



WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON FORESTRY

Jim Doyle, Governor

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Members and Interested Parties of the Wisconsin Council on Forestry:

I am pleased to present the Wisconsin Council on Forestry's Biennial Report for 2005-2006.

Wisconsin's forests provide a full array of ecological, economic and social benefits to the people of Wisconsin. Our state's forests protect our water quality, filter our air, and provide homes and habitat for many of the 200 endangered or threatened species in Wisconsin as well as for countless common species.

Our forests are important in local, state, and global economies, supporting employment opportunities, investment in forest improvement practices, and income for landowners. More than 1,850 wood using companies support a \$23 billion industry and over 70,000 jobs. In addition, more people than ever before are using Wisconsin's forests for a wide array of recreational and tourism activities. Wisconsin households spend over \$5.5 billion per year on goods and services associated with forest-based recreation. Forestry also plays a significant role in the ecological and social benefits derived from the existence of a healthy and diverse forest-based economy.

Over the last two years, the Council on Forestry has focused on several issues that affect the ability of our forests to provide the full range of social, economic and ecological benefits not only today, but for future generations. This report highlights that work. It also reports on the status of the state's resources and forest industry as required by state statute. The report is also available at <http://wisconsinforestry.org>.

The issues the Council chose to work on reflect both the challenges and the opportunities facing Wisconsin's forests. I am particularly pleased that the Council has been able to bring together a broad array of interests to work on some of the most significant challenges facing our forests. I am optimistic about what we can accomplish in the future because of the commitment I see from the breadth of interests who have demonstrated a willingness to work on issues affecting our forests. Although many of the issues appear to be overwhelming, the resolve of those involved is quite impressive.

The Council is committed to continuing to work to ensure that our forests remain a key component in Wisconsin's environment, economy, and quality of life.

Best regards,

Fred Souba, Jr., Chair