



2005 Annual Report

# Wisconsin's State Forests



# FOREWORD



## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF STATE FORESTER

State Forests began as a vision back in the late 1800s. Today, 514,000 acres are managed sustainably for the people of Wisconsin. E.M. Griffith, the first state forester, knew in 1904 that there was a strong relationship between the forest reserves and the general welfare of the State — forests protect the health of river headwaters, the natural attractions of the forests provide outdoor recreational benefits for an increasingly urban society, and wood using industries employ thousands of people and provide economic wealth for the State. This is as true today as it was a hundred years ago.

Wisconsin State Forests provide us with forest products, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, and nature appreciation; they help to clean our environment and enhance biological diversity. Today, forest management strives to sustain ecological, social, cultural, and economic systems. One thing that has not changed in Wisconsin's forest history is the importance of State Forests to the health of local communities. State Forests ensure a viable economic base by sustainably managing the forests so that products can be harvested and sold now and in the future. These adjacent communities can be thriving tourist destinations because of the forests.

Our knowledge about forest ecosystems is steadily increasing. We know more about how our forests function than we did 50 years ago, and we will know much more 50 years in the future. The popularity of the State Forests as a destination for recreation in all seasons has created some social challenges. There are twice as many activities to enjoy in State Forests today than at the turn of the twentieth century. Managing these varied recreational activities to provide the best experience for the majority of people is an ongoing challenge.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' goal is to continue this management through research, planning, and implementation. This annual report provides a snapshot of the eight largest State Forests in Wisconsin.

2005 brought many accomplishments to the State Forest system, a few are listed here:

- Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest Master Plan completed.
- Kettle Moraine, Point Beach, and Peshtigo River State Forests were audited for forest certification.
- 1,269 acres were reforested.
- Almost \$4 million of timber was harvested.
- Day-use attendance exceeded three million people.
- Invasive plant surveys were completed.
- Road conditions were assessed and improvement plans prepared.
- Efforts to reduce the backlog of forest RECON data were implemented.
- Many recreational developments were completed to meet demands.

Our hope in 2006 and the future is that you and the generations that follow may enjoy one or many of Wisconsin's spectacular State Forests and the multitude of benefits they provide.

Sincerely,

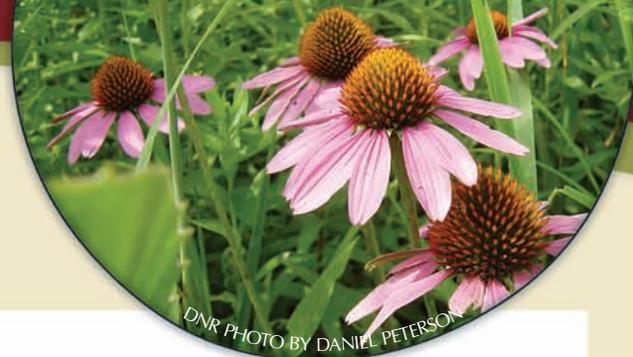
Paul DeLong, Chief State Forester

## STATE FOREST MISSION

### Management Guided by Sustainable Forestry

People most often associate Wisconsin's State Forests with recreational opportunities including fishing, camping, hiking, snowmobiling, and skiing. However, State Forests were originally created to preserve important watersheds and unique ecosystems, and are managed today for multiple uses.

As a steward of the State Forests, the Department of Natural Resources follows the principles of sustainable forestry — an approach that ensures these lands will provide a host of economic, ecological and social benefits for years to come.



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## PURPOSE OF STATE FORESTS

State Forests are defined by Wisconsin Statue 28. The purposes and benefits of State Forests are outlined in the following language of 28.04(2).

- (a) The department shall manage the State Forests to benefit the present and future generations of residents of this State, recognizing that the State Forests contribute to local and statewide economies and to a healthy natural environment. The department shall assure the practice of sustainable forestry and use it to assure that State Forests can provide a full range of benefits for present and future generations. The department shall also assure that the management of State Forests is consistent with the ecological capability of the State Forest land and with the long-term maintenance of sustainable forest communities and ecosystems. These benefits include soil protection, public hunting, protection of water quality, production of recurring forest products, outdoor recreation, native biological diversity, aquatic and terrestrial wildlife, and aesthetics. The range of benefits provided by the department in each State Forest shall reflect its unique character and position in the regional landscape.
- (b) In managing the State Forests, the department shall recognize that not all benefits under par. (a) can or should be provided in every area of a State Forest.
- (c) In managing the State Forests, the department shall recognize that management may consist of both active and passive techniques.



