

# 10 Ways to Protect Your Woodland Property

An Introduction to Wisconsin's Forest Management Guidelines





# 10 Ways to Protect Your Woodland Property: An Introduction to Wisconsin's Forest Management Guidelines

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For additional information, call **608-267-7494** or visit our web site at [www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/forestry/](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/forestry/)

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# FOREWORD

Dear Wisconsin Woodland Owner:

*Wisconsin's Forest Management Guidelines* are designed as a guide to the practice of sustainable forest management in Wisconsin. At their core, these guidelines are designed to ensure that Wisconsin's forest resources are able to meet society's needs today without jeopardizing their ability to provide those same benefits – environmental, economic and social – for future generations. This is what is meant by “sustainable forestry.”

This publication is designed to help you understand the value of your woodland and provide you with sources of information that can help you practice sustainable forestry to achieve the values and benefits you seek from your woodland.

You are a steward of one of Wisconsin's most precious assets. Thank you for taking the time to learn more about how you can sustain this asset long into the future.



Paul DeLong  
State Forester

Paul DeLong  
State Forester



## Are You Prepared?

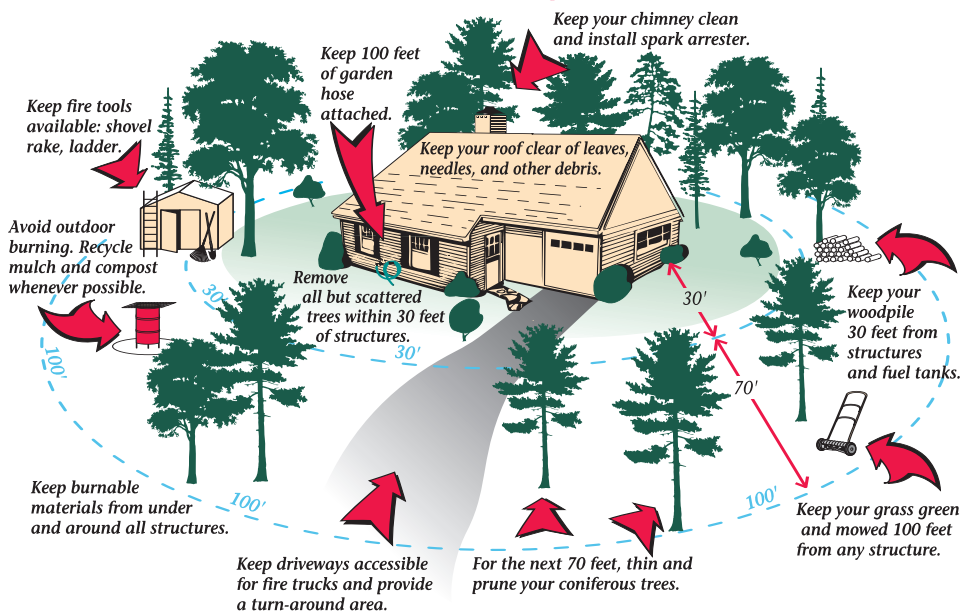


FIGURE PROVIDED BY DNR

*Take some time to think about how you would protect your home from a fire. This diagram shows some simple steps that you can take to create a defensible space around your home that will reduce the threat of a catastrophic wildfire destroying your home, and provide firefighters with the access that they need to defend your family from harm.*

DNR PHOTO BY JEFF MARTIN

# 1

## PROTECTING YOUR WOODLAND FROM FIRE

A lone house in the middle of a forest, a subdivision on the edge of a pine plantation, homes surrounded by grassland – while each of these may seem like very different settings, they are all examples of the Wildland-Urban Interface.

Today, more and more people are moving into these wildland areas without adapting to the possible dangers around them. The addition of structures in areas that have been historically known to burn interrupts the natural cycle of wildfires, and creates a situation where structures can potentially become just another piece of burnable fuel in the event of a wildfire.

To protect your family and property, create a defensible space between your home and an oncoming wildfire. There are a number of simple steps that you can take to reduce the danger to you and your home from wildfire.

- Maintain access trails and roads. Well-maintained roads may slow the spread of a wildfire and allow fire suppression crews to more easily access your property and attack and suppress a wildfire.
- Remove or prune trees so that your driveway is at least 12 feet wide and 15 feet high. This will insure that firefighters can get to your home and outbuildings.
- As you work to create a trail system through your woodland, think about their value as firebreaks. To do this, you will need to remove or reduce flammable natural fuels such as grass and leaves.

