Summary of Goals & Strategies

The goals and strategies are a set of practical, long-term recommendations for investing resources where they can be most effective. Goals are defined as statements that set the stage for identifying desired future condition of Wisconsin forests(e.g. acreage goals for specific habitats). Strategies are defined as specific areas of effort or action intended to achieve the goal. They are designed to be clear in their intent, but broad enough to reflect the many critical ways that individual members and organizations within the forest community contribute to addressing each goal.

This table is a list of goals and strategies developed for the 2020 WI Forest Action Plan. Goals and strategies were developed based on the assessment portion of the plan, as well as the 2010 Forest Action Plan. In this table, goals are lettered, and strategies are numbered, however, no order of importance or priority is implied.

Many goals listed in the table below are relevant to other subject areas in addition to where they are listed. The goals are organized based on the supporting information found in the relevant assessment section. Other subject areas that share the relevancy of the goals are denoted with symbols in the third column in the table. Just because a goal is in one subject area within this document does not diminish its importance to the other relevant subject areas.

The following lists out all relevant goals by subject area. Goals identified within the subject area's section of the Forest Action Plan are bolded.

Forest Characteristics, Ecology and Management:
A, B, C, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, O, Q, R, S, T, U, V

Fire Management:
A, B, **D, E, F, G,** H, I, J, K, L, O, Q, S

Forest Health:
A, B, E, F, **H, I,** J, Q, R, S, T, U, V

Climate Change:
B, E, H, I, **J, K,** O, Q, R, S, T, U, V

Forest Socioeconomics:
C, K, **L, M, N, O, P,** R, S, U

Private Forest Lands:
A, B, C, E, F, G, H, I, J, L, M, N, O, **Q, R**

Public Forest Lands:
A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, L, N, O, P, **S**

Urban and Community Forestry:
E, H, I, J, L, N, O, **T, U, V**

Resources needed to address strategies: The goals and strategies developed for the 2020 Forest Action Plan are ambitious, and not intended to be implemented by any one entity. Many of these strategies would benefit from partnerships and multiple funding sources. When planning to implement a strategy, it may be beneficial to investigate potential resources. Many funding sources exist at the local, state and federal level. Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR) grants and Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) grants have been resources for Forest Action Plan projects in the past.

Additionally, the USDA Forest Service, State and Private Forestry Unit, funds several state programs, including: Stewardship (for private forests), Urban and Community Forestry, Fire Management, Forest Legacy, and Forest Health. The Forest Service provides support and technical assistance for several other state programs, including: Utilization and Marketing, Watershed Forestry, and Conservation Education.

In general, education efforts in schools, communities and with different target audiences can enhance efforts within each of the strategies and help citizens of Wisconsin gain a better understanding of the role of forests in their lives. New partnerships and alternative education methods can and should be used to engage target audiences.

Jeff Martin (JMAR Foto-Werks)

		Goals and Strategies	Relevant Subject Areas	*National Priority
Forest Characteristics Ecology and Management		**A. Forests are diverse in structure, composition, function & complexity across all forested landscapes.**		
	1	Evaluate and revise silvicultural practices to ensure that they are effectively maintaining, conserving, and enhancing diverse forest ecosystems, including structure, composition, function and complexity.	Forest Characteristics Ecology & Management; Wildfire Management; Forest Health; Private Forest Lands; Public Forest Lands	1,2,3
	2	Manage for age class diversity including young and old forests.		
	3	Manage for successful regeneration and recruitment of native tree species with an emphasis on shade intolerant and mid-tolerant species.		
	4	Develop an adaptive management framework to sustain healthy forests that are resilient to deer populations.		
	5	Protect and enhance soil productivity and water quality.		
	6	Promote sustainable forest management that balances timber production and wildlife habitats, including rare and endangered species.		
	7	Manage forests in tandem with natural processes and natural disturbances across the landscape.		
		B. Forested landscapes provide connectivity between patches of forests of all seral stages & types for forest-dependent species & related natural communities.		
	1	Provide connectivity between patches of forests of all seral stages and types of forest dependent species and related natural communities.	Forest Characteristics Ecology & Management; Wildfire Management; Forest Health; Climate Change; Private Forest Lands; Public Forest Lands	1,2
	2	Slow the rate of forestland conversion by fostering state and local government collaboration.		
	3	Develop and support state, federal, tribal, local and private programs that promote afforestation and reforestation.		
	4	Enhance, protect, and connect larger tracts of forested land in appropriate locations consistent with ecological capability and context.		
	5	Encourage collaborative, large-scale planning at the town, county, state, tribal, and federal levels.		
	6	Increase the functional size of forest blocks by encouraging management coordination of clusters of forest ownerships.		
		C. Keep forests as forests to maintain the long-term value & benefits they provide.		
	1	Reduce the rate of parcelization of large forest blocks.	Forest Characteristics Ecology & Management; Forest Socioeconomics; Private Forest Lands; Public Forest Lands	1,3
	2	Consider forest fragmentation, connectivity, and patch distribution in management decisions.		
	3	Pursue the conservation and protection of large, unfragmented blocks of forest lands.		
	4	Continue to identify strategic opportunities to acquire land through fee simple purchases and conservation easements.		
	5	Develop and promote programs designed to incentivize and compensate landowners for keeping forests as forest rather than converting to non-forest uses.		
	6	Educate landowners on short- and long-term values of forests.		

