



## Partnership to Provide Hands-On Experience for UWSP Forestry Students

*By: Teri Ludwig and Allie Mindykowski  
Student Foresters / Conservation Biologists*

A partnership between the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (UWSP) [College of Natural Resources](#) and the Wisconsin [Board of Commissioners of Public Lands \(BCPL\)](#) is giving students valuable hands-on forestry experience for the second consecutive year.

Our summer work experience entailed several duties ranging from forest inventory, property line marking, and marking trees for harvest. We also collected field data to prepare a management prescription for Northern Hardwood stands. “Learning how to properly manage the northern hardwood forest type is a unique skill that requires a lot of patience and mindfulness.” - Teri Ludwig. Correctly managing this complex forest cover type is crucial to ensure long-term sustainability.

“This opportunity put the world of forestry into perspective. I will certainly be utilizing the skills I learned this summer in my future forestry career, and I have the incredible staff here at BCPL to thank for that.” - Allie Mindykowski. Our mentors have taught us the importance of communication with those working within the timber industry, as well as how our natural resources are an asset that must be managed with integrity for the benefit of future generations. It is fulfilling to know that the work we have accomplished this summer will provide timber resources, as well as help to fund our public education in Wisconsin.

Kevin Burns, BCPL Forest Supervisor, and Joe Malinowski, Senior Forester, prioritized our education, and took the time to explain and show every aspect of forestry, and provided some of their own unique knowledge and personal strategies for management. Both of these experienced foresters recognize the importance of hands-on work and field experience and made sure we were always immersed and trained to perform independently.

Being teachable and having a willingness to learn is important. There is a wealth of knowledge to explore when entering forestry, and BCPL has provided us with a head start into this field. We thank UWSP and BCPL for giving us this opportunity.