

State of Wisconsin
Department of Natural Resources

**Public Forest Lands
Handbook**
2460.5

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This document is intended solely as guidance, and does not contain any mandatory requirements except where requirements found in statute or administrative rule are referenced. This guidance does not establish or affect legal rights or obligations, and is not finally determinative of any of the issues addressed. This guidance does not create any rights enforceable by any party in litigation with the State of Wisconsin or the Department of Natural Resources. Any regulatory decisions made by the Department of Natural Resources in any matter addressed by this guidance will be made by applying the governing statutes and administrative rules to the relevant facts.

PUBLIC LAND RECORDS

Accurate records for public purposes and resource management are essential for overall administration and proper planning on public forest lands. This section recommends the minimum acceptable records to be maintained for each property, and provides some of the information sources that are considered to be public records. Additional property records may be required under state statute or local ordinances. The county clerk, county public records manager or corporation council should be consulted for additional requirements or suggestions. The Records Management Handbook ([HB 9520.5](#)) should be consulted for additional requirements or suggestions.

Chapter 19, Wis. Stats., covers the general duties of public officials and defines what constitutes public authority and records.

s. [19.32\(1\)](#) Wis. Stats. states:

"Authority" means any of the following having custody of a record: a state or local office, elected official, agency, board, commission, committee, council, department or public body corporate and politic created by constitution, law, ordinance, rule or order: a governmental or quasi-governmental corporation...

[See exceptions s. [19.32\(1\)](#).]

s. [19.32\(2\)](#) Wis. Stats. states:

"Record" means any material on which written, drawn, printed, spoken, visual, or electromagnetic information is recorded or preserved, regardless of physical form or characteristics, which has been created or is being kept by an authority. "Record" includes, but is not limited to, handwritten, typed, or printed pages, maps, charts, photographs, films, recordings, tapes (including computer tapes), and computer printouts. "Record" does not include drafts, notes, preliminary computations and like materials prepared for the originator's personal use or prepared by the originator in the name of a person for whom the originator is working; materials which are purely the personal property of the custodian and have no relation to his or her office; materials to which access is limited by copyright, patent or bequest; and published materials in the possession of an authority other than a public library which are available for sale, or which are available for inspection at a public library.

Any local governmental unit may provide for the keeping and preservation of public records kept by the governmental unit. A local governmental unit or agency shall make such provision by ordinance or resolution (s. [19.21\(4\)\(c\)](#)).

The proper officer of any county may under s. [44.09](#), Wis. Stats., offer title and transfer custody to the historical society of any record deemed by the society to be of permanent historical importance (s. [19.23\(2\)](#)).

WISCONSIN FIELD INVENTORY & REPORTING SYSTEM (WisFIRS)

In 2006, WisFIRS was developed to replace the previous public land timber database. As an integrated, web-based application, the WisFIRS Public Lands application allows foresters and habitat managers to store data collected from the field, plan and track habitat treatments, report accomplishments, and calculate the financial aspects related to those treatments. The WisFIRS database has evolved since its conception; continuously undergoing enhancements to increase its capacity to meet the needs of core business functions and the objectives of land managers across State, Federal (GNA), and County Forest lands.

Below is a brief summary of how to access the WisFIRS Public Lands Management application and the pages, or tabs commonly used. It is not intended to be a how-to in using WisFIRS, rather to provide a quick reference to see what the capability of each of the pages includes. *The WisFIRS Training Manual and the [WisFIRS Online Help](#) in should be referenced for specifics.*

Accessing Public Land WisFIRS

It is recommended to save the WisFIRS site to the computer desktop for ready access in the future.

Note: WisFIRS works best in Google Chrome. Do not open the platform in multiple browsers.

1. **Internal Users**
 - a. Department employees can automatically access WisFIRS through their work computer on the [DNR Division of Forestry intranet site](#).
 - b. No additional password is required.
2. **External Users** (such as county forest employees and DNR employees working from a personal computer)
 - a. External users must obtain the overall approval to use WisFIRS through County Forest & Public Lands Specialist. New County Foresters should work through their County Forest Administrator.
 - b. County Forestry partners who are authorized to edit data in the system, and Department employees approved to work externally, need a WAMS ID from the State of Wisconsin in order to access WisFIRS. The WAMS ID must then be provided to the WisFIRS administrator to configure access.
 - i. Get a [State of Wisconsin WAMS ID](#).
 - ii. Send the WAMS ID to the [WisFIRS Public Lands administrator](#).

Access for employees leaving the DNR or County will be revoked. The immediate supervisor (for DNR employees) and the County Forest Administrator (for County Forests) will be responsible for removing access, or can notify the County Forest & Public Lands Specialist when subordinates are leaving their employ.

Overview Of The WisFIRS Public Lands Management Application

1. **Properties**

Properties is the opening or default tab in WisFIRS.

Use the Properties tab to:

- a. See the list of properties that you are authorized to edit.
- b. Search for properties.
- c. Navigate to property, compartment, or stand information.
- d. Access core property groups.
- e. Create or edit custom property groups.
- f. Launch the WisFIRS Public Lands GIS mapping portal.

2. **Recon**

Use the Recon tab to:

- a. Create new stands, modify/update stand information, copy stands or delete stands.
- b. Search or sort by compartment, stand, stand type, primary forest types, harvest status, invasive species, stand prefix, exam year, or year of origin.
- c. Create new planned treatments.
- d. Record completed treatments.
- e. Access a blank Stand Examination Data Sheet for Forested Habitats.
- f. Access a blank Field Recon Data Sheet for Non-Forested Habitats.
- g. Launch the WisFIRS Public Lands GIS mapping portal.

3. Treatments

Use the Treatments tab to:

- a. Edit or delete an existing scheduled treatment.
- b. Edit stand data.
- c. View and sort scheduled or completed treatments by stand, compartment, stand type, treatment type, primary type or year.
- d. Sort and view stands not scheduled for management (due to passive management, recent update, or active sale status).
- e. Record and edit a completed treatment.
- f. Launch the WisFIRS Public Lands GIS mapping portal.

4. RX (Prescribed) Burns

Use the Rx Burns tabs to:

- a. View existing RX burns for a property.
- b. Search RX burns by property, county, status, name, tracking number, recommended year or season of burn.
- c. Property habitat managers will utilize this tab to initiate an Rx burn plan for a property by completing overview, location, description, NHI, and Documents sections and provide their approval.
- d. Burn bosses (RXB3) will complete Documents, Prescription Range, Fire Behavior, and Implementation sections and provide their approval.
- e. County Foresters will view the burn plan information and provide their approval, if appropriate.
- f. Technical reviewer will view the burn plan information and provide final approval.

5. Pesticides

Use the Pesticides tab to:

- a. View existing pesticide treatments scheduled for a property.
- b. Search treatments by property, county, status, name, tracking number, treatment date or preparer.
- c. Individuals responsible for land management activities will utilize this tab to create or complete pesticide treatments.
- d. If the treatment type requires approval by a Pesticide Treatment Approver, the Approver will utilize this tab to view the pesticide treatment and provide final approval.

6. Timber Sales

Timber sales are viewable by all users, but only authorized users may create or edit timber sales.

Once established on the ground, and prior to advertising, the timber sale shall be entered into WisFIRS. Entering the sale information upon establishment will guarantee that sale accomplishments are tallied in a timely fashion.

Full details on how to enter timber sales in the Timber Sale database will be found in the Timber Sale

Handbook (HB 2461).

Use the Timber Sales tab to:

- a. View existing timber sales.
- b. Search sales by tract number and year, sale number, sale type, sale status, established year, sold year, completed year or by contractor.
- c. If authorized, create new timber sales, modify established or active sales, and close sales. This includes notice and reports, approvals, journals/ledgers/invoicing (Department lands only), performance bonds, and other documents.
- d. View Public Land Stumpage rates.
- e. View Private Land Stumpage rates.
- f. Launch the WisFIRS Public Lands GIS application.

7. Planning

Section [28.025 \(2\)](#) Wis. Stats., requires that the Department establish annual allowable harvest levels on Department lands and [s. 28.025 \(3\)](#) Wis. Stats., requires that the Department report biannually on the timber harvests established, providing justification for any cases where the timber harvest on a property was more than 10% above or below the allowable harvest level. The Department utilizes WisFIRS to generate an annual and a long-term harvest schedule and goals to meet the needs of both Department work planning and the statutorily required reporting of annual allowable harvest to the legislature. Annual harvest calculations for DNR lands are determined using an acreage-based control method for sustainable harvest levels. The creation of harvest schedules and goals by property is accomplished by utilizing the WisFIRS Planning features.

WisFIRS Planning functionality attempts to more evenly distribute timber harvest practices over a 15-year period by cover type and treatment type (e.g. aspen clear-cuts) for each property. It does this by utilizing early and late harvest constraints (when applied), along with estimated average harvest intervals by cover and treatment type for each property. For example, if the typical harvest interval for aspen on a property is 48 years, with an early constraint of three years and a late constraint of seven years, WisFIRS will recommend a harvest schedule that levels out natural peaks and valleys in the schedule by re-scheduling aspen stands at as early as age 45 and as late as age 55. WisFIRS will maintain both the the scheduled year and recommended year for each stand; however, the annual and long-term harvest schedules and goals will be a reflection of the scheduled year. Planning functions at the property level and the smoothing of harvest levels only occurs when there are at least 400 acres of a particular cover and harvest type combination on a property. In cases where there are less than 400 acres of a particular cover and harvest type, the WisFIRS planning schedule will simply utilize the recommended year without redistributing based upon constraints.

Completing the Planning schedule for a property **MUST** be completed before the schedule of treatments and the associated harvest goals can be created. For Department lands, in consultation with the property manager, only the Lead State Lands Forester should run and accept the planning schedule for a property. **Department Land Planning should be accepted once each year, prior to March 31**, and preferably after the annual planning meeting.

For county forest lands, only the county forest administrator and DNR county forest liaison should run and accept the planning schedule for a property. **County Forest Land Planning should be accepted only once each year**, and preferably at the same time every year.

A planning schedule **must be run and accepted for each property every year** in order to generate an accurate harvest schedule for the property and for certain property accomplishment tracking features in WisFIRS to work. Additionally, DNR and county forest work planning is completed utilizing the harvest schedules generated, so it is imperative that they are as accurate and up to date as possible. In order to ensure that planning has been run and accepted once annually, the harvest schedules for all properties are reviewed by the Bureau of Forestry Field Operations in March each year. **If a harvest schedule has not been accepted for the current year by March 31, the harvest schedule shall be run and accepted centrally.**

Note: The “Planning” tab will not show when you are working in a Property Group. Planning is only available for an individual property. Property Groups can view co-mingled data from planning conducted on individual properties, however you cannot plan for multiple properties at one time. Planning can be accessed by selecting the tab in the main menu bar.

Use the Planning tab to:

- a. View and print a report or chart showing property acreage by forest type.
- b. Determine the acres scheduled for active management on a property.
- c. Set the harvest intervals and constraints by forest type and treatment type for your property.
- d. Run a schedule of practices for a property for a selected planning interval.
- e. “Tune” a harvest schedule for a specific forest type or harvest type.
- f. View, print, sort, or download the annual or long-range treatment schedules for a property.
- g. Determine annual and long term harvest goals for all forest types on a property.
- h. View and print an age class distribution chart for a forest type.
- i. Monitor progress on both annual and long-range harvest goals.
- j. View and print harvest establishment accomplishments, in total or by forest type, for past 20 years.
- k. Launch the WisFIRS Public Lands GIS mapping portal (Harvest & Cultural Schedule).

8. Downloads

Use the Downloads tab to find instructions to download information and links for Forest Metrix.