Relevant Subject Area Key

🌲	Forest Characteristics Ecology & Management	🔥	Wildfire Management	⊕	Forest Health	🌡	Climate Change
📊	Forest Socioeconomics	🌱	Private Forest Lands	👥	Public Forest Lands	🏠	Urban & Community Forestry

*National Priorities: 1 Conserve & manage working forest landscapes for multiple values & uses; 2 Protect forests from threats; 3 Enhance public benefits from trees & forests

		Goals and Strategies	Relevant Subject Areas	*National Priority
Fire Management		**D. All authorities make & implement safe, effective, efficient risk-based wildfire management decisions.**		
	1	Improve collaboration and communication within the wildfire suppression community.		
	2	Increase the local response capacity for initial attack of wildfires.		1,2,3
	3	Develop shared response capacity for extended attack and managing wildfire incidents with long-duration fire potential.		
	4	Reduce wildfire ignitions and minimize loss from fire.		
		E. People, property, infrastructure, & forested lands are resilient to wildfire.		
	1	Promote and support fire-adapted community practices, prioritizing the protection and preparedness of people, property, and natural resources, in that order.		
	2	Prioritize fuels treatment to protect WUI lands and high value landscapes (e.g. cultural/historical, social, ecological, and/or economic values).		
	3	Reduce hazardous fuel loading in forested stands to decrease wildfire risk and severity.		1,2
	4	Create and support fire prevention education and awareness programs and activities.		
	5	Support practices that will help vegetation and the natural environment to regenerate and recover after a wildfire or blowdown event.		
	6	Promote public awareness and education on wildfire management.		
		F. Fire-dependent forested landscapes are efficiently & effectively managed with prescribed fire.		
	1	Restore and maintain high priority fire-dependent forest landscapes across all ownerships.		
	2	Promote landscape-level prescribed burning to restore connectivity between high-integrity fire-dependent communities.		
	3	Identify and prioritize areas to utilize prescribed fire that would provide the greatest return on investment.		
	4	Provide and promote education and outreach to enhance public understanding, support, and implementation of prescribed fire.		1,3
	5	Connect landowners with available prescribed burn resources and the information necessary to safely and legally conduct prescribed burns on their land.		
	6	Enhance the ability for private lands enrolled in conservation and incentive programs to utilize prescribed fire.		
	7	Support collaborative, research-based efforts that guide in identifying and prioritizing prescribed fire across all landscapes.		
	8	Develop interagency prescribed fire burn crews with diverse funding pools to build workforce capacity.		

Relevant Subject Area Key

Forest Characteristics Ecology & Management	Wildfire Management	Forest Health	Climate Change
Forest Socioeconomics	Private Forest Lands	Public Forest Lands	Urban & Community Forestry

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		Goals and Strategies	Relevant Subject Areas	*National Priority
Fire Management		**G. Wisconsin's fire culture values the use and benefits of prescribed fire, and works to remove barriers to increase prescribed burning among stakeholders.**		1,3
	1	Identify barriers for using prescribed fire across land ownerships.		
	2	Recognize the extent that prescribed fire is needed across the state and work to increase workforce capacity to meet those needs.		
	3	Increase the use of safe and effective prescribed fire on the landscape to restore and maintain fire-dependent ecosystems.		
	4	Provide and promote education and outreach to enhance public understanding, support, and implementation of prescribed fire.		
	5	Connect landowners with available prescribed burn resources and the information necessary to safely and legally conduct prescribed burns on their land.		
	6	Enhance the ability for private lands enrolled in conservation and incentive programs to utilize prescribed fire.		
	7	Support collaborative, research-based efforts that guide in identifying and prioritizing prescribed fire across all landscapes.		