Another way you can protect your home is by creating a fire-proof zone around it. Plan a defensible space extending 30 feet around your home as free of combustible fuel as possible.

- Create a fire-resistant landscape by using only deciduous plants.
- Prune the lower limbs of conifers and small trees near larger conifers to reduce “ladder” fuels, and help minimize the potential of catastrophic crown fires.
- Store woodpiles and other flammable materials at least 30 feet away from structures.
- Mow your lawn and keep all vegetation healthy and well-watered, especially during droughts and dry times of the year.
- Regularly clear the roof and gutters of needles, leaves, and other debris.

Finally, be careful with fire. Most wildfires start with a campfire, burning trash, or fireworks.

These are some simple things that you can do to protect your home and woodland from fire. Additional resources for further reading include **Wisconsin Forest Management Guidelines – Chapter 17, Fire Management** and the Department of Natural Resources publication **“Living With Fire – A Guide for Homeowners Living in the Wildland-Urban Interface.”**

# 1

*“Be careful  
with fire.  
Most wildfires  
start with  
a campfire,  
burning trash,  
or fireworks.”*





DNR PHOTO BY PAUL PINGREY

***Walk your property and become familiar with your boundaries. Not long ago, landowners were required to give notice with signs or in person to keep trespassers off their lands. While this notice is no longer necessary (the law was changed in 1995), small rustic signs or other markings may still be useful to prevent trespassing.***

DNR PHOTO BY JEFF MARTIN





## PROTECTING YOURSELF FROM TRESPASSERS AND LIABILITY

Concerns over trespassing are growing for both public and private woodland owners. Sometimes trespassing is intentional and sometimes it isn't. Property boundaries are constantly changing as woodland properties are divided and sold into smaller and smaller lots. Hunters, motorized recreationists, and woodland enthusiasts don't always know where these property boundaries are, which lands they have permission to be on, and which lands they don't.

Under Wisconsin law, you are not required to post "No Trespassing" signs or identify your property boundaries unless your land is surrounded by or borders public lands like a national forest, state wildlife management area, or county park. Any person who enters your land or stays without your specific permission is considered to be trespassing (Wisconsin State Statute 943.13 1997).

What can you do if you are concerned about people trespassing on or damaging your property?

- Identify your property boundaries. Work with a professional surveyor to identify your boundaries.
- Clearly mark your property lines so they can be identified by anyone who might come onto your property.
- If you should come across trespassers, don't lose your temper. Be courteous but firm when you ask them to leave. Clearly identify your property boundary to them, and politely ask them to respect your property. If they will not leave, contact the County Sheriff. Sheriff Deputies are authorized to issue a trespass citation, similar to a traffic citation, to these interlopers.

Your worst nightmare as a landowner is what happens if someone gets hurt while on your land. Woodland owners have certain protections against liability under Wisconsin's Recreation Use Statute, 895.52. Under this statute, landowners (including governmental bodies and non-profit organizations that own, lease, occupy land, or have a recreational agreement with another owner) have certain protections against liability. This important law says that landowners do not have a duty to inspect the property, keep it safe, or give warning of an unsafe condition.

As a landowner, you may be liable for injuries that occur if you allow access to your land and fail to disclose a known hazard or maliciously create one. You are also liable for damages if you accept more than \$2,000 in compensation through a rental or lease agreement for the use of your property for recreational purposes (for more information on liability regarding leases, see state statute 895.52, section (6)(a)). Wisconsin's Recreational Use Statute covers nearly every outdoor recreational activity except organized team sports. Discuss this statute with your insurance provider as you consider protecting yourself and your family from liability for any accidents that could occur in your woodland.

To learn more about Wisconsin's Recreational Use Statute, we recommend reading University of Wisconsin Extension's publication G3326, "**Wisconsin's Recreational Use Statute.**"

***"Your worst nightmare as a landowner is what happens if someone gets hurt while on your land."***





PHOTO BY PHIL PELLITTERI,  
DEPARTMENT OF ENTOMOLOGY,  
UW-MADISON EXTENSION

***Many people relax and refresh themselves by working in their woods. However, remember to take the necessary precautions to protect yourself and your family from serious injuries when using power equipment, like a chain saw, or illnesses that can result from contact with pesticides or insect-borne diseases.***



DNR PHOTO BY JEFF MARTIN



# 3 PROTECTING YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY

It's been a long day. You've been felling trees and clearing brush since early this morning. Your muscles ache, you're tired, hot and sweaty. Just a few more trees to drop and you are done for the day. As you take a moment to rest, you sit down and notice a gash in your chaps. At first it doesn't click, and then suddenly you realize what happened and give thanks that you remembered to wear them. You decide that maybe it is a good time to head for home and pick it up where you left off tomorrow.

