



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



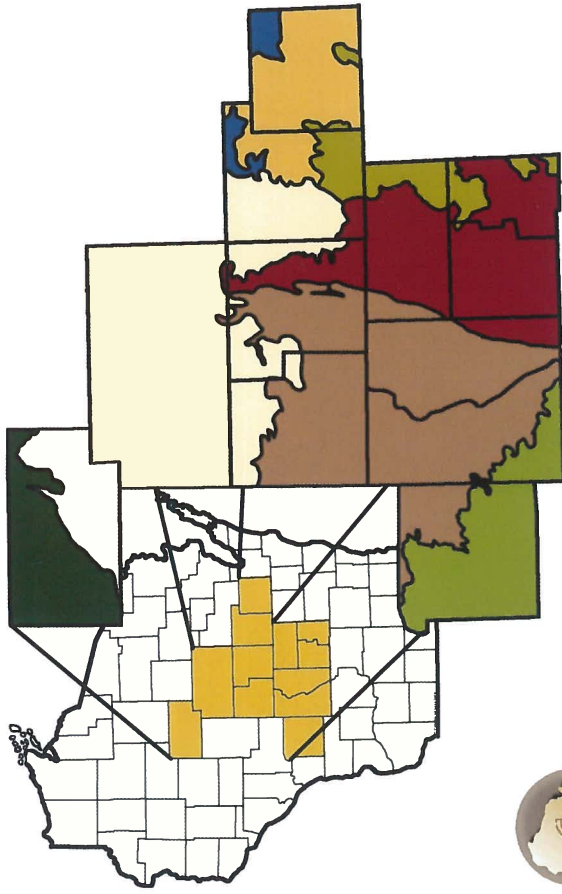
Deer Management Assistance Program:
State program for learning how to improve habitat and manage wildlife.
dnr.wi.gov keyword DMAP



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 Becker Woodland serves as an example of a Southeast Glacial Plain 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.goldensandsrccd.org/livingclassrooms

Questions? Call our office: 715-343-6215

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Waupaca County



Demonstration FOREST

The Becker 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.goldensandsrccd.org/livingclassrooms
715-343-6215



Welcome to the Becker Woodland!

The Becker Family has owned this property since 1886. In the 1960s, Merlin Becker made it a point to invest into his woodlands, working with his family to plant over 35,000 trees on the 168 acre property. He enrolled the property into the WI Managed Forest Law (MFL) program, that provided him guidance on how to improve the health of his family's forest. Following his MFL management plan paid off, with increased deer harvests throughout the decades as the forest developed. Since then, the Beckers have made it a point to use their woodland as an educational resource, being one of the first properties ever enrolled in Golden Sands RC&D's Demonstration Forest Program. Becker is the recipient of the 2013 Wisconsin State Tree Farmer of the Year Award, and 2015 Midwest Regional Tree Farmer of the Year Award.

The South Branch of the Little Wolf River meanders pleasantly through the property. Visitors will learn about the numerous wildlife habitat improvements, including timber harvests, planted hedgerows, and wildlife shrubs that attract a variety of birds and other animals. The Becker's have 8 numbered posts along walking trails throughout the property. These posts point to areas described in the tour.

The Becker Woodland Tour

Area 1: Pine Plantation

The Beckers planted this stand of red pines in 1968, and have thinned the pines four times since. Thinning this plantation helps improve forest health and vigor, since trees are able to grow better if they are not overcrowded.

Areas 2 & 5: Natural Hardwood Stands

These natural hardwood stands are over 100 years old! Timber harvests are strategically a win-win for forest health and wildlife.

