



# Wisconsin's Statewide Forest Assessment & Strategy

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# Questions for today...

1. What's the state of Wisconsin's forests?
  - Highlights of the 2010 Statewide Forest Assessment
2. What can we do to address the issues, threats, and opportunities?
  - Statewide Forest Strategy
  - Division of Forestry Strategic Direction



# Assessment, Strategy, Direction, Issues, Priorities... Huh?

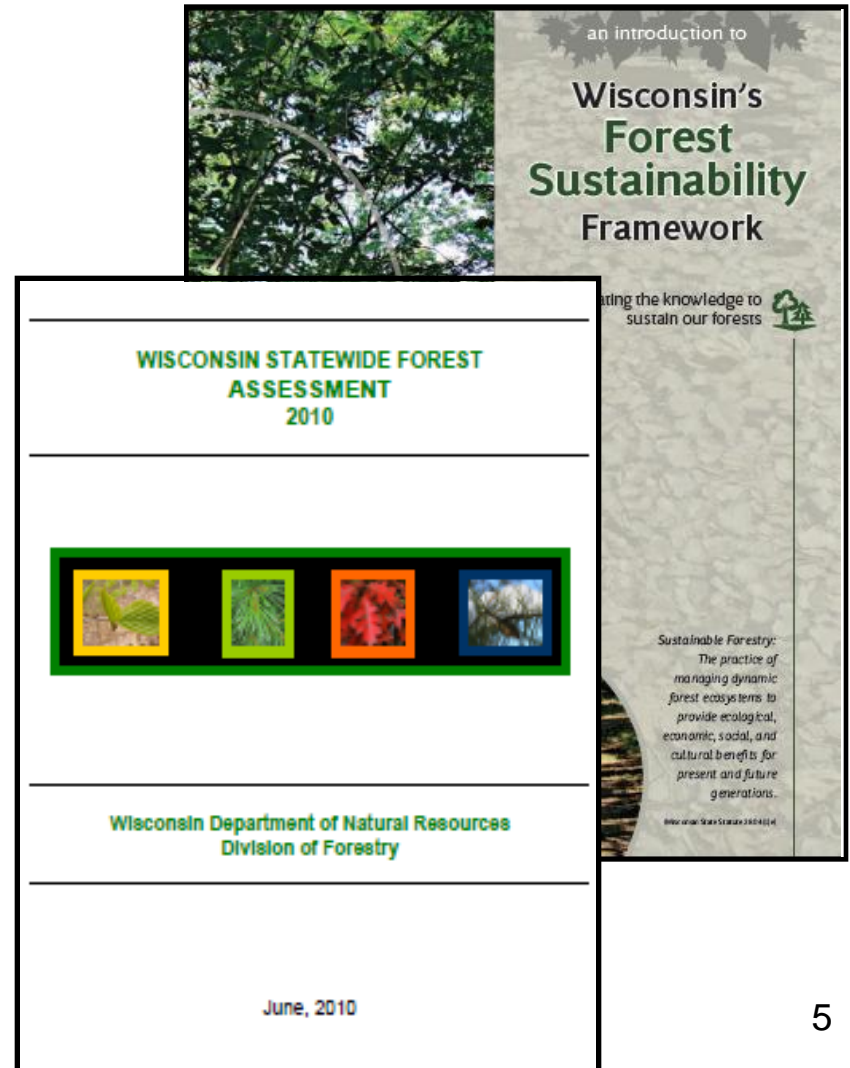
- Statewide Forest Assessment analyzes the state of affairs and identifies issues and threats to our forests every 10 years. [October 2009]
- Statewide Forest Strategy (aka Plan) includes multiple ideas on how the forestry community as a whole can address major issues and priority topics over the next 10 years. [June 2010]
- Division of Forestry Strategic Direction states what the Division of Forestry's niche, role, and actions will be to address major issues and priority topics over the next 5 years. [May 2011]

# Statewide Forest Assessment

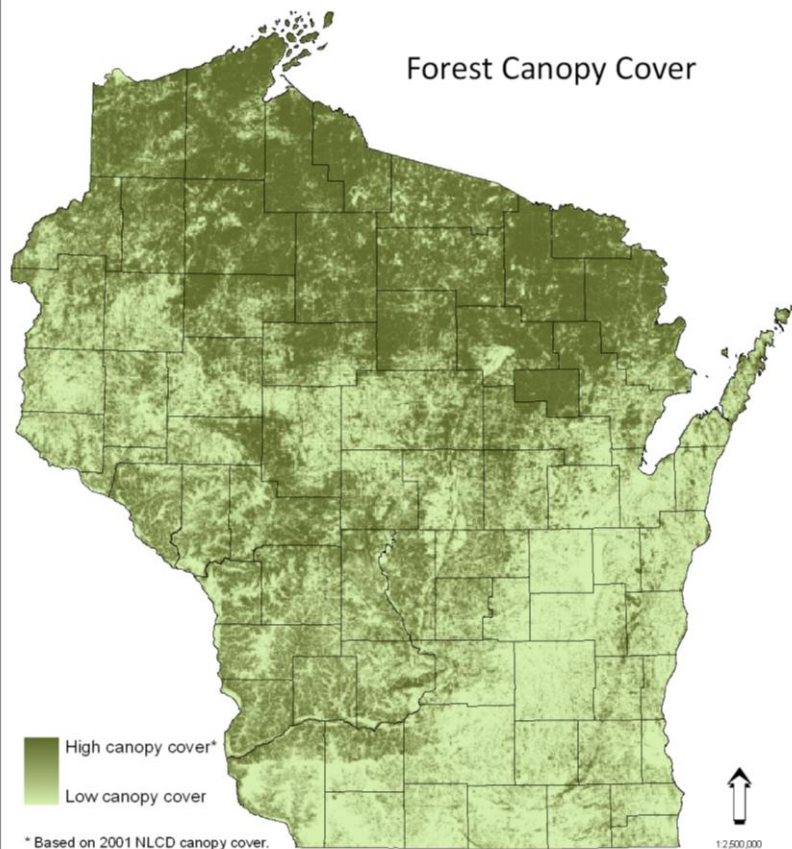


# Step 1: Assess state of the forest

- Current conditions and trends; issues and threats
- All forests in Wisconsin (state, federal, county, local, private, tribal, urban)
- Wisconsin Sustainability Framework as basis



# Forest Area



Over 47% of the state is covered by forests.