A true story and one that is shared by many woodland owners. Power tools like chain saws and pesticides are common tools that woodland owners use regularly to shape their woodlands to meet their goals. Taking the proper precautions and using these tools correctly can insure that you will be able to enjoy your woodland for a long time to come.

What are some things you should consider when working in the woods?

- You should wear the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the job. Whether you are using power equipment or pesticides, wear clothing and equipment designed to protect you from serious injuries or illnesses. The appropriate PPE is listed in the operator's manual for most power equipment and on the pesticide label for all chemicals.

- Always be aware of your surroundings when working in the woods. Look for all standing dead trees, lodged trees and other hazards. Be especially careful when working in an area with uneven ground or felled trees. When working with power equipment, have a "path of retreat" planned in advance. Make sure you know where others are working and that they know where you are. NEVER EVER leave a partially cut tree standing.
- Wear clothing that is appropriate and protects you from common injuries and insects that inhabit your woodland. Wear boots that provide adequate ankle support, sturdy pants and a shirt that cannot be easily penetrated by branches or insect bites. Also, wear light colored clothing so you can see ticks that may be on you, and use an approved tick repellent containing DEET.

It's an old saying but it is still true today – "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

# 3

***"Taking the proper precautions and using these tools correctly can insure that you will be able to enjoy your woodland for a long time to come."***





*DNR PHOTO BY JOHN DUPLISSIS*

***Your woodland is a home to many different animals. Healthy woodlands and wildlife populations are not incompatible goals. Prevent animal damage to your woodland through fencing or other physical barriers to protect plants, or modify existing habitat to encourage wildlife to seek food and shelter on another part of your property.***



*PHOTO FROM CREATIVE.GETTYIMAGES.COM*



## PROTECTING YOUR WOODLAND FROM ANIMAL DAMAGE

Your woodland is a home to many different types of animals, and many of them like your trees almost as much as you do. They use your trees for shelter from summer storms and winter's cold. They build their homes and hide from predators in your trees. Your woodland is their supermarket. They are a natural part of the woodland ecosystem, but sometimes can become a problem.

Wildlife management is often thought of in terms of protecting, enhancing, and nurturing wildlife populations and their habitat. However, sometimes wildlife management means taking action to minimize the damage that these animals can do to your woodland.

Knowing what animal is damaging your trees is the first step to managing the damage. Bucks will rub against young trees in the fall to remove the velvet from their antlers, often shredding the bark and leaving it hanging in strips. Deer and rabbits will also feed on the young green shoots and buds of seedlings. Mice and other rodents will gnaw on the stems of young trees, usually during winter, removing patches of bark. The control method you choose will depend on what is eating your trees.

Your choices include modifying their habitat, exclusion and preventing the damage, and hunting or trapping.

- You can modify the habitat in your woodland to encourage these pests to move somewhere else, away from the area you are trying to protect. Most animals will feed where they feel safe from predators. Removing brush piles, weed patches, junk piles and other dense cover adjacent to tree plantings can help to minimize damage.
- Most animals can be kept out by fencing, but it can be expensive and doesn't always work if it not correctly installed. Repellents can minimize damage to leaves and shoots. However, if no alternative foods are available, repellents sometimes fail to provide protection and are only effective when applied before these animals start to rely on your trees for their food.
- Sometimes you need to manage populations that are out of control by hunting or trapping. When wildlife populations increase to the point where habitat modification, exclusion, and repellents no longer work, you should contact your local Department of Natural Resources wildlife specialist. They can help you get permits for hunting and trapping to reduce populations to a more manageable size so other measures will again become effective.

These are some simple things that you can do to protect your woodland from animal damage. To learn more about the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resource's Wildlife Damage Program, contact your local **Department of Natural Resources wildlife specialist**, or visit Wisconsin's Wildlife Damage Program website at [www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/wildlife/damage/](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/wildlife/damage/).

