

Forest Tax Law Dispute Resolution Process (DRP)

Flowchart Outline for Landowners

For more information, see Chapter 310 of the Forest Tax Law Handbook, or contact your Forest Tax Law Forestry Specialist. You may also contact Tax Law Leadership with DRP concerns: email or call the Forest Tax Law Compliance Specialist.

1. Routine Disagreement Arises

Examples: Dispute over a cutting notice, management plan approval, or implementation of forestry practices.



Talk with your Tax Law Forestry Specialist (TLFS)



Outcome: Most disagreements are resolved informally at this stage.



If not resolved → Go to Step 2

2. TLFS Consults Team Leader

Purpose: To get a regional perspective, possible expert input, and ensure landowners are offered the full flexibilities of the law and sound forestry.



Outcome: Regional decision is made to resolve the issue.



If still unresolved → Go to Step 3

3. Tax Law Leadership Team (TLLT) Review

Role: Ensures consistency and an independent evaluation.



Outcome: Section-approved decision including all viable landowner options it sees that would resolve the issue is made and shared along with information on how to request the DRP.



If disagreement continues → Go to Step 4



4. Request Formal Dispute Review

Action: Submit a written request to Tax Law Section Chief



Include your position and willingness to participate in the DRP



Section Chief submits a dispute summary to Chief State Forester

5. Chief State Forester Review

What Happens:

- Gathers evidence
- May meet with all parties
- May consult legal/technical experts
- May hire a **third-party forester** (both sides can suggest up to 3 candidates)



Outcome: Written decision issued



This decision is final under the DRP process.



You still retain the right to file a contested case (legal action) under Wisconsin law.



End of DRP Path



Optional Legal Action

If dissatisfied, landowners can still **request a formal contested case hearing** under **s. 227.42, Wis. Stats.**, outside the DRP.