9. Reports

WisFIRS includes Recon & Assessment, Planning & Schedules, Timber Sales & Monitoring, County Forest Land Administration, GIS, Treatment and Custom reports. Future phases will expand upon the reports available. All of the standard reports can be printed from this tab; however many can also be viewed and printed from other tabs. In particular, “Planning” provides several opportunities for reporting:

Use the “Reports” tab to:

- a. View, download or print standard reports.
- b. Create, download or print custom reports.
- c. Export custom report data to a spreadsheet.
- d. Export compartment data to a spreadsheet.

10. Security

WisFIRS allows for all users accessing the system (either internal DNR or through an external WAMS password) to view and report on recon data for all DNR managed lands as well as County Forests. However, only those assigned to a specific property have the authority to edit recon or timber sale information. Those with delegation authority for a property can grant edit authority to other users by assigning them to a property, or delegation authority by adding them to the delegation list. Delegation authority is granted primarily to supervisors, including County Forest Administrators. For DNR managed lands, Property Managers and first line Forestry supervisors will jointly determine to whom edit authority will be granted and assign them to the property. On County Forests, the County Forest Administrator and DNR Liaison Forester will jointly agree on whom to assign. A summary of all available security options is provided in Appendix J.

Use the “Security” tab to:

- a. View forester assignments and delegation authority for a property by running a report.
- b. View properties for which you or others have edit authority or delegation authority.
- c. Assign or revoke edit authority to another user.
- d. Assign or revoke delegation authority to another user.

RECONNAISSANCE OVERVIEW

Purpose

Reconnaissance (recon) of land is a tool utilized in the assessment of geographical, structural and compositional attributes of existing resources. This field information is stored in WisFIRS Public Tabular. The Geographical Information System (GIS) data is referenced as WisFIRS Public GIS. The Tabular and GIS information is linked within WisFIRS. Basic resource information is collected, stored and updated systematically and continuously. The database is used to analyze existing resources, evaluate management alternatives and assist in the development and implementation of management plans. Recon is one tool used to assess forest resource information at the property level. This information will provide a data layer that should be used for regional analysis. This type of assessment is necessary to implement ecosystem management.

DNR annual allowable harvest goals are based upon statewide recon data. It is imperative that data be kept up to date, accurate, and correctly reflect property management goals. **Inaccurate data can result in unrealistic establishment expectations, missed management opportunities, and work/property management planning challenges.**

This section contains policy and guidance for Department owned and managed lands; including, but not limited to, State Forests, Fish, Wildlife, Parks, and Natural Heritage Conservation Lands. It can be used as a reference for County Forest Lands. It is important to note that each county forest conducts business according to their own specific procedures and policies, in accordance with [s. 28.11](#), Wis. Stats.

Integrated Resource Management

1. Recon enhances integrated resource management opportunities. Data collected may feature primary goals and objectives for the property. Input should be obtained from all disciplines involved in the management of the property.
2. All annual forest management activities that are carried out by any program (Fish, Wildlife, Parks, NHC) that alter vegetation in any way (e.g. invasive species treatments, timber stand improvement, site preparation, tree planting, timber sales, wildlife habitat management, prescribed burning) will be identified by compartment and stand within the WisFIRS database. The listed needs in the database, in addition to other multi-disciplinary input, will be used in determining property budgets and annual work plans.
3. Recon should be used as resource assessment tool in the development of a Master Plans and/or County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plans.

Recon Policy

1. Recon will be collected on all county forest and Department lands, and assigned GNA stands.
2. Responsibility for maintaining the recon database of forested land on Department properties will be with the Division of Forestry
3. Responsibility for maintaining the recon database of non-forested stands on Department properties will be with the Division of Fish, Wildlife, & Parks (FWP).
4. County Forests will still maintain recon on non-forested lands however may enlist the help of local Wildlife Biologist to identify and develop management opportunities for these areas. County Forests may obtain information on non-forested habitat protocols through their County Liaison Forester.
5. A current compartment map showing all the compartment boundaries on a property should be available in an electronic form in the WisFIRS Public GIS. The property boundary will be the boundary established in the Master Plan on state lands or in the County Forest Comprehensive Land Use plan on county lands.

When To Update

Recon data is a vital tool for land managers in planning management activities and in documenting the composition of the landscape. To minimize obsolescence, recon data is updated on an ongoing basis as changes are observed or

created. Updating recon data is considered part of standard forestry practices.

The following activities or situations may require the update of recon data:

1. Timber sale establishment
 - a. Recon must be less than a year old when used to establish a timber sale in WisFIRS.
 - b. When only part of a stand is being treated in a timber sale, the stand must be split following the guidance below and updated in both tabular and GIS applications to correctly reflect acreage being treated prior to being placed in draft status.
2. Timber sale close out
 - a. Prior to updating recon on a closed timber sale, completed treatments as applicable.
 - b. Whenever a timber sale is closed, the data for all stands which have been affected by the timber sale must again be accurately updated so that the new post sale stand conditions are accurately reflected and new treatments can be scheduled.
3. Splitting or combining stands
 - a. During the recon update process, stands may be split or combined as a result of management activities.
 - b. When stands are divided, a new stand number and new data must be assigned to each new stand and a remnant will remain.
 - c. When combining stands, the new stand can retain one of the original stand numbers, but must be updated to reflect new stand conditions.
 - d. Unused stands without a spatial component must be deleted in WisFIRS Tabular.
4. Data is older than 20 years on State and County Forest lands.
 - a. County Forest are exempted from this requirement for even-aged timber types being managed on a 40+ year rotation with no scheduled intermediate treatments.
5. Cultural activities such as scarification or prescribed burning
6. Reforestation activities such as site prep or planting
7. Errors in original data
8. Catastrophic events such as wind or fire
9. Forest health issues such as insect or disease
10. Acquisition or sale of land
11. Habitat manipulation projects on fish or wildlife areas
12. Establishment of special use areas or changes involving change of land management objective

Record Keeping/Tracking Changes

WisFIRS will automatically track recon update acres based on the stand exam date. WisFIRS Reports 114 (Forest Recon Status) and 115 (Forest Recon Accomplishment) will compile that information by property. Recon accomplishments will be tracked on a property-wide basis. Individual tracking can be accomplished via user-defined fields in WisFIRS, located at the bottom of the Stand Detail page.

WisFIRS is also able to track recon updates resulting from deferral of harvest treatments. Scheduled harvest treatments that, upon examination, are not silviculturally ready for treatment need to be updated and a new harvest date set by the forester. On county lands, acres of recon resulting from such deferrals during the schedule year of harvest may be credited to the harvest accomplishments for that year, if the harvest is rescheduled more than three years into the future.

Recon updates independent of treatment activities are typically focused on maintaining the currency of the recon database. Up-to-date recon is the most important aspect for sound management decisions and is discussed during forest certification audits. State lands and County Forests have a goal of updating all recon within a 20-year cycle. The frequency of the existing recon can easily be found through the stand search function of WisFIRS (RECON tab/ Stands sub-menu). Sort by Exam Date to find stands with the oldest recon

It is imperative that there is a backup kept for all data. WisFIRS tabular and GIS data is backed up daily. Daily

backups are kept for 7 days. At the end of each week, the most recent backup for that week will be kept for one month. At the end of the month (4 week cycle), the most recent backup for that month will be kept for one year. These backups satisfy the requirements of [Manual Code 8622.20](#)

RECONNAISSANCE AND TREATMENTS

A. Field Examination

The gathering of recon data is designed to be used for areas which have been stratified into stands prior to the cruise. Complete the Stand Examination Tally Sheet (Form [2400-032](#)) or the equivalent information on a data collection device for each stand. Thoroughly evaluate the entire area of the stand, collecting as much information as possible from each sample point. Take a minimum of 4 plots per stand; stands that are large or more diverse may require more plots. Make sure stand numbers correlates with and are recorded on the field maps. Only qualified resource professionals and technicians fully trained in the collection and coding of recon data shall conduct recon.

There are three accepted methods to gather forest reconnaissance data using point sampling:

1. Forest Metrix Pro (FM Pro)

The FM Pro database operates inside of the free File Maker Go mobile application. FM Pro is customizable, calculates timber volumes and values by species, and includes on-board reports. Forest Metrix Pro is a timber cruising database for Apple mobile devices running iOS 11 or later, and is not supported on Android or Windows Mobile OS. The User Manual for Forest Metrix Pro can be found within the “Help” section of the app. General overview, resources, training and support for FM Pro can also be found on the Division of Forestry’s [Forest Metrix SharePoint site](#).

2. Cubic Cruise

Cubic Cruise is a single product cruising system based on the relationship between the volume of a tree and the DBH; more specifically, the volume to basal area ratio, or VBAR. Form correction factors can be developed to modify volumes when the form of your trees varies from the norm. Cubic cruise is a very quick system since you do not need to estimate tree height while taking plots. It provides reasonable accuracy and provides the user with volumes to various top diameters, making it particularly suitable on properties advertising to variable top utilizations, including whole tree.

3. Sticks Plus Trees (and the Stand Exam Tally Sheet)

Sticks Plus Trees is a point sampling cruising system, based on BAF 10, that is also based on a simplified VBAR formula. As such, the volume estimations for small diameter and short trees, or large diameter and tall trees, tend to be over or underestimated, respectively. Complete the Stand Examination Tally (Form [2400-032](#)) or equivalent information for each stand. The number of sheets used per stand will depend upon the size of the stand and the desired sampling intensity. Do not record more than one stand on the same sheet. An example of a Stand Examination Tally Sheet is found in the Appendix.

B. New Property Acquisition

1. Contact the County Forest & Public Lands Specialist to request the creation of a Forestry Property Code (if needed). The County Forest & Public Lands Specialist will authorize delegation authority to the appropriate supervisor or property manager.
2. After completing the field work, transfer the information from the Stand Exam Tally sheet (Form 2400-32) or data recorder into WisFIRS Public Lands tabular. Enter by Stand number, housing each new stand number within a compartment. Compartments should be identified giving thought to logical physical boundaries or subdivisions for the property as a whole.
3. In WisFIRS GIS, create the approximate WisFIRS Management Boundary (WMB) using the DNR Managed Lands layer as reference if the shape already exists in that layer.
4. Create stand polygons to identify the stand boundaries. *Note: Refer to WisFIRS Online Help Manual for digitizing and creating stands.*

5. Run Compartment Summary Report (Report 110) to double check data entry.
6. Make any adjustments to the WisFIRS Management Boundary that may have been discovered when cruising the property and reviewing the aerial photography.

C. Updating WisFIRS Recon After Field Examination

WisFIRS is an integrated system that combines tabular data with geospatial data. Recon information must exist in WisFIRS Tabular before a geospatial representation of the data can be entered into the WisFIRS GIS mapping portal. For new stands, a record must exist on tabular side prior to creating a geospatial shape. The GIS stand acreage is automatically calculated and entered into the tabular record. *For detailed instructions on how to enter data into WisFIRS Tabular or GIS, refer to the online help accessible from the application.*

1. WisFIRS Tabular Recon Updates

Upon completing field recon, update WisFIRS Tabular data by creating new stands or copying, deleting or editing existing stands including planned treatments and remarks. *During sale close-outs, be sure to completed applicable treatments prior to recon updates.*

Use Stand Exam Tally Sheet (Form 2400-32) to enter data or summarize the data on the Stand Exam Data Sheet (Form 2400-26) if a third party does the entry. Additionally, Forest Metrix data can be directly loaded into WisFIRS Tabular.

It is recommended that each individual forester enter their own data. For properties electing to have one person responsible for data entry, the Stand Exam Data sheet (2400-026) should be used to summarize the Stand Exam Tally for the data entry person.

2. WisFIRS GIS Recon Updates

Adjust stand, compartment and/or management boundaries (WMBs) as needed by editing, digitizing or uploading boundaries in WisFIRS GIS, and enter the appropriate attributes for each stand drawn. Remember to update or delete approximate polygons that may have been created to generate cruise points prior to field exam.

