

## VISION FOR THE PLAN

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**To work in partnership to protect and sustainably manage Wisconsin's public and private forest lands and to ensure the ecological, economic, and social benefits of forests for the citizens of Wisconsin now and into the future.**

## PRINCIPLES FOR THE PLAN

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The following principles, combined with the goals for Wisconsin's forests identified earlier have guided the development of the Statewide Forest Plan.

- 1. Forests Contribute to Quality of Life:** Wisconsin's forests play a significant role in providing for Wisconsin's quality of life including clean air, clean water, biological diversity, employment opportunities, recreational opportunities, environmental education, public health and safety, and beautiful natural surroundings.
- 2. Forests are Sustainable:** Forests should be managed so that current environmental, economic, and social needs are met, while retaining the capacity for these needs to be met in future generations.
- 3. Forests Support a Healthy Rural and Urban Wisconsin:** A healthy rural and urban Wisconsin relies on sustainable forests, and is vital to the quality of life enjoyed by all Wisconsinites.
- 4. Forests are Dynamic in Nature:** Wisconsin's forests are diverse, dynamic, and resilient ecosystems. A broad range of forest conditions exist naturally and continually change. A variety of forest values, in balanced proportion, are mutually compatible over time.
- 5. Forests Should be Managed:** Wisconsin's forests should be managed to keep forests healthy, to preserve native plant and animal species, and to produce the products and benefits that people value. Management can and should include setting aside from active management some lands to serve as ecological benchmarks or to serve other societal purposes.
- 6. Forests Should be Adaptively Managed:** Forest management should be adjusted based on new information and changing values. Policies, programs, and management techniques should be regularly evaluated and appropriately adjusted based upon ongoing monitoring, assessment, research, and technology development.
- 7. Forests Exist in a Global Context:** Wisconsin's forests are important to the global environment, society, and economy. Citizens should consider from which forests lumber and other forest products originate and how those forests are managed when making purchasing decisions.
- 8. Forests are Owned by a Variety of Landowners Playing Different Roles:** Different land ownerships play different roles in meeting the range of ecological, economic, and social needs associated with the forested landscape.
- 9. Forest Sustainability is the Shared Responsibility of Landowners and the Public:** No single entity can be responsible for managing all of Wisconsin's forests. Forest sustainability and intelligent consumption depend on organizations, individual forest landowners, and the public.
- 10. Forest Sustainability Needs Informed Public Participation:** Broad-based, informed public participation and consensus-based decision-making, whenever possible, will best support sustainable forestry in Wisconsin.