# 4

*“Your woodland is a home to many different types of animals, and many of them like your trees almost as much as you do.”*





PHOTO © JEFF MARTIN, JMAR FOTO-WERKS,  
WWW.JMARPHOTO.COM

*Don't be afraid to meet with your forester and the logger in the woods before, during, and after harvest activities. These meetings can greatly help the logger understand your goals for the timber harvest, and reassure you that everything is being completed to your satisfaction.*



DNR PHOTO BY PAUL PINGREY



## PROTECTING YOUR WOODLAND FROM DESTRUCTIVE CUTTING PRACTICES

You are enjoying a quiet summer afternoon when there is an unexpected knock at the door. You open the door to find a person who is interested in harvesting some of the trees from your woodland. At first you're not interested, but this person seems very competent and knowledgeable. Their company is harvesting timber from your neighbor's land, and since they are already in the neighborhood, are willing to offer you "top dollar" for your trees. They offer to walk with you through your woods and show you how they would harvest your lands, what trees they would take and what trees they would leave. It all seems very reasonable and before you know it, you have a "handshake agreement" to sell your timber.

Only, things don't turn out quite how you thought they would. The trees you thought would be left are gone. The money you received is far less than what you were offered. You don't know who to contact for help since it was a handshake agreement, and you're not sure who did this to you and your woodland. No, not what you thought would happen at all. Unfortunately, this is a common story that woodland owners across the United States are all too familiar with.

How can you prevent this from happening?

- Don't ever just take someone's word about the value of your woodland. Contact your Department of Natural Resources forester, or one of the industrial or private consulting foresters participating in the Cooperating Forester Program. A professional forester can help you establish a management plan for your property, and put you in touch with a professional logger who will respect

your interests as well as the land. They can also help you develop a harvest and regeneration plan, identify the trees to be harvested, estimate their worth, and administer the harvest to insure that all your concerns are adequately addressed.

- Have a signed contract with the person who is buying your timber. A timber sale contract is a legally binding document that allows both you and the person who is buying your timber to establish and agree upon your expectation for how your woodland will be treated during the harvest. It is your protection against timber theft and liability. It also provides you with recourse if things don't go the way you agreed.
- Before you allow anyone into your woods with a chain saw, contact your DNR forester or the Wisconsin Professional Loggers Association for the names of reputable logging firms in your area. Take the time to talk with them and learn about their business, and ask for references. Make sure that the person you contract with understands your goals for your woodland and how this harvest will help you to achieve them. Things to consider when asking for references include training and continuing education, experience working with woodland owners, machinery that they will be using, and proof of liability insurance.

These are some simple things that you can do to protect your woodland and wallet from destructive cutting practices. To learn more about planning a timber harvest, we recommend reading **Wisconsin Forest Management Guidelines – Chapter 12, Timber Harvesting** as well as University of Wisconsin Extension's publication GWQ036, "**Conducting a Successful Timber Harvest.**"

*"Don't ever  
just take  
someone's word  
about the  
value  
of your  
woodland."*





PHOTO BY PHIL PELLITTERI,  
DEPARTMENT OF ENTOMOLOGY,  
UW-MADISON EXTENSION

***Learn what does and does not belong in your woodland. Some invasive plants will choke out all the surrounding vegetation and take over your woodland. Other species, like these gypsy moth caterpillars, eat the leaves of oak, aspen and birch trees. Heavy defoliation repeated over a series of years will lead to a serious decline in health that may eventually lead to death.***



DNR PHOTO BY JEFF MARTIN



## KEEPING NON-NATIVE INVASIVE SPECIES OUT OF YOUR WOODLAND

Your woodland is being invaded. Non-native plants, animals, insects, and diseases are making themselves at home in your woodland, and creating conditions that favor their survival over native plants and animals. The truly frightening thing is that these invaders look like a natural part of your woodland, and you probably don't even know that they are there. You would expect to see green, leafy plants with plentiful, dark, glossy berries, gray and white moths, and iridescent beetles, but these particular plants and insects don't belong here.

Some people may ask, "Why worry? Isn't one plant or insect the same as another?" No, not at all. A forest ecosystem is made up of many different parts. When one part of the ecosystem is "sick," then the whole ecosystem suffers. When native plants are displaced by foreign invaders the insects and animals that relied on that plant for food and shelter must move on to another part of the forest where they can find what they need to sustain their life. Also, since these plants aren't from around here, the insects, disease, and animals that would normally keep their population in check aren't here to do that job so these populations explode and reshape the forest to suit their needs.

What can you do?

