

# **Perspectives on Challenges that Must be Addressed to Restore and Sustain Healthy, Productive Forests**

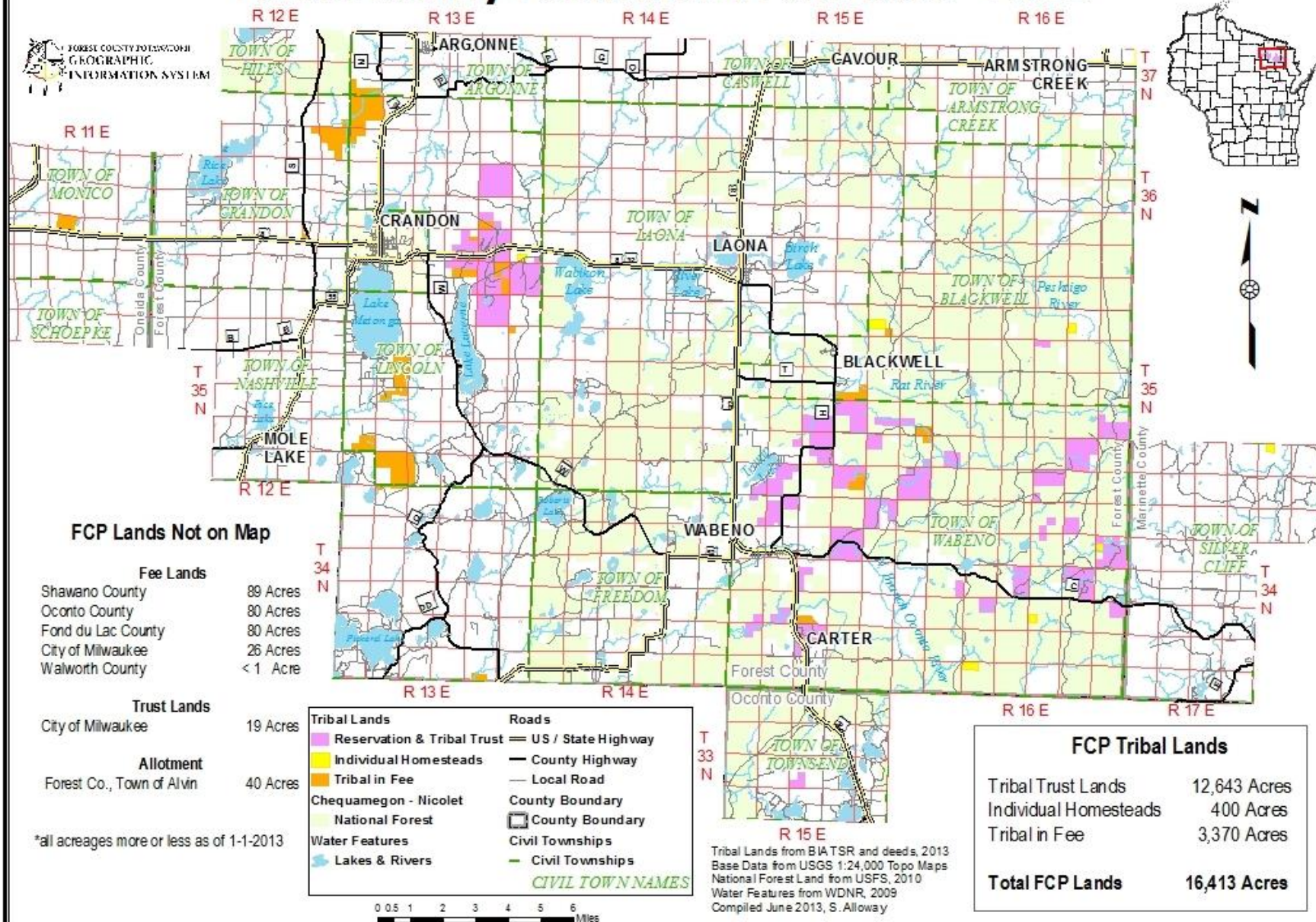
Al Murray, Forest Manager  
Forest County Potawatomi Community,  
Forest County, Wisconsin

