

Becoming a good steward

of your land takes time, energy and persistence but the rewards are immeasurable to you, your family and your land. You are a short-term caretaker of long-term renewable resources. Your actions will have a lasting impact on Wisconsin's natural resources for future generations.

There are many resources available to assist you in caring for the natural resources on your property; unfortunately they could not all be included here. Being a good neighbor is an important aspect of rural living. You are encouraged to talk with your neighbors, conservation agencies and associations, town, county, and state officials when learning about options for enhancing your land. By checking with government officials about regulations or zoning restrictions you can determine if your ideas are compatible with existing laws. For additional assistance or copies of this brochure, please contact the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association office at P.O. Box 285, Stevens Point, WI 54481 or 715-346-4798 or Wisconsin.Woodland.Owners.Association@uwsp.edu

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Opening the Door to Resources



ORGANIZATION	Fish & Wildlife	Woods	Water Quality	Prairies	Goods from the Woods	Legacy	Rural Living	Recreation
Gathering Waters 608/251-9131 www.gatheringwaters.org								
Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin www.ipaw.org								
National Wild Turkey Federation 920/347-0312 www.nwtf-wi.org								
Natural Resources Conservation Service 608/662-4422 x258 www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov								
The Prairie Enthusiasts 262/473-2956 www.theprairieenthusiasts.org								
Quality Deer Management Association 800/209-3337 www.qdma.com								
Ruffed Grouse Society 888/564-6747 www.ruffedgrousesociety.org								
US Fish & Wildlife Service 608/221-1206 x14 www.fws.gov/midwest/WisconsinPartners								
University of Wisconsin-Extension 608/262-2655 www.uwex.edu/								
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Forestry Outreach 715/346-4128 www.uwsp.edu/cnr/fop/								
Whitetails Unlimited 800/274-5471 www.whitetailsunlimited.com								
Wisconsin Association of Lakes 800/542-5253 (WI only) www.wisconsinlakes.org								
Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative 608/264-8528 www.wisconsinbirds.org								
Wisconsin Cities & Towns http://www.wisconsin.gov/state/core/wisconsin_cities_towns_and_villages.html								
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture 608/224-5012 http://datcp.wi.gov/								
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources 608/266-2621 http://dnr.wi.gov/								
Wisconsin Foresters http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestLandowners/locator/								
Wisconsin Wetlands Association 608/250-9971 www.wisconsinwetlands.org/								
Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association 715/346-4798 www.wisconsinwoodlands.org								

Rural Living

Congratulations! As a proud new owner of rural land many hopes and dreams are probably running through your mind. But have you thought about the plants, animals, soils and water on your property?

Rural living can offer many benefits, especially if you choose to learn more about your land whether it is five or five hundred acres in size. By working with nature, you improve the health and beauty of your land and community for future generations. Sustainably managing your natural resources through the use of a written management plan is recommended. Caring for your resources also helps to protect and enhance your investment. **This brochure will help you consider your natural features and learn about statewide resources available to assist you in creating wonderful memories and a lasting stewardship legacy of your special place.**



Legacy

You leave a legacy on the land, whether you choose to or not. Taking an active role in the naturally occurring changes on your land will improve your land for the future. Your land legacy can include keeping a daily diary, educating your heirs about the choices made for your land, preserving cultural, historical or archaeological resources, using conservation easements, or good estate planning.