# OVERVIEW

Wisconsin State Forests make up more than 514,000 acres that are managed for a full spectrum of uses such as timber, recreation, wildlife, biological diversity, and aesthetics. Looking back at 2005 in review, some highlights included:

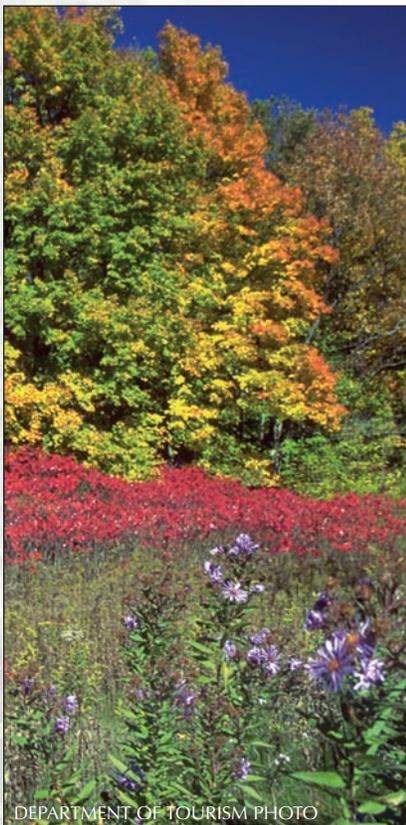
- Three State Forests were audited under the FSC and SFI forest certification programs.
- Annual recreation sales totaled more than \$1 million.
- Non-native invasive species continue to threaten Wisconsin's forests.
- More than 1,200 acres were reforested.
- More than 8,000 acres were established for timber sales with almost \$4 million in stumpage value cut.
- Our forests continue to provide clean water in their watersheds, and help remove carbon dioxide from the air.
- The Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest Master Plan was completed.
- Total revenue from entrance fees and timber sales exceeded \$6.7 million.



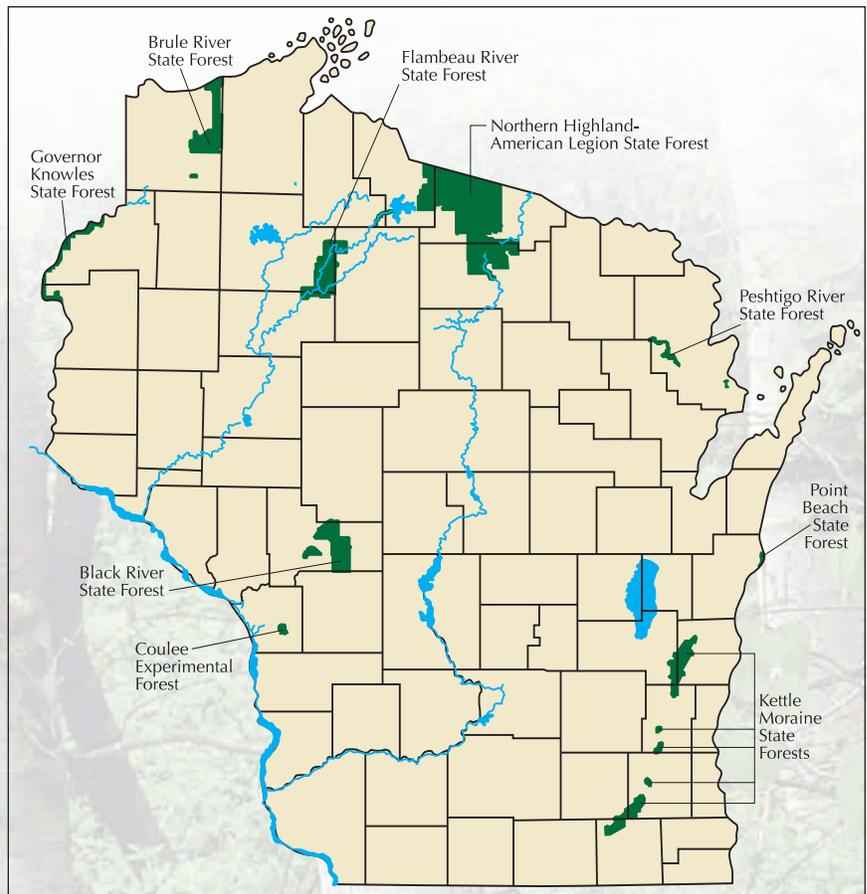
DNR PHOTO BY DANIEL PETERSON



DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM PHOTO



DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM PHOTO



# FOREST CERTIFICATION



Forest certification is a process in which an independent third-party reviews forest management practices to ensure they meet strict standards for ecological, social and economic sustainability. Publishers, building contractors and other manufacturers are expanding the use of certified wood to assure customers that their products come from a well managed forest. Forest certification helps Wisconsin landowners and businesses to remain competitive in global markets that increasingly demand certified raw materials. Objective review is also instrumental in improving how we care for our forests.



In 2004, State Forests were dual certified under Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and Sustainable

Forest Initiative (SFI) standards. Together, FSC and SFI certification programs constitute credible certification with internationally recognized performance requirements. While the independent auditors found the State Forests meet or exceed the criteria in the certification standards, they also identified areas of improvement.



