



The future of the forest is in your hands!

We all have a role to play in land stewardship. Whether you are a student, landowner, or interested in volunteering, you can make a difference in central Wisconsin!

If you do not own land, consider the management of public lands where you hike, hunt, or fish. Connect with the land managers of the property, learn about their management objectives, and ask them how you can help! Also, be sure to buy certified sustainably managed paper and wood products.

If you own a woodland in Wisconsin, there are a number of programs and organizations that can provide stewardship guidance for you and your woods!



Managed Forest Law:
State program for forest management and property tax benefits.
dnr.wi.gov keyword MFL



WI Tree Farm:
Program that supports sustainable forest management.
www.witreefarm.org



My Wisconsin Woods
A public, private partnership serving woodland owners across Wisconsin.
mywisconsinwoods.org



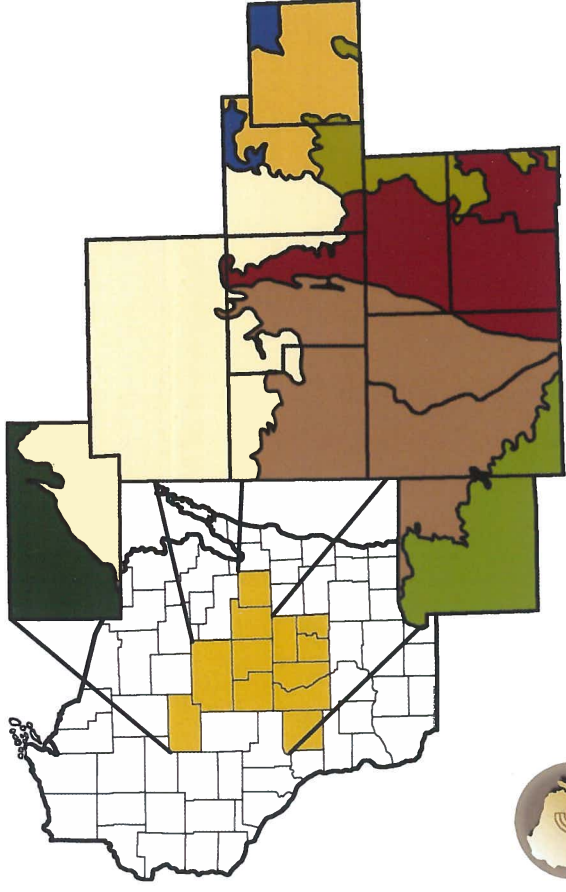
Deer Management Assistance Program:
State program for learning how to improve habitat and manage wildlife.
dnr.wi.gov keyword DMAP



Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association:
Educational community of fellow woodland owners and professionals.
wisconsinwoodlands.org



EQIP / CSP:
Federal cost share for forest and habitat improvement.
www.wi-nrcs.usda.gov



Golden Sands RC&D Ecological Landscapes

- North Central Forest
- Forest Transition
- Central Sand Plains
- Western Coulees & Ridges
- Northern Lake Michigan Coastal
- Central Lake Michigan Coastal
- Southeast Glacial Plains
- Central Sand Hills

Golden Sands RC&D is a regional conservation 501(c)3 nonprofit. We work in 12 counties in central Wisconsin that contain eight different ecological landscapes. The Bear Crossing Woodland serves as an example of a North Central Forest Ecological Landscape. We encourage you to visit our website to learn more about other

Demonstration Forests and, if you own land, to get involved in woodland and wildlife habitat management. Our website will provide you with information about land management programs that provide guidance, cost share for habitat improvement, and/or tax benefits. There are so many ways you can get involved in the land management movement in Wisconsin. We want to help landowners connect to state and federal programs that will work for them. With proper forest management, we hope that more landowners across Wisconsin will see the benefits of more productive and healthier forests and habitat that benefit deer and other wildlife.

www.goldensandsrcd.org/livingclassrooms

Questions? Call our office: 715-343-6215

Printed: June 2020

Taylor County



Demonstration FOREST

Bear Crossing Woodland

This is private property! Please call Golden Sands RC&D to schedule a free site visit with the landowner.



