



WWOA Fast Facts

Quick Facts of WWOA

- Idea of an association originally put forth at 1953 Silver Anniversary Forestry Conference
- By the late 1960's many new woodland owners were identified with varied backgrounds and occupations. The new landowners were anxious to learn how to manage and utilize their land. They were also confused and overwhelmed by restrictions, legislations, and tax policies related to forest management. The time was ripe for an organization to address these new landowners concerns and protect the increasingly fragmented forest.
- 1976 WI DNR Bureau of Forestry applied for series of grants from the US Forest Service to assist in the formation of a woodland owners association. The DNR then subcontracted the grant to UW-Madison Dept. of Forestry to find board members and an executive director.
- June 7, 1979 first board meeting. Articles of Incorporation filed on August 30, 1979.
- November 1979 first newsletter published. *Woodland Management* newsletter was reformatted as a magazine in 1984. Title switched to *Wisconsin Woodlands* in 2012.
- WWOA has an 11 member Board of Directors elected at-large by WWOA voting members. WWOA office is staffed by an Executive Director, Office Assistant and AmeriCorps member.
- WWOA is self-funded through membership dues and donations. Additional income is provided from magazine advertisements, gift shop sales, fundraisers, auctions, and grants.
- WWOA has 12 local chapters covering every county in the state.

Membership Data

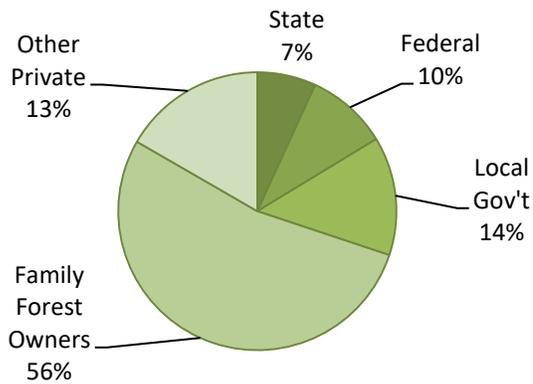
- As of 12/31/14 WWOA has 1844 members
- Membership includes 313 life members and 362 family memberships
- Membership increased from 11 in 1979 to 1844, with about 52 members added per year
- WWOA members own 296,801 acres (3.3% of family forestland owned) as of January 2015.

Benefits of WWOA Membership

- Year-round educational opportunities include field days, topical workshops, and annual meetings providing a forum for exchange of information, ideas, and contacts.
- Award-winning quarterly magazine, *Wisconsin Woodlands*, with articles on best practices, landowner's experiences, expert advice, woodland related advertisers and much more.
- Informative website www.wisconsinwoodlands.org provides a calendar of events, legislative updates, management ideas, link to resource professionals, and volunteer opportunities.
- WWOA affiliation with National Woodland Owners Association gives woodland owners national voice on forestry issues.
- WWOA has active members on state and regional boards/commissions to give small woodland owners greater voice on important forestry issues.
- Within WWOA, the Women of WWOA provides educational experiences and social activities for woman landowners.
- Provide annual scholarships to help educate the next generation of woodland owners
- WWOA and WI Tree Farm Committee cooperatively publish *News From Wisconsin's Woods* biannually to keep woodland owners informed of both organizations activities.
- Serves as an important link between woodland owners and resource professionals.
- Local Chapters are a great way to meet neighbors and learn more about local issues.
- WWOA membership includes many professional foresters and other natural resource professionals to help members learn about new management techniques, how to handle timber sales, and other woodland issues

Wisconsin Forest Facts

Forestland Ownership



- About **9.1** million acres (53% total forest land) are owned by **352,000** families.
- Half of these family forest owners own 1-9 acres
- Average holding size is 26 acres
- State (1.17 million acres), Federal (1.62 million acres), Local Government (2.36 million acres), Family Forest (9.1 million acres), Other Private (2.85 million acres)

- 46% of Wisconsin is covered with forests and this increases every year
- <7% family forest owners have a written management plan, only 27% solicited advice
- Private ownership has risen nearly 1 million acres over past 25 years

Wisconsin Forest Industry Facts

- Approximately 17.8 million cubic meters harvested annually
- About 1,200 forest product companies in Wisconsin
- Industry employs 59,597 people and generates 22.9 billion dollars annually
- Industry indirectly supports 125,350 jobs, every forestry job adds 3.8 additional jobs in WI
- Forest Recreation industry generates \$5.5 billion annually

Wisconsin Timber Products

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|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| ➤ Christmas Trees | ➤ animal bedding | ➤ pallets, containers |
| ➤ Boughs | ➤ tools, handles | ➤ cardboard, crates |
| ➤ lumber, paneling | ➤ wood flooring | ➤ sporting goods |
| ➤ firewood/pellets | ➤ baseball bats | ➤ decorative/art items |
| ➤ pulpwood for paper | ➤ watercraft | ➤ wooden bridges |
| ➤ posts, piling, decks | ➤ snowshoes | ➤ maple syrup |
| ➤ building materials | ➤ nut, food production | ➤ wood chemicals |
| ➤ furniture, cabinets | ➤ toothpicks | ➤ Many more! |

Wisconsin Tax Laws

- 1927 Wisconsin passed a constitutional amendment to allow differential taxation on forest lands. This was a response to forestland (or formally forestland) going into tax delinquency
- 1927 Forest Crop Law (FCL) created to encourage reforestation
- 1954 Woodland Tax Law (WTL) created to incentivize management of smaller woodlands
- 1985 Managed Forest Law (MFL) replaces both Forest Crop Law and Woodland Tax Law
 - Law encourages long-term management and sustainability on private forest land
 - Need 10 or more acres with 80% or more being productive forest
 - Can be a 25 or 50 year agreement with WI DNR approved management plan
 - Land can be either open or closed to public access, each with a different tax rate
 - Landowners pays a reduced tax rate, closure tax if closed to the public, and yield tax when timber is harvested