



MICHIGAN MINNESOTA ONTARIO WISCONSIN

*Great Lakes. Great Forests.<sup>sm</sup>*

## Carbon Policy Statement

Adopted by Board of Trustees  
on June 18, 2008

The Great Lakes Forest Alliance, Inc. recognizes that there are important relationships between forests, carbon management and climate change. These relationships offer opportunities to improve the current and future health of both forest and human communities.

Examples of these connections include:

- Forests sequester carbon as they grow and convert atmospheric carbon dioxide to carbon in wood and soil organic matter. Subsequently, carbon can be sequestered in both standing trees and long-lasting forest products.
- Sequestration of carbon is only one of the many values derived from sustainably managed forests. Other examples of values from sustainably managed forests include: water quality, wildlife habitat, forest products and recreational opportunities.
- Both public and private sustainably managed forests are important to the continued provision of the broad range of forest values expected by society. Forest management is essential to maintain forest health and productivity to provide these values.
- Ecosystem services such as carbon credits for climate change mitigation and watershed maintenance are increasingly being monetized or traded.
- The science is developing related to understanding the potential long-term effects of climate change and what should be done in the short- and long-term to adapt to climate change.

The Great Lakes Forest Alliance, Inc. supports and encourages the development of policies, research and educational information that:

- Promotes the continued sustainable management of public and private forests to provide the broad range of environmental values and associated ecosystem services. This includes those related to climate change mitigation derived from the sequestration of atmospheric carbon in trees and soil and long-lasting wood products.
- Provides a better understanding of the long-term effects of climate change.
- Promotes understanding, mitigation and adaptation to climate change.
- Supports the development of opportunities for landowners to monetize or trade ecosystem services in a manner that promotes long-term, science-based sustainable forest management.