- Identify which species belong in your woodland and which do not. You can learn more about specific non-native invasive species at the USDA's Invasive Species website at [www.aphis.usda.gov/oa/invasive/invasive.html](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/oa/invasive/invasive.html).
- Manage the spread of these non-native invasive species on your property through mechanical, chemical or biological techniques. An excellent resource is the **Nature Conservancy's Weed Control Methods Handbook**. You can contact them or visit their Weed Control Methods Handbook website at <http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu/handbook.html>.
- Work to re-establish the original vegetation. While it is important to control the spread of non-native invasive species, it is even more important to maintain a healthy and diverse natural forest ecosystem that can help you fight off these invaders.

These are some simple things that you can do to protect your woodland from non-native invasive species. But most important of all, be careful to avoid introducing these pests into your woodland by planting non-native trees and shrubs, by accidentally carrying insects and diseases from quarantined areas, or by just giving up and allowing them to spread to your neighbor's property and beyond.

*"Your  
woodland  
is  
being  
invaded."*





DNR PHOTO BY JEFF MARTIN

***Many landowners treasure the ponds and streams that cross their property. By minimizing the impact of trails and roads that cross your woodland, you can protect these water resources by building structures and encouraging vegetation to filter out sediments that can harm these water resources.***



PHOTO © JEFF MARTIN, JMAR FOTO-WERKS, WWW.JMARPHOTO.COM



# 7 PROTECTING WATER QUALITY

Forests provide many benefits, not the least of which is clean water. Forests filter rain and melting snow, and allow water to slowly soak into the soil or gently flow overland into lakes and streams. One of the most important and fragile areas of any forest are its riparian areas.

A riparian area is the area of land and water forming a transition from aquatic to terrestrial ecosystems along streams, lakes and open water wetlands. Riparian areas are among the most important and diverse parts of forest ecosystems. They support high soil moisture and a diverse association of plants and animals, and perform important ecological functions that link aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems.

Riparian management zones help to protect these areas by filtering sediment and nutrients from runoff which allows water to soak into the ground. Riparian vegetation can help to stabilize streambanks and lakeshores and reduce soil erosion because their roots hold the soil together, making it more difficult for waves, currents, and runoff to wash the soil away. Trees shade streams – keeping the water from becoming too warm for aquatic life in the summer.

What can you do to protect these areas?

- Use the least disruptive methods possible in or around water and the adjacent riparian areas. Think twice before using mechanical methods that disturb the soil. Also, be very careful when using pesticides in riparian areas to insure these chemicals do not get into the water.

- Become familiar with *Wisconsin's Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality*. Forest management activities, especially harvesting timber, have the potential to directly impact water quality by washing exposed soils and waste products into lakes, streams, and wetlands. Following these guidelines can help you protect the water quality on your property.
- Find out if you need a permit for any forest management activity near a lake, stream or wetland. Examples of management activities that may require permits include:
  - Stream Crossings
  - Grading
  - Management Activities in a Wetland or Floodplain
  - Timber Harvesting in a Riparian Zone
  - Prescribed Burning

These are some simple things that you can do to protect and enhance the quality of the water resource in and around your woodland. To learn more about protecting water resources on your property, we recommend reading **Wisconsin Forest Management Guidelines – Chapter 5, Riparian Areas and Wetlands** and **Wisconsin's Forestry Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Water Quality**.

# 7

*“One of the most important and fragile areas of any forest are its riparian areas.”*





*DNR PHOTO BY JEFF MARTIN*

*Soil is so much more than dirt. Your trees root down into and depend on it for water and nutrients. By protecting the soil on your property from compaction and erosion, you can insure the health and vigor of your woodland.*



*DNR PHOTO BY JEFF MARTIN*



## PROTECTING SOIL RESOURCES

Have you ever walked through the woods and come upon a fenceline? As you look across the fence, you see cattle grazing under the trees taking shelter from the heat of a summer afternoon. As you watch the cows, you notice something else – the woods on each side of the fence look very different. On your side there is a lush, green understory – on the other is a mixture of bramble and briar. On your side the trees look healthy and vigorous – on the other the stems are damaged, the crowns look thin with numerous dead branches, and many of the trees show signs of disease and decay. What is the difference?

The compaction of soil and the corresponding inability of soils to absorb rainfall, increased runoff, the loss of topsoil and leaf litter, and the exposure of roots to mechanical damage caused by hoof, foot, tire or skis can all lead to a decline in the health of your woodland. Forest soils play an important role in the life of your woodland. Soil is the fundamental resource of the forest, and it is the key component in determining the quality of your woodland and its ability to support plant growth.