Relevant Subject Area Key

Forest Characteristics Ecology & Management	Wildfire Management	Forest Health	Climate Change
Forest Socioeconomics	Private Forest Lands	Public Forest Lands	Urban & Community Forestry

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		Goals and Strategies	Relevant Subject Areas	*National Priority
Forest Health		**H. Forested land & ecosystem functions are maximized, while losses due to forest health threats are minimized.**		
	1	Maintain healthy, viable populations of native flora and fauna.		
	2	Rehabilitate and adapt forests impacted by insects, diseases, invasive plants, worms, and catastrophic weather events.		1,2,3
	3	Monitor stressors that impact forest function.		
	4	Reduce impacts to regeneration from invasive species, deer, catastrophic weather events, and climate change.		
	5	Incentivize tree planting, invasive species management, and other activities that improve forest health.		
		I. Forest health threats are identified & managed in a fashion that is adaptive & responsive to multiple values.		
	1	Expand and promote education and outreach on forest health threats.		
	2	Encourage and promote multi-sector forest health partnerships and collaboration.		
	3	Implement effective invasive species regulatory controls and best management practices.		
	4	Strive to prevent infestations of invasive species before they arrive.		
	5	Work to detect new invasive species early and respond rapidly to minimize impacts to forests.		
	6	Control and manage existing infestations, where appropriate and feasible.		1,2
	7	Incentivize forest industry involvement in pest management activities.		
	8	Track the socioeconomic costs and benefits of forest pest management.		
	9	Support research and science-based decision making that improves forest health.		
	10	Promote forest management plans to private landowners and encourage them to use available funding sources to complete forestry work.		
	11	Increase capacity to respond to and recover from catastrophic weather events, insect and disease outbreaks and other disturbances.		

Relevant Subject Area Key

Forest Characteristics Ecology & Management	Wildfire Management	Forest Health	Climate Change
Forest Socioeconomics	Private Forest Lands	Public Forest Lands	Urban & Community Forestry

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		Goals and Strategies	Relevant Subject Areas	*National Priority
Climate Change		**J. Forests are resilient & adaptable to future conditions.**		
	1	Manage forests so that there is a diversity of species, age, and size classes to maintain healthy productive forests to be more resilient.		
	2	Identify and fill knowledge gaps in climate change research.		
	3	Maintain current forested areas and avoid land use conversion, particularly of unique, sensitive, and at-risk communities to increase diversity and resilience under a changing climate.		
	4	Promote landscape connectivity for more resilient and adapted ecosystems, by reducing fragmentation and creating corridors through reforestation, afforestation, or restoration.		
	5	Plan for and respond to severe disturbances to reduce risk and long-term impacts of increasing and more intense hazards.		1,2,3
	6	Plan for and respond to shorter periods of frozen ground.		
	7	Reduce the impacts of current biological stressors and monitor the spread of insects and diseases that are not yet found in Wisconsin but can due to a more favorable changing climate.		
	8	Develop and support training opportunities for forest managers and landowners on managing their forests for resiliency.		
	9	Increase management capacity by encouraging partnerships at different levels, from federal to local stakeholders.		
	10	Promote public awareness and education on climate change related issues.		
	11	Use best available science and research on climate change adaptation strategies to guide forest management.		
	12	Identify, conserve, and manage diverse forest genetic resources that are adaptable for future climatic conditions and maintain forest productivity and health.		
		K. Carbon storage in forests & forest products is increased.		
	1	Reduce the rate of conversion of forestland to alternative land uses to allow for long-term carbon storage.		
	2	Encourage reforestation and afforestation to enhance, protect, and connect larger tracts of forested land in appropriate locations consistent with ecological capability and context.		
	3	Increase Wisconsin's forested area to increase total stored carbon in the State.		
	4	Develop silvicultural guidance to maximize carbon sink capacity while maintaining productivity in working forests through diversifying age classes, stocking levels, and rotation ages.		1,2
	5	Expand value-added products industry to create long-lasting carbon sequestration materials.		
	6	Increase use and marketing of forest products, including wood-based construction.		
	7	Quantify carbon budgets of forest management practices, including prescribed fire, to optimize carbon storage and other forest management objectives, while still providing sustainable forest products.		
	8	Expand access to markets for forest carbon offsets to provide new income streams to forest owners and incentivize carbon storage in working forests.		