# Who do I work for?





# Forest County Potawatomi Land Base - 2013



## FCP Lands Not on Map

### Fee Lands

Shawano County	89 Acres
Oconto County	80 Acres
Fond du Lac County	80 Acres
City of Milwaukee	26 Acres
Walworth County	< 1 Acre

### Trust Lands

City of Milwaukee	19 Acres
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### Allotment

Forest Co., Town of Alvin	40 Acres
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\*all acreages more or less as of 1-1-2013

Tribal Lands	Roads
<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color: #FFB6C1; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Reservation & Tribal Trust	<span style="display:inline-block; width:20px; border-bottom: 2px solid black;"></span> US / State Highway
<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color: #FFFF00; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Individual Homesteads	<span style="display:inline-block; width:20px; border-bottom: 1px solid black;"></span> County Highway
<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color: #FFA500; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Tribal in Fee	<span style="display:inline-block; width:20px; border-bottom: 1px dashed black;"></span> Local Road
<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color: #90EE90; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Chequamegon - Nicolet	<span style="display:inline-block; width:20px; border-bottom: 1px solid black;"></span> County Boundary
<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color: #90EE90; border: 1px solid black;"></span> National Forest	<span style="display:inline-block; width:20px; border-bottom: 1px solid black;"></span> County Boundary
<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color: #ADD8E6; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Water Features	<span style="display:inline-block; width:20px; border-bottom: 1px solid black;"></span> Civil Townships
<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color: #ADD8E6; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Lakes & Rivers	<span style="display:inline-block; width:20px; border-bottom: 1px solid black;"></span> Civil Townships

0 0.5 1 2 3 4 5 6 Miles

## FCP Tribal Lands

Tribal Trust Lands	12,643 Acres
Individual Homesteads	400 Acres
Tribal in Fee	3,370 Acres

**Total FCP Lands 16,413 Acres**

Tribal Lands from BIATSR and deeds, 2013  
Base Data from USGS 1:24,000 Topo Maps  
National Forest Land from USFS, 2010  
Water Features from WDNR, 2009  
Compiled June 2013, S. Alloway

# Potawatomi Uses of the Forest

- Hunting(deer and grouse, shining)
- Firewood collection
- Hiking and solitude
- Ceremonial use (religious solitude)
- Collection of traditional medicines
- 4X4 recreation including ATV and trucks
- Timber cutting by tribal loggers
- Collection of forest products (boughs, sheet moss, ginseng, logging products)
- Rough Camping
- Collection of foods (mushrooms, berries, venison)

# Potawatomi Member Concerns with Land and Forest Management

- Protect historical and cultural sites
- Protect areas for collection of medicinal plants and uses
- Protect water quality and wetlands
- Protect endangered species
- Establish permanent tribal access
- Protect and Improve the forest for future generations
- Change management goals to include non-monetary items, large trees, under-story plants, wildlife habitat
- Grow trees that are large- 26" and larger, save some trees just for their visual and personal value
- Provide timber opportunities for tribal member logging companies
- Increase habitat for game species such as white-tailed deer and grouse

# Federal Regulations Required on Tribal Lands

- Endangered Species Act
- National Environmental Policy Act
- Clean Water Act
- Native American Graves and Repatriation Act
- National Historic Preservation Act
- Clean Air Act

All Federal Regulations that apply to all Federal Lands, apply to forest management on FCPC Lands- tribe completes all required studies and documentation for Federal laws.

