



Ken Schrankel's Wild 40

FutureWood develops a sustainable Northwoods plan

Ken Schrankel says he knew his land needed work the day he bought it. The red pines on his front 40 acres were crowded. The aspen on his back 40 – acreage Schrankel called the Wild 40 – were over-mature and vulnerable. But he says he didn't know precisely what kind of help to ask for, or where to go to get it.

"I was always in need of somebody who could give me advice," he says, "but until FutureWood came along I always had that nagging feeling that I wasn't sure what I was doing."

Chris Burke, a FutureWood forester with more than a decade of experience in developing sustainable forestry management plans for private landowners, came to Schrankel's aid. Burke surveyed the land, made a series of recommendations, and the two men drew up a management plan designed to provide Schrankel with near-term and long-term economic and aesthetic benefits while always improving the health of the trees.

"At FutureWood, they definitely don't just want to cut trees and run to the bank," says Schrankel. "Their sustainable attitude is very desirable to me. I see them as a company following contemporary rules of sustainability, and having a mission and goals that are consistent with those that noted foresters like Aldo Leopold articulated a long time ago."

Burke smiles at the praise, and notes that FutureWood's commitment to sustainability was one reason he wanted to work for the company in the first place. "If you can sleep with what you did today, you did a good job," he says.

The plan Schrankel and Burke developed is still in effect. The aspen on the Wild 40 have been thinned selectively and the red pines are nearing readiness for a third cut. Schrankel is busy building a trail around the perimeter of his property and says he's pleased that he's still in touch with Burke.

"Working with FutureWood is not just a one-shot deal where they come in and cut the pulp," says Schrankel. "I'm very comfortable that if I have a question about the land or an idea, I know I can go to FutureWood."

Call FutureWood today at **(715) 634-4843**. Let us help you make your part of the great Northwoods more profitable, more sustainable, more beautiful.



Ken Schrankel



Chris Burke and Ken Schrankel

