

A Brief History of Sustainable Forestry

Wisconsin's Evolving Concept of "Sound" or "Sustainable" Forestry

1927-1971 Forest Crop Law

77.01 Purposes. It is the intent of this subchapter to encourage a policy of protecting from destructive or premature cutting the forest growth in this state, and of reproducing and growing for the future adequate crops through sound forestry practices of forest products on lands not more useful for other purposes, so that such lands shall continue to furnish recurring forest crops for commercial use with public hunting and fishing as extra public benefits, all in a manner which shall not hamper the towns in which such lands lie from receiving their just tax revenue from such lands.

Focus on "adequate crops ...of forest products"

1980 - Forest Crop Law and Woodland Tax Law

NR 46.02 Definitions.

(17) "Practice forestry", "sound forestry practices" and "sound forestry" mean sound and commonly accepted timber cutting, transporting and forest cultural methods recommended or approved by a qualified forester of the department for most effective propagation and improvement of the various timber types common to Wisconsin.

Constrained to timber cutting techniques for effective reproduction and improvement of forests.

1985-1986 - Managed Forest Law

77.80 Purpose. The purpose of this subchapter is to encourage the management of private forest lands for the production of future forest crops for commercial use through sound forestry practices, recognizing the objectives of individual property owners, compatible recreational uses, watershed protection, development of wildlife habitat and accessibility of private property to the public for recreational purposes.

NR 46.15 Definitions.

(29) "Sound forestry practices" means timber cutting, transporting and forest cultural methods recommended or approved by the department for the effective propagation and improvement of the various timber types common to Wisconsin. "Sound forestry practices" also may include, where consistent with landowner objectives and approved by the department, the management of forest resources other than trees including wildlife habitat, watersheds, aesthetics and endangered and threatened plant and animal species.

Focuses on "future forest crops for commercial use" with an almost begrudging acceptance of other objectives.

1995 - State Forests

28.04 Management of state forests. (1) DEFINITIONS.

(e) "Sustainable forestry" means the practice of managing dynamic forest ecosystems to provide ecological, economic, social and cultural benefits for present and future generations.

(2) PURPOSES AND BENEFITS OF STATE FORESTS. (a) The department shall manage the state forests to benefit the present and future generations of residents of this state, recognizing that the state forests contribute to local and statewide economies and to a healthy natural environment. The department shall assure the practice of sustainable forestry and use it to assure that state forests can provide a full range of benefits for present and future generations. The department shall also assure that the management of state forests is consistent with the ecological capability of the state forest land and with the long-term maintenance of sustainable forest communities and ecosystems. These benefits include soil protection, public hunting, protection of water quality, production

Recognizes "dynamic ecosystems" that yield economic, ecological and social benefits for "present and future generations"; that some tracts have more value for one advantage than another; and that both active and passive management techniques are legitimate methods for reaching desired objectives. Additional provisions in WI Act 166 (2005) require the calculation of an Annual Allowable Harvest consistent with property master plans.

of recurring forest products, outdoor recreation, native biological diversity, aquatic and terrestrial wildlife, and aesthetics. The range of benefits provided by the department in each state forest shall reflect its unique character and position in the regional landscape.

(b) In managing the state forests, the department shall recognize that not all benefits under par. (a) can or should be provided in every area of a state forest.

(c) In managing the state forests, the department shall recognize that management may consist of both active and passive techniques.

**2007 - Wisconsin Forest Management Guidelines
NR 1.25 Generally accepted forestry management practices.**

(2)(c) "Sound management of a forest" means sustainably managing a forest with the application of ecological, physical, quantitative, managerial, economic, and social principles to the regeneration, management, utilization, protection and conservation of forest ecosystems to meet specified wildlife habitat, watershed, aesthetics, cultural and biological goals and objectives while maintaining the productivity of the forest.

Merges "sound forestry" and "sustainable forestry" into a single idea.

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