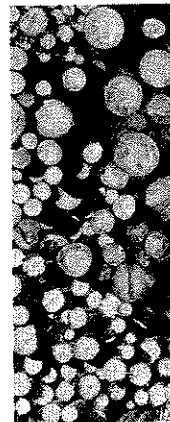


White
Pine

**7. How much wood does
average person use in a**

About 1,664 pounds, or one log 18 inches across

and 25 feet long will meet the needs of an average person annually for building supplies, newsprint, printing and writing paper, tissue paper, paper towels, product packaging and mail. Also, there are hundreds of products you might not think of as wood fiber like toothpaste, football helmets, scotch tape and milk shakes.





Black Walnut

8. The population is growing. What guarantees that harvests won't rise again to destructive levels?

Like any profession, modern forestry and wood production have become highly evolved. Many sensible practices unheard of years ago are now common, such as recycling. Technological developments allow wood products to be manufactured from smaller pieces of wood, thus using more of each tree and reducing waste. In addition, conservation and forest health are now top priorities. Modern forest planning in Wisconsin balances wood harvest with other forest uses such as wildlife habitat, recreation, erosion control, biological diversity and other needs.

10. Are there any rules and regulations which govern the use of forestland in Wisconsin?

Yes, but they do not apply uniformly to every parcel. Most government and industry owned land is managed according to carefully written plans which specify environmental protections, insect and disease recreational uses of the property and wood production. Parcels of individually owned land are subject to some environmental regulations on harvesting near lakes or streams. Many owners voluntarily observe "best management practices". One state program offers land a property tax deferral in exchange for forest stewardship practices. Otherwise, rules and regulations apply to individual landowners, which comprise 57% of the forested land in the state.

9. After trees are cut, how do they grow back?



Red Pine



Forests can regenerate when seeds drop or blow in from nearby trees, or when seeds are carried in by birds and animals; by the planting of seedlings; by seedlings which sprout from roots or stumps left after harvest; or by existing seedlings which cannot thrive in the shade of larger trees, but once allowed sunlight, will grow quickly. Preharvest planning and proper harvest techniques assure that one or more of these methods will succeed.





11. It sounds like Wisconsin's forests are pretty healthy. Is that true?



Yes. Overall, Wisconsin's forests are in very good shape. Major threats like fire, insect infestation and tree diseases are generally well controlled. Regionally, there are occasional problems with insects like the gypsy moth or jack pine budworm, or with tree diseases like oak wilt or white pine blister rust, all of which can damage or kill trees. However, currently the greatest threat to forests statewide comes from converting forested land to housing, highways and other development.



12. I've noticed lots of dead white birch trees. What happened?

White or "paper" birch trees are among several species which are relatively short-lived (70-80 years). They are a sun-loving species and many of the trees you see today sprouted in the early 1900s after extensive logging followed by fire cleared the land. Now, these trees are simply at the end of their natural life. For some, their life span was shortened by drought. The stress of too little moisture was sometimes compounded by insect damage from the bronze birch borer and birch leaf miner.



13. What about other trees? Is it just old age?

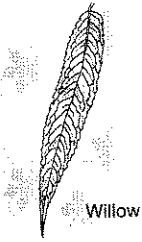
Not always. Forests are con- changing and the death of i trees is just

part of "mother nature's" forest management plan to make way for new growth. Often, a dead tree gives clues to what killed it...old age, crowding or competition for light from surrounding trees, high wind, flooding, drought, insect or animal damage, or disease caused by fungi.



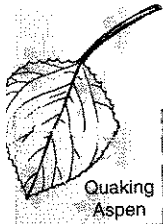
14. Is it generally true that the taller a tree, the older it is?

No. Different species grow to different heights at maturity and not all trees live to the same old age. Jack pine, for example, grow to a maximum height of 50 to 70 feet and live only 50 years. White pine, though, grow to 120 more and live to 250 years. There can be big differences in height among trees of same species depending on the amount light, moisture, and soil nutrients the tree gets. Also, the genetic makeup of the seed, and competition from neighboring trees. A game on the Spruce page will demonstrate the relative height of various tree species.