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## State Forest Audit Schedule

### 2005 AUDITS

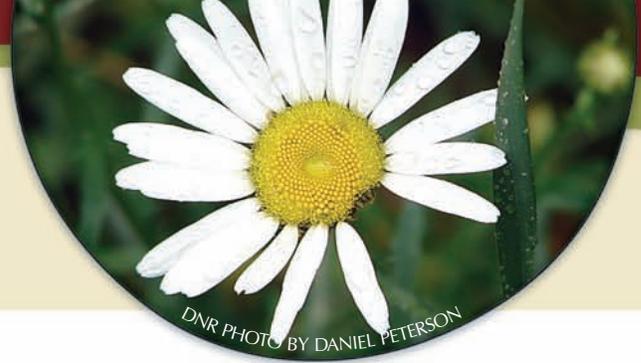
- Kettle Moraine State Forest (Northern Unit)
- Peshtigo River State Forest
- Point Beach State Forest

### 2006 AUDITS

- Brule River State Forest
- Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest

CERTIFICATION REPORTS AND REVIEWS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE DNR WEBSITE AT [www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/forestry/certification/state.html](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/forestry/certification/state.html)

# OWNERSHIP

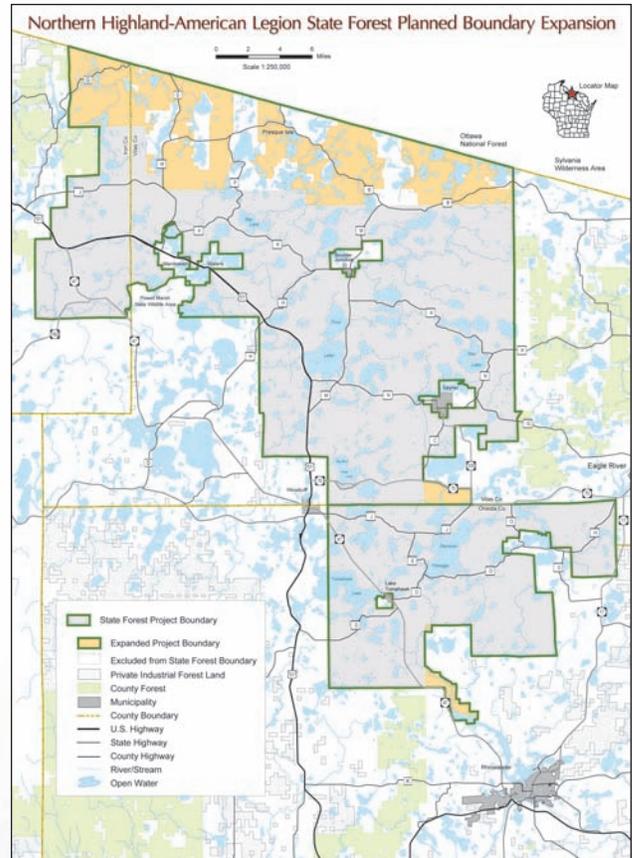


## EXPANSION AND ACQUISITION HIGHLIGHTS

### Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest (NH-AL)

Approved in October 2005, the NH-AL Master Plan expands the boundary of the forest by 64,900 acres. The bulk of the area is located to the north of the existing property boundary and extends to the Wisconsin/Michigan border. The Department of Natural Resources will continue its long-standing policy of only purchasing from willing sellers.

The expanded boundary will meet overall forest ecology, environmental health and recreation needs of the NH-AL. The northern expansion has a number of purposes including protection of the Wisconsin and Flambeau Rivers headwaters, opportunity for large-scale management of hemlock-hardwood forest, and the potential for linking large tracks of state, county, and national forests in Wisconsin and Upper Michigan. The southern boundary expansion is mainly to assure permanent conservation of the immediate Wisconsin River shoreline, which has important wildlife and endangered species habitat, and a variety of recreational opportunities. The third area north of the Rainbow Flowage squares off the boundary to block-in land recently purchased around the Flowage.



DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM PHOTO

### Peshtigo River State Forest

Twenty-five miles of river, almost 70 miles of river frontage, 3,200 acres of submerged land, and 9,200 acres of scenic forest await you at the Peshtigo River State Forest, the natural gem of Marinette County. Established in 2001, the forest, purchased from the Wisconsin Public Service Corp (WPS) with Stewardship Funds, is the newest addition to the State Forest system. The forest includes the Potato Rapids flowage, 20 miles southeast of the main forest, outside of Peshtigo.

**3,325 acres were acquired within existing State Forests in 2005.**



PHOTO BY DANIEL PETERSON

### 2005 State Forest Acres

FOREST	ACRES
Black River.....	67,849
Brule River.....	40,975
Coulee.....	2,972
Flambeau River.....	90,282
Governor Knowles.....	20,041
Kettle Moraine.....	53,526
NH-AL.....	225,873
Peshtigo River.....	9,749
Point Beach.....	2,903
<b>TOTAL STATE FOREST ACRES</b>	<b>514,170</b>

### When did it become a State Forest?

FOREST	YEAR
Black River.....	1957
Brule River.....	1907
Coulee.....	1959
Flambeau River.....	1931
Governor Knowles.....	1970
Kettle Moraine.....	1936
NH-AL.....	1925
Peshtigo River.....	2001
Point Beach.....	1938

More than 514,000 acres are designated as State Forest and are managed to provide economic, social and ecological benefits to the people of Wisconsin.