As soil productivity declines, it limits the types of tree species that will grow on a site as well as their growth. Compacted or highly-eroded soils are far less productive and may not be able to support the trees and shrubs that would normally thrive on your site.

What can you do to protect the productivity of your forest soils?

- Keep livestock out of your woodland.
- When building roads or trails, minimize their number, width and length. Locate trails to follow the natural contour of the land.
- Where possible, locate roads on well-drained soils and select trail locations that allow for drainage away from the road.
- Limit the slope of a trail to less than 10 percent and break the grade using drainage structures.
- Construct diversion ditches or berms, divert water away from roads and side ditches, and channel it into vegetation.
- Use mulch and/or seed where necessary to minimize soil erosion into streams, lakes and wetlands.

These are some simple things that you can do to protect the soil and health of your woodland. To learn more about protecting soil resources, we recommend reading **Wisconsin Forest Management Guidelines – Chapter 11, Forest Road Construction and Maintenance**.

*“Forest soils  
play an  
important role  
in the life  
of your woodland.”*





DNR PHOTO BY JEFF MARTIN

*Your woodland is at the mercy of things beyond your control. Protecting the health of your forest means insuring that your property is a place where woodland plants can thrive and grow – no matter what happens.*



DNR PHOTO BY JEFF MARTIN



## PROTECTING THE HEALTH OF YOUR WOODLAND

All woodland owners would like to have a healthy forest. Healthy forests are able to withstand or recover from insect and disease outbreaks and extreme weather conditions. Healthy forests are sustainable and provide stability to the soil. They also provide habitat for wildlife and many microorganisms that play an important role in the food chain. Healthy forests come in many varieties, and forests are constantly changing. How can you tell if your forests are healthy?

You can monitor the health of your woodland by simply getting to know them better. Walking through the woods at the same time each growing season, preferably in June or July, when most important stress-related symptoms occur, can provide you with a “snap shot” of the health of your forest. You can even establish areas or grouping of trees, scattered throughout your woodland to visit each summer and look for signs of trouble. There are three key symptoms that indicate a problem may be brewing in your woodland.

- Step back and view the silhouette of your tree’s crown. If there are dead branches sticking out of the upper part of the crown, this is a sign that there may be problems.
- See how much sunlight is filtering down to the forest floor. Is there an extraordinary amount of light coming through the crown because leaves are missing? If the crown is missing leaves, you may have an insect in your woodland that is eating the foliage, or a fungal disease that is infecting the leaves and causing them to fall prematurely.

- What color are the leaves or needles? Are they yellow or perhaps even tan or brown? Leaf and needle color are related to the soil condition, and can warn of problems such as soil nutrient imbalances, soil compaction, root diseases or stem cankers (sores).

Remember that a healthy forest is not free of insects, diseases, dead trees and yellow leaves. Some insects serve as food for birds, and fungi are necessary to recycle wood into soil. Dead trees provide habitat for birds and small mammals and a wide range of insects. Sudden changes such as a dramatic increase in dieback, transparency and foliage color should alert you to seek assistance in diagnosing the health of your woodland.

What can you do? The best methods for protecting the health of your woodland are tied to following a management plan that gives your trees adequate sunlight and moisture to grow. Recommendations for management of insect and disease outbreaks should take an integrated approach that mixes the removal of diseased, dying and dead trees, the use of chemicals to manage insect populations, modification of your woodland to favor tree species that are resistant to these pests, and creating habitat or conditions that favor their predators allowing nature to manage these pests for you.

To learn more about protecting the health of your woodland, see the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resource’s Forest Health Protection website at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/Forestry/FH/index.htm>.

*“Healthy forests  
come in  
many varieties,  
and forests are  
constantly changing.  
How can  
you tell  
if your forests  
are healthy?”*





DNR PHOTO BY JEFF MARTIN

***Simple measures such as seeding a logging road can be as important to aesthetic quality as they are to water quality or wildlife habitat. Through careful planning, you can minimize the visual impacts of your forestry operations. You can also enhance the scenic value of your woodland by managing for a variety of species of all shapes and sizes, as well as spring flowers and fall leaf colors.***



DNR PHOTO BY JEFF MARTIN



## PROTECTING THE SCENIC BEAUTY OF YOUR WOODLAND

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder. This is as true for your woodland as it is for everything else. Some woodland owners prefer the uniform neatness of pine trees planted in rows, while others enjoy the random effects of varying sizes and species in a stand that is more natural-appearing. There is a richness that the changing seasons bring as colors change and texture is added to the landscape. There is no simple formula to measure the “visual quality” of your woodland. However, there are some simple things that you can do to protect and enhance the scenic beauty of your woodland.

