

Using Forest Legacy to Protect Compatible Forest Uses

Protecting Multiple-use on Large Working Forests

The Challenge

Large private forest areas of northern Wisconsin have been providing public benefits for hundreds of years. However, the forest industry owners have been turning over land at an alarming rate, resulting in parcel see-off for debt reduction. The parcels are losing traditional public access through conversion to private hunting camps, second homes, and other uses causing a mosaic of forest and non-forest uses. Traditional recreation such as fishing, hunting and berry picking are being lost.

The Solution

In 2000, Wisconsin's State lead agency identified the Tomahawk Forest Legacy project in northern Wisconsin for protection under the Forest Legacy Program. Protection was to occur using conservation easements. This was an ambitious goal because Wisconsin's first project is one of the largest projects in the 10-year history of the program. The successful protection of the property with a conservation easement has allowed these traditional forest recreation uses to continue on the 35,377-acre project and these uses as has been demonstrated through history are compatible with the forest management operations on the property, which will continue as well.

Resulting Benefits

- Forest management and recreational uses will continue on the Tomahawk Northwoods property.
- Additional acreage of nearly another 35,000 acres owned by the same landowner has been identified by the state for future Forest Legacy protection.
- Out of 26 states with completed projects in the Forest Legacy Program, Wisconsin has more acres protected in its first project than 20 of the states.



Forest Management, wildlife habitat protection, and recreational opportunities are all compatible forest uses that will continue in northern Wisconsin on private lands with the help of the Forest Legacy Program.

Highlights of Wisconsin's Forest Legacy Program

- Two properties totaling 35,377 acres have been protected with conservation easements valued at \$13,251,000 using \$5,000,000 in Forest Legacy funds.
- Funding for three additional projects totaling over 17,000 acres has been allocated by the Forest Legacy Program.
- The \$6.4 million in Forest Legacy funds used to protect these 3 project through conservation easements will have a cost share component of over \$12.5 million in State, local, and donated funds.
- An additional 4 tracts totaling over 59,000 acres have been proposed for future funding.

Sharing Success

- The Tomahawk Northwoods lands are interspersed throughout other protected lands owned by State, County and Federal governments.
- Forest recreational opportunities will continue to be enjoyed in these quiet areas without the threat of encroaching developments

The Forest Service's Forest Legacy Program helps protect forests by protecting lands from future development.



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