



WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON FORESTRY

Jim Doyle, Governor

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The Honorable Jim Doyle, Governor
State of Wisconsin
State Capitol, 115 East
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Governor Doyle:

I am pleased to present the Wisconsin Council on Forestry's first Biennial Report!

Wisconsin's forests provide a full array of ecological, economic and social benefits to the people of Wisconsin. Our State's forests protect our water quality, filter our air, and provide homes and habitat for many of the 200 endangered or threatened species in Wisconsin as well as for countless common species. Our forests are important in local, state, and global economies, supporting employment opportunities, investment in forest improvement practices, and income for landowners. More than 1,850 wood using companies support a \$20 billion industry and over 100,000 jobs. In addition, more people than ever before are using Wisconsin's forests for a wide array of recreational and tourism activities. Wisconsin households spend over \$5.5 billion per year on goods and services associated with forest-based recreation. Forestry also plays a significant role in the ecological and social benefits derived from the existence of a healthy and diverse forest-based economy.

Over the last two years, the Council on Forestry has focused on several issues that affect the ability of our forests to provide the full range of social, economical and ecological benefits not only today, but for those who follow. This report highlights that work. It also reports on the status of the state's resources and forestry industry as required by state statute. The report is also available at <http://wisconsinforestry.org>.

The issues the Council chose to work on reflect both the challenges and the opportunities facing Wisconsin's forests. I am particularly pleased that the Council has been able to bring together a broad array of interests to work on some of the most significant challenges facing our forests. The Governor's Conference on Forestry, held in November 2004, was an important starting point for collective action to improve our forests. I am optimistic about what we can accomplish in the future because of the commitment I see from the breadth of interests who have demonstrated a willingness to work on issues affecting our forests. Although many of the issues appear to be overwhelming, the resolve of those involved is quite impressive.

The Council is committed to continuing to work ensure that our forests remain a key component to Wisconsin's environment, economy, and quality of life.

Best regards,

Fred Souba, Chair

Cc: Members and Interested Parties of the Wisconsin Council on Forestry