

**Department of Natural Resources
Division of Forestry – Bureau of Forestry Field Operations
Chapter 15 and 21, Private Forestry Handbook 2470.5**

**Stakeholder Comment & Response Summary
4/22/2024**

Why did we update the handbook?

The primary reason we are updating Chapter 15 is to provide program clarification, updates to the application procedure and eligibility, and add a section outlining the process for the Sale of School and Community Forest Lands.

The primary reason we are updating Chapter 21 is to provide clarity to the different types of private land management plans and updates to the Forest Stewardship Plan standards as set by USFS. There is a 45-day service standard that has been added for review and approval of forest stewardship plans once submitted.

Summary of process

Chapters 15 and 21 were posted for 21-day stakeholder input on the Division of Forestry’s “Stakeholder Input Opportunities for Forestry Documents” webpage from February 23, 2024, through March 14, 2024. DNR staff were notified through both the Department’s and the Division of Forestry’s internal newsletters. External stakeholders were notified via the webpage referenced above and via direct emails where appropriate.

Summary of Comments

The Department extends its sincerest thanks and appreciation to those who provided comment and feedback on the proposed changes. A total of four individuals/organizations provided comments on the draft Chapters. The comments can be summarized as follows. A complete list of all comments can be made available upon request.

Chapter	Page	Comment	Response
15	10	Remove “LEAF” acronym, as it is no longer used	The language was changed to reflect the correct terminology.
15	11	Broken “Timber Sale Contract Example” link	The broken link was fixed.
15	11	Clarification on the removal of 1 acre minimum for school or community forest	The statement that, “the property should contain at least 1 acre,” was initially removed as to not use binding language, however the new language will read “is recommended” rather than “should.”
15	12	Clarification on the suggestion, rather than requirement, of a forest management plan for school forest registration	The language was changed to: “...upon completion of a <i>forest management plan</i> ...”
15	13	Conflicting language regarding minimum acreage for registered school forest	The language was changed to reflect a recommendation rather than a

			requirement and is therefore no longer conflicting.
15	13	Clarification on the 10-year minimum for management plan updates	The language in the handbook was changed to reflect a recommendation rather than a requirement.
21	13	Clarification on recommended silvicultural practices relating to attainable future conditions	Local foresters will have discretion to consider landowner's interests and workload. In the case of a cost-share project, if desired future conditions are unattainable, it may not be funded. The table in Chapter 21 covers these considerations, therefore no change was made as a result of this comment.
21	13	Clarification on considerations for wildfire protection and planning	Prescribed burning can be part of sustainable forest management and is reflected as such in the Forest Stewardship Program's national standards and guidelines. Since the table in Chapter 21 covers the national standards, a change was not made as a result of this comment