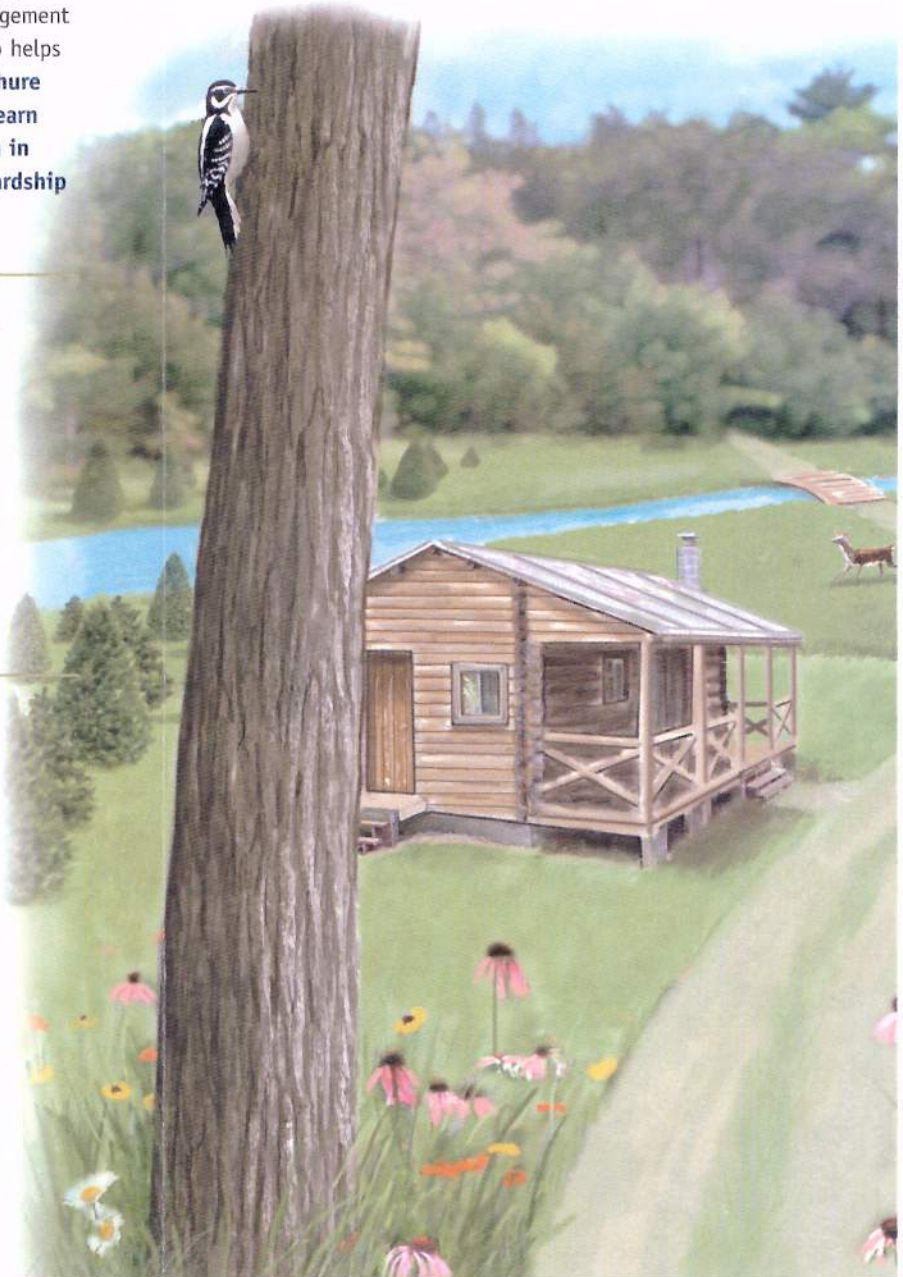
Goods from your Woods

You will discover that some resources on your land can provide additional income. Each year, forests provide maple syrup, mushrooms, Christmas trees, hunting opportunities through leasing, and firewood, in addition to traditional forest products such as paper, furniture, or lumber for society's needs. By managing your woods, you gain the satisfaction of using homegrown products or increasing your income to help pay your taxes or improve your land. These opportunities can provide a means for you or your heirs to continue to own your land into the future.



Fish and Wildlife

Do you dream of seeing wildlife, hearing birds or catching fish? Fish and wildlife depend on your land use practices for their needs or habitat - food, water, shelter, nesting cover, and living space. Wildlife professionals and organizations can help you determine what animals are living on your land, increase the success of enhancing or creating new habitats and cost share these practices. Remember, threatened or endangered plants and animals are protected by state and federal laws.



Woods

The beauty and value of your woodland is enhanced, not depreciated, through proper management. Professional foresters and organizations can provide technical assistance, information on programs, and ideas for improving your woodlands. Whether planting seedlings to start a forest or caring for an existing one, keeping your trees healthy from insects, disease or wildfire is important. As a renewable resource, your woodland can provide you with lifelong recreational opportunities and scenic value in addition to income from forest products.

Water Quality

Good land use practices ensure clean, drinkable well water and sparkling streams, while preventing soil erosion and flooding. By using Wisconsin's Best Management Practices for Water Quality (BMPs) you enable the soil and plants to act as filters. The health of your family and the environment also depends on responsible use of herbicides and pesticides as labeled by the government. Enhancing wetlands increases filtering capabilities while providing habitat for many plants and animals.

Prairies

A prairie in full bloom can brighten any day and attract birds and butterflies. Successful prairie establishment involves preparing your site properly, selecting plants or seeds that are native, and choosing the best method and time to plant. Other considerations include proper use of herbicides, local burning regulations and presence of invasive plants.

Recreation

Whether you enjoy hunting, photography, riding ATVs or sitting around a campfire, the decisions you make for your land can enhance these activities. By improving the wildlife habitat, trails, and woods, you are increasing your family's hours of enjoyment.

In Wisconsin, the Recreational Use law (Statute 895.52) provides that landowners who own, lease or occupy land have certain protections against liability. This important law says that landowners do not have a duty to inspect the property, keep it safe, or give warning of an unsafe condition. Only when a landowner acts maliciously or fails to disclose a known hazard, may he/she be liable. Posting your land against trespassing is not necessary under this law. However, it is helpful to know and maintain your property boundaries.