# Tribal Qualified Staffing, Equipment and Capabilities

## **Forestry and Land Services Department**

- 1 Forestry Director
- 1 Forester
- 1 Forestry Technician
- 1 Fire and Fuels Technician

## **Water Resources Department**

- 1 Water Resource Director
- 1 Aquatic Biologist

## **Wildlife Resources Department**

- 1 Wildlife Biologist
- 1 Wildlife Technician

## **Air Resources Department**

- 1 Air Program Director
- 1 Air equipment technician

## **Solid Waste Department**

- 1 Solid Waste Director
- Full staff for waste collection and recycling

## **Botany and Wetlands Program**

- 1 Botany and Wetland Director
- 1 Botanist

## **Realty and Land Management**

- 1 Realty Director
- Soon to come- surveyor and survey technician

## **Roads and Utilities Departments**

## **Historic Preservation Department**

## **Language and Culture Department**

Tribal Culture has developed over  
thousands of years with the  
following recognitions, in respect to  
the Tribal Culture, I paraphrase  
these items:

- Mother Earth is the beginning of all things, we are part of Mother Earth. (Note- non-native culture has a lot of belief that we control it!)
- Mother Earth provides all things that we need and takes what we don't use.
- We must respect and protect what is given to us and provide thanks for what we are given.



**WHY ARE WE HERE?**

# Forest County Potawatomi Community and the Surrounding Area have Three Major Items in Common

- SCHOOLS
- ECONOMY
- THE FOREST

# Schools- Tribal members attend all Three Schools in Forest County

**Crandon School District**



**Wabeno School District**



**Laona School District**



# Schools and Services are Funded by Property Taxes, State School Aid, and Annual Contributions from the Forest County Potawatomi Community

- The taxable land in Forest County is limited by over 50% of land being non-taxable National Forest Lands, our local property taxes are increased to provide for schools and other services because of this limitation.
- The Laona School district with over 70% National Forest land is nearly bankrupt.

# Schools and Services are Funded by Property Taxes, State School Aid, and Annual Contributions from the Forest County Potawatomi Community

- USFS provides for 25% of timber sale revenues to be paid to local municipalities to off-set costs of providing services.
- Over the last 20 years, the 25% fund has remained flat, despite the potential to harvest additional high value timber with higher volumes of timber sustainably available on the National Forests.
- With high timber markets in the last 20 years, our property taxes should have actually decreased if the timber was harvested as scheduled, our schools should be expanding!



# Schools and Services are Funded by Property Taxes, State School Aid, and Annual Contributions from the Forest County Potawatomi Community

- State School Aid is dependent upon enrollment- the high percentage of National Forest in Forest County limits residential development and thus the number of students in our schools.

# The Economy

The Forest County Potawatomi Community is the #1 employer in Forest County with many enterprises



# The Economy

TRIBAL BUSINESSES DEPEND UPON  
CUSTOMERS

TRIBAL MEMBERS NEED THINGS  
FROM THE SURROUNDING  
COMMUNITIES

# The Economy

THE FOREST INDUSTRY AND  
TOURISM ARE THE BACKBONE OF  
OUR ECONOMY



# The Economy

TOURISM IS SEASONAL AND  
DEPENDENT UPON DISPOSABLE  
INCOME OF TOURIST- UNSTABLE  
BASE FOR ECONOMY!



**MOTORIZED RECREATION SEEMS TO HAVE  
HIGHEST POTENTIAL IN FOREST COUNTY!**



# **WITH CHANGE, THE CHEQUAMEGON-NICOLET NATIONAL FOREST HAS THE POTENTIAL TO BE THE GREATEST BENEFIT TO OUR ECONOMY**



**WITHOUT CHANGE, THE  
CHEQUAMEGON-  
NICOLET NATIONAL FOREST HAS THE  
POTENTIAL TO BE THE GREATEST  
DETRIMENT  
TO OUR ECONOMY**



# **CURRENT FOREST POLICY AND THE TRAVEL MANAGEMENT RULE LIMITS MOTORIZED RECREATION ON THE CHEQUEMAGON-NICOLET IN MOST PLACES**



THIS ALSO RESTRICTS ACCESS TO ELDERLY  
AND HANDICAPPED

# THE FOREST INDUSTRY IN FOREST COUNTY HAS DECLINED DRAMATICALLY IN THE LAST 15 YEARS



## **Forest Sawmill- Wabeno**

- 3 saw rigs originally- 20-30 employees
- Currently only 1 saw rig- 6 employees
- Reduction in capability by 2/3



