

Sustainable forestry in Wisconsin forests

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources manages the state's forestlands for multiple uses following the principles of sustainable forestry.

What is sustainable forestry? It's a holistic approach that aims to maintain forests as healthy ecosystems that will provide economic, ecological and social benefits for years to come. Keeping an ecosystem healthy includes management for wildlife habitat, aesthetics, soil and water quality, native biological diversity, recreational opportunities and forest products. Another important component of sustainable forestry is the periodic harvesting of trees.

Benefits from timber harvests

A source of forest products - Trees provide us with many of life's necessities, including lumber for our homes and furniture, and pulp for paper. By practicing sustainable forestry it ensures high quality timber both now and in the future.

Sustaining local and statewide economies - Timber harvesting on state forestlands plays an important role in the economies of local communities and the state as a whole. Revenue earned from timber sales is placed in an account which funds programs such as fire control, nursery operations, forest health protection, and many other forestry activities.

Enhancing wildlife habitat - Timber harvests

can create and enhance habitat for wildlife. Animals like ruffed grouse and sun-loving trees like aspen rely on open areas with lots of sun. Other animals, such as snowshoe hare and woodcock, rely on the young, regenerating forest that is present after cutting.

Maintaining a healthy forest - When trees become infected with diseases or pests, they sometimes need to be removed to keep the disease from spreading to other trees. Removing weak or poorly formed trees gives the others additional light and space, allowing them to grow faster.

Aesthetics - Visual characteristics, or the forest scenery, is very important to the public who uses the forest and to forest managers who work

there. A well-planned harvest can leave the forest looking like it wasn't harvested at all. This is done by avoiding straight boundaries and mixing larger older trees with younger smaller trees as well as other management strategies.

Planning a timber harvest requires looking at the forest's master plan, which is written using detailed inventories of the property's natural resources, strategies for protecting the forest ecosystem, and extensive public participation. And, to guarantee that the properties are doing the best they can to meet the standards of sustainability, the forestlands are certified by an independent third party.

Each year, trees are harvested on less than 2

percent of the land under state forest ownership. More than 60 percent of these harvests aim to improve the growth of existing trees through thinning. Stands that are harvested for regeneration purposes are either reforested naturally or with planted seedlings.

The only way individuals can arrange to cut trees on a state forest is to go through that forest's timber sale process. Logging companies and individuals bid on those sales, with sales going to the highest bidders. Harvesting of trees is not permitted outside of this process.

Trapping in Wisconsin: continuing cultural heritage

Whether you crave the solitude of the winter landscape or you seek to pass on a family tradition, Wisconsin has many trapping opportunities for you.

Details regarding bobcat, fisher and otter quotas and permit levels are now available at dnr.wi.gov.

Bobcat, fisher and otter zone information:

Fisher: Oct 14- Dec 31, 2017

Bobcat Time Period 1: Oct 14 - Dec 25, 2017

Bobcat Time Period 2: Dec 26 - Jan 31, 2018

Otter: Central and Southern Zones: Nov 4 - Mar 31, 2018

Otter: Northern Zone: Nov 4 - Apr 30, 2018

It is extremely unlikely that the Department would close a furbearer zone as harvester success rates from recent years are used to issue permits. This allows harvesters to approach or reach the quota without closing zones. Should the Department need to close a zone,

notice would be given several days to a full week before closure, a press release would be issued and the DNR website would be updated to reflect the closures.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) have partnered with Responsive Management to conduct a statewide study in Wisconsin about residents' opinions on wildlife and wildlife-related

activities. State residents may receive a phone call from Responsive Management asking them to participate in a brief telephone survey about wildlife; selection of residents for participation is random to maintain a scientifically valid study. If you receive a call at home or on your cell phone, please consider participating in the study to assist the department and AFWA in better understanding residents' opinions on wildlife.



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SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Senior Citizen Rate:.....	\$25.00
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Out of State Rate:.....	\$33.00

ONLINE ~ Subscription Rate: \$19.95
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