	1983 acres	1996 acres	2007 acres
Total Forest Land	15,351,300	15,963,019	16,407,970

(USFS, FIA, 2007)

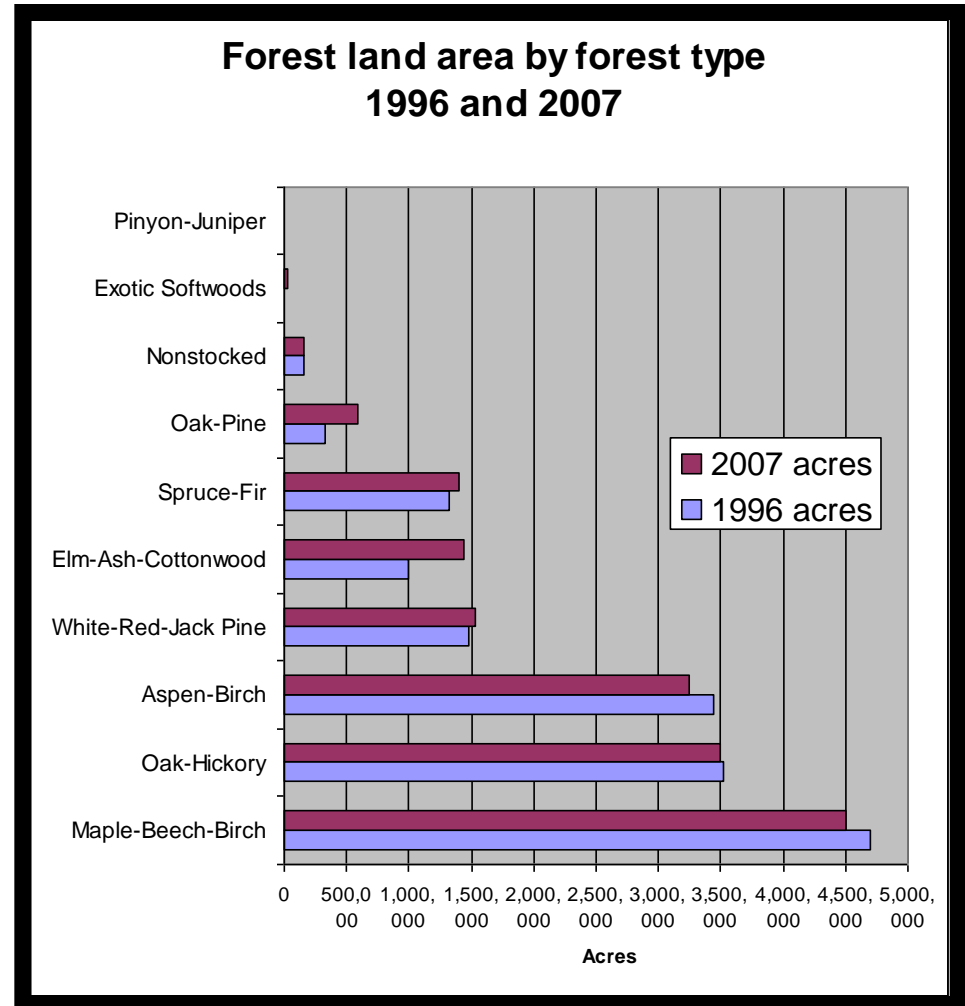
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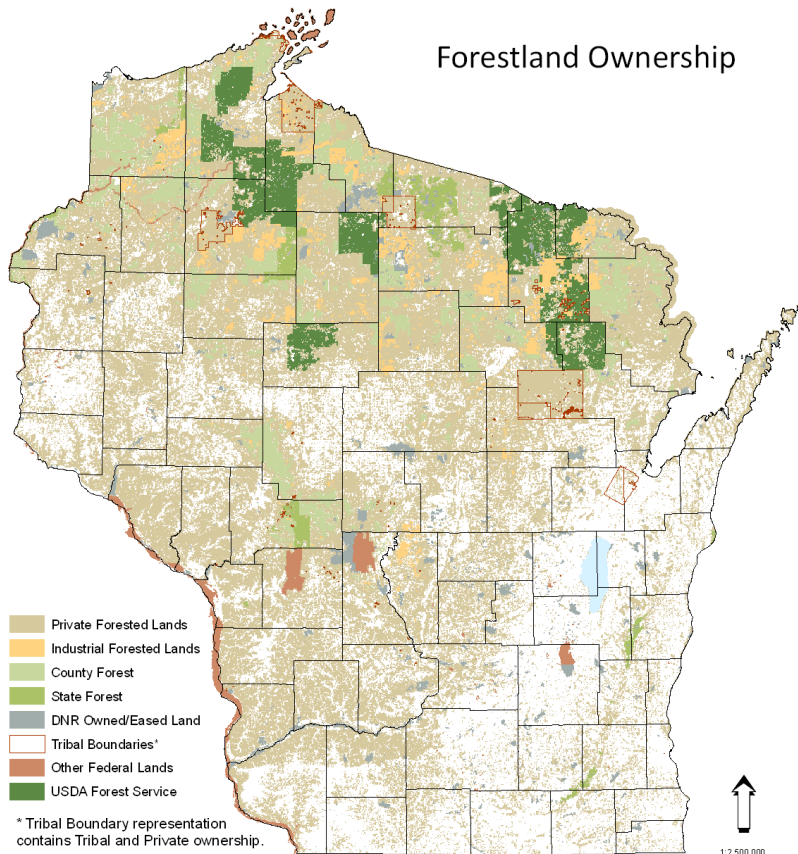
WI Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Forestry  
September 22, 2009

