

See The Forest For The Trees

“You can’t see the forest for the trees”; idiom: someone focused on small details (or parts) and missing something more important: failing to understand the situation as a whole: over-looking the bigger picture and unable to be objective.



Cynthia Brekke
Former VP Editor

Bringing back American manufacturing; cutting taxes on tips, Social Security and overtime; rebuilding our military and the border wall; deporting illegal and criminal aliens; negotiating fair trade agreements; opening up energy production; replenishing our oil reserves; hitting at media bias; putting terrorist designations on criminal gangs... this is just scratching the surface of Trump’s first one hundred days in office. President Trump hit the ground running at an unbelievable pace and hasn’t stopped, sucking the wind out of the Marxist left and making their heads spin. Despite the obstacles they’ve tried to put up to stop Trump, he keeps pushing forward.

However, if you listen to the manure-spreader media, they will try to make you think Trump is doing a terrible job. Don’t drink the Kool-aid. CNN’s recent poll has the President at a 54% approval rating - he has a mandate from the voters. Forget the distractions, the diversion tactics. The Marxists are in misery and they want you to be the same. Trump’s agenda is moving at a rapid pace. They’re scrambling to make mountains out of molehills, or exploit any negative sound bite, in order to shake your confidence. We’re stronger than they are.

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Perspective



The Voyageur Press welcomes perspectives. Kindly consider sharing your viewpoint (400 words in length) on any topic. We also welcome columnists who want to be published more frequently. E-mail the Voyageur Press for details at portage@frontier.com.

As we all know, perspectives expressed in columns, cartoons and letters represent the views of the authors.

The deadline for letters is:
Thursday at noon.
Email: portage@frontier.com



Forest Views

Mark Jacobs is a retired Aitkin County Land Commissioner and is now an Associate with Dovetail Partners, Inc., whose mission is to provide authoritative information about the impacts and trade-offs of environmental decisions.



Mark Jacobs
Forest Views

Previously we explored the common perception that MN forests are being harvested at an unsustainable rate. MN forests annually grow much more wood than is harvested, thus our forests have continued to add wood volume and store more atmospheric carbon. So, from a wood volume perspective it is clearly sustainable. But equating millions of cords of wood to forest impacts isn’t a straightforward exercise. The acres of forest impacted tells a better story when it comes to how our forests are managed for the multiple benefits that Minnesotans value.

From a forest management perspective, forest rotation is the number of years between establishment of a forest stand and its final harvest at a specified stage of maturity. The goals of forest management, such as producing wood products, enhancing wildlife habitat, conserving biodiversity, or mitigating climate change, will help determine the specific rotation length. In Minnesota, we have a variety of forest types including those that are relatively short-lived (such as aspen or jack pine) to those that are long-lived (such as red oak or white pine). Considering that MN has a good representation of short and

long-lived forest types, an overall forest rotation goal of around 100 years (1% annual harvest) seems like a reasonable middle ground to address economic and environmental aspects of the forest.

Minnesota has 17.7 million acres of forestland. There are about 4.6 million acres of forest that are 30 years old or younger; indicating an average annual harvest of well under 1% of the forest over the past three decades. In fact, over the past decade the annual harvest has been the equivalent of a 138-year forest rotation. In my experience, most people are surprised by that small percentage as it’s not the message they tend to hear.

In my view, harvesting around 1% of the forest acres each year while ensuring that forest growth continues to exceed timber harvest levels is a good approach moving forward. This strategy allows for a good representation of both young and old forests across Minnesota’s forested landscape. A balance of young and old forests is beneficial for native wildlife, water quality, and carbon sequestration and storage.

But the harvesting activity must be performed well on-the-ground, or the number of acres and cords may be irrelevant. This will be a topic for another article.



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