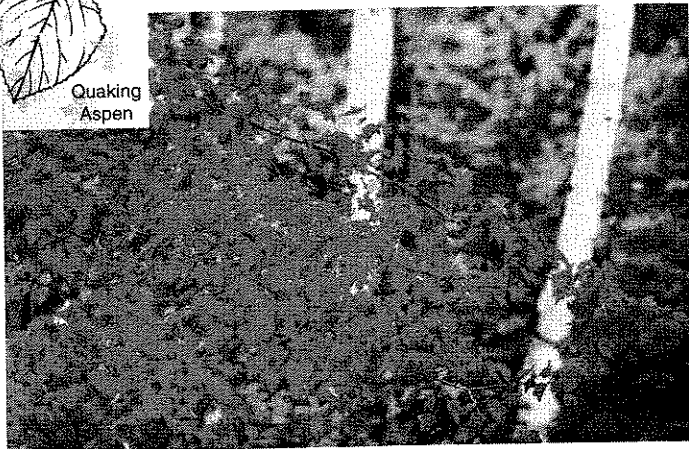


15. Do tall trees have really deep roots?

No. 90% of any tree's roots are in the top 12 inches of soil. Roots grow mostly sideways and can extend up to three times the height of the tree. The shape of a whole tree actually resembles a wine glass set on a plate, with the plate representing the root system. Root growth can occur any time the soil temperature is above 32° F.



16. How many leaves does a tree have?

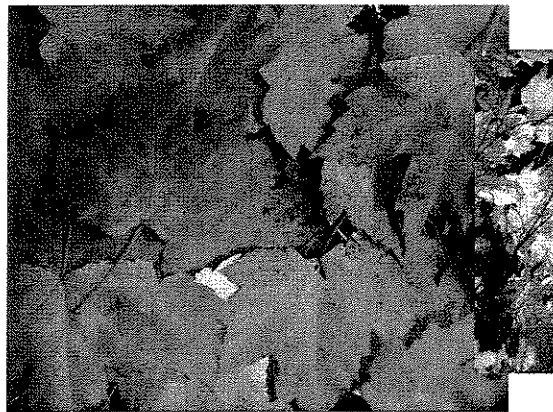


It depends on the tree's species and age, but a mature, healthy tree can have 200,000 leaves. During 60 years of life, such a tree would grow and shed 3,600 pounds of leaves, returning about 70% of their nutrients to the soil.



17. Why do certain tree species seem to dominate in certain parts of the state?

Trees, like any plants, thrive for many reasons. Most important is soil, sunlight and moisture. Centuries of erosion have determined the position of soil in some parts of the state. Receding glaciers have left different soil elsewhere. Wisconsin also has certain regions with distinctive weather and patterns. These physical factors, along with amount of sunlight reaching a tree, mostly determine what species grow where. Biological factors like tree genetics and human (fire, harvesting) or animal (seed distribution, intervention) also play a key role.



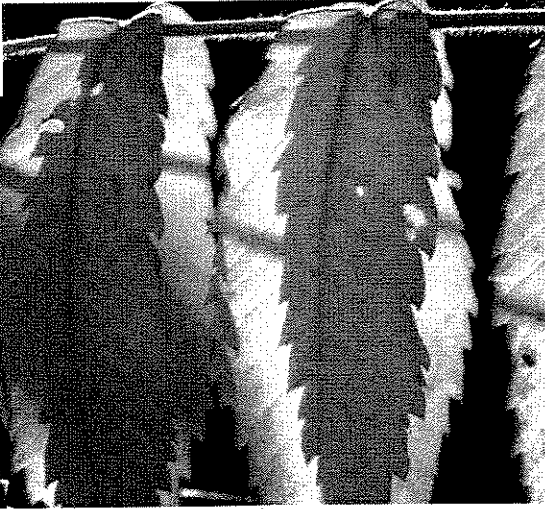
18. Why do leaves change color in autumn?