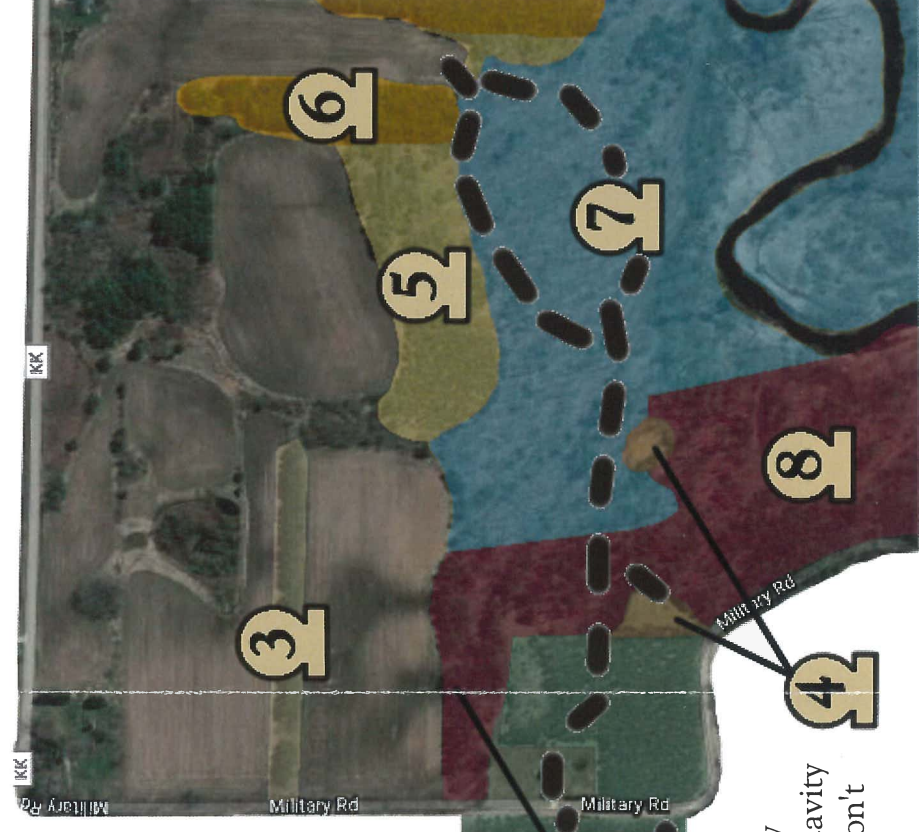
Just the right amount of big oak trees are left after most of the wood is harvested, providing numerous acorns for many kinds of wildlife. Dead trees or "snags" are left for habitat for cavity nesters such as raccoons and woodpeckers. For wildlife that don't live in cavities, the Beckers build brush piles out of limbs and branches of felled trees which provide cover and nesting areas for rabbits, song birds, and other animals.

Area 3: Wildlife Corridors

A row of pine trees and wildlife shrubs between two farm fields provides habitat for songbirds and small mammals. It is used as a corridor for wildlife travel from open fields to forests where they can more effectively hide from predators.

Area 4: Small Open Areas

Variety helps provide diverse habitat types that can benefit numerous kinds of wildlife. Deer, ruffed grouse, red fox, wild turkeys, and cottontail rabbits need both field and forest to prosper. Open spaces provide wildlife nesting areas, brood cover, and food in the form of insects and grasses. To promote this type of habitat, the Beckers mow the field every three to four years but not right up the the forest. The 'edge' between the forest and the field is extremely important to wildlife. Sun-loving shrubs that grow along the edges provide food and cover for animals.



Area 6: Spruce Plantation

A stand of white spruce was planted in 1969 here and was thinned a few times since. Like the pine plantation, occasional thinning helps increase forest health and vigor, since trees are able to grow better if they are not overcrowded. Spruce provides a valuable source of pulpwood and lumber.

Area 7: Wetland

Wetlands provide some of the greatest diversity of plants and animals. Tag alder, swamp hardwoods, and marshes provide habitat for all kinds of wildlife. Wetlands are also extremely important for water absorption, where the slow movement of water prevents flooding.

Area 8: Natural White Pine

This stand of white pine have been repeatedly thinned, providing more canopy openings that benefit deer, grouse, and roosting sites for wild turkeys.

Thank you to these Demonstration Forest sponsors!



RUFFED GROUSE SOCIETY



Natural Resources FOUNDATION
of Wisconsin