## **Nicolet Hardwoods- Laona**

- 2 saw rigs operational
- Limited shifts from lack of material
- Working at 60% capacity
- Down from 70 employees to 35



## **Con-Wald Lumber- Freedom**

- Originally 1 saw rig
- No longer operational
- Closed down, parted and sold
- Down from 15 employees to 0



# THE SURROUNDING COUNTIES ARE NOT MUCH BETTER

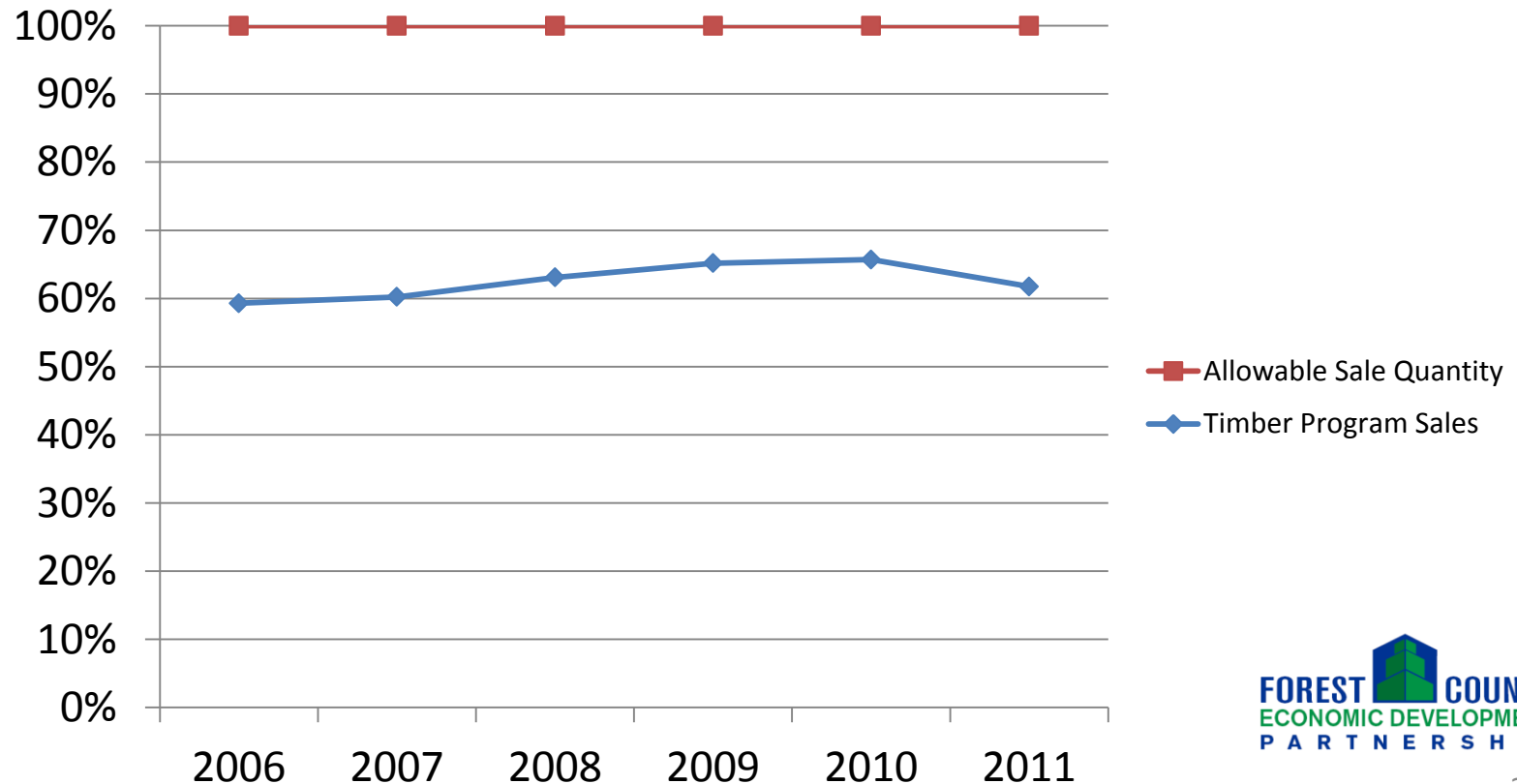
Rhineland paper mill one  
of two Wisconsin Facilities  
up for sale.