Less daylight and cool (but not necessarily freezing) fall temperatures result in less production by leaves of green pigment (chlorophyll). Consequently, other leaf pigments like xanthophyll, orange (carotene) and red (cyanin) become more prominent. The intensity of color in a leaf depends on the amount stored in the leaf and the amount of sunlight it gets. Brown pigment (tannin) appears after all other pigments have disappeared.

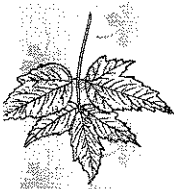


Butternut

19. Most trees lose their leaves each fall, but some keep them over winter. Why is that?



In spring, new leaves and twigs grow out together and are firmly attached. In fall, a specialized layer of "abscission" cells form between each leaf and twig, cutting off water to the leaf and killing it. Then the abscission cells die and the leaf falls off. In young oak trees, however, for reasons that are unclear, abscission cells form but do not complete their work. Therefore, oak leaves often stay connected to the twig until pushed off by new leaf and twig growth in the spring.



Box Elder

20. Do forest animals prefer certain tree species, or is any type of forest O.K.?

Most species of birds and animals have a preference for a certain forest type, and often prefer a specific tree species. Wolves and yellow-bellied sapsuckers, for example, generally prefer large areas of forest. Grouse and snowshoe hare prefer younger forests which exist after fire or harvest. A forest with oak trees is more hospitable to squirrels and wild turkey than one without.

21. Does anyone pay attention to trees in cities?

Definitely. Many Wisconsin communities have active "urban forestry" programs. In fact, Wisconsin ranks 5th nationwide in the number of communities designated "Tree City, US." National Arbor Day Foundation. Urban plant, prune and remove trees in order to several benefits: trees clean the air by absorbing carbon dioxide and releasing oxygen; providing shade; prevent water pollution by holding soil in place and absorbing runoff; and beautify. Properly managed, city trees can provide many benefits. The tree with the largest circumference in the state is located in the City of We

22. Where can I get more information about Wisconsin forests?

- For national forests: United States Forest Service (715) 362-1300
www.fs.fed.us/r9/cnnf
- For state forests: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (608) 267-7495
www.dnr.state.wi.us/
- For county forests: Wisconsin County Forest Association (715) 453-9125
- For industry owned forests: Wisconsin Paper Council (920) 722-1500
www.wipapercouncil.org
- For privately owned forests: Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association (715) 346-4798; Email: nbozek@uwsp.edu

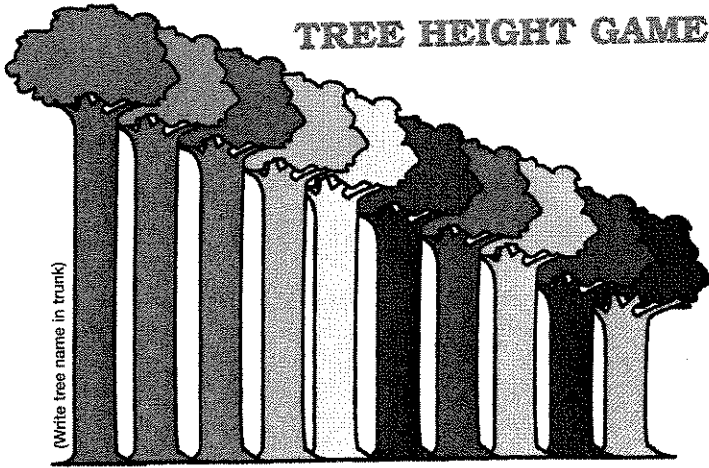


LITTLE

SPRING

PAGE

TREE HEIGHT GAME



Arrange these native Wisconsin Trees in order of their *mature* height, starting with the tallest.