You can manage your woodland to provide a maximum of privacy and a minimum of intrusions from the outside world. Locate your driveway and other entrance roads to limit the amount of noise and traffic you can see from your home or hiking trails. They don’t have to be straight. Let them curve through your woodland by following the natural contour of the land.

You can manage your woodland for a variety of species. Remember, each species is distinctive. They each have their own shape and branching pattern; the color of their bark and leaves or needles are unique as well as the color of their foliage in the fall. Also, you can manage for a variety of sizes. Manage for a mixture of trees of different heights and diameters. Breaking up the sightlines in your woods will create a pleasing vista, and helps you to see the blend of shape and colors that are there.

You can landscape your woodland to create screens to protect your privacy, limit noise, and decrease dust from the road.

- Plant a mixture of native trees and shrubs using both leaf and needle trees.
- Arrange them so they overlap with surrounding vegetation.
- Choose some plants that flower in the spring and others that have bright colors in the fall.
- Make sure there are some evergreens so you can enjoy their protection even after the leaves fall from the other trees.

You can also manage your woodland to enhance wildlife habitat and create wildlife viewing opportunities.

- You can manage to create sheltered areas where a variety of wildlife can rest and eat.
- You can manage to insure there are areas that provide cover from predators so they can rest and eat in peace.
- You can also plant native trees and shrubs to create a woodland buffet of seeds, fruits, and nuts to attract a variety of different wildlife species throughout the year.

These are some simple things that you can do to protect and enhance the scenic beauty of your woodland. To learn more about protecting the visual quality of your woodland, we recommend reading **Wisconsin Forest Management Guidelines – Chapter 4, Visual Quality** as well as University of Wisconsin Extension’s publication G3762, **“Woodland Visions – Appreciating and Managing Forests for Scenic Beauty.”**

*“Beauty is in  
the eye of  
the beholder.  
This is as true  
for your woodland  
as it is for  
everything else.”*



# SOURCES

## SOURCES OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

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There are a number of sources of technical assistance for Wisconsin's woodland owners. These include environmental organizations, habitat management organizations, landowner organizations as well as foresters employed by the Department of Natural Resources or professionals participating in the Cooperating Forester Program, private consultants, and forest industry.

### UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN EXTENSION

- **UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN EXTENSION**  
<http://cecommerce.uwex.edu/>
- **WOODLAND OWNER ASSISTANCE**  
<http://basineducation.uwex.edu/woodland/index.htm>  
[www.uwsp.edu/cnr/woodlandmg/index.htm](http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/woodlandmg/index.htm)

### GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

- **WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**  
PHONE: 608-267-7494  
<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/forestry/>
- **NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE**  
PHONE: 608-662-4422  
[www.nrcs.usda.gov/](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/)

### WISCONSIN'S WOODLAND OWNER ORGANIZATIONS

- **AMERICAN TREE FARM® SYSTEM**  
Wisconsin Tree Farm Committee  
PHONE: 715-445-5991  
EMAIL: [wtfc@athenet.net](mailto:wtfc@athenet.net)  
[www.treefarmssystem.org/](http://www.treefarmssystem.org/)
- **WISCONSIN WOODLAND OWNERS ASSOCIATION**  
PHONE: 715-346-4798  
EMAIL: [nbozek@uwsp.edu](mailto:nbozek@uwsp.edu)  
[www.wisconsinwoodlands.org](http://www.wisconsinwoodlands.org)
- **ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**
  - **THE NATURE CONSERVANCY**  
PHONE: 608-251-8140  
<http://nature.org/>
  - **GATHERING WATERS**  
PHONE: 608-251-9131  
[www.gatheringwaters.org/index.html](http://www.gatheringwaters.org/index.html)

### HABITAT MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATIONS

- **WHITETAILS UNLIMITED**  
PHONE: 920-743-6777  
[www.whitetailsunlimited.com/](http://www.whitetailsunlimited.com/)
- **DUCKS UNLIMITED**  
PHONE: 734-623-2000  
[www.ducks.org/](http://www.ducks.org/)
- **RUFFED GROUSE SOCIETY**  
PHONE: 412-262-4044  
[www.ruffedgrousesociety.org/](http://www.ruffedgrousesociety.org/)
- **TROUT UNLIMITED**  
PHONE: 703-522-0200  
[www.wisconsintrout.org/](http://www.wisconsintrout.org/)
- **PHEASANTS FOREVER**  
PHONE: 1-877-773-2070  
[www.pheasantsforever.org/](http://www.pheasantsforever.org/)
- **NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION**  
PHONE: 1-800-843-6983  
[www.nwtf.org/](http://www.nwtf.org/)



