Participant: The Lyme Timber Company LP
Location: Wisconsin
Investment class: Real Assets
Acquisition amount: US$49,000,000

The Project: The Lyme Forest Fund III and The Lyme Forest Fund IV invested in 85,000 acres in northern Wisconsin between 2011 and 2015. In what became the largest land conservation effort in Wisconsin's history, Lyme, in collaboration with The Conservation Fund, conveyed to Wisconsin's Department of Natural Resources conservation easements on 72,500 acres of timberland in three separate transactions. The conservation easements ensure the lands are available for forest management and timber production, provide raw material to the forest products industry, and remain open to the public for nature-based recreational activities in perpetuity.

The property and other nearby conservation lands are located at the headwaters of the Brule, Totagatic, and St. Croix Rivers and contain significant areas of aquifer recharge as well as spring in-flows critical to water quality for nearby towns and native fish species. Both before and after the easement sales, Lyme managed the property for sustainable timber production, and the lands were certified as sustainably managed by the Sustainable Forestry Initiative. In 2017, Lyme sold its Wisconsin timberlands to the Hancock Timber Resources Group. The lands will remain perpetually encumbered by the conservation easements and continue to provide public benefits under the new owner’s forest management plan.

ESG Outcomes:
- Environmental certification of land
- Carbon sequestration
- Protection and restoration of streams and wetlands
- Drinking water supply protection
- Habitat conservation
- Flood management
- Soil regeneration

For more information, contact:
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