Changes to the stand boundary lines will be seen by the user immediately after an edit occurs. Stand boundary changes that coincide with a compartment boundary will not be reflected in the compartment GIS layer until the next day. The compartment GIS layer is re-created based on the stand boundary lines through a nightly system process.

D. WisFIRS Tabular Stand Detail Page

1. Completing WisFIRS Recon Stand Detail Page or Stand Exam Data Sheet (Form 2400-026)

Listed below are the items of information to be recorded on the Stand Detail page – WisFIRS and the Stand Examination Data Sheet ([Form 2400-026](#) – instructions and example are found in Appendix B). A reference guide of WisFIRS codes can be found in Appendices F and G.

- a. Required Fields - Fields that must be filled in to update or add a stand.
 - i. Stand Type
 - ii. Compartment
 - iii. Stand Number
 - iv. Acres
 - v. Exam Date – SI and BA Measured

- vi. Primary Type (Cover, Size, Density)
- vii. Invasive Level (Present, Not Present, Not Evaluated-Not Trained/Off Season)
- viii. Management Objective (Primary)

b. Conditionally Required Fields - Fields that are required based on “Required Field” data entered.

- i. Year of Origin (for even-aged forest types)
- ii. Total Height (for even-aged forest types)
- iii. Mean Stand Diameter (for forested types)
- iv. Site Index Species (for even-aged forest types)
- v. Site Index (for even-aged forest types)
- vi. Total Basal Area per acre (for forested types if poles or sawtimber)
- vii. Total Volume Cords per acre (for forested types if poles or sawtimber)
- viii. Total Volume BF per acre (for forested types if poles or sawtimber)
- ix. Species Information – BA, Cords, BF (for forested types)
 - 1. Listing the first major tree species, associated basal area and volume information is required.
 - 2. Additional tree species should be listed, up to four total, for stands with mixed composition.
- x. First Invasive Species (when invasive level listed as “Present”, the most prevalent species by type, density or acres impacted must be detailed)

c. Additional Available Fields

- i. Stand Prefixes (to indicate management objectives and other special features)
- ii. Habitat Type
- iii. Number of Crop Trees/Acre (for forested types)
- iv. % Acceptable Growing Stock (for forested types)
- v. % Unacceptable Growing Stock (for forested types)
- vi. Browse Level
- vii. Secondary Management Objective
- viii. Planned Treatments (based on individual stand objectives)
- ix. Remarks (Notes from field or specific to management of stand that is captured in previous fields)
- x. User Defined Fields (Property-specific attributes)

2. Stand Detail Sections

- a. Forest Metrix Data Load - Forest Metrix Pro allows you to load data from the program directly into WisFIRS stand detail page by importing a .json file. *Follow the steps outlined in the online WisFIRS Public Lands Help Manual.*
- b. Property - Property description, property type, and property code will appear automatically at the top of each Stand Detail page. *Note: For new Recon, a property code will be needed. Properties can be found utilizing the search function within the Properties tab within WisFIRS. If no code exists, contact the County Forest & Public Lands Specialist.*
- c. Stand
 - i. Stand Type - Stand type will be Forested (FH-Forested) or Non-Forested (NFH- Non-Forested). By definition, a forested stand type is stocked with 10% or more commercial tree species.
 - ii. Compartment Number - Compartment number will appear automatically based upon your previous selection in the Stand Search or Property page in WisFIRS. A compartment is a subdivision of a property, with easily defined physical boundaries such as rivers, lakes and roads. Compartments should be logical, efficient management units, considering access and other related attributes.

- iii. Stand Prefix(es) - Record one to four stand prefixes in the spaces provided. Stand number prefixes are given special recognition. Example: Stand 3 is a red pine plantation in an aesthetic zone. The stand should be numbered as follows: A P 3. Any prefix code may be written first. Stands identified in the preceding manner may be singled out for either omissions or special consideration in scheduling and planning. Stands with the prefixes R, Y, and Z are removed from planning. For a listing of prefixes and their intended use refer to Appendix C or the Online Help section of WisFIRS.
- iv. Stand Number - A stand is any community group of plants (grass, shrubs, trees, etc.), relatively uniform in composition, with a common management objective and silvicultural prescription and of sufficient acreage to warrant separate management. Sufficient acreage can be found starting at 2 acres and can be variable based on land base size, objectives, and complexity. Keeping stand acreage sufficient is best achieved by assuring that small stands created during management activity can be added to another stand as a multi-part stand, or retained in the existing stand (e.g. Riparian Management Zones, Green Tree Retention).

Record stand number in space provided. New stands are created using the Create New Stand button in the Stand Search screen or copying existing stand attributes to a new stand within the copied stand detail page. Copying stands can be used to retain attributes of a stand that is partially treated.

The Stand Search screen displays a list of all the existing stands in a compartment. Give each stand a number, including lakes, road zones, etc. Choose a stand number that is not currently in use, while also attempting to keep numbers sequential. Fill in stand number gaps prior to adding a new stand number to the end of the list. Combine similar cover types into multi-part stands when they are similar in composition, identical in management objectives, and are close enough in proximity to receive uniform treatment at one point in time. The use of multi-part stands should be encouraged when the preceding conditions are met. In addition, multi-part stands can be used to combine non-forested stand pieces into a larger stand with one set of attributes.

There currently is not a standardized policy from the Division of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) concerning the numbering convention for non-forested stands. Many are choosing to begin at a high number such as 500 and go consecutively up from there. Until the adoption of a formal policy, Forestry and FWP staff should consult together at the local level to determine what works and best meets their needs.

- v. Acres - Enter acreage in whole numbers. When the stands are digitized in the WisFIRS Public GIS, the acreage is calculated based on the stand shape and the tabular record is updated with the total acreage amount for that stand. Initially an estimate of the acreage can be entered.
 - vi. Exam Date - Site Index and B.A. Measured - Record the date the site index and basal area were measured for each stand. This date should not be changed for simple acreage changes when no field visit is conducted.
- d. Type (Stand Attributes)
- i. Primary Type - Record the primary type for each stand. For forest types include cover type, size class, and density code. A list of cover type classifications and the procedure for selecting appropriate type, size class, and density code can be found in Appendix D.
 - ii. Secondary Type - Record a secondary type for each stand if one is present. For forest types include cover type, size class, and density code. A secondary cover type typically provides additional clarity as to the species mix and structure present in a stand.
 - iii. Understory Type - Record an understory type for each stand if one is present. For forest types include cover type, size class, and density code. An understory cover type typically provides additional clarity as to the species mix and structure present in a stand and may provide insight on future stand conditions.

iv. Habitat Type - Refer to the *Field Guide Habitat Classification System*.

1. Determine the Habitat Classification which best describes the majority of the stand. This should be done on a random, visual sample basis.
2. Enter the proper habitat type code.
3. A listing of habitat codes can be found in Appendix E.

v. Year of Origin of Primary Timber Type - Types managed on an even-aged basis. This is required for all stands except BH, C, H, MC, MD, NH, and SH. It is optional for these types but should be recorded if the stand has a representative age class.

1. Take a minimum of three borings per stand to determine age unless the stand age is known (ex. plantations).
2. Bore only dominant and co-dominant trees of the primary timber type.

vi. Total Height of Primary Timber Type - Types managed on an even-aged basis. This is required for all stands except BH, C, H, MC, MD, NH, and SH. It is optional for these types but should be recorded if the stand has a representative age class.

1. Take heights of dominant and co-dominant trees. Height must be in whole numbers.
2. Measure a minimum of three representative trees for average height. Several tree measurements may be necessary if heights vary considerably.
3. Heights may vary between trees on ridge, side hill, and valley bottom. Avoid sampling extreme conditions.

vii. Mean Stand Diameter - The quadratic mean diameter, which represents the diameter of the tree of average basal area. If the stand is a pole or sawtimber stand this measurement should only consider stems greater than 5 inches dbh. Enter the individual tree diameters into the calculator on the WisFIRS screen. The quadratic mean stand diameter will automatically calculate.viii. Site Index - A measure of forest site quality based on the height of dominant trees at 50 years of age. Record for types managed on an even-aged basis. This is required for all stands except BH, C, H, MC, MD, NH, and SH. It is optional for these types but should be recorded if the stand has a representative age class.

Record species SI was taken from. Use the major species present, or in cases of conversion, the major species in the future forest type.

Once the "site index species" is selected the site index will automatically be calculated and entered in WisFIRS. **In some instances, the curves may not be available in the database.* Consult the [Wisconsin Silviculture Guide](#). In certain circumstances (e.g. juvenile pine stands where 5-year intercept method may be used) it may be necessary to override the automatic calculation.

1. Use the "5-year intercept method" for red and white pine less than 25 feet tall.
2. Determine site index of stands that are too young to take measurements by using the site index of similar nearby stands or timber sale records, or previous recon data for that stand.
3. In a newly established regeneration stand with no records or nearby site index indicators, make your best estimate.
4. Extrapolate to determine site indexes beyond the normal curves.

Accepted Site Index Species Codes - All valid species types are eligible. Those with site index curves in the database listed below:

A – Aspen	BE – Beech	FB – Balsam Fir	PR – Pine, Red
AB – Ash, Black	BW – Birch, White	MH – Maple, Sugar	PW – Pine, White
AQ – Aspen, quaking	BY – Birch, Yellow	MR – Maple, Red	SB – Spruce, Black

AW – Ash, White	C – Cedar, White	OR – Oak, Red	SW – Spruce, White
AY – Aspen, big-toothed	CH – Cherry, Black	OW – Oak, White	T – Tamarack
BA – Basswood	EA – Elm, American	PJ – Pine Jack	

- xi. Number of Crop Trees/Acre - Record number of crop trees per acre. Crop trees should be well-formed, vigorous dominate/co-dominate trees of desirable species able to be maintained until rotation or harvest entry. The classification of a crop tree will be highly dependent upon site potential and management objectives at the local level.
- xii. % Acceptable Growing Stock - Record percentage of acceptable growing stock. Information can be found within the Silvicultural Handbook and will need to be based upon local factors influencing tree quality and future potential.
- xiii. % Unacceptable Growing Stock - Record percentage of unacceptable growing stock. Information can be found within the Silvicultural Handbook and will need to be based upon local factors influencing tree quality and future potential.
- xiv. Total Basal Area per acre - Measurement of the cross-sectional area of all trees on an acre, taken at 4-1/2 feet above the ground and expressed in square feet.
 - 1. Record the average basal area per acre of all trees 5" dbh and larger.
 - 2. In stands converting from saplings to poles but typed as a pole-size stand, the basal area stocking should include all dominants and co-dominants in the stand even if some of them are less than 5 inches DBH.
 - 3. Stands typed as seedling and sapling stands may not have any stems > 5 inches. In those cases use the density code based on the number of seedlings and saplings per acre.
- xv. Total Volume Cords per acre
 - 1. Record the total net cordwood volume per acre for all species combined, using whole numbers.
 - 2. Volumes recorded here are intended to be approximate. Precise volumes will be determined when the stands are cruised for timber sales.
- xvi. Total Volume in BF per acre
 - 1. Record the total net board foot volume per acre for all species combined, using whole numbers rounded to the single digit. DO NOT USE MBF.
 - 2. Volumes recorded here are intended to be approximate. Precise volumes will be determined when the stands are cruised for timber sales.
- xvii. Last Harvest Treatment Year - This will auto-populate in WisFIRS.
- xviii. Last Cultural Treatment Year - This will auto-populate in WisFIRS.
- e. Species - Record up to four major forest species present in the stand, including type, basal area (≥ 5 " dbh) and volume for that species. Enter species codes from the list above under "Accepted Site Index Species Codes".
 - i. A minimum of one major species must be entered for all forested stands.
 - ii. In mixed stands, record the species basal area, and volume for the four most common species.
 - iii. Species information indicates relative abundance of individual species which is important for forest health and harvest potential considerations.
- f. Invasive Species
 - i. Invasive Level - Based on simple visual observations, record the invasive species presence and the level of evaluation. If "Present", the invasive species and its approximate density are to be recorded under

“Invasive Species and Density” as shown below.