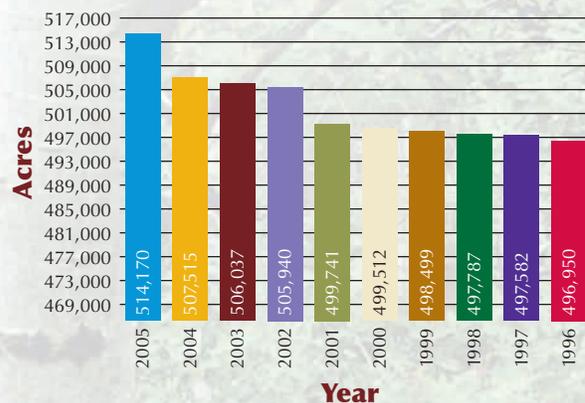


DNR STOCK PHOTO

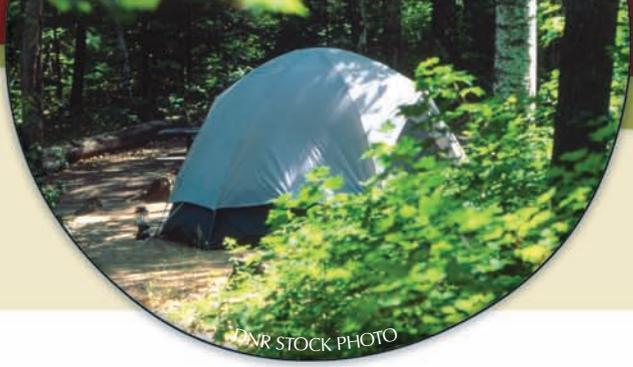


DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM PHOTO

### 10-Year Trend in State Forest Ownership (All Forest Totals)



# RECREATION



## 2005 NEW DEVELOPMENTS

### Brule River State Forest

- A 650-foot boardwalk across the Brule Bog was constructed to access Stone Chimney Canoe Landing.
- A 29 target archery trail was installed on a loop of Afterhours Ski Trail for use during the non-ski season.
- The warming house at Afterhours Ski Trail was expanded and remodeled.
- A trail was constructed to connect Stony Hill Nature Trail with North Country National Scenic Trail.

### Northern Legion-American Highland State Forest

- Stairs were installed from campsites down to the lake at Clear Lake Campground. Landscaping enhancements were also completed.

### Point Beach State Forest

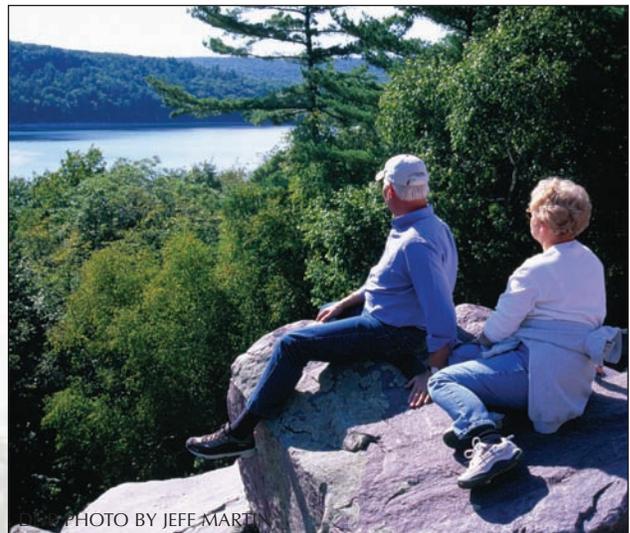
- Point Beach Family Campground received a new shower building. This new design has seven separate rooms with a sink, toilet and shower in each room.

### Kettle Moraine State Forest

- New interpretive signs were installed.
- Long Lake Recreation Area boat landing was re-paved.
- The Mauthe Lake Recreation Area fishing pier was re-decked.

### 2005 Attendance

STATE FOREST	CAMPING	DAY-USE
Black .....	21,815 .....	33,625
Brule .....	9,945 .....	95,826
Flambeau .....	26,543 .....	80,600
Governor Knowles.....	7,771 .....	105,760
NH-AL .....	251,069.....	1,997,527
The Kettles .....	202,961 .....	1,669,088
Peshtigo .....	105 .....	123,000
Point Beach.....	62,000 .....	350,000
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>582,209</b>	<b>4,455,426</b>



### Five-year Recreation Revenue

	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001
Camping Sales.....	\$616,228 .....	\$591,459 .....	\$398,907 .....	\$817,342 .....	\$377,490
Entrance Sticker Sales.....	\$352,072 .....	\$384,520 .....	\$372,290 .....	\$489,003 .....	\$489,512
Trail Pass Sales .....	\$95,074 .....	\$65,235 .....	\$60,873 .....	\$126,009 .....	\$121,650
<b>TOTAL ANNUAL SALES</b>	<b>\$1,063,374</b>	<b>\$1,041,214</b>	<b>\$832,070</b>	<b>\$1,432,354</b>	<b>\$988,652</b>

\* Data does not include internet sales.

\*\* Data only includes Northern State Forests.

# INVASIVE SPECIES

Non-native invasive species present what may be the greatest threat to the long-term health and sustainability of Wisconsin's State Forests. Human activities such as trading of goods, travel, gardening, and recreation have resulted in the introduction of many non-native plant and animal species to the State. Once established, populations of some invasive insects and diseases quickly increase because natural control agents are absent or ineffective. As a result, invasive pests have changed, and will continue to change, entire ecosystems by displacing native flora and fauna.

