



### LESSON SUMMARY

Students will participate in a role-playing exercise, to appreciate that forests provide a range of benefits including economic, ecological, recreational, and wildlife habitat values



TD Friends of the  
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Foundation



## Activity Information

<b>Grade Level:</b>	Intermediate
<b>Estimated duration:</b>	1 to 2 hours
<b>Materials:</b>	Copies of Integrated Resource Management Activity Sheet (one each per student)
<b>Setting:</b>	Indoors
<b>Key Vocabulary:</b>	Integrated resource management

## Background Information

Forest management involves not only producing the required amount of raw material on a sustainable basis, but also maintaining the many other values of the forest — such as wildlife habitat, water and soil resources, and recreational opportunities. This is what is known as integrated resource management — taking into account the many different forest values when planning for a specific area. Management decisions must be based not only on a knowledge of forestry, but on ecological and social values as well.

Forestry management plans must address commercial, recreational, and ecological

In some cases, these interests may conflict but in others an effective compromise can be reached. For example, logging can enhance deer habitat by opening up spaces that encourage the growth of new shoots (the deer's food) near ground level. If too great an area is cleared, however, the herd may be adversely affected in winter by the lack of shelter. Deer prefer dense stands of hemlock and other conifers, where the thick foliage reduces the fall of snow to the ground. In severe winters, deer congregate in large numbers in such areas, called "yards" where they remain until spring. Deer and other large mammals often use the open logging trails to travel between areas of shelter and browse.

When thinking about the removal of trees from a forest and balancing this against other uses, it is important to understand the reasons for harvesting trees. Each of us uses the products into which the trees and their parts are manufactured — the newspapers, paper bags, furniture, sports equipment, matches, toothpicks, broom handles, and telephone poles, as well as less obvious forest products such as paints and polishes (from turpentine), plastics (from lignin), adhesives (from bark), and sugar and syrup (from sap).

## Advance Preparation

Make copies of the activity sheet (one per student).

