
Wisconsin Forestry Notes

August 2013

Wisconsin DNR - Division of Forestry

Council reaches agreement on 21 recommended changes to the Managed Forest Law program.

Council offers MFL report to state legislature

The [Wisconsin Council on Forestry](#) issued the final report earlier this summer from their study of Wisconsin's [Managed Forest Law](#) (MFL) program. The Council identified and assessed potential modifications that could be introduced through legislative procedures to amend the program. The Council submitted the report to the Council's legislative representatives with the request that legislation be drafted based on the 21 items for which there was consensus. This report provides an analysis of the proposed revisions and is [available online](#).

State and county timber sales to be monitored for water quality best management practices this fall.

BMP monitoring happening this fall

Nine teams will be monitoring more than seventy randomly-selected state and county land timber sales this fall for the application and effectiveness of [Forestry Best Management Practices \(BMPs\) for Water Quality](#). These voluntary practices are designed to protect water quality during forest management activities with practical, cost-effective methods. Monitoring helps determine the success of the program and to identify areas where improvements are needed.

Monitoring teams are each comprised of four individuals with a variety of interests and backgrounds, including people from county, state, and federal agencies, professional forestry organizations, environmental and conservation organizations, and the timber, pulp and paper industries. Team members have expertise in one or more of the following areas: forest management, logging, soils, water quality or fisheries.

Since 1995, nearly 600 timber sales have been monitored for BMP application and effectiveness. In general, the correct application of BMPs has improved over time. In 1995 BMPs were correctly applied where needed 86% of the time on both state and county lands. The last time state and county lands were monitored was in 2003. At that time, BMPs were applied correctly 90% of the time on state lands and 93% of the time on county lands. BMP monitoring has also documented that when BMPs are correctly applied, BMP monitoring teams have not observed any adverse impacts to water quality 99% of the time. However, when BMPs are not applied, teams have observed adverse impacts to water quality 69% of the time.

New group in place to update silviculture guidance

Broad-based team will guide future revisions of DNR's silviculture handbook.

The Division of Forestry has implemented a new model for reviewing and updating the [Silviculture Handbook](#). A Silviculture Guidance Team (SGT), comprised of representatives of various facets of the forestry community, will help ensure that silviculture guidance is being developed based on best available science and field experience. Ad Hoc teams will continue to draft handbook chapters and such a team has just been formed to work on the jack pine chapter. The work of the SGT will ensure that this handbook is revised in a manner that reflects the broad range of interests and experience in Wisconsin's forestry community, according to co-chairs [Carmen Hardin](#) (Wisconsin DNR Forest Science Section Chief) and [Doug Brown](#) (Marathon County Assistant Forest Administrator).

Report shares data about state forests

Inventory report covers 526,947 acres of state-owned forest land.

The baseline report for the first five years of the Continuous Forest Inventory highlights the conditions of ten Wisconsin DNR state forests based on a plot inventory system, similar to the USDA Forest Service's Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program. See the [report](#) and more information about the [Continuous Forest Inventory on the DNR Website](#) or contact Forest Inventory Specialist [Andy Stoltman](#) for more information.

Video urges viewers to protect homes from embers

Video says: "Be Ember Aware"

A new four-minute video on the DNR Website uses an interview and footage from the [Germann Road Fire](#) to educate homeowners in the wildland-urban interface about the danger of embers. View the "[Be Ember Aware](#)" video on the [Firewise page](#) or on the [fire playlist of DNR's YouTube channel](#).

Division continues to fill vacancies

Division welcomes new employees

In addition to the 17 new foresters who joined the Division of Forestry on May 20th, a group of ten forestry technicians was hired this summer and started their assignments on August 12th.

You may also have the opportunity to work with two of the new forestry staff specialists. Forest hydrologist Dave Kafura, although new to the Division of Forestry on August 11th, joined DNR in 1984 and brings a wealth of experience in waterway and wetland permitting and in providing technical assistance to many partners. Another DNR veteran, Diane Brusoe, has been hired as the Division's Resource Management Partnership Coordinator. Diane will coordinate the [Karner blue butterfly Habitat Conservation Partnership](#) and will also be building and supporting other resource management partnerships. She will be assessing opportunities to work with others at the landscape level to address resource management.

Wisconsin Forestry Notes highlights programs and activities of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources - Division of Forestry, Box 7921, Madison, Wisconsin 53707

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