<u>Code</u>	<u>Level of Evaluation</u>
30	Present
31	Not present
32	Not evaluated – not trained
33	Not evaluated – off season

- ii. Invasive Type and Density - If invasive species are present, record species information, approximate density and estimated area of coverage within stand. This is based on field observations on and between plots. This is a three-parted entry. Record up to 4 species, their respective ground cover densities, and approximate acres.

<u>Code</u>	<u>Density</u>
1	<5%
2	5% - 20%
3	20% - 35%
4	35% - 50%
5	>50%

- g. Soil Types - Stand soil information will now be auto-populated from the stand spatial data (* soil information derived from a generalized soils layer) in WisFIRS Public GIS. Self-populated information will include: soil type, slope, and acres/percentage of map unit. Stand shape must be correctly delineated in Public GIS to have accurate information.
- h. Browse Level - Use visual indicators to define browse level within a stand.
- i. Management Objectives (Primary and Secondary) - For Department lands, forestry staff are responsible for forested cover types, and habitat managers are responsible for non-forested cover types. For County Forest lands, consultation with the Wildlife Biologist and County Forest Liaison can help with the development of management objectives.
- Record a management objective for each stand, including non-forested types. The objective should reflect moving the stand toward future desired conditions. For a listing of management codes refer to Appendix G or the dropdowns available within WisFIRS.
 - In selecting the proper code for timber types managed as even-aged, indicate whether the stand will continue to be managed for the existing type in the next rotation, or if forced or natural conversion is planned.

3. Planned Treatments Section

- a. Planned Treatments help maintain the health and quality of a stand whether forested or non-forested and can be used in the conversion of a stand from forested to non-forested, or vice-versa. Planned Treatments can assist in meeting goals for the properties. Planned treatments can be used to schedule and track practices not connected to habitat manipulation activities. A tabular stand record must exist in order to enter planned treatments. For a complete list of planned treatments see Appendix H.
- Planned Treatments must be consistent with the Property’s Master Plan and the Wisconsin Silviculture Guide (WSG).** Record planned treatments for each stand, whether commercial or non-commercial. Select the “Create” button in the Planned Treatment box to enter a new treatment. For updates, select the “Edit” icon next to the treatment you wish to change.
 - Code the next prescription that needs to be undertaken under each treatment category. (More than one prescription may be coded, however only one treatment may be coded for each treatment type.)
 - After selecting a “treatment type”, indicate the “treatment action”.
 - Lastly, record the recommended year to complete the practice. Determining the correct year to perform silvicultural practices in a stand frequently requires a projection of basal area growth.

Note: Adjusting the following estimates for average annual basal area growth rates to fit local as necessary to accurately project the year of treatment.

<u>Timber Type</u>	<u>Estimated Annual Average Basal Area Growth Per Acre</u>
White and red pine	2.0 - 7.0 sq. ft.
Jack pine, balsam fir, spruce, and oak	3.0 sq. ft.
Northern hardwood	1.5 - 3.0 sq. ft.
Swamp hardwood	2.0 sq. ft.

- b. Intermediate Treatments, Non-Commercial - Used to improve stand quality between harvest entries. It may apply to invasive species management, regeneration checks, survival checks, inter-planting, and/or cutting/girdling. A treatment can be further classified as hand, herbicide, fire, or mechanical.
 - c. Intermediate Treatments, Commercial - Used to manage a stand when marketable product is removed and sold. It may apply to a thinning prior to a regeneration harvest or an unscheduled entry to salvage damaged timber.
 - d. Habitat Management, Non-Commercial - Primarily used to monitor both natural and artificial stand regeneration. For artificially regenerated stands or stands with questionable regeneration, it is recommended that survival checks are done at years one, three, and five to ensure planting/seedling success.
4. Current Harvest Information - The tract number (for draft and established sales) and sale number (for sold sales) entered on the Timber Sale Notice and Cutting Report (Form [2460-001](#)) will automatically be added here (until the sale is closed out and put into the completed treatment section). When a stand is added to a draft timber sale, it is removed from the treatment schedule (planning).
 5. Remarks - Record any and all pertinent remarks for the stand, supplementing and clarifying the preceding items. Individual remarks have a character limit, but the number of remarks will be unlimited and will stay on the file until removed by the field forester.
 6. User Defined Fields - This section provides up to ten opportunities to track unique attributes specific to a set of stands that is not otherwise captured by prefix codes or remarks. The property manager or the county forest administrator, in consultation with the other professionals managing the property, should jointly agree on what, if any, additional stand information might be of value. User defined fields should be labeled and used the same for all stands on the property. (e.g. user defined field #1 might indicate all those stands within a focused Ruffed Grouse Management Unit).

E. Completing Treatments in WisFIRS

See the complete treatment section of the WisFIRS Online Help for a full description.

When a Scheduled Treatment has been completed, WisFIRS data must be updated. The information, a snapshot of the stand attributes, and the GIS shape will be recorded as a historical record for the site. The Completed treatment procedure will largely depend on the type of treatment, but also when the treatment was scheduled and completed.

1. Non-Harvest Treatments

Treatments not assigned to a timber sale can be added and completed at any time from the planned treatments section of the recon stand detail page *OR* scheduled treatment page as outlined in the WisFIRS Online Help including treatment type, treatment purpose, treatment year and GIS shape. (Examples of non-timber treatments include site preparation, planting, direct seeding, regeneration monitoring, timber stand improvement, and many others.)

2. Harvest Treatments Associated with a Timber Sale

Prior to a treatment being implemented in the field it is assumed the recon is updated (e.g. present-day recon for timber sales must be updated in WisFIRS and reflected on the 2460-1 as part of the sale establishment process). Complete the harvest treatments in WisFIRS *before* doing post-sale recon updates, in order to accurately document the pre-sale conditions.

The process for completing treatments associated with a timber sale will depend on when the treatment was assigned to the timber sale. Timber Sales entered *after* 2/8/2018 have a built-in process to created completed treatments for each stand in the sale.

a. Timber Sale Treatments Assigned Prior to 2/8/2018

Like all non-harvest treatments, pre-2018 scheduled harvest treatments can be updated from the planned treatments section of the stand detail page *OR* scheduled treatment page as outlined in the WisFIRS Online Help including treatment type, treatment purpose, treatment year, GIS shape as well as Tract Number and Tract Year. Then under the Timber Sale Recon Information, update Acres Cut for each stand and Acreage Summaries. After all harvest treatments have been completed, the stand detail page can be updated with post-sale conditions.

Additional treatments can be added to an existing timber sale at any time by either creating a new stand or adding an existing stand in the Timber Sale Recon Information section. This applies to sales established prior to 2/8/2018. Unplanned treatments must be created in the Stand Details page using the same process as above prior to adding them to a Timber Sale. Completing the treatments will also follow the same guidance as all other treatments added prior to 2/8/2018.

b. Timber Sale Treatments Assigned After 2/8/2018

If the harvest treatment was initiated after 2/8/2018, the treatment is completed in the associated sale on the Timber Sale Recon Information as outline in the WisFIRS Online Help. Completing the treatments will unlock the WisFIRS stand details page and you can then begin to enter stand level updates.

Additional treatments can be added to an existing timber sale at any time by creating a new stand or adding an existing stand in the Timber Sale Recon Information section. Completing these treatments will be accomplished by following the same process as all other treatments assigned after 2/8/2018.

3. Document Upload

WisFIRS allows users the ability to upload documents associated with scheduled and completed treatments. This function can be utilized to incorporate electronic documents into the database that are specifically tied to an individual completed treatment. Examples could include regen stocking surveys, tree planting specs, island examination forms, plantation/cultural report forms, etc. This record is not tied to an individual stand record and is only searchable within the treatments tab.

PROPERTY COMPARTMENT RECORDS

The WisFIRS database stores all compartment data electronically, however certain information may still be important to retain in hard copy paper records. Keeping hard copies of this data is encouraged though not required.

A. Property Compartment Folders

Items below are generally housed within a compartment folder. It is important to remember that any updates to the electronic database would also require changes to be made within the compartment folders to maintain an accurate record.

1. Report 110 -Stand Information by Compartment (in the Reports Tab in WisFIRS) that summarizes all the stand data for the compartment. Some properties may wish to retain the Individual Stand Examination Data Sheets (Form 2400-026).
2. Compartment map. It is critical that all **property** compartment reconnaissance data be maintained in WisFIRS Public Lands GIS and updated as the tabular stand data changes. **The map should be an up-to-date graphic representation of the on-the-ground conditions and should be current with the tabular information.** Compartment maps can be printed using the Map Output tool in WisFIRS GIS.

The following information should be used in preparing the compartment map:

- a. It is recommended that maps be at a scale of 4 inches per mile on 8-1/2 by 11 inch sheet of paper. This can be accomplished through WisFIRS Public GIS by setting the map scale to 1:15840 or 4" = 1 mile.
 - b. Include the following information in the map heading information by entering it into the text fields in the map output dialog box in WisFIRS Public GIS:
 - i. Property name & compartment number.
 - ii. Compartment acreage
 - iii. Town, range, and section
 - iv. Date the map was prepared
 - v. Enter your name in the "Forester" field
 - c. The scale and north arrow are system-generated on the WisFIRS GIS map that is created.
 - d. Mapping symbols, which can be found in Appendix A, may be used for all map features, including types of trails, monumented corners, etc. In some instances, GIS technologies in WisFIRS preclude adhering to these guidelines exactly and those exceptions are permissible.
 - e. Compartment boundaries should be the outermost continuous line on the map.
 - f. Stand numbers should be properly prefixed in order to easily identify stands that may have special land management practices.
3. The following resource management information should be kept as GIS layer or hard copy maps.
 - a. Wildlife management activities including:
 - i. Designated wildlife openings - These are openings which have been agreed upon by the County Forest Administrator/Property Manager, Forester and Wildlife Biologist in accordance with M.C. 2112.
 - ii. Trails and roads - These are trails and roads that the state and/or county have expended funds upon in the past and you intend to maintain in the future. Trail length can be recorded on a map to facilitate project planning. This information is commonly maintained through a GIS layer in the WisFIRS GIS application (ancillary line layer).
 - b. Archeological and Historical - Information that is determined through archeological and historical database

checks. Additional specific information may be suitable as well. **The information identified here is for internal use only and is not subject to the Open Records Law.**

- c. Timber sale activities - This map or GIS layer is intended to be a quick cross-reference of past timber sale activity with more detailed information filed within the appropriate timber sale file.
- d. Prescribed burn activities for silviculture or habitat management

B. Plantation (Regeneration) and Cultural Report

All information relative to plantations, natural regeneration, and/or cultural practices will be recorded on Form [2400-79](#), Plantation and Cultural Report. These reports will be filed by compartment and stand number though may also be filed by year. An example can be viewed in Appendix K.

1. Description

All available information should be recorded if known. A map of the stand can be included and will provide additional information as to location.

2. Plantation & Seeding Data

The plantation number may be determined by combining the compartment number and stand number for a quick reference. For example, a plantation in compartment 89, stand P5, would have a plantation number of 89-P5. Local tracking mechanisms may however use a different procedure or tracking number.

Staff should record the average overall percent survival of the entire plantation. Survival checks shall be completed during the first fall following spring planting and again after the third growing season. Record the year the survival checks were completed. Under remarks, indicate possible reasons for poor survival (e.g. insect/disease issues, deer browse, stock conditions, stock type, weather and/or site condition during planting and during the first growing season). Additional considerations to evaluate during survival checks include: release treatment needs, deer browse assessment, insect/disease issues, and invasive plant pressure, etc.