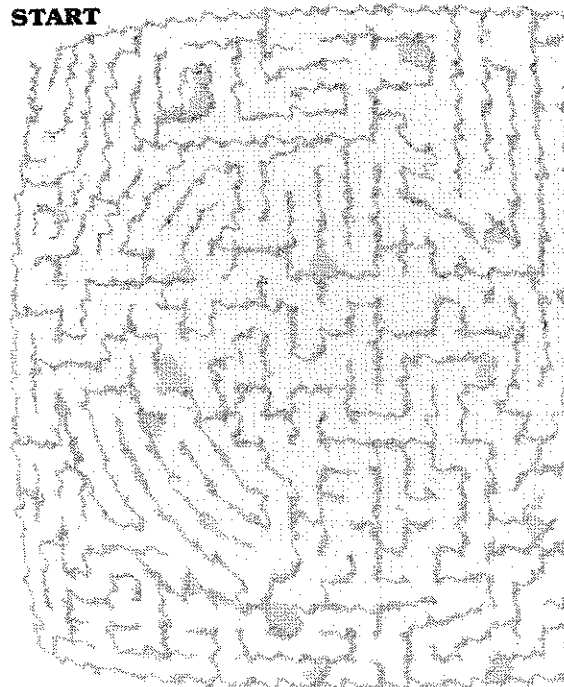
1. The **sugar maple** is next to the white pine.
2. The **honey locust** is taller than the **ironwood**, which goes next to the **red cedar**, which is shorter.
3. The **white pine** is the tallest tree in this group.
4. The **paper birch** is taller than the **red cedar**, and they are both taller than the **serviceberry**.
5. The **paper birch** and the **green ash** are next to each other.
6. There are no trees lined up between the **red pine** and the **sugar maple**.
7. The **green ash** is shorter than the **basswood**, which is also shorter than the **red pine**.
8. The **paper birch** is taller than the **green ash**.
9. The **basswood** is taller than the **paper birch**, which is taller than the **honey locust**; they are all taller than the **red cedar**.

Forest Trees of Wisconsin

Find these trees in the

A	B	E	M	Q	A	D	S	I	M	P	O	D	M
Y	R	O	K	C	H	A	D	E	L	M	O	D	C
M	E	U	C	A	K	I	Z	U	F	X	D	O	W
O	T	H	O	E	O	C	E	D	I	C	O	W	B
E	F	A	L	L	A	M	C	T	H	O	E	N	Y
R	I	L	M	P	B	N	U	E	V	T	E	O	V
E	J	O	E	A	P	N	R	E	W	P	Y	T	L
D	U	C	H	M	R	R	P	O	R	S	R	I	T
L	O	U	S	E	Y	A	S	E	R	M	E	O	P
E	A	S	T	O	I	B	C	E	D	A	R	C	E
X	I	T	T	R	R	E	B	K	C	A	H	N	O
O	U	N	C	I	O	E	R	W	O	P	L	O	M
B	E	R	U	F	W	H	C	L	O	L	L	E	L
K	O	P	W	U	W	H	C	L	O	L	L	E	L
M	A	I	J	X	O	Q	H	L	E	S	A	U	E
N	E	U	R	V	O	Y	P	I	A	S	A	G	O
U	B	S	L	I	D	O	W	S	S	A	B	G	C

START



"Trees are important to Wisconsin landscapes from the standpoint of beauty as single specimens or in groups. In forest and farm woodlands, they are vital tools for the stabilization of soil and in slowing water runoff. Forests are our largest public hunting and fishing grounds and produce wildlife and recreational benefits as well as timber crops."

— Fred Wilson, 1928

Fred Wilson was one of the first eleven forest rangers hired by the state of Wisconsin in 1911 and his words are just as true today. Forests continue to be vitally important to our economy and to the overall well-being of Wisconsin citizens and visitors.

Wisconsin's forest industry is the second largest employer in the state. The Badger State leads all states in paper production and is a leader in the production of high quality veneer and sawlogs.

Equally important, Wisconsin's forests are managed in a way that guarantees the recreation, wildlife, water quality, biological diversity and aesthetic benefits its citizens demand.

This booklet is a project of the Wisconsin Governor's Forestry Council.

*Tommy G. Thompson, Governor
Daniel P. Meyer, Chair*

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