

ENHANCING ASSISTANCE TO WISCONSIN'S PRIVATE FOREST LANDOWNERS

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9th, 1:00–5:30, HALL OF IDEAS F

KEY ISSUES

- 272,000 non-industrial private landowners own 57% of Wisconsin's forestland. It is increasingly difficult to provide professional forest management assistance to these landowners.
- Many of these landowners are from urban areas. They tend to be less knowledgeable about sustainable forest management practices and more likely to be absentee landowners.
- Fewer than 30% of private landowners have a management plan or receive professional management assistance.

IMPORTANCE AND IMPACTS

The theme is statewide and affects woodland owners as well as those who enjoy clean air and water, scenic beauty, hunting and fishing, hiking, birding, and motorized sports. It directly affects mills and associated businesses.

Non-industrial private landowners need information and assistance to keep their woodlands as working forests and to manage them sustainably for future generations.

SCOPE AND IMMEDIACY

The scope is international. The issues affect those who live and own woodland properties in the state, those who visit Wisconsin to enjoy our woodlands, and industries that rely on a steady flow of wood as a raw material for mills and consumers.

The need for professional assistance has grown with the increase in private woodland owners. Woodland owners are looking for management advice and property tax relief through the Managed Forest Law.

The number of applications for the Managed Forest Law increased from 2,000 in 1999 to almost 4,000 in 2002. DNR private lands foresters and consulting foresters partner to address this workload, but are left with little time for outreach to those not enrolled in the program.

MORE INFORMATION ON THIS THEME AND THE STATEWIDE FOREST PLAN

Several issues in the Statewide Forest Plan relate to enhanced landowner assistance, including changes in forest landowner demographics (Issue 34), rising forestland property taxes impacting short- and long-term forest management decision-making (Issue 27), and the need for more private forestry assistance (Issue 33).

CHAMPION

JOHN DUPLISSIS, UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–STEVENS POINT, COLLEGE OF NATURAL RESOURCES

John Duplissis is the Forestry Outreach Specialist at the University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point where he manages Wisconsin's Woodland Leadership Institute and Master Woodland Stewards program, as well as cooperating with the DNR, faculty, and woodland owner organizations on a number of issues and initiatives. He has an extensive background in integrated resource management, public participation, and community development — both locally and overseas.

DuPlissis is a graduate of the University of Minnesota with a B.S. in Forest Science and a M.S. in Forest Ecology and Silviculture.

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LEADERSHIP TEAM

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Chuck Brooks, Brooks & Christie Forestry Consultants
Gene Francisco, Wisconsin Professional Loggers Association
Warren Gaskill, Sustainable Woods Network
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Buddy Huffacker, Aldo Leopold Foundation
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