**Non-native invasive species present what may be the greatest threat to the long-term health and sustainability of Wisconsin's State Forests.**



**Unlike other plants that invade disturbed habitats, garlic mustard spreads into high quality forests and can displace native species within ten years.**



**Wisconsin has approximately 717,000,000 ash trees that are directly threatened if the emerald ash borer crosses the border into Wisconsin.**

The emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) is an invasive pest native to Asia, and is currently threatening the ash (*Fraxinus* spp.) tree resource in the Great Lakes region. The feeding habits of emerald ash borer larvae causes extensive damage to an ash tree's vascular system, depriving the crown of water and nutrients. Although the emerald ash borer has not been found in Wisconsin at the time of this publication, steps are being taken to keep it from invading Wisconsin's forests including a moratorium on bringing firewood into Wisconsin from other states.

Garlic mustard on the other hand, is an invasive species that has already made a home for itself in Wisconsin. It is a rapidly spreading woodland weed that is displacing native woodland wildflowers. A single plant can produce thousands of seeds that are transported long distances by human activities and wildlife. This plant is a major threat to the survival of Wisconsin's woodland flora and the wildlife that depend on it.



# FOREST RESOURCES



## SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY

The needs and values preserved through sustainability can be divided into three categories — ecological, economic and social. Together, these categories have come to be referred to as the three pillars of sustainability. People rely on forests for their livelihoods, recreation, spiritual renewal, a vast array of forest products, and other essential functions. To ensure that our children and grandchildren are able to experience forests that are as healthy, useful, and abundant as they are today, it is imperative that we work together to ensure our forests are managed sustainably across the landscape. While individual definitions of sustainability differ slightly in their details, there is generally broad-based support that sustainable forestry focuses on meeting the needs of current generations, while protecting the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

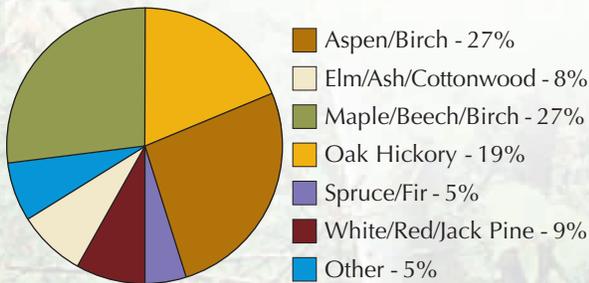
## Reforestation

FOREST	ACRES PLANTED	
	2005	2004
Black River.....	128.....	258
Brule River.....	340.....	437
Governor Knowles.....	379.....	247
Kettle Moraine.....	21.....	65
NH-AL.....	401.....	162
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>1,269</b>	<b>1,169</b>

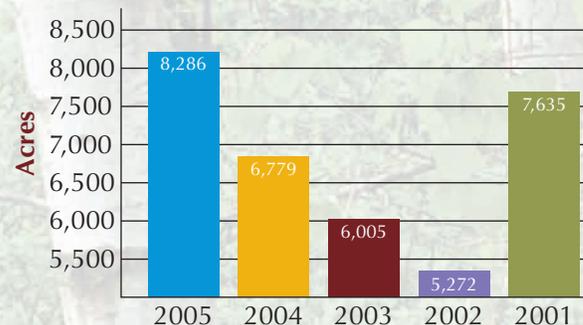
**85% of State Forests regenerate naturally.**

### Major Wisconsin Forest Types

(Data includes all Wisconsin Forests)



### Acres of Timber Offered for Sale



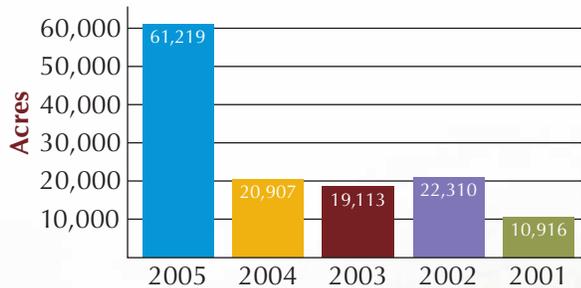


DNR PHOTO BY JEFF MARTIN

### 2005 Timber Volume and Value Harvest

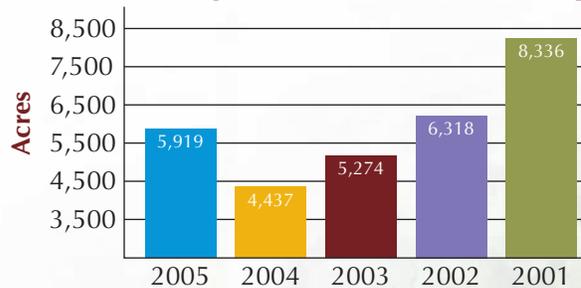
FOREST	NO. SALES	ACRES	\$ STUMPAGE	MBF	CORDS	CORD EQUIV.
Black River .....	17	1,152	\$595,499	421	18,062	19,127
Brule River .....	6	496	\$445,465	0	9,518	9,683
Flambeau River .....	19	214	\$91,162	75	3,842	4,188
Governor Knowles .....	4	485	\$162,939	578	7,252	8,529
Kettle Moraine .....	2	948	\$467,504	0	10,527	10,716
NH-AL .....	35	2,624	\$2,207,557	1,087	57,669	60,179
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>5,919</b>	<b>\$3,970,126</b>	<b>2,161</b>	<b>106,870</b>	<b>112,422</b>

### Forest Inventory (RECON) Acres Updated



\* 12% of the State Forest Inventory was updated in 2005.