Plantations shall be checked during the fifth and tenth year after planting to determine cultural needs and/or possible pest control. Record the practice accomplished and year completed.

3. Plantation Thinnings

Record the acres cut, year the timber sale is closed, volume/acre removed (indicate whether volume is in cords, tons or MBF), financial returns in dollars/acre, and residual basal area for each thinning completed in the plantation. Under the remarks column, provide information relative to stand condition, average dbh, average number of sticks/tree, utilization, thinning techniques (every other row, selectively marked, every fourth row), and any other relevant information.

4. Plantation and/or Cultural Information

This information must be recorded for all practices regardless of who completed the work (e.g. county personnel and contract work). Record the data for each practice completed in the stand. Indicate areas treated and method implemented. Costs (e.g. labor, travel) should be reported per acre. Indicate the date, and if appropriate, the funding source and project number.

Remarks should include the following information: planting weather conditions, planting stock condition, type of stock packaging, number of trees, species and age of stock used in replanting. If chemicals were used in release and/or pest suppression, include rate of application, success of kill, weather conditions, droplet size. For other treatments, information may include pruning height, basal area removed, average diameter removed for intermediate treatments and aspen maintenance work, and work completed by county personnel vs. contract.

5. Definitions

The following definitions will apply when recording cultural practices, as well as when developing work plan goals on a property:

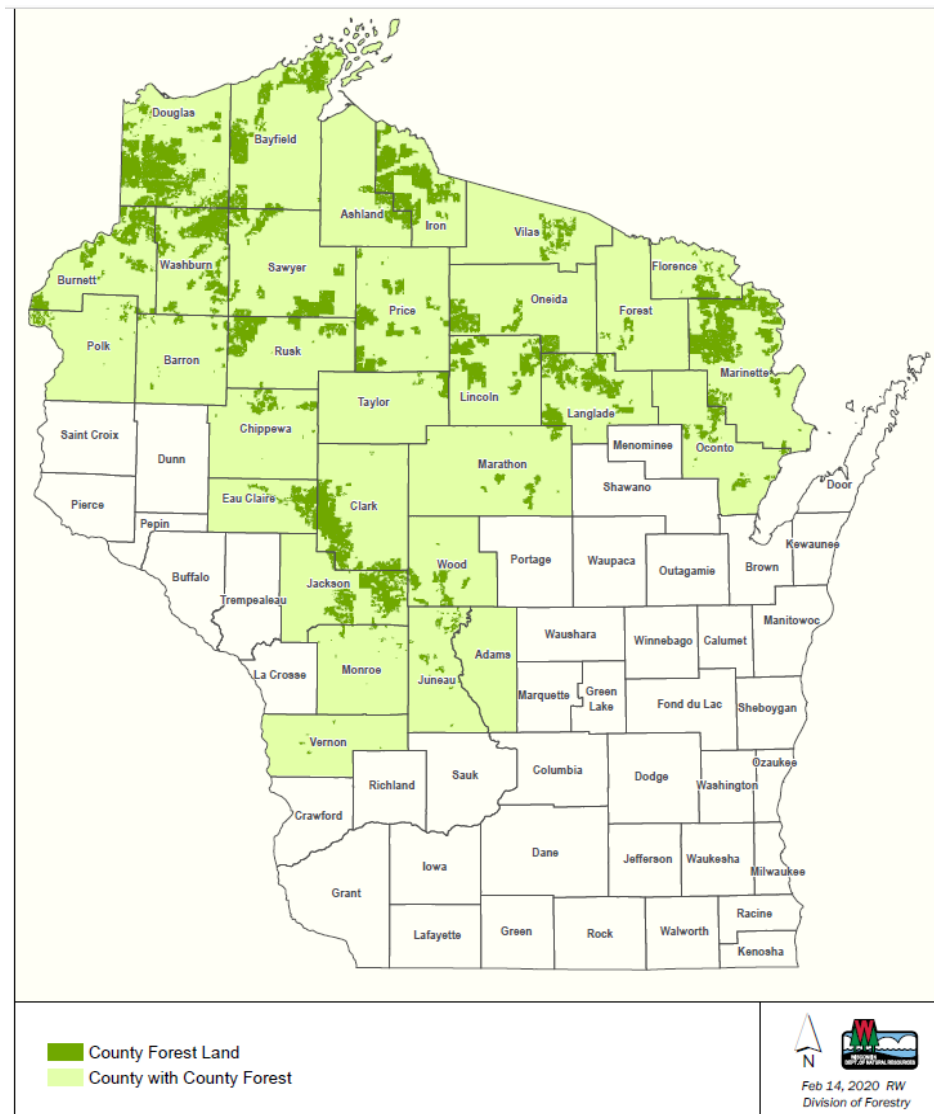
- a. Site Prep (record under the heading “Site Prep”)
 - i. Discing
 - ii. Rotavator
 - iii. Braacke Scarification
 - iv. Bulldozer scarification
 - v. Burning for planting purposes
 - vi. Herbicide application prior to planting
- b. Intermediate treatments (Record separately under the appropriate heading).
 - vii. Release – specify hand or aerial
 - viii. Pruning
 - ix. Non-Commercial thinning

COUNTY FOREST LANDS

This chapter was developed to assist both the Department and county forest staff on issues relating to the cooperative partnership and management of the county forest lands. Statutory language covering County Forests is found in s. [28.10](#) and [28.11](#), Wis. Stats.

The following Counties have lands enrolled under the County Forest Law:

Adams	Chippewa	Forest	Lincoln	Oneida	Taylor
Ashland	Clark	Iron	Marathon	Polk	Vernon
Barron	Douglas	Jackson	Marinette	Price	Vilas
Bayfield	Eau Claire	Juneau	Monroe	Rusk	Washburn
Burnett	Florence	Langlade	Oconto	Sawyer	Wood



The data shown on this map have been obtained from various sources, and are of varying age, reliability and resolution. This map is not intended to be used for navigation, nor is this map an authoritative source of information about legal land ownership or public access. Users of this map should confirm the ownership of land through other means in order to avoid trespassing. No warranty, expressed or implied, is made regarding accuracy, applicability for a particular use, completeness, or legality of the information depicted on this map.

The acreages and Administrators for each of the 30 County Forests can be found on the webpage of the Wisconsin County Forests Association (WCFA) at <http://www.wisconsincountyforests.com>.

DEPARTMENT LIAISONS TO COUNTY FORESTS

Section [28.11](#), Wis. Stats. requires that the Department provide technical assistance to Counties having lands entered in the County Forest Law program. Each of the thirty Counties involved provides for local program administration through assignments of that responsibility to an appropriate committee of its Board of Supervisors. Such committees employ the services of a County Forest Administrator who oversees day-to-day operations of the forest.

Each County Forest has an assigned DNR County Forest Liaison Forester who coordinates the partnership between the Department and the County Forest. Department personnel serving as the Liaison Forester for each County Forest are listed in the DNR Personnel Directory.

The responsibilities of the Liaison Forester are:

1. Attending all meetings of the County Forest Committee.
2. Informing immediate supervisor of significant County Forest matters. Liaison Foresters and supervisors share responsibility of informing other Department staff of matters affecting their programs.
3. Ensuring that appropriate Department technical assistance is provided for County Forest administration. The type and minimum hours of technical assistance are determined every five years by completion of the County Forest Time Standards Worksheet.
4. Coordinating County Forest administration contacts from other Department personnel.
5. Tracking County Forest accomplishments of contributing Foresters and report to the Forestry Team Leader as necessary.

The Department is responsible for selection of Liaison Foresters and for keeping the DNR County Forest & Public Lands Specialist informed of any changes in Liaison Forester assignments. In cases of a position vacancy, Team or Area Leaders assign an interim Liaison to be responsible for ensuring Liaison Forester duties and responsibilities are met for a particular County.

Position Summary

The Department Liaison Forester is responsible for coordinating the state/County partnership from the state standpoint by administering the County Forest Law (s. [28.11](#), Wis. Stats.). The Liaison Forester is expected to have a high level of technical expertise and function as the Department's primary source for technical assistance and provide information transfer to County Forest personnel. The Liaison Forester must fully understand the Department's overall capabilities, activities and maintain a good working knowledge of all facets of their County Forest program.

In instances where the technical assistance is beyond the scope of the position, the Liaison Forester will determine the appropriate source and obtain the necessary assistance. The Liaison Forester will coordinate all County/Department contacts and cooperate with other programs to achieve integrated management of the resources and County Forest staff to enhance overall efficiency of the County Forest program.

The Liaison Forester will be responsible for all activities described in the position description but may delegate on-the-ground data collection and technical assistance to others with supervisory approval. In cases where delegation is necessary due to other workload commitments, the Liaison Forester must maintain good communications, to determine that objectives are being met and that consistent technical assistance is being provided. Operations that involve new methods or untested policies and procedures will require considerably more field time. The Liaison should make every effort to directly participate in field operations of this type. Except under extreme circumstances, no activity should be totally delegated by the Liaison Forester.

Goals and Worker Activities

The following are the goals consistent with the Liaison Forester's position description needed to accomplish the

Department's statutory responsibilities.

A. Administer the County Forest Law

1. Assist in the preparation of the annual plan and the County Forest 15 Year Comprehensive Land Use Plan (hereafter referred to as the County Forest Plan)

Per s. [28.11\(5\)\(a\)](#), Wis. Stats, Counties must develop and maintain the County Forest Plan. The Liaison Forester assists the County Forest Administrator in determining annual allowable timber harvests, recreational developments, fish and wildlife management activities, endangered resource protection and management, silvicultural operations, and operating policies and procedures. Participating in these activities will assure compliance of the County Forest Law, identify the need for changes, and represent the statewide public interest.

2. Participate in establishing annual goals for timber sale establishment

Per s. [28.11\(5\)\(a\) and \(b\)](#), Wis. Stats., the Liaison Forester assists the County Forestry committee in developing an annual plan of work and budget based upon the County Forest Plan. These goals shall include timber sales to be established by location and other multiple use projects where appropriate.

3. Help formulate and process applications for lands entered or withdrawn

Per s. [28.11\(4\)\(a\)](#) and [\(11\)\(a\)](#), Wis. Stats., the Liaison Forester assists when requested by the County Forest Administrator in preparation of necessary documents for entry and withdrawal.

Entry- The Liaison Forester gathers (when requested) information (mapping) in preparing the application.

Withdrawals- The Liaison Forester gathers (when requested) information (mapping, archeological review, NHI, timber recon info etc) in preparing the application by the County. Upon the application being submitted to the Department, the Liaison Foresters role with the process is removed.

Specific details can be found within this handbook under County Forest Withdrawal and Entry of County Forest Lands in Chapter 250.

4. Participate in development of project and variable acreage share loan requests

Per s. [28.11\(8\)\(b\)1 and 2](#), Wis. Stats., the Liaison Forester may assist the County Forest Administrator in preparing requests for variable acreage and project loans. The Liaison Forester also provides the Department with the information necessary to determine if project loans are feasible, desirable, and consistent with the County Forest Plan. By participating in development of loan requests, the Liaison Forester is able to assure compliance of the County Forest Law, provide technical assistance, and represent the statewide public interest.

5. Review and approve all timber sale cutting notices/reports

Per s. [28.11\(6\)\(b\)3. and 4.](#), Wis. Stats., a Department representative, typically the Liaison Forester, is responsible for reviewing and approving all timber sale cutting notices (Form [2460-001](#)). The Liaison Forester will maintain knowledge of the resource and timber sale establishment procedures as outlined below under “Worker Activity B”.