## SUGGESTED PUBLICATIONS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

**A Landowners Guide to Woodland Wildlife Management** – Available through University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension Publications, PO Box 342831 Milwaukee, WI 53234-2831 or toll-free at **1-877-WIS-PUBS (1-877-947-7827)**. Also available for download on the internet at <http://cecommerce.uwex.edu/pdfs/G3578.PDF>.

**Approaches to Ecologically Based Forest Management on Private Lands** – Written by John Kotar. Available through University of Minnesota Extension Distribution Center, 405 Coffey Hall, 1420 Eckles Avenue, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN 55108-6068 or toll-free at **1-800-876-8636**. Also available for download on the internet at [www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/misc/ecoforest/ecoforest.pdf](http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/misc/ecoforest/ecoforest.pdf)

**Conducting a Successful Timber Sale** – Available through University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension Publications, PO Box 342831 Milwaukee, WI 53234-2831 or toll-free at **1-877-WIS-PUBS (1-877-947-7827)**. Also available for download on the internet at <https://cecommerce.uwex.edu/pdfs/gWQ036.pdf>.

**Country Acres** – Written by Lowell Klessig and Mike Kroenke. Available through University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension Publications, PO Box 342831 Milwaukee, WI 53234-2831 or toll-free at **1-877-WIS-PUBS (1-877-947-7827)**. Also available for download on the internet at <http://cecommerce.uwex.edu/pdfs/G3309.PDF>.

**Forest Soils of Wisconsin: An Overview** – Available through University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension Publications, PO Box 342831 Milwaukee, WI 53234-2831 or toll-free at **1-877-WIS-PUBS (1-877-947-7827)**. Also available for download on the internet at <https://cecommerce.uwex.edu/pdfs/G3452.PDF>.

**Outdoor Hazards in Wisconsin: A Guide to Noxious Insects, Plants and Wildlife** – Available through University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension Publications, PO Box 342831 Milwaukee, WI 53234-2831 or toll-free at **1-877-WIS-PUBS (1-877-947-7827)**. Also available for download on the internet at <https://cecommerce.uwex.edu/pdfs/G3564.PDF>.

**Understanding the Sample Timber Sale Contract** – Written by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association, and University of Wisconsin Extension. Available through University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension Publications, PO Box 342831 Milwaukee, WI 53234-2831 or toll-free at **1-877-WIS-PUBS (1-877-947-7827)**. Also available for download on the internet at <http://forest.wisc.edu/extension/publications/94.pdf>.

**Wisconsin's Forest Management Guidelines** – For a copy of this publication on CD, contact the Division of Forestry at **608-267-7494** or your local Department of Natural Resources forester. Also available for download on the internet at [www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/forestry/Publications/Guidelines/toc.htm](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/forestry/Publications/Guidelines/toc.htm).

**Woodland Stewardship** – Written by Baughman, Alm, Reed, Eiber, and Blinn. Available through University of Minnesota Extension Distribution Center, 405 Coffey Hall, 1420 Eckles Avenue, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN 55108-6068 or toll-free at **1-800-876-8636**.

**Woodland Visions** – Written by Lowell Klessig. Available through University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension Publications, PO Box 342831 Milwaukee, WI 53234-2831 or toll-free at **1-877-WIS-PUBS (1-877-947-7827)**. Also available for download on the internet at <https://cecommerce.uwex.edu/pdfs/G3762.PDF>.



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*The purpose of this publication is to inform and not to advise.*

*It is recommended that you seek professionals knowledgeable about the specifics of your woodland prior to implementing forest management activities on your property.*

This publication is available from  
**Wisconsin Department  
of Natural Resources  
Division of Forestry  
PO Box 7921  
Madison, Wisconsin 53707**

For additional information,  
call **608-267-7494**  
or visit our web site at  
[www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/forestry/](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/forestry/)

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# **10 Ways to Protect Your Woodland Property: An Introduction to Wisconsin's Forest Management Guidelines**

By John G. DuPlissis

College of Natural Resources, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

**UW  
Extension**