

MANAGING THE IMPACTS OF CHANGES IN WISCONSIN'S LAND USE AND FOREST OWNERSHIP

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH, 8:00–12:30, HALL OF IDEAS E & F

KEY ISSUES

- Patterns of land use and forest ownership influence long-term forest management. Suburban growth, second homes and other land uses convert contiguous forest into smaller patches.
- Forest fragmentation, the breaking up of large contiguous forest patches into smaller isolated patches, is widespread, as is forest parcelization, or the subdivision of relatively large forest ownerships into smaller parcels owned by more landowners.
- Related issues are providing incentives for landowners to prevent and mitigate impacts of parcelization and fragmentation, and public outreach on changing land uses and forest ownership.

IMPORTANCE AND IMPACTS

Forest fragmentation and parcelization are affecting the ecological, economic and social/cultural values of forests statewide.

Land use changes affect fire control in the wildland-urban interface, loss of habitat and biological diversity, the ability to manage forests for sustainability and productivity, and the health of local economies.

SCOPE AND IMMEDIACY

The effects of changes in land use and forest ownership are felt both locally and statewide, and on public and private lands. Our ability to preserve the many benefits of our forests depends on how we manage the impacts of these changes.

Stakeholders in this issue include all facets of forestry and forest products industries; private and public landowners; land and water conservation advocates and organizations; habitat and biological diversity advocates and organizations; local governments and local forest administrators; the state; the state tourism industry; the land development industry; wildfire prevention interests; recreational forest users of all types; and community planners and developers.

MORE INFORMATION ON THIS THEME AND THE STATEWIDE FOREST PLAN

Many of the 52 issues addressed by the Statewide Forest Plan relate to the impacts of land use change. Examples include the ability to efficiently and sustainably manage our forests (Issue 47), decreasing biological diversity and habitat (Issues 5, 9, & 10), the growing wildland-urban interface and fire prevention (Issue 42), increased growth and development in forest areas (Issues 44 & 45), and protecting public access to forest lands (Issues 21 & 35).

CHAMPION

LISA M. MACKINNON,

POLICY DIRECTOR TO 1000 FRIENDS OF WISCONSIN

Lisa MacKinnon is the Policy Director for 1000 Friends of Wisconsin. Her work focuses on developing and advocating for good land use policies on state and local levels, including initiatives such as Wisconsin's comprehensive planning law to balanced transportation choices and safe routes to school. Prior to taking on the role of Policy Director, MacKinnon directed the Land Use Institute's Rural Counsel Project and worked with rural communities around the state to implement their land use plans through land use ordinances. MacKinnon has worked with 1000 Friends since January 1999. She is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin–Madison Law School.

1000 Friends is a statewide nonprofit organization that educates citizens and policy makers about the benefits of responsible land use planning. They advocate for healthy rural and urban communities and the protection of economic, cultural and natural resources statewide. In 2000, 1000 Friends organized a Forest Fragmentation Education Initiative to encourage discussion of trends in woodland ownership and use, and their implications for the long-term environmental and economic well-being of forests in the state.

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FACILITATOR

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Matt Dallman, The Nature Conservancy

Bill DeReu, Plum Creek Timber

Pam Felt, Gathering Waters Conservancy

Shaun Hamilton, Trust for Public Lands

Harold Jordahl, Private Woodland Owner

Al Koeppel, Kretz Lumber Company

Lynn Markham, University of Wisconsin Stevens Point,

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