

Division of Forestry Public Comment Cover Sheet

Public Lands

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The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is seeking public input on proposed changes to the Public Forest Lands Handbook, which covers program guidance for all DNR and county land management procedures in addition to program management for the DNR's Good Neighbor Authority process.

Why are we updating this chapter?

The Public Forest Lands Handbook is updated every 2 years to incorporate and codify any approved policies and guidance that have occurred since the previous update.

Summary of proposed changes

- 110-2 Updated language regarding pesticide use
- 130-1 Updated language to match Timber Sale Handbook, removed language regarding cubic cruise instruction location since that type of support will no longer occur and updated location of FM Pro supporting documents
- 130-4 Updated language on reporting of invasive species
- 130-9 Updated language on soil layer populating in WisFIRS Public GIS
- 140-1 Condensed language on the reconnaissance data updating process
- 150-1 Added language encouraging keeping hard copy compartment files
- 150-2 Affirming the need for regeneration checks and additional site considerations to evaluate
- 210-2 Clarification of county forest liaison roles administering the County Forest Law
- 210-36 Updated process and timeline for conducting the County Forest Annual Partnership Meeting including the use of a new standardized Annual Partnerships Meeting Template. The template will assist in standardizing the content, format and timing of partnership meetings throughout the state
- 220-2 Updated county forest Sustainable Forestry Grant (SFG) language, application materials, accountability and administration for SFGs
- 220-3-7 Updated language for County Forest Wildlife Habitat Improvement Grant Program implementation
- 220-8-9 Updated values for County Forest Financial Assistance Summary
- 240-3 Updated county forest liaison roles during a county forest withdrawal
- 240-4 Updated adverse possession language
- 280-2 Update language and links for equipment rentals and added language to Pest Management section
- 320-1 Added to confirm that regeneration checks include artificial regeneration sites
- 400-480 New GNA Chapters (all new content that did not previously exist in this handbook)
 - 400: GNA Roles And Responsibilities – broken down by position type/job function

- 410: GNA Timeline – important dates, schedules, and deadlines for GNA activities
- 420: GNA Timber Sale Establishment And Approval – a timber sale procedure document that details unique GNA items, policies & requirements with regards to sale establishment
- 430: Pre And Post Sale GNA Treatment Management – procedures for GNA staff to plan, track, and complete various management activities which are related to GNA timber sales
- 440: GNA Timber Sale Closeout Procedure – A sale closeout procedure document detailing unique GNA items needed to support our reporting requirements, as detailed in our GNA Agreements
- 450: GNA Contracting With Consultant Foresters – expands on the guidance found in the Timber Sale Handbook by covering procedures and requirements unique to contracting for such services under GNA
- 460: GNA County Agreements And Contracts - explains procedures, forms, and requirements to allow County Forestry staff to assist the DNR with GNA activities
- 470: Road Reconstruction – provides guidance on the methods and procedures to be used for road reconstruction projects on GNA timber sales
- 480: Invasive Species Procedures And Responsibilities – provides a framework for GNA staff to know who is responsible for such treatments on Federal lands, and how such treatments should be conducted
- Appendix A-1 Updated WisFIRS Mapping Symbols, Hand drawn maps are no longer approved
- Appendix J-1 Pesticide use and reporting responsibilities required on county forest lands

Comments due: 08/14/2023