



Sustainability / Multi-State Regional Scale

Progress in Great Lakes Region Aided by Great Lakes Forest Alliance	
Place-Based Example	Great Lakes Forest Alliance helps lay strong foundation for assessing sustainable forest management across state and country borders
Discussion	<p>Description: The states of MI, MN, and WI and the Canadian province of Ontario collaborate through the Great Lakes Forest Alliance (GLFA) to enhance management and sustainable use of public and private forest lands in the region. During its 20-year history the GLFA has led resource assessment efforts, including a review of the Montreal Process Criteria & Indicators (MP C&I) for the region. In 2004 the GLFA hosted a regional workshop following release of the <i>National Report on Sustainable Forests—2003</i> focusing on forests in the Upper Mississippi River Basin which included but was not limited to MI, MN, and WI. Now the GLFA is focusing on specific pressing issues (e.g., loss of a forest products industry) which threaten the region; and is looking to connect issue-based work with earlier assessment efforts informed by the MP C&I.</p> <p>Context: The 200-million acres of forests in the region are important domestically and internationally; and the foundational work supports regional efforts as well as GLFA members. This includes the <i>State of the Great Lakes</i> reports produced by environmental protection agencies in the US and Canada as well as State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conferences (SOLEC) held every 2 years since 1994. The forest indicators in the <i>State of the Great Lakes 2007</i> are based upon the C&I and informed by work underway by the US Forest Service (FS) in partnership with the Northeastern Area Association of State Foresters (NAASF); and they guide conference deliberations about forest lands. MI, MN, and WI are NAASF members—a 20-state endeavor that has adopted the 7 MP criteria, 18 base indicators, and 73 metrics to address common needs.</p> <p>Value Added: The foundational work done by GLFA provides value at many levels—to individual states, to the Great Lakes region, and to broader regional efforts involving both the US and Canada. The potential now exists to use the C&I to inform discussions about pressing issues related to the forest industry, bio-energy, climate change, and more. It is noteworthy that GLFA efforts involve another MP country—namely Canada, which convened the international seminar of experts in 1993 leading to what is now known as the Montreal Process.</p>
Key Resources and Web Links	<p>Assessing Progress in Sustainable Forest Management: Proposed Criteria and Indicators for the Upper Great Lakes Region (published June 4, 1998)</p> <p>GLFA—www.greatforests.org</p> <p>SOLEC—www.epa.gov/solec/</p>
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