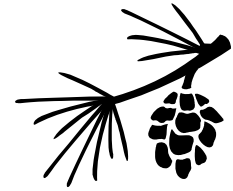


# Background Fact Sheet

## Why Montréal?



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### Introduction

Criteria and Indicators (C&I) for temperate forest sustainability came to the forefront of forestry in the early 1990's with the Montréal Process. The outcome of that process was seven criteria and 67 indicators that help describe forest sustainability. Since that time, a host of efforts using C&I systems as a foundation have come forth, making the C&I framework more utilized and time tested. We've learned that carefully chosen C&I frameworks can flow from local to international scales, and that they are flexible systems that can be adapted and changed as information, experience, and data is gained.\*

There are many efforts today utilizing C&I, and all seem to be modified slightly different from one another. Probable the two most notable efforts in our region are work from the Great Lakes Forest Alliance and USDA Forest Service State and Private Forestry Northeastern Area. Both of these systems are built upon the Montréal Process and can offer us valuable resources in Wisconsin's C&I quest.

### Great Lakes Forest Alliance

The Great Lakes Forest Alliance (GLFA) includes public, private, and academic forest-based organizations from Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Ontario. They are an independent non-profit organization that promotes cooperation among owners, stakeholders and users of forests in the region.†

GLFA is committed to the importance of assessing sustainable forest management and sees the value of criteria and indicator systems in meeting that goal. In the late 1990's GLFA worked regionally to develop a set of C&I with the purpose of providing landowners and governments with a locally appropriate basis for assessing sustainability. In 2004 GLFA and USDA Forest Service Northeastern Area State & Private Forestry organized the Upper Mississippi River Forest Partnership Regional Roundtable to gain a greater understanding of the opportunities, partnerships, and challenges facing sustainable forest management. The groundwork for the Roundtable was the national report *The State of the Nation's Forests*, which was published in 2003.

### USDA Forest Service Northeastern Area State & Private Forestry (NA)

In their efforts to apply The Montréal Process at an even broader regional scale, NA has further clarified issues of sustainable forest management in the Northeastern United States. NA in conjunction with the Northeastern Area Association of State Foresters agreed upon a set of seven criteria, 18 indicators and 73 metrics that address informational needs common to the northeastern region. These 18 are organized under the seven Montréal Process criteria and the data sources and metrics recommended are suitable for monitoring indicators at both state and regional scales.‡ Wisconsin has participated in this effort and has made a commitment to gather data on these 18 C&I. Data is available for the majority of the metrics and is acknowledged as being relevant to Wisconsin.

In an effort to encourage states in the Northeastern Area to use the 18 C&I, the NA is in the process of compiling data on the base indicators for each state and reporting them on the Internet. This will simplify communication and data sharing among multiple efforts and across state borders. Tracking common indicators with the same data across States and over time will help reveal cumulative effects. The work in the northeastern region is intended to complement sustainability assessment activities at the national level.

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\* USDA Forest Service State & Private Forestry Northeastern Area, Sourcebook on Criteria and Indicators of Forest Sustainability I the Northeastern Area (Pennsylvania: USDA Forest Service, 2002), 1.

† Great Lakes Forest Alliance. [http://greatforests.org/pub\\_GLFA\\_rep2.html](http://greatforests.org/pub_GLFA_rep2.html)

‡ USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Area, State and Private Forestry and Northeastern Forest Resource Planners Association and Northeastern Area Association of State Foresters, *Base Indicators of Forest Sustainability: Metrics and Data Sources for State and Regional Monitoring* (New Hampshire: USDA Forest Service, 2003), 1.