

SOURCES OF WOODLAND INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

Several Wisconsin-based websites can answer landowners' basic questions. One portal for several of these informational websites is www.woodlandinfo.org sponsored by the University of Wisconsin-Extension. Check out the numerous publications on the site which can help you with everything from identifying trees to finding a sample timber sale contract. Testimonials from landowners provide insight into how they work in their forest to meet their goals. A link to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources webpage provides you easy access to more information. This is a great place to find a DNR forester or a private consulting forester.

DNR foresters are also available to personally assist you with almost any forest-related question. A DNR forester can assist you in developing a forest management plan or refer you to a consulting forester for hire. Training and experience varies among consulting foresters, so it is wise to get references before hiring one. A list of consulting foresters can be found on the WDNR website, and additionally on the Wisconsin Consulting Foresters website at www.wi-consultingforesters.com/find.htm

Another great resource for landowners is the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association (WWOA). WWOA is a statewide organization, but has local chapters to facilitate local landowner interaction. WWOA events provide opportunities to learn what others are doing on their own woodlots and to get advice about foresters and loggers. WWOA can be found at www.wisconsinwoodlands.org

Are you thinking about the future of your woodlands and how you will pass it on to the next generation?

Consider our class on passing the land to your successors, *Ties To The Land*. This 2-evening class walks participants through the planning process for a successful transition. It will be offered in 15 locations around the state in spring of 2010. For more information, contact Kris Tiles at 715.261.1254 or check out the website www.woodlandinfo.org under *Ties To The Land*.

ADDITIONAL LOCATIONS

Want to attend a *Learn About Your Land* event in another location?
Here are all the offerings this spring:

MILWAUKEE AREA

CONTACT BILL KLAKE 715.365.2658

March

SAUK, RICHLAND AND ROCK COUNTIES

CONTACT PEGGY COMPTON 608.342.1633

January-March

MONROE, PEPIN, JACKSON AND LACROSSE COUNTIES

CONTACT RANDY MELL 608.784.0303 EXT 225

January - March

PRICE AND TAYLOR COUNTIES

CONTACT DIANE DAULTON 715.762.0036

February

PORTAGE, WOOD, SHAWANO, WAUPACA, WAUSHARA, GREEN LAKE AND WINNEBAGO COUNTIES

CONTACT KRIS TILES 715.261.1254

February - March

DOUGLAS, BAYFIELD, ASHLAND AND IRON COUNTIES

CONTACT RUTH OPPEDAHL 715.685.2676

February - March

Can't attend in person?

TRY OUR INTERNET SERIES

Five online classes will be offered in March and April.
Check out the classes and dates on woodlandinfo.org under
Learn About Your Land.

For more detailed listing of upcoming classes
and dates, check out the website at

www.woodlandinfo.org
under "Learn About your Land"



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WOODS WORDS

FOR WOODLAND OWNERS WHO WANT TO KNOW MORE

By the UW-Extension Basin Education Initiative
Winter 2009-2010

WHAT YOU DO COUNTS!

Your woodland is a dynamic system. Plants and animals are constantly moving in and out of your forest. You are part of that dynamic feature by putting in trails, harvesting trees, and just being an owner of your forest. You can steer the changes in your forest to best fit your needs by following some professional management guidelines, and by keeping an eye on the health of your forest. These may seem like overwhelming tasks, but the good news is that there are people, publications, and programs out there to help you.



72%
family,
tribal,
industrial
woodlands



17%
local
government
woodlands



3%
national
forest
lands



2%
state
forest
lands



6%
other
sources

SOURCES OF WISCONSIN HARVESTED TIMBER AS A PERCENTAGE OF ALL TIMBER REMOVED

(Source: USDA Forest Inventory
& Analysis 2007 WI inventory)

WOODS WORDS

FOR WOODLAND OWNERS
WHO WANT TO KNOW MORE

Keeping your Woodland Healthy

STEPS TO ACHIEVING A SUCCESSFUL TIMBER SALE:

