



BCPL-UWSP partnership gives students field forestry skills

By the Wisconsin Forestry Center, UW-Stevens Point

A new partnership between UW-Stevens Point and the [Board of Commissioners of Public Lands \(BCPL\)](#) is giving students valuable hands-on forestry experience.

Three students in the [College of Natural Resources](#) are spending part of their summer working on BCPL lands. Joey Puchalski, Sophie Hauser, and William Michels Frank are locating and marking property lines, controlling invasive species, doing forest inventories, conducting timber cruises, and manually releasing oaks.

“As an organization, we want to help support UWSP students with field learning,” said Kevin Burns, BCPL forestry supervisor. “I actually want people who don’t have experience, who don’t have the field skills, people who want to learn.”

BCPL is a state agency that manages 77,000 acres of school trust lands for the benefit of public schools, libraries, and the University of Wisconsin.

Student Sophie Hauser said BCPL staff have provided a wealth of knowledge and different perspectives on natural resource management. “One thing I will forever remember is how this job has shown me how truly intertwined all the natural resource disciplines are,” she said. “I can’t wait to continue on my path with this experience behind me thanks to BCPL.”

Joey Puchalski, who is majoring in urban forestry, said he hopes to use the skills he’s gained this summer in his future career. “I really have enjoyed working with such a well-rounded, diverse, and intelligent group of individuals at BCPL,” he said.

Burns already has plans for next summer’s student employees, including GIS projects, restoration work, and mapping threatened and endangered species.