# Forest Composition & Structure

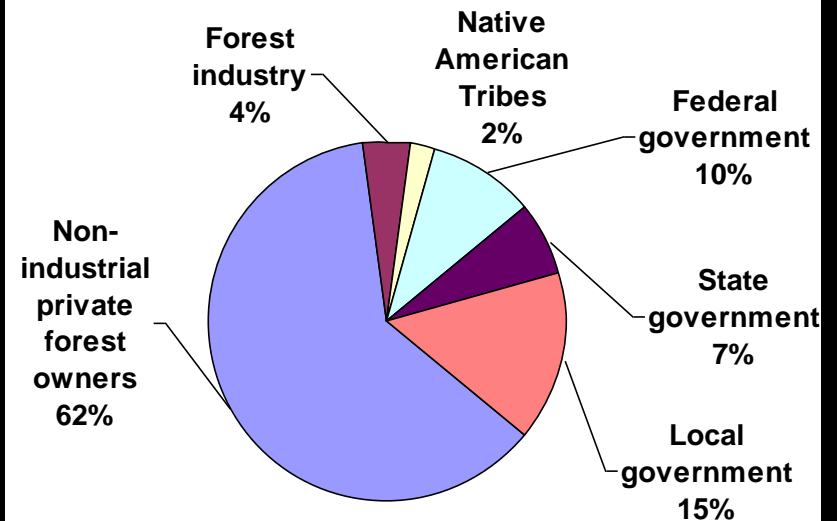
- Current forests are mostly 40-80 years old and even-aged.
- Older forests (greater than 100-120 years old) are rare and continue to decline



# Forest Land Ownership



**Area of Wisconsin Forest Land by Ownership**



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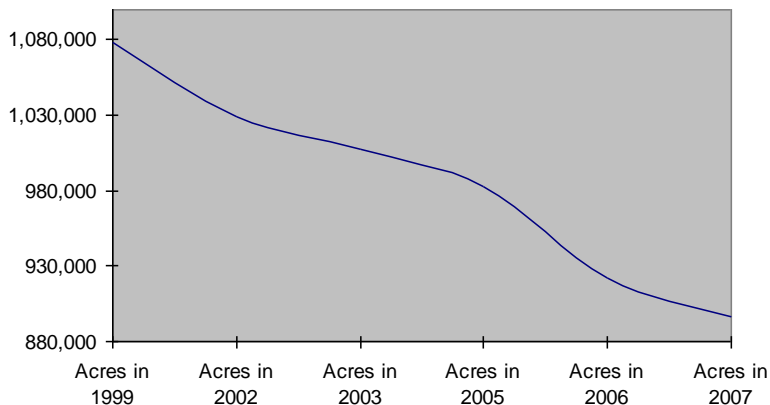


# Forest Land Ownership

37% increase in non-industrial land owners

- 263,000 (1997)
- 362,000 (2006)

Acres in WI Forest Tax Laws under Industrial Status by year



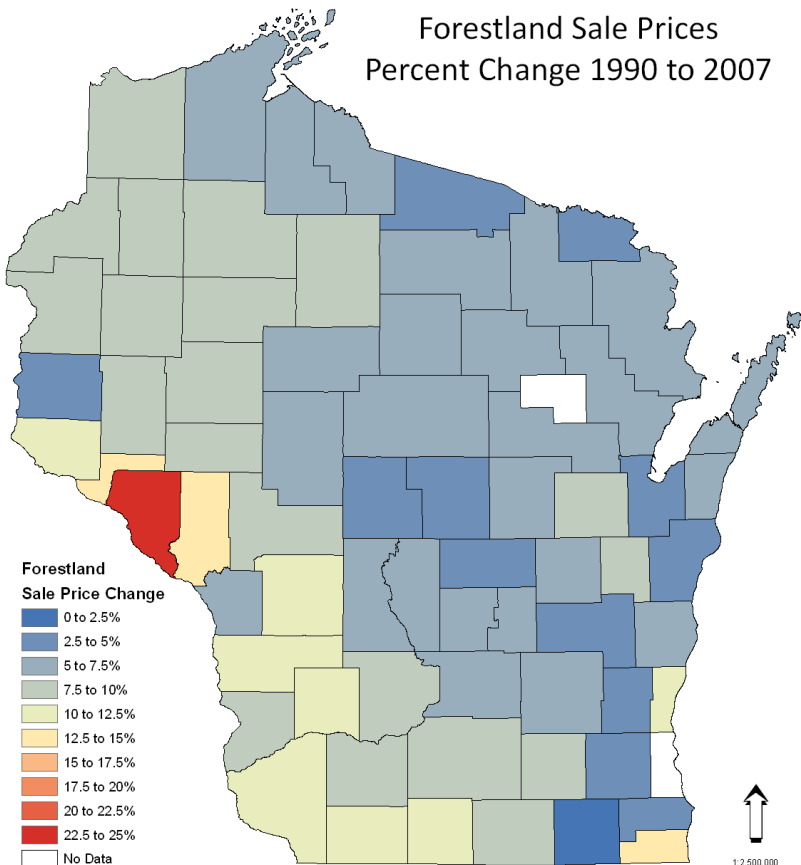
Parcel Size	# Owners (thousands)		
	1997	2006	Change from 1997 to 2006
1-9	92	176	84
10-19	40	46	6
20-49	69	77	8
50-99	37	36	-1
100-199	17	19	2
200-499	7	7	0
500-999	1	1	0
1000-4999	<1	<1	0
≥5000	<1	<1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>99</b>

(USDA, FIA, NWOS, 2006)

# Parcelization & Fragmentation

Statewide, average forest land values increased from \$311/acre to \$2,438/acre in the last seventeen years.