# IN SAME TIME FRAME THE CHEQUEMAGON- NICOLET DID THIS

Allowable Sale Quantity versus timber sold  
(CNNF-MBF)



THAT DOES NOT EVEN ACCOUNT  
FOR THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE  
“ANNUAL ALLOWABLE HARVEST”  
AND “ANNUAL SALE QUANTITY” OR  
VALUE LOSS IN QUALITY OF THE  
TIMBER.

Note- Annual allowable harvest calculations utilize forest conditions to determine the amount of harvesting for sustainable forestry. Annual sale quantity is funding and staffing based.

**IN SAME TIME FRAME MUCH OF THE FOREST  
ON THE CHEQUEMAGON- NICOLET ALSO DID**

**THIS**



**LOSS OF FOREST HEALTH AND  
TIMBER QUALITY!**



# IN SAME TIME FRAME THE MUCH OF THE FOREST ON THE CHEQUEMAGON- NICOLET DID

THIS



BUILD UP OF FUELS!



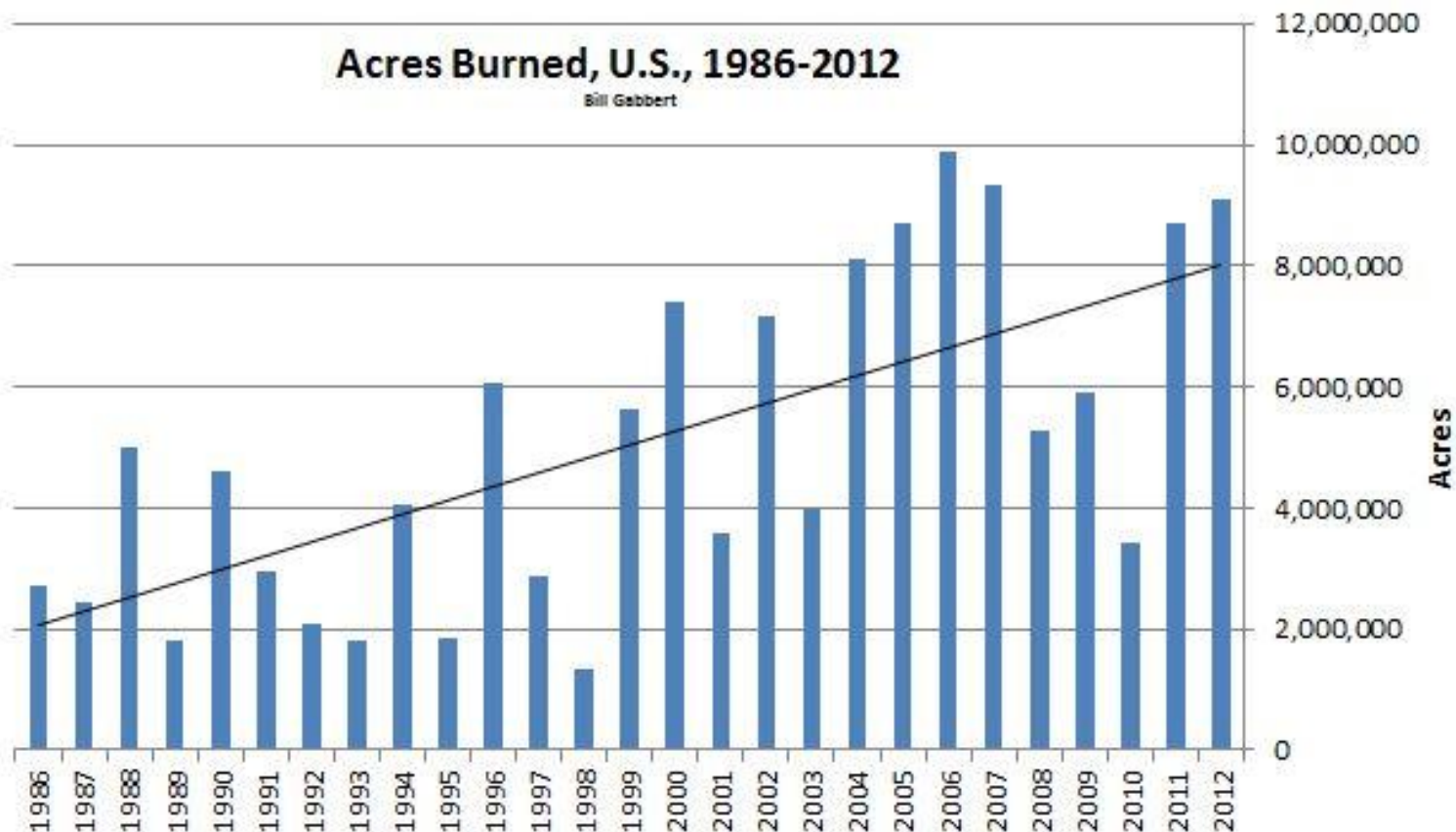
# IN SAME TIME FRAME MANY FORESTS ACROSS THE COUNTRY DID THIS!