### Five Year Completed Timber Sale History



DNR PHOTO BY JEFF MARTIN



DNR PHOTO BY DANIEL PETERSON

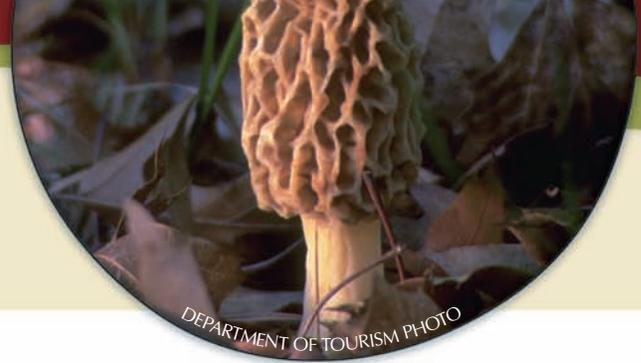
# SERVICES AND PRODUCTS

Forest products, recreation and habitat are a few of the most important resources that State Forests provide for the people of Wisconsin. There are many other resources that these forests provide, most of which are a by-product or bonus. Forests clean our air by absorbing carbon dioxide, (a major greenhouse gas), clean our water, offer habitat for wildlife, and provide us with beautiful surroundings.

## CARBON SEQUESTRATION

Wisconsin's forests are powerful challengers to global warming. As trees and forests grow, they remove carbon dioxide from the air and release oxygen, using the carbon to maintain themselves and grow. Forests provide a very significant carbon sink that helps to combat global warming.

A new idea is on the horizon to put a monetary value to the carbon benefits that forests provide. In time, forest landowners may be paid for storing carbon in their forests as a means to offset emissions of greenhouse gases. The concept of carbon credits (a market-based financial incentive for landowners to store carbon in their forests') is being developed on a global scale. This initiative could be a new way to quantify the value of Wisconsin State Forests.



## WATER QUALITY

Clean water is essential to Wisconsin's economy and rich quality of life. Lakes and streams provide habitat for wildlife, fish and other aquatic species. Our forests play a vital role in purifying and maintaining clean water for streams, lakes and groundwater. They also help keep surfacewater cool and provide woody debris, sustaining fish and aquatic insects.

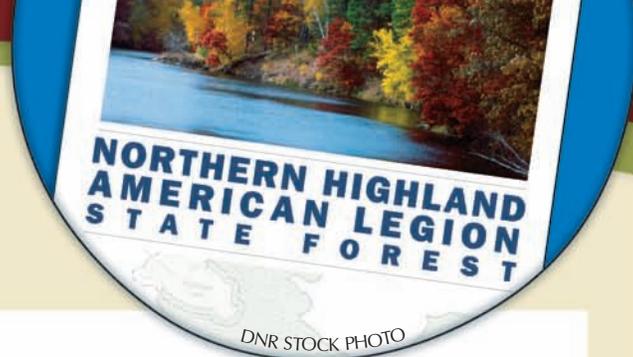
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**Forests provide a very significant carbon sink that helps to combat global warming.**

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# FOREST MASTER PLANNING



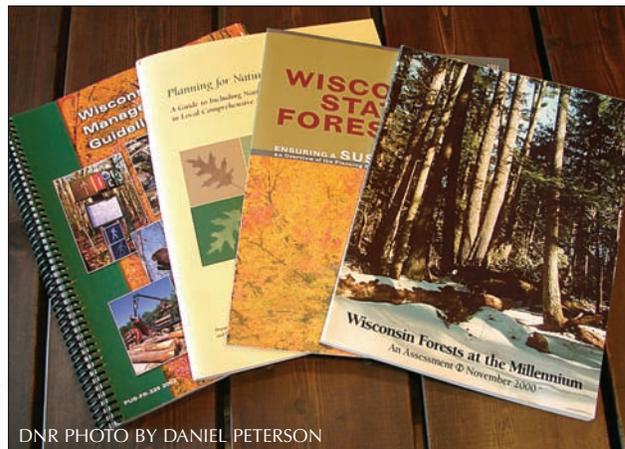
DNR STOCK PHOTO

Success in any endeavor requires careful preparation and planning. Good planning conserves resources, prevents wasted effort, and saves time and money. The purpose of a State Forest Master Plan is to clearly define how the property will be managed, used and developed, how it will look, and the benefits and resources it will provide. The master plan aims to involve the public and partners who are interested and affected by the management of the forest.