Forestland Sale Prices  
Percent Change 1990 to 2007



## Average parcel size of non-industrial private forest lands

1997

2006

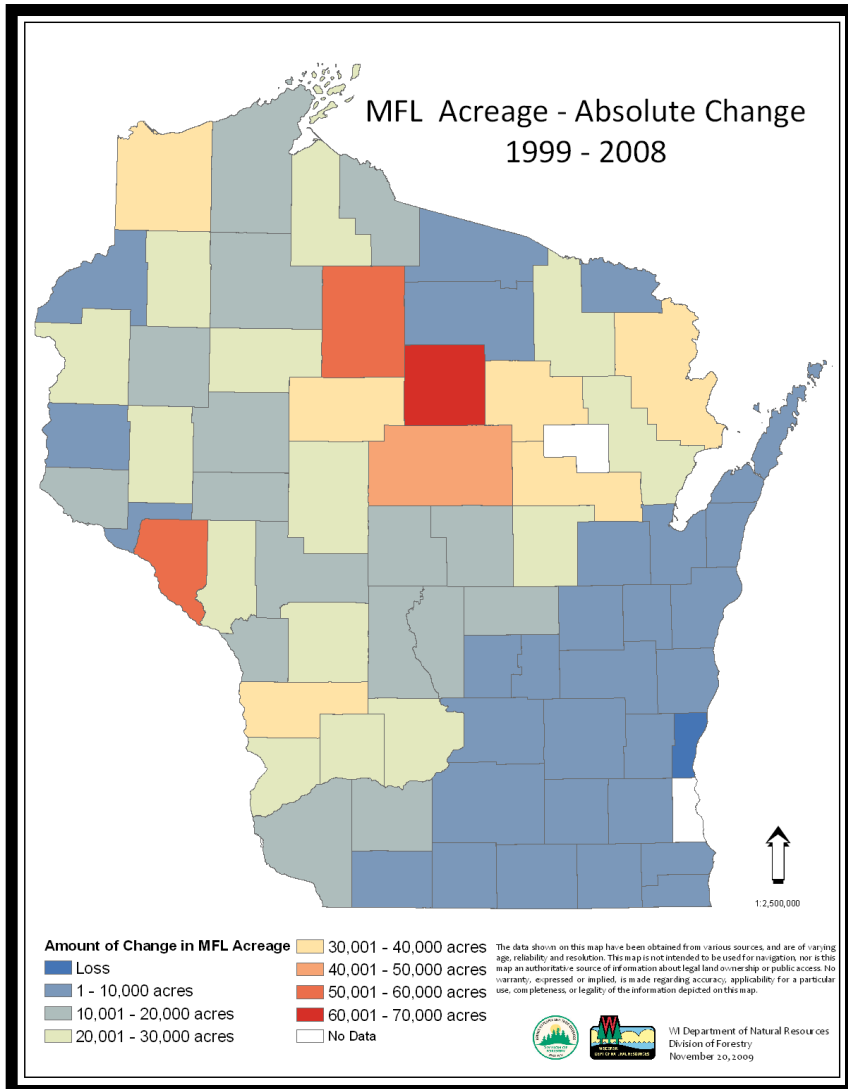
37 acres

28 acres

(USDA, FIA, NWOS, 2006)

# Managed Forest Law

The number and acreage of MFL entry orders more than doubled in ten years.