## Germann Road Fire- Bayfield and Douglas Counties Wisconsin, 2013





# OVER 9,000,000 ACRES BURNED ACROSS THE U.S. IN 2012



# **CURRENT FOREST POLICY AND THE TRAVEL MANAGEMENT RULE REDUCES ACCESS FOR FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL**



This once  
was a road  
and hunter  
walking  
trail

# Things Need to Change in the Management of Federal Forestlands

- Federal Forestlands have the highest potential to provide positive impacts to forest health improvement in the shortest term.
- Federal Forestlands have the highest potential to provide a stable, predictable raw material supply for our forest industry which supports out “year-round” economy.
- Forest health management needs to be prioritized in the management of all federal lands.
- WE NEED TO ACTIVELY MANAGE OUR FORESTLANDS TO BENEFIT THE ECONOMY AND THE FOREST ITSELF!

# Now A Quote From President Theodore Roosevelt- Food for Thought, Just Prior to the Inception of the USFS



**“And now first and foremost you can never afford to forget for one moment what is the object of our forest policy. That object is not to preserve the forests because they are beautiful, though that is good in itself, nor because they are refuges for the wild creatures of the wilderness, though that, too, is good in itself, but the primary object of our forest policy as of the land policy of the United States, is the making of prosperous homes. It is part of the traditional policy of home making in our country. Every other consideration comes as secondary. You yourselves have got to keep this practical object before your minds, to remember that a forest which contributes nothing to the wealth , progress or safety of the country is of no interest to the Government and should be of little interest to the forester. Your attention must be directed to the preservation of forests, not as an end in itself, but as a means of preserving and increasing the prosperity of the nation.”**

**President Theodore Roosevelt from a speech to a meeting of the Society of American Foresters, Washington DC, March 26, 1903**

# **THROUGHOUT TRIBAL AND LOCAL HISTORY**

**A HEALTHY FOREST SUPPORTED A  
HEALTH COMMUNITY**

**WISE USE OF THE FOREST PROVIDED  
FOR OUR NEEDS**

**THOSE FACTS RESOUND TODAY!**

# **The Forest County Potawatomi Community is in the heart of the Nicolet National Forest**

**We have local capabilities, staffing and  
resources.**

**We would welcome partnerships to  
assist in the management of the forest  
across the landscape to benefit the  
forest, our communities, and our  
economy.**

**Thank You!**