<b>State Forest Master Planning</b>	
Black River .....	Fall 2006
Brule River .....	Completed, 2003
Coulee.....	Spring 2007
Flambeau River .....	Summer 2007
Governor Knowles.....	Summer 2007
Kettle Moraine .....	Upcoming
NH-AL .....	Completed, 2005
Peshtigo River.....	In Progress
Point Beach.....	Upcoming

## **Peshtigo State Forest – A Sampling of Draft Goals for the (in progress) Master Plan**

- Manage the forest using principles of ecosystem management consistent with the ecological capability of the land.
- Provide for a variety of quality outdoor recreational activities with a focus on non-motorized trail uses (e.g., hiking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing), primitive camping and water access.



DNR PHOTO BY DANIEL PETERSON

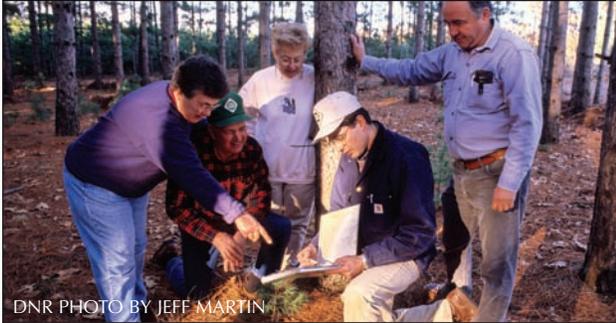


DNR STOCK PHOTO

- ### **Northern Highland–American Legion Master Plan Highlights (Approved October 2005)**
- Develop a Forestry Awareness, Education and Visitor Center.
  - Create a new mountain bike trail, a family paved bike trail, and hiking/backpacking trails.
  - Increase camping capacity.
  - Sustainably manage 93 percent of the potentially productive lands for forest products.
  - All wetlands and lakes will receive a high level of protection.

VISIT THE FOLLOWING WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE STATE FOREST MASTER PLANNING PROCESS • [http://dnr.wi.gov/master\\_planning/](http://dnr.wi.gov/master_planning/)

# PARTNERSHIPS AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT



## PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Public involvement in State Forest management, operations and monitoring is part of sustainable forestry. We seek public involvement because we believe people, communities, organizations, and businesses realize the potential public benefits of State Forests and are willing to work to further the goals of sustainable forestry.

Each State Forest offers an annual public stakeholder meeting to foster open and transparent discussion regarding State Forest management issues. Each meeting communicates annual work plans, including but not limited to, recreation issues and future development projects, proposed timber management activities, insects and disease, wildlife, water issues, and fish management. If a State Forest is in the process of revising its master plan, additional opportunities exist for public input.

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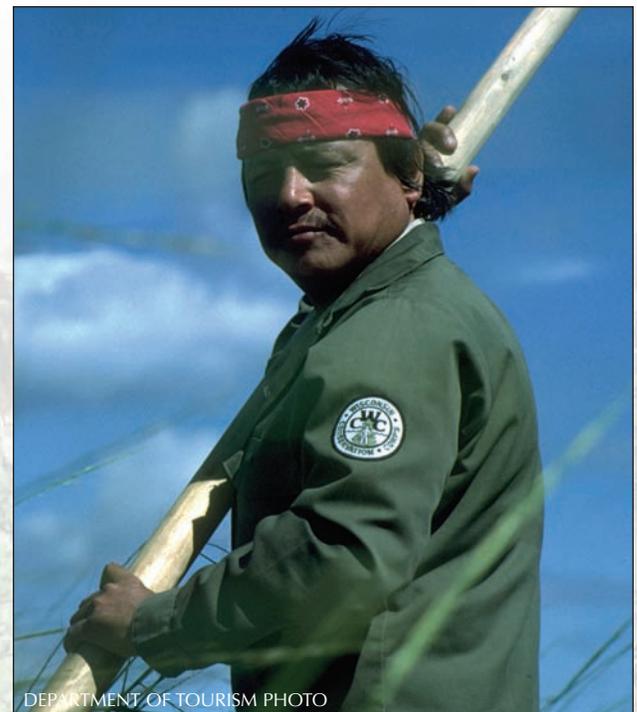
**We seek public involvement because we believe people, communities, organizations, and businesses realize the potential public benefits of State Forests and are willing to work to further the goals of sustainable forestry.**

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## TRIBAL CONSULTATION

Public involvement in State Forest planning and management is a crucial element that leads to sustainable forests. Consultation specifically with tribes is conducted on a government-to-government basis as required under Wisconsin Administrative Code NR 44.04 (7)(c), thereby allowing tribes to share their ideas and concerns about State forestlands.

Planning topics key to tribes include identifying resources included in treaty rights, evaluating potential impacts of management practices on special interest resources, and ways to improve communications between tribes and the Department of Natural Resources. Tribes are asked to participate and comment at each phase of the planning process.