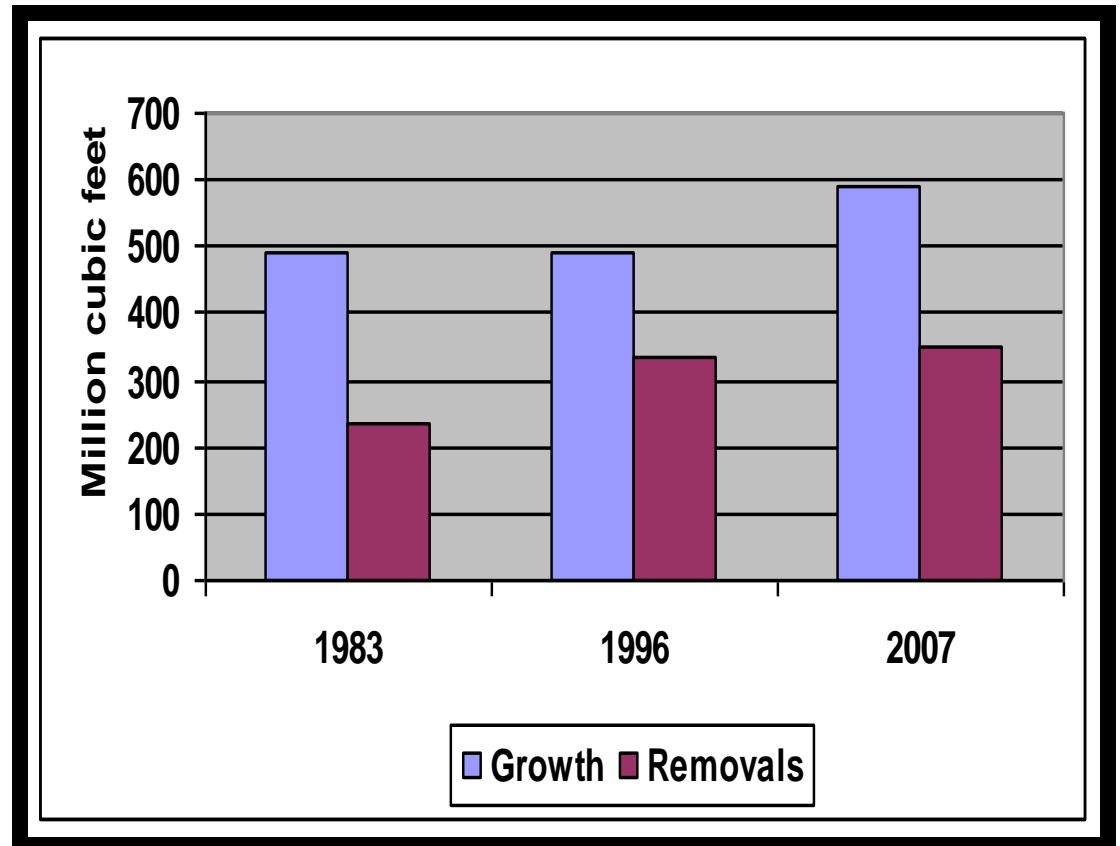


All Landowner Groups	% Change 1999-2009
Number of orders	109%
Open Acres	-1.2%
Closed Acres	153%
Total Acres	59%

# Growth & Removals

Four major commercial species have declined significantly in growing stock volume since 1983:

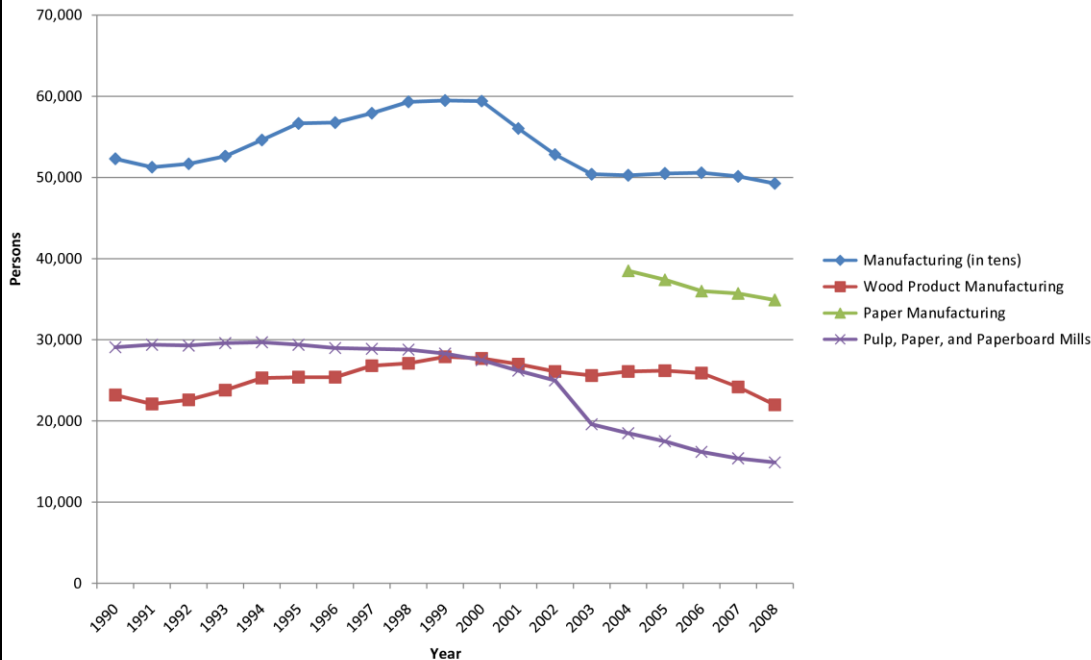
- jack pine  
(45% decline)
- paper birch  
(40% decline)
- balsam fir  
(27% decline)
- quaking aspen  
(14% decline).