Relevant Subject Area Key

Forest Characteristics Ecology & Management	Wildfire Management	Forest Health	Climate Change
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		Goals and Strategies	Relevant Subject Areas	*National Priority
Forest Socioeconomics		**L. Wisconsin is a hub for diversified forest markets & non-market forest benefits.**		
	1	Promote and support research on existing and emerging forest markets and the forest products industry.		
	2	Promote forest industry manufacturing diversity and certification.		
	3	Develop markets for under-utilized forest materials.		
	4	Improve the connection between private landowners and timber markets.		1,2,3
	5	Identify and remove barriers to the sustainable use of biomass for wood energy.		
	6	Improve consumer knowledge of ecosystem services and benefits of forests and wood products.		
	7	Develop and promote education and outreach to landowners on benefits of active forest management.		
	8	Explore viability of ecosystem service markets.		
	9	Promote production of non-timber forest products that are compatible with sustainable forest management.		
	10	Promote and facilitate access to recreational opportunities.		
		M. The forest products industry remains competitive in both domestic & global/international markets.		
	1	Explore, share and promote information with local governments on the impact to the forest industry of local policies regarding transportation.		
	2	Advocate for improvements in transportation infrastructure, including rail, bridge replacements and upgrades, and roads to increase operational efficiency.		
	3	Work across state lines to increase capacity to process timber products.		1,2,3
	4	Improve forest operations efficiencies to reflect current and future needs.		
	5	Maintain and increase access to forest products.		
	6	Maintain and increase the acreage of forests that are certified.		
	7	Reduce barriers to timber harvest logging operations, while maintaining water, soil and other ecological functions.		
		N. The forestry workforce, including rural & urban sectors, are thriving with high levels of compensation, training, safety, quality of life & diversity.		
	1	Invest in and expand forestry workforce recruitment, retention and training.		
	2	Explore, identify, and reduce economic barriers to entering the forestry workforce.		1,3
	3	Grow interest and promote greater workforce diversity of those considering a career in forestry.		
	4	Promote and support all career pathways into the forestry workforce, including a continuum of existing and new education efforts and initiatives for students to learn about forests and forest-related careers.		

Relevant Subject Area Key

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		Goals and Strategies	Relevant Subject Areas	*National Priority
Forest Socioeconomics		**O. Forests provide a balance of social, ecological, economic benefits across all ownerships for current & future generations.**		
	1	Promote sustainable forestry management on Wisconsin's private and public forest lands.		
	2	Build public understanding about the benefits provided by investing in forest conservation.		
	3	Develop and support opportunities for collaboration and partnerships within the forest community.		
	4	Invest in the development of new and improve existing tools and resources to actively address amenity-based markets, public health benefits, forest health issues, threats, and climate change impacts.		1,2,3
	5	Promote and maintain desired landscape conditions through planning and implementing habitat management and sustainable timber harvests.		
	6	Identify, develop and offer relevant programming, training, and professional development opportunities for service providers working with private landowners so they can develop and maintain a depth of knowledge on risk analysis, adaptation strategies and applicable management tactics.		
	7	Identify, designate, and manage special management areas to conserve unique ecological, geological, cultural, and social values.		
		P. Wisconsin's public forest lands provide a broad range of forest-based recreation & tourism opportunities to meet growing & changing demands.		
	1	Plan for a range of recreation opportunities at a statewide level suitable to the capability of the land and with minimal long-term impacts.		
	2	Continue to evaluate regional and statewide forest-based recreational trends, issues and opportunities.		1,2,3
	3	Develop and promote effective partnerships in managing recreation opportunities and experiences.		
	4	Promote and provide information and assistance to the public, local chambers of commerce, and tourism entities.		