By reviewing and approving cutting notices, the Liaison Forester assures compliance of the County Forest Law, assesses applicability of silvicultural prescriptions, best management practices, and forest certification standards (if applicable), identifies the need for technical assistance and training, provides for interface with other affected Department programs, and represents the statewide public interest.

6. Maintain regular personal contacts with County Forest Administrator

The Liaison Forester must have regular personal contacts with the County Forest Administrator in order to maintain and enhance an open cooperative relationship. A minimum suggested level of contact is four per month. More frequent personal contacts are encouraged and may be needed during certain periods of high activity.

7. Attend all County Forestry committee meetings and any County Board meetings as requested

The Liaison Forester is responsible for maintaining an open cooperative relationship with the County Forestry Committee members and other County Board Supervisors. Attending County meetings fosters this relationship and allows an opportunity for the Liaison Forester to advise, provide technical assistance, ensure compliance with the County Forest Law, and serve as a point of contact to arrange for Department or other specialist expertise as needed.

B. Provide technical forestry assistance as needed

1. Participate in field operations in conjunction with County Forest personnel as required to maintain a first-hand understanding of resource needs and opportunities

The Liaison Forester needs to be directly involved with all field operations on the County Forest in order to provide technical assistance to meet resource needs and to determine technology transfer needs. By maintaining familiarity with local timber types and resource needs the Liaison Forester will be better able to conduct data analysis and identify the need for specialist expertise. To be most effective and foster the County-Department partnership, the Liaison Forester should work with County and other Department personnel on as many projects as possible, rather than working independently to complete a portion of the work plan.

a. Cruise and mark timber, establish timber sales boundary, and prepare maps and appraisals, all in accordance with the County and state procedures

The Liaison Forester will cruise and mark timber, establish timber sale boundaries, and prepare maps and appraisals. Establishment of property boundary lines shall be the responsibility of the County. This will allow the Liaison Forester to maintain familiarity with resource and establishment procedures and effectively monitor s. [28.11\(6\)\(a\)](#), Wis. Stats., relative to qualifications of personnel involved with sale establishment. It will also provide the Liaison Forester with the ability to assess applicability of silvicultural prescriptions, best management practices, and forest certification standards (if applicable), provide technical assistance, and identify needs for specialist expertise.

b. Conduct timber sale inspections

The Liaison Forester will conduct a minimum of one on-site timber sale inspection per sale, typically at closing, in order to ensure compliance with the cutting notice per [s. 28.11\(6\)\(b\)\(3\)](#) Wis. Stats., and the County Forest Plan.

c. Administer timber sales in accordance with County and state procedures

The Liaison Forester will assist in timber sale administration in conjunction with County Forest personnel. By participating in sale administration, the Liaison Forester will be able to ensure compliance with s. [28.11\(6\)\(b\)\(4\)](#), and [\(9\)\(a\)](#), Wis. Stats., and monitor compliance with the County Forest Plan. Participating in timber sale administration will provide the Liaison Forester with information needed to evaluate silvicultural prescriptions, and the need for technical assistance and technology transfer. The Liaison Forester will participate in scaling as needed to ensure compliance with s. [28.11](#), Wis. Stats.

d. Conduct final silvicultural inspections in conjunction with County Forest personnel

The Liaison Forester will conduct final silvicultural inspections in conjunction with County personnel. This will enable the Liaison Forester to monitor compliance with the County Forest Plan and provide the required information necessary to evaluate the silvicultural prescriptions.

e. Identify sites and make recommendations for cultural and regeneration work through use of compartment reconnaissance and field examinations

The Liaison Forester will participate in identifying sites and making recommendations for cultural and regeneration work through use of compartment reconnaissance and field examinations. The information directly received from field operations will allow the Liaison Forester to monitor compliance with the County Forest Plan and interface with other affected Department programs (e.g. wildlife, endangered resources, state nurseries).

f. Mark boundaries or otherwise designate areas needing the cultural and regeneration work

The Liaison Forester will assist County personnel with designation of sites needing cultural and regeneration work. This will allow the Liaison Forester to insure implementation of the County Forest Plan.

2. Coordinate implementation and application of new technologies in cultural and regeneration work

The Liaison Forester will assist Counties with implementation and application of new technologies in cultural and regeneration work. By participating in field operations for cultural and regeneration work, the Liaison Forester is able to evaluate silvicultural prescriptions, evaluate nursery stock suitability, and identify possible needs for technical assistance and technology transfer.

3. Develop, refine and evaluate existing data as necessary to identify trends, potential problems, and opportunities in management of the County Forest

The Liaison Forester will continually evaluate new and existing procedures and trends to determine what assistance may best meet the County's needs.

4. Continue development and maintenance of compartment reconnaissance on the County Forest including data collection and analysis, records, updating, management information systems, (e.g. GIS and WisFIRS)

The Liaison Forester and County Forest staff share the responsibility for developing and maintaining compartment reconnaissance on the County Forest, including collecting and analyzing compartment reconnaissance field data, maintaining compartment reconnaissance office records, and routing updated information.

The Liaison Forester will continuously assess whether the recon system meets County needs, maintain familiarity with local timber types and identify need for information transfer. The Liaison Forester will effectively participate in data analysis, monitor compliance with the County Forest Plan, and provide technical assistance.

5. Identify sites and make recommendations for endangered resource fish and wildlife management and protection

The Liaison Forester will participate with assistance from the Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation and local fish and wildlife staff in providing resource information to the County Administrator, including identifying sites and making management recommendations for rare, threatened, endangered plants, animals and communities, and specific fish and wildlife management projects.

C. Function as a catalyst for information transfer

1. Maintain first-hand familiarity with County Forest resources and management procedures in order to effectively match Department resources with the County Forest needs

The Liaison Forester maintains familiarity with the County Forest through participation in County Forest operations and through constant communication with the County Forest Administrator. The Liaison Forester is also responsible for staying current with other Department programs such as wildlife, endangered resources, fish, parks, mining, community aid programs, snowmobile funding, etc.

By discussing County Forest needs with personnel from other programs, the Liaison Forester will be better able to ascertain what resources will best meet County needs. This will allow the Liaison Forester to effectively serve as a point of contact to arrange for specialist expertise as needed and to represent the statewide public interest.

2. Maintain involvement on technical committees and maintain currency with state-of-the-art forestry technology, capitalize on advances, experiences, training opportunities, and potential solutions that relate to individual County needs

The Liaison Forester will maintain a high degree of silvicultural expertise in order to function as the primary source for technical assistance. The Liaison Forester should attend technical sessions, keep up to date on current literature, and discuss silvicultural practices with Department specialists. Information obtained should be shared on a timely basis with County Forest staff. The Liaison Forester is responsible for keeping the County Forest staff informed of Department-sponsored training opportunities and inviting them to attend.

By maintaining a familiarity with all Department resources, the Liaison Forester will be able to provide a high degree of technical assistance and identify opportunities for further technology transfer.

3. Recommend and assist the Counties in providing training and interpretation relative to Department technical procedures and capabilities

The Liaison Forester must maintain a high level of understanding of Department policies and procedures as they pertain to the County Forest program. These procedures include the reconnaissance system, timber sale establishment and administration procedures, silviculture, wildlife, and aesthetic guidelines. This will allow the Liaison Forester to assure compliance with s. [28.11](#), Wis. Stats., and assess whether or not systems meet County needs.

D. Cooperation with County Forest and other Department personnel

1. Coordinate and provide assistance to County staff in meeting short-term workload increases and arrange for use of Department equipment and/or personnel as necessary to enhance overall efficiency and capitalize on immediate opportunities

Periodic, short-term workload increases will be necessary for the Liaison Forester as a result of

temporary shortage of County staff, salvage operations as a result of natural disaster, insect and disease outbreaks, or other similar situations. The Liaison Forester should make full use of other Department staff as priorities allow to meet these increases. Likewise, the Liaison Forester needs to utilize and coordinate all of the resources at his or her command to capitalize on immediate opportunities. The Liaison Forester should keep up to date on the capabilities, cost, and availability of Department equipment that can be used to meet County Forest needs. The Liaison Forester should coordinate Department equipment use on County Forests.

2. Coordinate and facilitate cooperation between with County Forest Administrators and all Department activities that occur on or affect the County Forest in order to enhance the integrated management approach

The Liaison Forester will serve as the contact for cooperation with other functions in achieving integrated management goals on the County Forest. The Liaison Forester is responsible for coordinating all County-Department contacts, because integrated management is accepted and desirable, the Liaison Forester should be aware of these needs and opportunities on the County Forest.

This allows the Liaison Forester to interface with other affected Department programs, monitor compliance with the County Forest Plan, and represent the statewide public interest.

3. Coordinate and provide technical specialists for the County

The Liaison Forester is responsible for functioning as the primary source for technical assistance to County Forest personnel. It is realized, however, that there will be situations beyond the expertise of the Liaison Forester. In these cases, the Liaison Forester will coordinate the assistance of technical specialists. It is important that the Liaison Forester maintain good communications with the Department's technical experts so that potential problems can be proactively managed and addressed in a timely manner. The Liaison Forester will also be responsible for involving other functions during the annual partnership meeting.

Technical Assistance

Technical assistance from the Department will be coordinated through the Department Liaison Forester. Assistance may be available in the following specialties:

1. Endangered Resources
 - Conservation Biologists – Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation
2. Fisheries Management
 - Fisheries Biologists – Bureau of Fisheries Management
3. Forest Economics
 - Forest Economist – Division of Forestry
 - Forest Products Specialists – Division of Forestry
4. Forest Management
 - County Liaison Foresters – Division of Forestry
 - Forest Ecologists or Silviculturalists – Division of Forestry
 - Regeneration Specialist – Division of Forestry
5. Land Acquisition
 - Regional Real Estate Specialists – Bureau of Facilities and Lands
6. Protection
 - Insects & Disease: Forest Health Specialists – Division of Forestry

- Invasive Plants: Invasive Plant Coordinator and Specialists – Division of Forestry
 - Fire Management (Response): Forest Rangers – Division of Forestry
 - Fire Management (Planning): Wildland Urban Interface Coordinator and Specialists – Division of Forestry
7. Recreation Management
 - Outdoor Recreation Grants: Financial Assistance Specialists – Division of External Services
 8. Technology (Geographic Information Systems, WisFIRS)
 - Field Technology Support Staff – Division of Forestry
 9. Water Resources & Regulations
 - Water Management Specialists – Division of External Services
 - Water Management Engineers – Division of External Services
 - Water Quality Biologists – Division of Environmental Management
 - Wastewater Specialists – Division of External Services, Division of Environmental Management
 - Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality: Forest Hydrologists – Division of Forestry
 10. Wildlife Management
 - Wildlife Biologists – Bureau of Wildlife Management

Law Enforcement

The Department's Division of Forestry has maintained non-sworn Forest Rangers as "Enforcing Officers". Forest Rangers have authority to issue civil forfeiture citations for violations in [Chapter 26, Wis. Stats.](#), which covers *Protection of Forest Lands and Forest Productivity*. Any provisions within Chapter 26 that are applicable to the County Forest can be enforced.

Timber theft (s. [26.05](#), Wis. Stats.) on County property should be referred to the County Forest Administrator and/or Sheriff's Department. Depending on availability, workload, and supervisory approval, Department personnel can assist or take the lead role in investigation, seizures and prosecution if requested by the County or Sheriff's Department. It is *strongly recommended* to involve a sworn law enforcement officer (e.g. Conservation Warden or local Sheriff's Department Deputy) upon notice of the violation, regardless of the severity of the case. However, if the violation is criminal in nature, the case *must* be referred to a sworn law enforcement officer.

Department personnel can provide information concerning a potential violation to any County law enforcement officer whereby citations can be written on information and belief.

Division of Forestry personnel *cannot* enforce County ordinances. The County Corporation Council, County Sheriff, and district attorney should be consulted for local procedures.