- 1 Develop and regularly update a plan that spells out what you want to get from your forest and how you will accomplish that. The plan will identify forestry practices to help meet your goals, and specifically which trees to harvest and when.
- 2 Prior to a timber harvest, mark the boundaries of your property and the trees to be harvested. Doing this will ensure that the logger does not cut trees he shouldn't, including trees on your neighbor's property.
- 3 Get an estimate as to what the trees you are harvesting are worth. Having knowledge of the local timber markets is critical and is best accomplished by a forester working for you.
- 4 Figure out how you want the timber harvesting equipment to traverse your property to get at the timber you want harvested. Work with your forester to design a trail system that meets your needs and the logger's.
- 5 Get bids from a number of reputable logging firms and select the one that best fits your needs. You may find that the best bid is not the highest dollar amount, but instead includes activities that accomplish more than just your timber harvesting goal.
- 6 Develop an agreed-upon contract between you and the logger. The contract will spell out exactly what activities the logger will undertake, and how payment will be made to you.
- 7 Monitor what is going on during the timber harvesting operation. Ensure that the logger does what he is supposed to do, in the time frame specified in the contract.
- 8 Make sure that everything the logger agreed to do following the harvesting operations has been completed. This includes ensuring that trails and landings are secure from erosion before you release the logger from the contract.
- 9 Rediscover your forest. Your forest may have changed a little or a great deal following the harvest, and watching how your forest will adapt to these changes will be another element that makes owning a woodlot a joy.

For more detailed description of these steps, refer to *Conducting a Successful Timber Sale* (DNR publication FR-254, available free through DNR offices). This publication is also available online at <http://basineducation.uwex.edu/woodland/oww/pubs.html>

As Emerald Ash Borer and Oak Wilt become more widespread in the forests of the Midwest, it is no surprise that woodland owners are growing worried that their forest will be next. Keeping these and other insects and diseases out and maintaining the long-term health and vigor of a forest are the ideals many landowners strive towards. It might seem like a daunting task, but there are some simple things you can do to ensure that your forest stays healthy and can fend off most threats to its health.

Become an observer of your woods. Take time to inventory your forest. This doesn't mean measuring the height and diameter of each tree; rather be aware of the condition of your trees, changes in your trees, and the plants growing around your trees. Look for groups of similar trees that might be dying. Death is a natural process in the life of a forest, but groups of trees can indicate the presence of insects or disease. Learn what invasive plants might be in the area, and control them early. Once these plants establish themselves, they are very difficult to eliminate and they will prevent young trees from growing in your woods. How often you get out and monitor your woods is up to you, but at a minimum once in the early spring, around mid-June, and then again in the fall. Spring and fall are good times to find invasive species.

Promote diversity in your woods. By promoting diversity, your forest will be better able to withstand the invasion of a single insect or disease, and won't harbor a large population over the long term. A diverse forest contains different species, age classes and forest types. That means a mixture of species and,

among all the different species, an age mixture from seedlings to large, old trees plus a few dead trees. It also means your forest will have areas of young, densely-packed trees, old scattered trees, and open areas with no trees. These kinds of diversity are not only good for maintaining the health of the trees, but also support a more diverse spectrum of wildlife and add a great deal of visual variety.

Manage for a healthy and vigorous woods.

That means removing trees that are crowding the best trees and those that are weak or diseased and might not live another five years. Generally, insects and diseases target trees that are weak. Weak trees are those that are being out-competed by other trees for light and nutrients. If you are looking to harvest some trees for firewood or clear a lane in your stand, take the trees that are diseased or thin out the overtopped trees in areas that are overly crowded.

For more information

On risks to your forest, visit these websites on forest health:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/FH>

and invasive species:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives>

and other publications:

<http://basineducation.uwex.edu/woodland/OWW/pests.html>

Also, if you suspect an insect, disease or invasive plant is in your woods, talk to a forestry professional. Early detection can not only help your woods, but the entire forest around you. You can find a forester by visiting this website:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/private/assist>

Hazelnut

White
Pine

Swamp
White Oak

Red
Pine

Trembling
Aspen

Green
Ash

Silver
Maple

Northern
White Cedar

Black
Cherry

Nine
Bark

Bur
Oak

Red
Oak

White
Ash

Sugar
Maple

White
Spruce