# Forest Products Industry

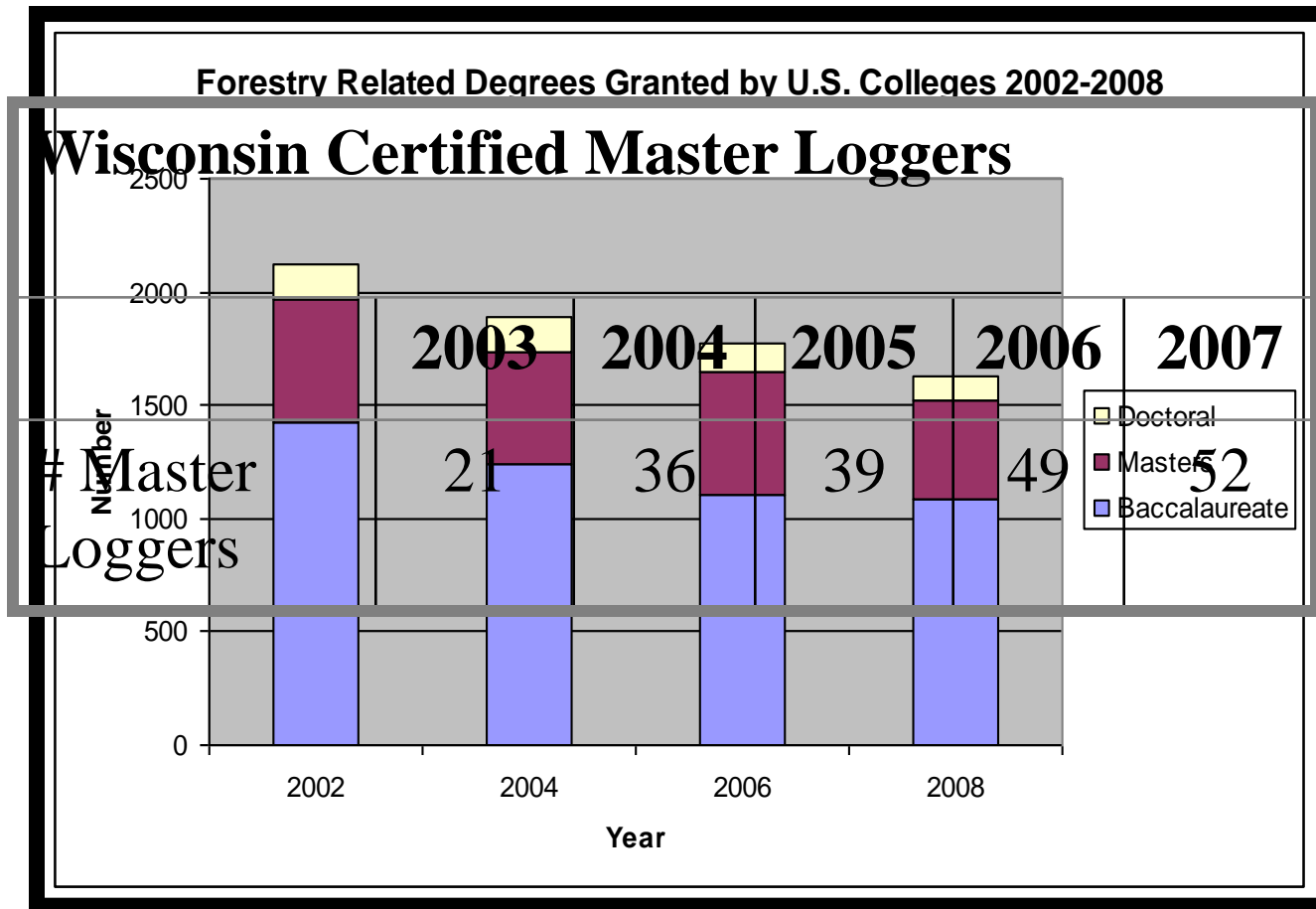
Wisconsin Manufacturing and Wood Related Employment 1990-2008



The total forest products industry payroll dropped 31.6% since its peak in 1996.

Wisconsin remains the #1 paper producer in the nation - for over 50 years.

# Forestry Professionals



## Step 2: Discern major conclusions & Priority issues

- Fragmentation & Parcelization
- Forest Composition & Structure
- Energy & Climate Change
- Forests as Economic Contributor
- Protection of Life & Property in Forested Areas

