Threatened and Endangered Species in Forests of Wisconsin

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Stora Enso and
Plum Creek.
For more information, contact
Eunice.Padley@dnr.state.wi.us
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WISCONSIN
DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

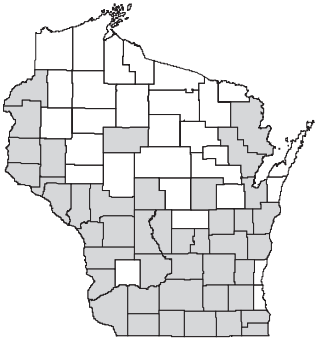
Great Egret

(Casmerodius albus)

Federal Status: Not Listed
State Status: Threatened

Description: The great egret is a large predatory wading bird averaging 37-41 inches in length and weighing 32-40 ounces. Its wingspan measures 55 inches. The plumage of the great egret is entirely white; the bill and a spot in front of the eyes is yellow. The feet and long legs are black.

Habitat: Great egrets inhabit floodplain forests, riparian swamps and associated islands. They nest in colonies, often with great blue herons. Their nests are built with sticks, are 2 feet in

diameter, and are 20-40 feet high in the crowns of both trees and shrubs. Egrets often nest close (as close as 3 1/2 feet) to one another. Egrets will re-use nests and a rookery area from year to year. They feed in nearby shallow waters, 4-9 inches deep.

Forestry Considerations: Single-tree selection is favored within 300 feet of streams, rivers, lakes or marshes in areas where egret nesting colonies occur. Follow *Wisconsin's Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality*, including providing buffer zones along riparian corridors. During the nesting period of April 1 to July 15, disturbance (including tree harvest) should be minimized within 150 yards of active nesting colonies.