

## Gathering the Information for the Cutting Prescription

Just as a doctor asks specific questions of his patient to focus on the best medical treatment plan and write a proper and effective prescription, completing the Cutting Prescription area on the Cutting Notice form requires knowledge of the timber stand being treated in order to best match the silvicultural prescription and desired stand condition with the type of harvesting process planned.

The Cutting Prescription section is extremely important, used by DNR foresters to consider what will occur and whether the cutting notice should be approved.

So, it's vital that you provide enough facts and data for proper evaluation.

Common examples of past Cutting Prescriptions submitted which lack the necessary information for approval include:

- "Cut all marked trees."
- "Cut all mature trees."
- "Cut all defective trees."
- "Cut all merchantable trees."

None of these statements provides a complete and acceptable prescription.

Actually, there is no "mystery" in getting a cutting notice approved.

By following our "proven formula" guidelines for preparing the cutting prescription, you'll find consistent success in getting notices approved.

The first step for a landowner, a forester, or a harvesting contractor filling out the cutting notice is to check the landowner's MFL Management Plan, or if applicable, their FCL Harvest Schedule.

Much of the information required in the Cutting prescription section can most likely be found in the Management Plan.

Publicly-available management plans are held by the smaller private tax law landowners.

The larger industrial and investment tax law landowners have their own internal planning information which they supply on cutting notices.

Typically, forest stands are separated and delineated by forest covertype, and oftentimes (but not always) arbitrarily assigned a stand number.

Within the Management Plan, each separate forest stand should have a unique description.

This description often contains much of the information needed to fill in the Cutting Prescription.

But because stand conditions can and do change over time, field visits are recommended to accurately assess current conditions and make adjustments to the cutting prescription as necessary.

Two valuable references for use when writing a Cutting Prescription include:

- The WDNR Silviculture Handbook, and,

- The Wisconsin Forest Management Guidelines

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Both of these resources are available online at the Wisconsin DNR website.

Simply browse [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) and enter the keyword "silviculture" into the search box. This will immediately take you to the online Silviculture Handbook.

You can also search for "Forest management guidelines" and that, too, will take you to the forest management guidelines page.

These resources can also be examined in person at any local DNR Forestry office.

In summary:

- The Cutting Prescription section is extremely important and is used to consider what will occur and whether the cutting notice should be approved.
- Simple statements like "Cut all marked trees" is not sufficient.
- Much of the information required in the Cutting prescription section can most likely be found in the landowner's MFL Management Plan.
- The WDNR Silviculture Handbook and the Wisconsin Forest Management Guidelines are both available online at [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov).