SLIDES: Wisconsin County Forests

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OBJECTIVES

• Know the historic, current, and future issues related to the establishment and management of Wisconsin County Forests

• Know what the local readiness was to establish County Forests and what it takes to continue them.

• Know that establishing and maintaining a forest requires long term local commitment
HISTORIC ISSUES

• Good timber and ready markets

• No timber

• Tax delinquent lands
THE FIX

- Legislation allowing establishment of County Forests.
- Revenue to Counties to fund rebuilding the forests.
- Taxes on harvested timber to repay the State.
FOREST ESTABLISHMENT

• Langlade County was first. Nov 6, 1928
  » 89,539 acres

• By end of 1935 – 25 forests
  » 1,749,647 acres

• Now have 29 forests
  » 2,300,000 acres
COUNTY FORESTS OF WISCONSIN

BLACK AREA SHOWS LOCATION OF COUNTY FORESTS
Many County Forests Established before the Chequamegon / Nicolet National Forest, which currently is 1.5 Million Acres
EARLY MANAGEMENT

• Local guys interested in forests.
• Non-professional in most instances
• Poor Inventories
• No Consistent Planning
• Lots of DNR assistance had some pro’s
Was Wisconsin Ready for Community Forests- YES!!!

So Ready, they also agreed to forming the Chequamegon / Nicolet National Forest in the mid 1930’s.
LAND ACQUISITION EARLY

• Early easy. County owned tax delinquent lands.

• County Board of Supervisors evaluated lands and proclaimed forest boundaries.
  – Value for forestry or other purposes.
  – Block up lands to simplify management.
LAND ACQUISITION NOW

• Purchase
  – We budget $150,000 per year.
  – Can get zero interest state loan and repay from timber harvest.

• Exchange

• More complex now. Multiple interests, higher land values, keep it private.
CURRENT AND FUTURE PUSH

• Eleven (11) counties with National Forest passed resolutions to have lands returned to Counties.

WHY?
REVENUES / JOBS

2004

• County Forests $ 21.1 million

• National Forests $ 5.0 million
SALE FLOW
2000-2004

• All County sales sold on time, no appeals.

• National Forests:

<table>
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<th>No. Sales</th>
<th>Appealed</th>
<th>Volume Replaced</th>
<th>Litigated</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
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Result: Few widely scattered sporadic sales.
FINANCING / REVENUES

• Cost $500,000 per year

• Most from timber receipts

• Balance: Grants, Habitat Programs, Miscellaneous Receipts

• $2,500,000 Revenue in 2004
MANAGEMENT

• 10-Year Management Plans

• DNR oversight of whole program

• Staff:
  – 5 Professionals
  – 1 Technician
  – 1 Business Manager
DNR OVERSIGHT

• Management Plan Template and Approval

• Liaison Forester for Each County

• Periodic Reviews

• Major Daily Decisions by the County
OUR CORE

• Satisfying Local Social, Environmental, and Economic Needs.

• Reducing Tax Levy with Outputs

• Creating Local Tax Bases—Timber/Recreation

(cont)
OUR CORE (cont)

• Professionally Managed Organization that works hard.

• Strong Technical Support that keeps getting better. (Professional, software, computer capacity, training)
BRAND NEW CORE

CERTIFICATION !!!
CHALLENGES

• Managing for Multiple Use with Increasing Public uses of Forests.

• Large Acreage of Public Lands (50%)
CHALLENGES (cont)

• Ensuring that we keep getting better at our job. Technically and making $ investments.

• Informing the County Board and the Public.
NEEDS

• Maintain a strong Wisconsin County Forest Association.
  – Information
  – Education
  – Protection of Forestry Interests
  – Legislation
• Better Management Plans

• Better DNR Technical Services

• Better Outreach to the Public Especially via the Media.
THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT WITH YOU