Relevant Subject Area Key

🌲 Forest Characteristics Ecology & Management	🔥 Wildfire Management	⊕ Forest Health	🌡 Climate Change
📊 Forest Socioeconomics	🌱 Private Forest Lands	👥 Public Forest Lands	🏡 Urban & Community Forestry

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	Goals nd Strategies	Relevant Subject Areas	*National Priority
Private Forest Lands / **Q. More landowners are actively engaged in making informed decisions about the management of their woodland.**			
	1	Increase the percentage of landowners who are guided by a management plan.		
	2	Increase awareness of resources available to private forest landowners.		
	3	Encourage participation in existing assistance programs available to private forest landowners.		
	4	Enhance landowner engagement and decision-making by identifying audiences and continuing engagement with outreach, education and relationship building between landowners and professional resource managers.		1,2,3
	5	Support and promote Wisconsin's private forestry programs and encourage landowners to make investments in the management of their forests for public benefits.		
	6	Ensure forest ownership remains a viable investment for family and institutional forest owners.		
	7	Educate landowners to inspire them to become actively engaged for short- and long-term benefits and gains of good woodland management.		
	8	Educate landowners to inspire them to become actively engaged for short- and long-term benefits and gains of good woodland management.		
R. Private forest landowners are better connected to each other through peer groups & networking opportunities.			
	1	Develop and promote peer networks, landowner mentoring programs, support groups and other resources that promote learning and understanding about the value and benefit of land ownership and forest management.		
	2	Facilitate coordination among landowners seeking to 'bundle' forest management practices.		1,2,3
	3	Establish networking opportunities for professionals (operators, loggers, foresters).		
	4	Recognize private forest landowners, Cooperating Foresters, and Certified Plan Writers (CPWs) for their contributions to Wisconsin forestry.		
Public Forest Lands / **S. Wisconsin's public forests are planned & managed using best available science & by an informed & engaged public.**			
	1	Engage the public and consider input in public forest management decisions.		
	2	Cooperate and communicate with tribes and others involved in cultural and historic resource management protection.		
	3	Utilize best available science and information when making management decisions.		
	4	Promote and maintain desired landscape conditions through planning and implementing habitat management and sustainable timber harvests.		
	5	Provide predictable and sustainable timber harvest levels to provide ecological, economic and social benefits.		1,2,3
	6	Provide education and interpretive opportunities regarding the values, services, and benefits of public forests.		
	7	Maintain current public lands infrastructure inventories, monitor and assess conditions, and develop design standards appropriate for level of use and environmental resiliency.		
	8	Promote infrastructure improvements that meet current and future needs.		
	9	Provide opportunities for research.		

Relevant Subject Area Key

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		Goals and Strategies	Relevant Subject Areas	*National Priority
Urban and Community Forestry		**T. Urban & community forests are more diverse, with increased tree canopy.**		
	1	Monitor urban and community tree canopy across all Wisconsin communities.		
	2	Increase tree planting and prioritize efforts in areas with lower levels of tree canopy in urban and community forests.		
	3	Maintain and manage existing trees in urban and community forests.		1,3
	4	Increase supply and access to diverse nursery stock for urban and community forests.		
	5	Develop and support education and outreach on the benefits that trees provide, and address concerns and negative perceptions.		
	6	Develop and support education and outreach on the benefits of tree species diversity in urban and community forests.		
		U. Urban and community forests are increasingly used as essential tools to achieve economic, environmental, social & public health goals.		
	1	Encourage and support multi-sector partnerships and collaboration.		
	2	Include urban and community forestry in strategic planning and policy development of partner sectors.		1,2,3
	3	Engage new audiences and professionals from affiliated fields to maximize the benefits of urban and community forests.		
	4	Promote economic, ecological, social and public health benefits of urban and community forests.		
	5	Promote the use of urban wood for environmental and economic benefits.		
		V. Urban & community forests are increasingly healthy & resilient to current & emerging stressors.		
	1	Engage volunteers and community members in tree care and maintenance.		
	2	Support recognition of successful urban and community forestry programs and initiatives.		
	3	Monitor impacts of stressors including pests, disease and climate change in urban and community forests.		
	4	Use urban and community forests as a tool to mitigate climate change and its effects.		1,2,3
	5	Increase tree species, age and structure diversity of urban and community forests.		
	6	Develop and implement climate change mitigation and adaption strategies in urban and community forests.		
	7	Incentivize proper tree planting, care and maintenance in urban areas and communities.		
	8	Use and promote sound science to improve and manage urban and community forests.		