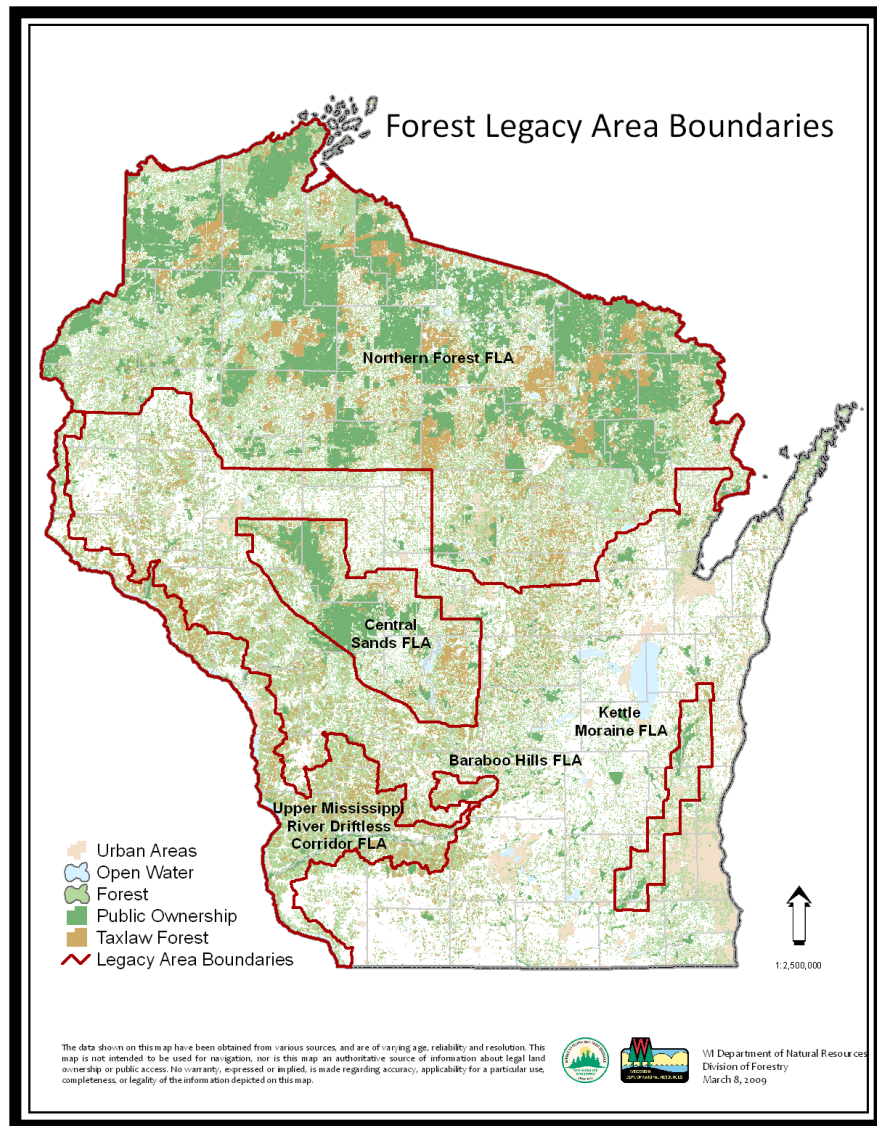


# Statewide Forest Strategy



# Step 3: Articulate Goals & Develop Strategies





## Goal:

Large blocks of forest are maintained/increased

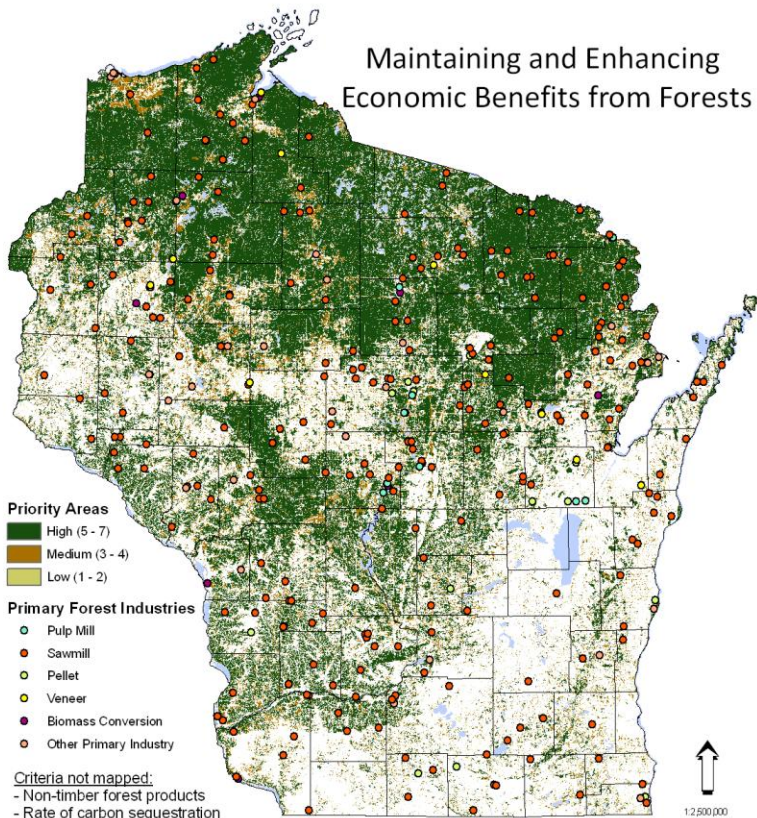
## Strategy:

Pursue the conservation and protection of large, unfragmented blocks of forest lands

## Possible Action:

Provide education and outreach to landowners and the public on the benefits of large blocks of forests.

## Maintaining and Enhancing Economic Benefits from Forests



## Goal:

Wisconsin is a hub of green forest product markets, producing a diversity of value added solid wood, fiber, energy and ecosystem services.

## Strategy:

Support existing forest products companies so that they are competitive domestically and internationally.

## Possible Action:

Develop Great Lakes regional branding to market sustainably produced products.



## Goal:

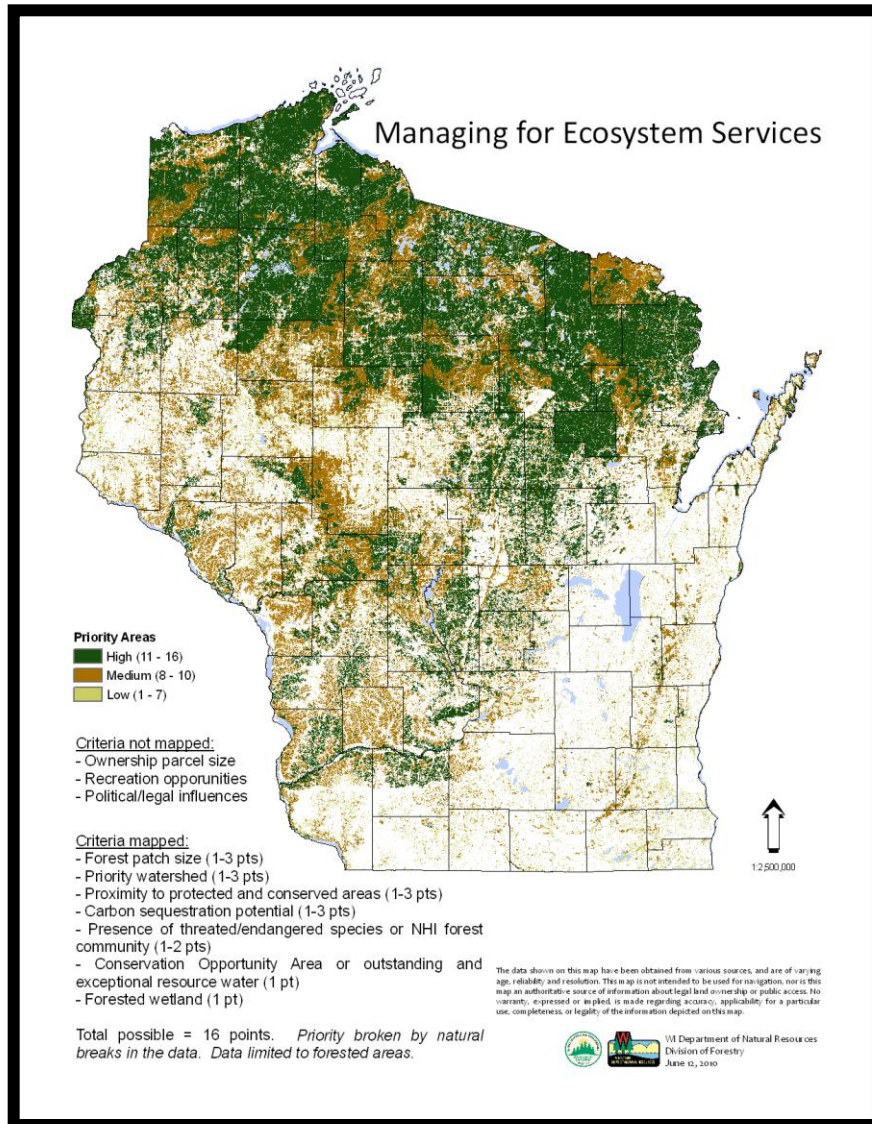
Forest ecosystem services have economic values that are realized and managed to maximize the benefits to society and improve quality of life.