Annual Adjustments to Department Technical Assistance

The duties described in the "generic" position description for a Department Liaison Forester are common to all County Forests. In many cases, however, there may be additional Liaison Forester duties unique to a particular County Forest. These may involve specific, short-term projects, or may be additional duties of a continuing nature. These projects are negotiated at the local level, between the County Forest Administrator, Department Liaison Forester, and the Department forestry supervisor.

The process identifies, justifies, and quantifies both in time and duration the Department's time contribution given to meet specific County needs above and beyond the standards applied to all Counties. These special, unanticipated, or short-term projects are considered in addition to the minimum time standard requirement.

The status of annual adjustments must be annually reviewed and reported on as part of the annual partnership evaluation meeting held in each County.

COUNTY FOREST ADMINISTRATOR

The County Forest Administrator coordinate the State/County partnership with the Department Liaison Forester in administering the County Forest Law (s. [28.11](#), Wis. Stats.). The Department expects the County to hire an Administrator with skill levels that will enable the position to carry out the County's end of the partnership.

The County Forest Administrator will be responsible for all activities described in the position description but may delegate these responsibilities to others under their supervision. The County Forest Administrator works directly for the County Forestry committee.

Goals and Worker Activities

1. Maintain good communications with the Department Liaison Forester to facilitate efficient operations of the County Forest program.
2. Work in developing and updating the County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan to promote and implement integrated resource management with assistance from the Department as necessary.
3. Work with County Forest staff and County Forestry committee to develop an annual work plan and budget that is accepted by the County Board.
4. At least annually, in cooperation with the Department Liaison Forester, select compartments and stands from the County Forest compartment reconnaissance database (i.e. WisFIRS) for timber sale establishment. Divide the workload within the restraints of each partner.
5. Responsible for timber sale bids, contracts, and sale administration.
6. Prepare requests and receive approval by resolution from County Board for Project Loans and Variable Acreage Share Loans.
7. Responsible for coordinating (contracting, etc.) of all cultural and regeneration work performed on the County Forest.
8. Will take the lead regarding any property boundary issues on the County Forest.
9. Responsible for preparing applications for all grants and aids used on the County Forest, including the County Forest Administrator and Sustainable Forestry Grants.

Questions concerning the program may be directed to the County Forest & Public Lands Specialist in the Division of Forestry.

COUNTY/STATE ROLES

X = Role Lead, * = Assisting

A. ADMINISTRATION OF COUNTY FOREST LAW, S. 28.11, WIS STATS.			
	County	State	Both
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify resource needs and provide technical assistance to meet resource needs 			X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop, Implement, and Amend (as needed) the County Forest comprehensive land use plan (County Forest Plan) 	X	*	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop Annual Work Plan 	X		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request entries and withdrawals of land from s. 28.11(11)(a)1. 	X		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Process and approve entry s. 28.11(4) and withdrawal of lands under s. 28.11(11) 		X	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request aids 	X		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Process and approve aid applications and disperse funds 		X	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disperse County Severance to towns 	X		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disperse acreage share payments towns 		X	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appoint a committee and hold meetings 	X		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend forestry committee meetings 			X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish forest use regulations 	X		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May enter into co-op agreements for fire protection 	X		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide fire protection as per s. 26.11 		X	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May establish aesthetic zones s. 28.11(3)(e) and transplant nurseries s. 28.11(3)(f) 	X		
B. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collect Recon data 			X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure Recon data accuracy. Continue to develop and maintain the recon system and procedures. 			X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GIS development and maintenance (e.g. WisFIRS, Arc) 			X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine annual harvest, reforestation, and annual cultural work. 	X	*	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop silvicultural guidelines and prescriptions (Silvicultural Guidance Team). 		X	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop silvicultural prescriptions in accordance with state guidelines. 	X	*	

	County	State	Both
• Promote and implement integrated management			X
• Review and approve management projects for compliance with statewide standards and compliance with County Forest Plan and s. 28.11		X	
• Maintain consistent contact between the County Forest Administrator, department Liaison Forester, wildlife biologist, and endangered resources staff throughout the year.			X
• Identify opportunities for habitat improvement projects on County Forest Land.			X
• Seek and provide funding sources for habitat improvement projects.		X	
• Provide opportunities to meet the need for County Forest-based recreation, including access opportunities to state waters.	X		
• Provide technical assistance in the development and enhancement of recreational trails and facilities on County Forest land.	X	*	
• Request grant funding for acquisition and development of recreational trails and facilities.	X		
• Provide grant funding for acquisition and development of recreational trails and facilities.		X	
C. ADMINISTRATION OF CONTRACTS FOR MANAGEMENT PROJECTS			
• Prepare prospectus, advertisements, conduct bid opening, award bids, and sign contracts.	X	*	
• Enforce contracts to represent Counties interest	X	*	
• Ensure completion of all financial aspects of contracts are completed. Monitor final timber sale billings and make severance payments	X		
• Monitor compliance for severance collection and dissemination for state and towns		X	
• Conduct final contract inspections and prepare final reports	X	*	
• Review and approve timber sale completions and track accomplishments.			X
• Update and ensure accuracy of Recon			X

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct and monitor follow-up studies and evaluations. Modify future project recommendations. 			X
	County	State	Both
D. COOPERATION			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and enhance open cooperative relationship between the County and Department. 			X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist Department/County in its responsibilities when faced with a short-term periodic workload increases, to maximize combined State/County efficiencies. 			X

COUNTY FOREST TIME STANDARDS – TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Time Standards Guidelines

The Department provides technical assistance to Counties having lands entered in the County Forest program in a variety of ways, including via a dedication of Department employee time working on identified projects on each County Forest. The County Forest time standards were established to provide each County with a specified amount of technical assistance to be provided by the Department each year. The time standards worksheet was developed and refined over time to fairly allocate the level assistance provided among the Counties enrolled in the County Forest Program. The worksheet helps calculate the average number of hours that the Department shall spend on a number of different activities which may occur annually on a County Forest.

The purpose of the time standards worksheet is to quantify the Department's technical forestry assistance commitments on County Forest lands based in part on the Department Liaison's position description. The **total found on Line 29 represents the commitment of hours** Department forestry staff will annually devote to the County Forest program to fulfill Chapter 28 responsibilities. This commitment includes both local and non-local hours. Hours may be added or subtracted to the time standard base hours each year (see description of Activity #28 – Annual Adjustments). These time standards will remain in effect through fiscal year 2022. Historical data and statistics used in calculating many of the individual worksheet activity hours are based on a *calendar* year. Hours and accomplishments will be tracked on a *fiscal* year basis.

The DNR's time standard commitment does not include Department personnel performing non-forestry work on the County Forest (e.g. wildlife staff doing openings maintenance). Similarly, a new Department Forester's or Forest Technician's time learning a task is ***not*** included toward meeting the time standards. (e.g. new Forester accompanying an experienced Forester taking plots or running lines, new Technician learning how to operate equipment or completing training exercises). However, when the new employee is able to work independently and productively, then that time or accomplishment may be credited towards the time standards. For example, once a forest technician is deemed proficient, time spent on the County Forest to meet the annual 30-hour equipment operation proficiency requirement may be credited towards the time standards. The Department and County will mutually agree when an acceptable proficiency level has been obtained for these employees and when time may be credited to the time standards.

The County Forest time standards revision process is based upon a base commitment of 46,000 hours of DNR assistance to the program statewide. The worksheet will continue to be used to apportion the hours between Counties. The preliminary base hours from the worksheet (Line 25) for each individual County will be added together and compared against the 46,000- hour figure. This will establish a pro-rate figure that will then be multiplied by each County's worksheet hours (Line 25) to arrive at the base hour commitment for each County (Line 26). As described below the annual time standard commitment may be adjusted annually at the partnership meeting or at other times throughout the year based on unforeseen changes in circumstances. The next revision of the time standards will be in FY22 to commence starting in FY23.

The time standard commitment to each County is meant to establish the base level of assistance that DNR will work-plan to accomplish for each year. Forestry staff time is work-planned across a number of high priority programs including County Forests, state lands, private lands, and fire. County Forests are recognized as a valuable partner and consequently technical assistance to Counties is considered a high priority task. If other priority DNR workload has been or will be accomplished for the year, additional resources may be allocated to a County Forest if there is additional forestry workload to accomplish and time spent on the County Forest will produce the highest value outcomes. Simply put, the time standards are not a maximum amount of time that can be contributed annually.

The worksheet formulas are designed to represent a statewide average recognizing variability in property size and priorities, and to promote consistent calculation of the time standard hours with the Department's County Forest partners. Many of the formulas are derived from data gathered during the 1990 Workload Analysis, from 1999, 2003 and 2008 surveys conducted with County Forest Administrator and Department Liaisons, from trends evaluated over a reasonable time period, from local experience or from current operational needs. The forest reconnaissance (RECON) in the Wisconsin Forest Inventory and Reporting System (WisFIRS) is the fundamental data used in the worksheet calculations and represents the basic inventory system used to identify and plan management activities on the County Forest. While updating the inventory is a dynamic and on-going process, the expectation is to re-evaluate all forested stands during a 20-year period.

The Department and County have the flexibility to annually determine where the actual on-the-ground hours will be focused; this may create a deviation from the hours calculated on the worksheet for a specific activity. To ensure flexibility for the County Forest program and to address local workload, the total base hour commitment may be reallocated between activities annually. Both the Department and County must agree to any adjustments to allocations between activities. Acceptable adjustment parameters are described in the definition section for each activity. If a major acreage change (2% of the total County Forest acreage) occurs on the County Forest prior to the conclusion of the five years, the base hours may be recalculated.

Time standards hours will be reported monthly to both County and DNR staff on a statewide level. In addition, a breakdown of hours for each County, by name and activity code, will be generated by DNR Central Office and routed by the County Forest & Public Lands Specialist.

The manner in which time standard hours are accomplished on a given County Forest should reflect the worksheet calculations, the annual work plan & partnership meetings, and should represent quality time/accomplishments as determined jointly by the County Forest Administrator, DNR Liaison, and DNR Team Leader. Liaisons, Administrator, and Team Leaders shall confer to discuss County Forest work which is assigned to non-local DNR staff to meet time standards commitments.

Liaisons, Administrator, and Team Leaders shall confer and agree to acceptable amounts of travel time for non-local DNR staff to code to County time standards. Liaisons, Administrator, and Team Leaders shall discuss the distribution of time standard hours provided to a County Forest throughout the course of the year to try to identify the optimal distribution for accomplishing the work goals of the County Forest and the DNR.

The Time Standards Grant, which allow Counties to increase or decrease, within certain constraints, the amount of technical assistance (time standard hours) that they would receive from the Division of Forestry for a set period of time. In exchange the County would receive a corresponding decrease or increase in grant funding which is to be used to accomplish some of the sustainable forestry tasks that have traditionally been accomplished in part via DNR technical assistance. Wisconsin County Forests Association voted and approved a motion that no County would utilize the Time Standards Grant as no additional specific funding source was allocated for this grant. The funding comes from the Administration/Sustainable Forestry Grant account.

Time Standards Annual Adjustments (Additions or Subtractions)

Annual adjustments in the total number of hours committed to each County Forest may warrant additions or subtractions of total base hours, as a result of short-term projects or staff shortages. These hours are negotiated annually between the Liaison, Team Leader and County Forest Administrator and represent special, unanticipated or short-term projects or staff shortages not addressed in Activities #1 – 24. These adjustments become part of the time standards for that particular year. Approval by the district Forester (or designee) is required for DNR.

If no agreement for an annual adjustment can be reached between the two entities, then the hours totaled on Line 26 Column F in the worksheet will continue to represent the time standard hours for the year, unless there are Time Standards Grant Adjustments on Line 27. Although annual adjustments may be re-calculated annually, the minimum *base* time standard hours remain in effect for FY 20-22.

