

WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON FORESTRY

Tony Evers, Governor

councilonforestry.wi.gov

Fact Sheet

2025

Background and organization: Appointed by the Governor, the Wisconsin Council on Forestry is a diverse group of leaders in the forestry community who direct Wisconsin's efforts to achieve sustainable forestry. Members include the state forester, elected officials with the state senate and assembly and representatives of forest products industries, professional societies, education and non-governmental organizations.

The Council was created by State Statute 26.02 in July 2002 to advise the governor, legislature, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Department of Commerce, and other state agencies on a host of forestry issues in the state, including:

- The practice of sustainable forestry, as defined in s. 28.04 (1) (e)
- Protection of forests from fire, insects, and disease
- Reforestation and forest genetics
- Management and protection of urban forests
- Public knowledge and awareness of forestry issues
- Forestry research
- Economic development and employment in the forestry industry
- Marketing and use of forest products
- Legislation affecting management of Wisconsin's forest lands
- Staffing and funding needs for forestry programs conducted by the state

The Council meets at least four times a year at locations around the state. Public notices with an agenda are posted on Council's webpage and sent out through Wisconsin Gov delivery.

Reports and Issues: The Council prepares a biennial report on the status of the state's forest resources and forest industry and Council activities. The 2023 – 2024 biennial report will be available after June 1, 2025. Past reports can be found here: <https://councilonforestry.wi.gov/Pages/BiennialReport.aspx>

Recent issues addressed by the Council include:

- Forestry Considerations for Wisconsin's 2025-2027 State Budget: The Council sent Governor Evers a letter urging him to maintain essential investments in forestry programs and consider increasing or adding funding for important initiatives. <https://councilonforestry.wi.gov/Pages/BudgetPapers.aspx>
- Communicated and stressed the importance of needed actions that support forest health. <https://councilonforestry.wi.gov/Pages/ForestHealth.aspx>
- Expressed continuing support for the Agricultural Road Improvement Program. https://councilonforestry.wi.gov/Documents/WI%20CoF%20ARIP%20Support%2012_11_24.pdf
- Submitted comments to the USDA Forest Service on their land management direction for old-growth. <https://councilonforestry.wi.gov/Documents/WI%20CoF%20Land%20Management%20Plan%20for%20Old%20Growth%20Comments%20to%20USDA.pdf>
- Coordinated with the DNR Division of Forestry to redesign the Council's website.

For more information on the Council visit the webpage at <https://councilonforestry.wi.gov/Pages/Home.aspx>

If you would like announcements on Council meetings you can sign up at <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WIGOV/subscriber/new?preferences=true>

Wisconsin Council on Forestry Members

Tom Hittle – Chair

Represents: The interests of a forest products company that owns and manages large tracts of private forest land that supply raw materials to the forest products industry

Matt Dallman - Vice Chair

Represents: The interests of nonprofit conservation organizations whose purposes include the conservation and use of forest resources

Heather Berklund

Represents: Chief State Forester

Brad Dorff

Represents: Labor unions

James Hoppe

Represents: The interests of the paper and pulp industry

Buddy Huffaker

Represents: The interests of owners of non-industrial, private forest land who manage the land to produce ecological, economic, and social benefits

James Kerkman

Represents: The interests of persons who are members of the Society of American Foresters
Society of American Foresters

Rebekah Luedtke

Represents: The interests of counties that have county forests within their boundaries

Representative Jeffrey Mursau

Represents: Wisconsin State Assembly

Senator Romaine Quinn

Represents: Wisconsin State Senate

Erik Rantala

Represents: The interests of the lumber industry

Juris Repsa

Represents: Forestry consultants

Dr. Adena Rissman

Represents: The interests of schools of forestry within the state that have curricula in the management of forest resources that are accredited by the Society of American Foresters

Henry Schienebeck

Represents: The interests of persons who are members of an organization of timber producers

Representative Lori Palmeri

Represents: Wisconsin State Assembly

Senator Jamie Wall

Represents: Wisconsin State Senate

Jordan Skiff

Represents: The interests of persons who are engaged in the practice of urban and community forestry

Dr. William Van Lopik

Represents: The interests of persons who engage in the practice of conservation education

Pending Memberships:

Representation for the interests of persons who are engaged in an industry that uses secondary wood

Representation for the USDA, Forest Service (non-voting member)