

Landowner News

A Landowner Newsletter from the Northwoods Land Trust

Forest Management in Perpetuity

A recent article in “Nature Conservancy” magazine highlighted a quarter-million acre land protection agreement in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and the sustainable forestry practices being researched and implemented there. A quote from the article says: “If (logging) is well-done, you won’t even notice.” It reminded me of a visit to Roland Rueckert’s conserved property in Oneida County.

Upon meeting with Roland I learned that some logging had occurred since the last monitoring visit, in accordance with his Forest Management Plan. Prepared to take photos of the change, Roland actually had to point out to me where the logged area was. The harvest not only looked “nice”, but it also met Roland’s needs as a landowner.



Above: Landowner and conservation easement donor Roland Rueckert counts the rings on this 90+-year-old stump cut from a dying white pine tree that became a safety hazard.

Photo by: Trisha Moore

Of course, each forest habitat type and each landowner’s goals are different and will entail different management and harvesting techniques. Managing for aspen regrowth requires the opening of larger gaps to allow the sun-loving popple to grow. Maple seedlings tolerate more shade. One landowner might desire wildlife openings, while another may want dense wildlife cover.

As property owners of land that is conserved “in perpetuity” it is fitting to think of your woodlands in an equally sustainable or perpetual manner. While some landowners may choose to *not* manage their forests and allow nature to take its own course, many landowners decide to harvest for a number of reasons. NWLT’s conservation easements are also written to be compatible with enrollment in the state’s Managed Forest Law program. Here are some tips to keep in mind while developing a plan that best fits your needs and the health of the forest.

Get Help: Consulting foresters can help you create a plan that meets

many goals at once such as generating income, increasing diversity, maximizing hunting potential, and protection of non-game wildlife species. See Resources below.

Diversify: Having a wide variety of tree species in your woodlands increases biodiversity of plants, insects, and wildlife and may prevent more massive losses from insect infestations or diseases.

Leave a Trace: Asking a logging team to leave tree tops is a great way to provide wildlife cover and allow nutrients to cycle back into the soil. If aesthetics are a primary concern ask the loggers to grind or crush the slash low. Talk to your forester/logger about leaving some dead or dying trees standing. Many insects, birds, and mammals prefer standing dead trees for food, nesting, and roosting.

Look Ahead: The difficult part of forest management and research is that it can take time to see the results of sustainable forestry practices. Knowing that your conserved land will be woodlands forever is great motivation to plan beyond your own lifetime, for improving the long-term health of the forest and benefiting future generations of landowners.

Resources: Partners in Forestry-partnersinforesstry.com, 715.479.8528; Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association-wisconsinwoodlands.com, 715.346.4798; Wisconsin DNR-<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestLandowners>, Wisconsin Consulting Foresters-wi-consultingforesters.com

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Above: An example of an area logged seven months prior on the Rueckert property. White and red pine were selectively harvested. Dennis Schoeneck was the logger on this project. Photo by: Trisha Moore

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NWLT 2012 News

After months of preparation, organization, and dedication the Northwoods Land Trust submitted its application for National Land Trust Accreditation! The next step in the process will be a phone conference at the end of February. We hope to receive our Seal of Accreditation sometime in 2013!

Amidst the work of protecting land, NWLT has been involved in an exciting technology project that we hope will make our work much more efficient. As our organization has grown we, along with many other Wisconsin land trusts, realized a need for a database that held information (in one place!) about the properties we have helped conserve, the people involved, monitoring history, volunteers, and funding. The Northwoods Land Trust secured grant money through the Land Trust Alliance, Gathering Waters Conservancy, and the Arthur L. and Elaine V. Johnson Foundation to move ahead with the creation of a Land Stewardship Database. This innovative database will be shared with other land trusts in Wisconsin and beyond!



THANK YOU!

In April of this year, 15 volunteers met at David and Minka Dawson's property for our annual Volunteer Monitor's Training Session. Today, November 27, we completed the final visit of **64** conserved properties! It is definitely the best part of my job as Conservation Specialist. The ability to hike on so many beautiful, unique properties throughout Wisconsin's Northwoods and meet dedicated landowners each season is incredibly rewarding. As much as we love "getting out", Bryan and I could not complete these monitoring visits while working on new projects without our corps of skilled and committed volunteers!

THANK YOU to the following:

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Carolyn Aldridge | Ron Becker |
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At Left: NWLT Conservation Specialist Trisha Moore and monitoring volunteer and conservation easement donor Carolyn Aldridge locate and GPS-mark a property corner on the Winter Park Pines Nature Preserve during the final monitoring visit of the 2012 season.

Photo by: Bryan Pierce.

If you would prefer to receive this newsletter electronically please send an e-mail to:

Trisha Moore at
trshmr@gmail.com