The Golden Sands RC&D
Demonstration Forest Network

"Connecting Communities to Land Stewardship"
www.goldensandsrcd.org/livingclassrooms
715-343-6215



Welcome to the Bear Crossing!

The Bear Crossing and its trail system border the Chequamegon National Forest and derives its name from the occasional sighting of black bears that cross the road adjacent to the property. Jim and Lori Livingston purchased the property in 1989. One year later, they got involved in forest management.

After graduating from UW-River Falls both Jim and Lori Livingston were involved in agriculture education and have since pursued other careers in agriculture and counseling. When they purchased the land, they viewed the forest as a long-term agricultural crop. They were motivated to conduct timber sales to be good stewards of the property and to enhance wildlife habitat. Throughout their tenure as stewards of their woodland they have worked closely with foresters and loggers.

The Livingstons' property is enrolled in both the Wisconsin's Managed Forest Law (MFL) program and the state's Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP). These programs provide the Livingstons guidance on how to manage their property for forest productivity and wildlife habitat. As part of their DMAP cooperative, the Livingstons have also coordinated efforts with neighbors to create a large contiguous parcel of forest. Neighboring landowners consider strategies and work together to enhance wildlife habitat in their region.

The Livingstons created forest roads to minimize erosion as part of their commitment to the property. These trails are used during the winter for skiing and snowshoeing. They are also passionate about providing a wonderful example of how others can be better stewards of the land and use the trails to show the property to visitors.

The Bear Crossing Tour

Area 1: River Basin Management of Maurer Creek

An invasive non-native honeysuckle colonized the banks and basin of the Maurer Creek through the property. This plant outcompetes native species and severely degrades wildlife habitat. This species decreases the ability of the forest to regenerate as it shades out tree seedlings. The Livingstons have removed most of the honeysuckle, leaving a place for native species to grow.

Area 2: Native Flower Habitat:

This field includes wild bergamot, new england aster ,and other native species. There are also other open areas where milkweed, goldenrod, daisies, blue gentian, and other wild flowers grow and provide habitat to insects and butterflies. Numerous butterfly species enjoy the flowers in this field.

Area 3: Northern Hardwood Regeneration

Through selective harvests and careful logging practices that prioritize protecting young trees, this forested plot of northern hardwoods is a great example of high quality forest regeneration. It was harvested in 2000 & 2001.

Area 4: Recent Aspen Clearcut

This area of aspen was harvested in 2014. Wildlife benefit from diverse forest types across the landscape. Aspen removal created new habitat types and food sources for wildlife such as deer and ruffed grouse.

Area 5: Pine Plantation

These pines were planted by a school in 2000. Jim, Lori, and family members removed the lower branches of these pine trees to increase air flow and prevent fungi.

Area 6: Deer Damage

Too many deer on the landscape can severely impact forest health. When this happens the deer degrade their own habitat over time. Many land managers who want to manage for enhanced wildlife habitat and forest health have to keep the deer population under control. This stand was selectively harvested during the winter of 2014-2015 and shows signs of deer browse. This area reflects how excessive deer populations negatively affect forest regeneration and clearly demonstrates a statewide issue. The Livingstons are working with their neighbors to balance the deer population with the habitat. A combination of deer and habitat management can create a landscape with healthy deer and healthy forests.

Areas 7 & 8: 2017 Pine Timber Sale

Thinning of pine trees is beneficial as it reduces competition for nutrients and light. This allows trees to grow larger and improves overall forest health. As a result of this thinning, more valuable pine will be available for harvest in the future.

Thank you to these Demonstration Forest sponsors!



**RUFFED
GROUSE
SOCIETY**



**Natural Resources
FOUNDATION**
of Wisconsin

