

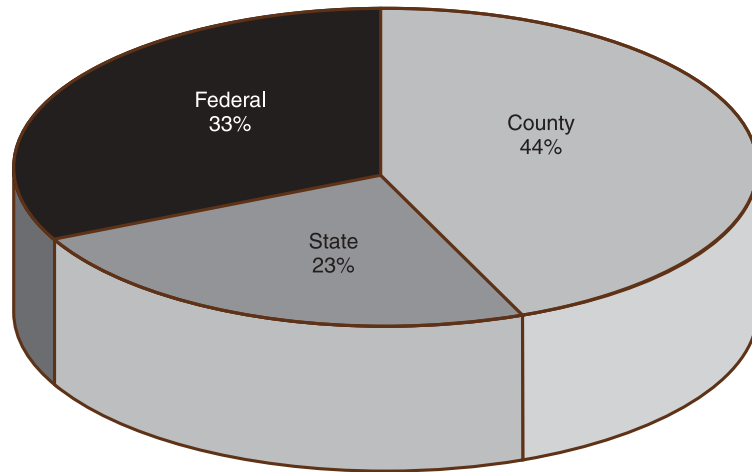
## **Recreational Land and Uses**

Wisconsin forests provide a vast array of recreational opportunities. Some, like hunting and wildlife study, have had a place in Wisconsin since the very first humans arrived. Others, like mountain biking and snowmobiling, are relatively recent phenomena. A large majority of Wisconsin residents participate in outdoor recreation. Wisconsin is a state of hardy outdoor enthusiasts, active throughout the year.

Just as the activities that Wisconsin forest recreationists choose to participate in are wide in range, so too are the land and facilities that are used. All classes of ownership, region, and amenity level are represented in the land used for recreation.

### *Land Ownership*

**Figure 4 — Public Conservation and Recreation Land Wisconsin, 1998**



Ownership of recreational land varies from small county parks to the national forests, from large tracts of paper company land to small private woodlots. Ownership often determines the accessibility of the land for recreation.

*Activities*

The land people use for recreation varies by recreational activity. Non-consumptive users tend to recreate on state land, and overall, state parks are the most popular recreation sites. Hunters tend to hunt on non-industrial private land. Motorized users are also more likely to use private land. However, all groups use a variety of land, and many individuals use more than one site for recreation.

**Table 1 — Wisconsin Forest-based Recreation by Activity and Percent Participation 1998**

Activity	Percent	Activity	Percent
Fishing	34.26	Hiking	13.22
Wildlife viewing	27.61	Canoeing	8.56
Camping (tent)	26.93	Cross country skiing	5.37
Picnicking	26.69	Backpacking	5.52
Nature study	21.17	Mt. biking, off road	4.76
Hunting with firearm	19.21	Horseback riding	4.61
Bird watching	18.41	Snowshoeing	1.41
Nature photography	17.03		

*Wisconsin forest-based recreation by activity and percent participation (Based on data from the 1998-99 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan)*

This table indicates the most popular, wholly forest-based, non-developed, recreational activities. In addition to those listed, other activities often take place in or are enhanced by, forests. For many people, much of the appeal of pleasure driving, exercise walking, and jogging comes from being in or near forests.

In general, there are significant, non-developed, forest-based recreational opportunities in the state. These activities include hunting, fishing, hiking, sight-seeing and cross-country skiing. The Forest Legacy Program in Wisconsin will promote the continuation of these low-impact recreational uses. Although the Wisconsin Forest Legacy Program will not require public access, the willingness of the owner to allow public access will be a factor in prioritizing potential purchases in areas where non-developed recreational opportunities are limited or lacking.