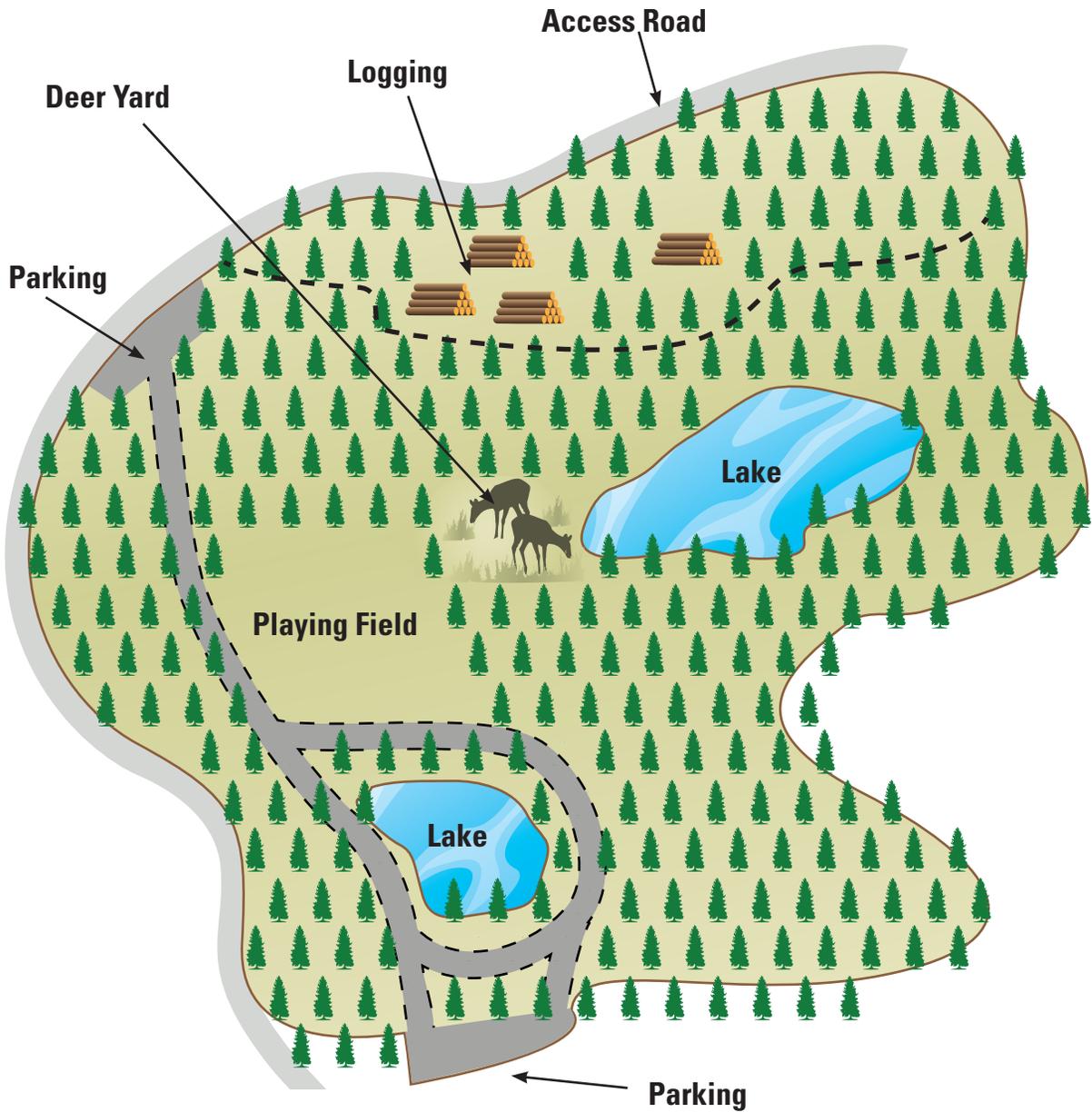
## Activity

1. Introduce the idea of forest values and multiple use. Ask students to list all the possible values or uses of the forest they can think of. Hold a discussion about all the ways forests touch their lives (e.g., provision of wooden furniture and paper products, settings for camps or cottages, places to hike)
2. Conduct the role-playing activity as explained on the activity sheet.

## Evaluation

Describe a local/regional/provincial land-use conflict, preferably one which includes a forested area. Consider all the values of the area as well as the demands on the resource. Develop a plan to solve the conflict.

# Integrated Resource Management Activity Sheet



## A Role-playing Activity

Read the following case study and then conduct the role-playing activity.

### Case Study: Percy Lake

A container-manufacturing company harvests large areas of Crown land around Percy Lake in Haliburton County. It uses the wood to make shipping pallets. Individuals owning shoreline property on Percy Lake have built vacation homes, where they can enjoy the view of the forest and the lake. In addition, white-tailed deer spend their winters in the hemlock forest around Percy Lake, and hunters visit the area to hunt the deer.

When writing a management plan, the forest manager in this area must consider possible conflicts between the company, the vacationers, and the hunters. Here are some possible scenarios that might have a positive, negative, or neutral impact on the situation depending on the point of view:

- a logging road is built to the shore of the lake
- the lakeshore is zoned for more cottages
- the company agrees to leave 70 m of lakeshore forest uncut
- sale of more cottage lots increases tax revenue
- tree tops cut off by loggers provide extra deer browse in winter
- logs are left on the road to the cottages
- cottagers use waste logs for firewood
- local residents are employed to cut trees
- logging activities create excessive noise
- hunters complain of messy slash in the bush
- jobs are lost when the company stops logging
- company prosecutes trespassers from cottages
- cottagers tolerate logging near their cottages
- logging machines damage roads and trees
- cottagers enjoy seeing wild deer

**A Role-playing Activity**

Organize into groups of five. One person in the group acts as recorder and arbitrator to settle disputes between the others, one represents the cottagers, one represents the hunters, one represents the company, and one represents the forest manager.

The container-manufacturing company requests a clear cut 20 ha of mixed wood forest close to the lake shore in order to keep its business going and prevent layoffs. Using some of the points listed above, form an option on the proposed logging. (Ask yourself: How will it affect me, as a hunter/cottager/logger?) Debate this issue for 15 to 20 minutes.

At the end of the debate the forest manager with the co-operation of the group, must devise a plan of action to recommend:

- whether logging should go ahead as planned
- whether logging should be prohibited
- whether logging can go ahead with some modifications or compromises

Each group makes a five-minute presentation of their recommendations to the class. When all recommendations have been heard, the class can make comparisons and reach a consensus on the best management plan for the Percy Lake area.