## Strategy:

Improve all forested communities with a landscape management approach that considers the representation of all successional stages

## Possible Action:

Support efforts to address forest conservation in local comprehensive planning and implementation process.

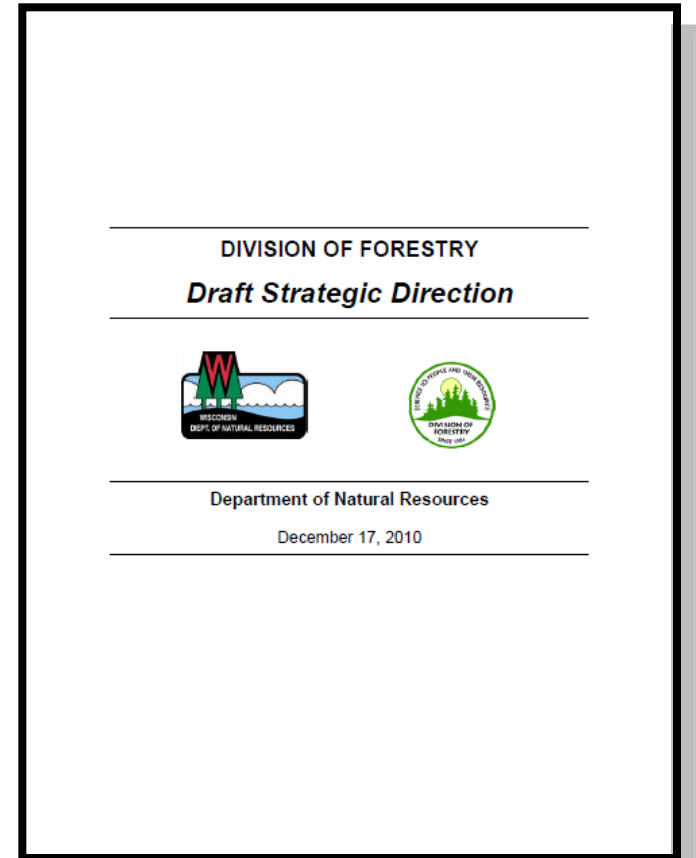




# Division of Forestry's Strategic Direction

# Step 4: Decide on DNR role

- We are an integrated organization.
- We need to leverage our limited resources.
- We adapt to differences across the state.
- We need to increase our collective capacity.
- We need to maximize the value we deliver to our customers – the people of Wisconsin.





# Strategic Direction

- County Forests
- Fire Protection
- Forest Health
- Nurseries
- Private Forestry
- State Lands
- Urban Forests
- Utilization & Marketing
- Cross-program Activities

# County Forests

- Maintain a strong partnership.
- Offer more flexibility.
- Modest reduction in time and/or grants.





# Forest Fire Protection



- Utilize fire landscapes to allocate resources across the state based on hazard and risk.



- Value partnerships in accomplishing mission: fire departments and other agencies.



- Increase investment within co-op and WUI.

# Nurseries

- Scale production to meet seedling demand, in light of private and public sector capacity.
- Increase investment in monitoring reforestation success.



# Private Forestry

- Implement program efficiencies in MFL.
- Increase investment in reaching private landowners who have not received professional assistance.
- Increase use of cooperating foresters.
- Maintain cost-sharing.
- Increase use of conservation easements.



# State Lands

- Meet annual allowable harvest goals.
- Utilize lump-sum sales and contracting, where cost-effective.
- Invest more in reforestation.
- Increase investment in State Forest recreation and law enforcement.





# Utilization and Marketing

- Increase investment in resources to assist existing and new industries.
- Maintain investment in Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA).





# Thank you to our Partners

- Government & Research:

- State Agencies (Agriculture, Wildlife, Endangered Resources, Parks & Rec)
- Federal Agencies (USFS, NRCS)
- Tribes
- Wisconsin County Forest Association
- Regional Planning Commissions
- Universities, Extension Agents
- Conservation Districts

- Private Business:

- Consulting Foresters
- Forest Products Companies
- Wisconsin Paper Council
- Timber Professionals

- Conservation:

- The Nature Conservancy
- Dovetail Partners
- Wildlife groups (e.g., Ruffed Grouse Society)
- Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association

- Advisory Boards:

- Wisconsin Council on Forestry & Council on Urban Forestry
- Stewardship Committee
- Water Quality BMP Advisory Committee

- Others

- Great Lakes Forest Alliance
- Society of American Foresters
- Private forest owners
- And many others...