

Menominee Forest-Past and Present¹

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Having cut the entire forest twice over (2.25 billion board feet), the Menominee Tribe has successfully managed their forest for over 140 years. Since 1854 under current practices of sustained yield management, estimates of timber volume on the forest indicate that the Menominee Tribe currently holds more volume on the forest than before the Tribe first began cutting the forest. Since the beginning of timber harvesting, the Menominee Tribal concept of cutting only the “dead and dying tree” has led the Tribe to believe the “trees will last forever’, if we play the game right and look beyond man’s temporal greed of getting rich quick.

Menominee Tribal Enterprises (business arm of the Tribe) has intensively managed the forest under close supervision by all Tribal members on an island of contiguous land unheard of east of the Mississippi River. The Menominee believe there must be a balance between harvesting and using only those resources which can be replenished by nature and still maximize jobs and other economic benefits to the Tribe. The Menominee believe that the concept of true sustained yield management closely relates to their philosophy of land ethics and tenure.

¹Paper abstract presented at the North American Conference On Enterprise Development through Agroforestry: Farming the Agroforest for Specialty Products (Minneapolis, MN, October 4-7, 19998)

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