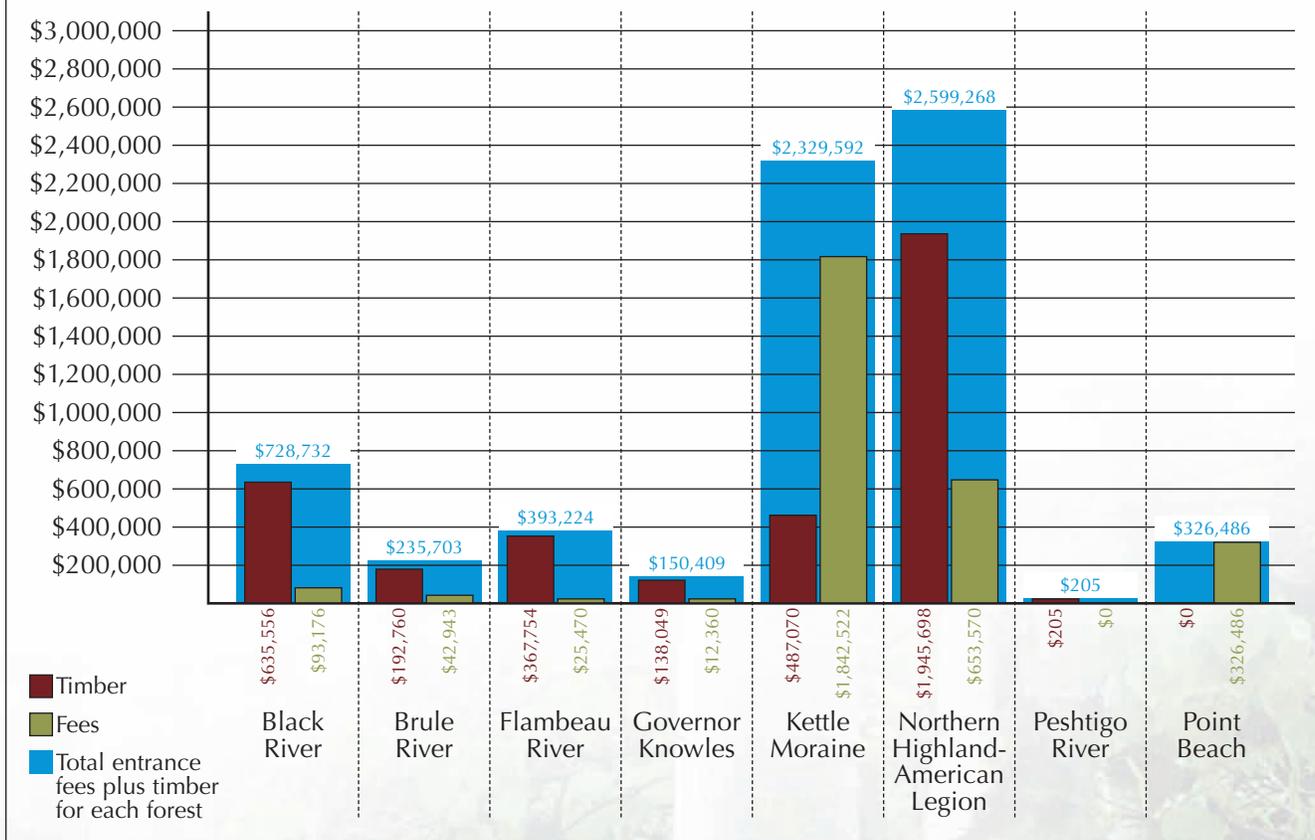


VISIT THE FOLLOWING WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ANNUAL MEETINGS AT A STATE FOREST NEAR YOU • <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/forestry/StateForests/sf-public.htm>

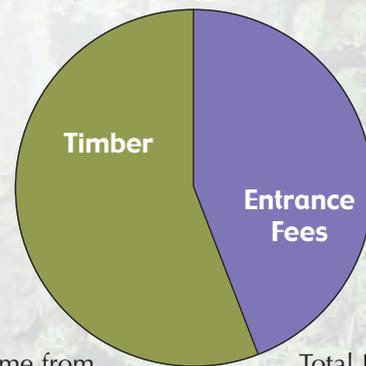
# FISCAL RESOURCES



**2005 Revenue from Entrance Fees and Timber by State Forest**



**Total revenue from State Forests in 2005 from entrance fees and timber exceeded \$6.7 million. The value of the ecosystem services provide — PRICELESS.**



Total Income from Timber  
**\$3,767,092**

Total Income from Entrance Fees  
**\$2,996,527**



Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources - Division of Forestry  
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www.dnr.state.wi.us • (608) 267-7494

COVER PHOTOS:  
ASPEN BACKGROUND - DNR PHOTO BY JEFF MARTIN  
ASPEN LEAF - DNR PHOTO BY DANIEL PETERSON  
WINTER SCENE - DNR STOCK PHOTO  
FALL DRIVING - DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM PHOTO

# STATE FORESTS AND CONTACTS

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## FLAMBEAU RIVER STATE FOREST

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## NORTHERN HIGHLAND-AMERICAN LEGION STATE FOREST

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## PESHTIGO RIVER STATE FOREST

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Dan Mertz, Forester  
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## BLACK RIVER STATE FOREST

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Black River, WI 54615  
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## COULEE EXPERIMENTAL STATE FOREST

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## POINT BEACH STATE FOREST

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## KETTLE MORAIN STATE FORESTS

**Forest Headquarters (North)**  
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Eagle, WI 53119  
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(262) 594-6201  
Paul Sandgren, Superintendent  
sandgp@dnr.state.wi.us

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