

MINIMIZING RECREATIONAL USE CONFLICTS IN WISCONSIN'S FORESTS

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH, 8:00-12:30, HALL OF IDEAS K & L

KEY ISSUES

- More people than ever are using Wisconsin's forests for recreational activities, leading to increased conflicts among forest users.
- Motorized forms of recreation (snowmobiles, off-highway vehicles, ATVs, etc.) are increasingly popular and can conflict with non-motorized forest users and have adverse environmental impacts.
- The amount of forest land open for public use is decreasing, which affects the future of public hunting, fishing and other forms of recreation.

IMPORTANCE AND IMPACTS

Management of forests is increasingly complicated because of the demand for forest-based recreation and associated services and the potential for conflict among different users.

Careful planning will be critical to meet the diverse and competing recreational demands on Wisconsin's forests.

SCOPE AND IMMEDIACY

Recreational use conflicts in our forests occur statewide.

Most conflicts are focused on public lands, but there are applications and implications to private lands as well.

Stakeholders in this process include public land managers, industrial forest owners and managers, recreation-based businesses, snowmobilers, ATVers, equestrian users, mountain bikers, hikers, backpackers, campers, hunters, cross-country skiers and other forest-based recreationists.

MORE INFORMATION ON THIS THEME AND THE STATEWIDE FOREST PLAN

This theme links to 16 issues in the Statewide Forest Plan, including the increasing demand for forest-based recreation (Issue 21), the decreasing forest land available for public use (Issue 35), the role of public forests (Issue 39), the increasing popularity of motorized recreation (Issue 40), the increasing creation and use of forest trails (Issue 41), and the need for additional public outreach and education about forestry (Issue 48).

CHAMPION

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Dave Marcouiller is a Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning, and serves as a resource economist with the University of Wisconsin-Madison Extension. His work focuses on linkages between natural resources and rural economic development with a particular interest in resource dependency and the tourism-timber tradeoff. During the past decade, his work has been published in the *Annals of Tourism Research*, *Tourism Economics*, *Wood and Fiber Science*, *Forest Science*, *The Canadian Journal of Forest Research*, *Northern Journal of Applied Forestry*, *Journal of Planning Literature*, *Society and Natural Resources*, *Land Economics*, *Economic Development Quarterly*, *Growth and Change*, *the Review of Regional Studies*, and *the American Journal of Agricultural Economics*. He serves as co-editor of the *Journal of Regional Analysis and Policy*, and has recently completed a co-authored textbook entitled "Community Economics: Linking Theory and Practice."

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