The annual time standard commitment may be adjusted annually at the partnership meeting or at other times throughout the year based on unforeseen changes in circumstances. The reasoning behind the changes and the number of hours to increase/decrease must be documented in the Annual Partnership Meeting minutes or in a letter/memo to be routed through channels to the County Forest & Public Lands Specialist. For additions, the specific project and hours dedicated to it must be identified. Examples of an appropriate project may be found under the time standards definitions section for Activity #28.

In the event that all annual work activities identified and agreed upon by the County Forest Administrator and the DNR Liaison Forester have been completed for a particular year, but County Forest time standards hours have not been met in that County, the County Forest Administrator may excuse the DNR from their commitment to complete the remaining time standards hours in their County for that year.

In addition, if during a particular year DNR anticipates falling short of meeting the time standards in an individual County due to team vacancies, forest fire suppression responsibilities, or other extenuating circumstances, the County Forest Administrator and DNR Team Leader will have the flexibility upon mutual agreement to excuse the DNR from meeting the full commitment for time standards hours in that County for that fiscal year. This mutual agreement will be documented and signed by both the DNR Team Leader and the County Forest Administrator. If a reduction in time standards hours is to occur, the DNR Team Leader will develop a written plan that outlines the mutually agreed upon adjusted time standards commitment for that fiscal year and will work with the County Forest Administrator to assign any remaining DNR adjusted hours to priority activities on the County Forest. This written plan, with signatures from both the local DNR Team Leader and the County Forest Administrator, will be routed through the area and district forestry leaders to the County Forest Specialist & Public Lands Specialist to update the statewide County Forest time standards tracking worksheet.

If dismissal of unachieved hours is not mutually acceptable, then the DNR Team Leader and the County Forest Administrator are encouraged to consider a compromise between the County and DNR which includes some form of averaging or tracking total hours provided over a period longer than one year such as in the following example:

The agreed upon hours from the annual partnership meetings would be used to calculate a 3-year running annual average DNR time commitment. A 3-year running annual average of actual DNR hours provided would also be calculated. The annual average hours provided would meet or exceed the annual average time standards for that same period.

Time Standards Activity Definitions

When completing the County Forest Time Standards Worksheet, it is imperative accurate RECON data is used. Use data from WisFIRS in which Planning has been run *and accepted* within the last year. These definitions document how the formulas were derived or further explain the activity. The letters (A, B, etc.) refer to the columns on the Time Standards Worksheet. Explanations for simple calculations, self-explanatory activities, or instructions already provided on the worksheet are omitted here.

Column A describes the technical assistance activity provided by the Liaison and local forestry team as well as data base used by all County Forests to consistently calculate the level of technical assistance to be provided.

Column B identifies the number of units pertinent to the specific activity for both County and department staff.

Column C provides instructions to determine the level of involvement by the Liaison and local forestry team for each activity.

Column D represents the units of activities that the Liaison and the local forestry team should be involved with.

Column E provides instructions for converting the base work units listed in Column D into hours. These factors may not be altered when calculating the base hours for each activity.

Column F lists the base hours for each activity that the Liaison and the local forestry team would provide to meet the minimum commitment of technical assistance to the County Forest. The Department and the County Forests can jointly agree, within the constraints set in the table below, to adjust the hours within the categories. This provides flexibility to focus DNR time where local needs warrant. The actual allocation of time between activities can vary significantly annually based on a variety of factors and agreement between the County Forest Administrator and Liaison Forester. If a County participates in the Time Standards Grant, any adjustment in hours shall be prorated across all activities in the worksheet for which DNR is not solely responsible. Annual variations and time standard grant adjustments may not result in DNR doing less than 25% of Activity 1 and 50% of Activity 3.

Remaining hours may be shifted to another activity if annual needs dictate and there is local agreement.

Recon

Activity #1 & 2 – Recon & Planning (Assumes Department does 50%)

- A. Use the acres of all forested (Line #1) or non-forested (Line #2) types on the County Forest. Use WisFIRS Report #101.
- B. 5% represents updating 1/20th of the forested forest types annually thereby allowing each stand to be updated at least once during the 20-year period. DNR is responsible for 50% of this, resulting in total annual updates independent of management activity = 2.50% (e.g. 50% of .05 = 0.250). This updating does not include recon updating completed as part of timber sale closeouts, reforestation practices or other cultural activities.
- C. Calculation of Columns B & C.
- D. Calculation of Columns D & E to determine base hours.

Timber Sales

Activity #3 – Timber Sale Establishment & Administration – Planning

- B. Use Report 28A to determine the **annual** average number of timber sales established (A-noticed) during the previous five (5) calendar years.
- F. Calculation of Columns B & C to determine base hours.

Activity #4 – Timber Sale Establishment & Administration - Pre-Establishment

Joint discussions on silvicultural prescriptions and other management issues prior to sale establishment are encouraged to reduce problems between the Department and County after the sale has been established.

- B. Use the accepted long-term harvest goal (15-year annual average) from WisFIRS – Report #201.
- C. The Department should be involved in planning at least half (50%) of the timber sales on the forest to maintain knowledge of the property and to ensure silvicultural proficiency. 50% implies a shared responsibility between the Department and County. This time enables the Liaison to maintain proficiency and a working knowledge of the property.
- D. Calculation of Columns B & C.
- E. 0.2 hours per acre includes field, travel, and office time. This number was derived from experience and consensus from the time standards ad hoc committee.

- F. Calculation of Columns D & E to determine base hours.

Activity #5 – Timber Sale Establishment & Administration – Field Establishment

- A. Calculate the total average annual acres established by averaging the accepted long term harvest goal (15-year annual average) from WisFIRS – Report #201 with the average annual number of A-notice acres established during the previous five (5) calendar years (WisFIRS Report 301). $[(Ave. \text{ of previous 5 year's Annual A-notice acres}) + (Long \text{ term harvest goal})] / 2 = \text{Average total acres.}$
- B. Determine the percent (%) of the Average Total Acres calculated in Column A that are even-aged harvests and uneven-aged / thinning harvests. Even-aged acres entered here include coppice, clearcut, overstory removal, and seed tree harvests (acreage where you are not marking individual trees). *If there is concern that acreage on some sales was not entered in the proper column on Form 2460-001 and there is agreement that local information is more accurate, local information may be used in this determination. Take the percent of even-aged harvests and the percent of uneven-aged / thinning harvests and multiply it by the Average Total Acres in Column A to determine the breakdown to enter in Column B.
- C. Department involvement on 25% of the timber sales resulted from a 1992-1994 agreement between the County Forests Association and the Department. The assumption was that the Department Forester(s) would set up a quarter of the timber sales or be involved in 100 percent of the sales as one of four Foresters.
- E. Time standards of 0.65 hours per acre for even-aged harvests and 1.65 hours per acre for selection harvests are based on a consensus decision by a time standards ad hoc committee in 2018 using information collected from Department and County Foresters. Currently considered a routine part of sale establishment, time considerations for BMPs, endangered species, permits, landings, etc. have been incorporated into these factors.
- F. Calculation of Columns D & E to determine base hours.

Activity #6 - Timber Sale Establishment & Administration – Paperwork

- A. Includes office time (excludes field time) to prepare Form 2460-001, develop maps, update recon, prepare prospectuses, and complete the narrative for sales established by the Department.
- B. Use the **annual** average number of *all* timber sales established (A-noticed) during the previous five (5) calendar years (Report 28A).
- C. All sales are included because the Liaison is involved with some aspect of the paperwork on all timber sales.
- D. Calculation of Columns B & C.
- E. 8.0 hours per sale was derived from experience and consensus of the time standards ad hoc committees.
- F. Calculation of Columns D & E to determine base hours. No adjustment limitation allowed.

Activity #7 - Timber Sale Establishment & Administration – Paperwork and Approval

- A. Includes office time (excludes field time) to review Form 2460-001, maps, recon updates related to timber sale establishment, prospectuses, and narratives for sales established by the County.
- B. Use the **annual** average number of *all* timber sales established (A-noticed) during the previous five (5) calendar years (Report 28A).
- C. All sales (100%) are included because the Liaison is involved with some aspect of the paperwork on all timber sales.

- D. Calculation of Columns B & C.
- E. 2.0 hours per sales was derived from experience and consensus of the time standards ad hoc committees.
- F. Calculation of Columns D & E to determine base hours. No adjustment limitation allowed.

Activity #8 – Timber Sale Establishment & Administration – Field Inspections

- A. Inspections should evaluate proper implementation of the prescribed silvicultural treatment, assess wood utilization, and evaluate contract compliance. The County has the lead on timber sale administration activities, but Department staff may be asked periodically to perform some of these activities. The level of administrative involvement will be determined between the Administrator and the Liaison. Post-sale updates of recon at the time of sale closure and field scaling activities are not included here (see Activities #10 & #11).
- B. Use Report 28A to determine the **annual** average number of all sales *closed* during the previous five (5) calendar years. Closed sales are those with the final Cutting Report (Form 2460-001) filed and approved by the Department.
- C. On average, the DNR Forester may inspect sales approximately two (2) times during the course of harvesting activities. Sales on which a DNR Forester has been assigned primary sale administration authority would require significantly more inspections and conversely lower on sales which are primarily administered by County staff.
- D. Calculation of Columns B & C.
- E. Two (2) hours per visit is an average that takes into account sale size and associated travel time to the site.
- F. Calculation of Columns D & E to determine base hours.

Activity #9 – Timber Sale Establishment & Administration – Sale Closeout

- A. Includes review and WisFIRS data entry of completed timber sales (Form 2460-001). Post-sale updates of recon at the time of sale closure are not included here (see Activity #10).
- B. Use Report 28A to determine the **annual** average number of all sales *closed* during the previous five (5) calendar years. Closed sales are those with the final Cutting Report (Form 2460-001) filed and approved by the Department.
- F. Calculation of Columns B & E to determine base hours.

Activity #10 – Timber Sale Establishment & Administration – Post-Sale Recon Update

- A. Includes field data collection and WisFIRS data entry or modification (both tabular and spatial) in stands of completed timber sales (Form 2460-001).
- B. Use Report 28A to determine the **annual** average number of all sales *closed* during the previous five (5) calendar years. Closed sales are those with the final Cutting Report (Form 2460-001) filed and approved by the Department.
- D. Calculation of Columns B & C.
- F. Calculation of Columns D & E to determine base hours.

Activity #11 – Timber Sale Establishment & Administration – Administration of Cut Volume (Scaling)

- A. Although most Counties currently use the mill ticket system, Department Foresters may periodically be asked to scale wood products in the field.
- B. Use Report 32A to determine the average number of cords and MBF per year from the previous five (5) calendar years of closed timber sales. Closed sales are those with the final Cutting Report (Form 2460-001) filed and approved by the Department.
- D. Calculation of Columns B & C (two lines – one for cords, one for MBF).
- F. Calculation of Columns D & E to determine base hours for both cords and MBF.

Artificial Regeneration

Activity #12 – Artificial Regeneration Planting & Site Prep – Reforestation Planning

- B. Pre-establishment inspections for artificial regeneration plantings. Stands scheduled for forced type regeneration are used in this calculation. Use the **estimated average number of stands to be planted annually for the next five (5) calendar years**. This information can be obtained from accomplishment reports and local records.
- C. Previous ad hoc time standard teams determined this is a shared responsibility between the County and the Department. Therefore, it is reasonable for Department forestry staff to be involved in half (50%) of the stand visits.
- D. Calculation of Columns B & C.
- F. Calculation of Columns D & E to determine base hours.

Activity #13 – Artificial Regeneration Planting & Site Prep – Field Establishment

- A. Activities associated with field establishment **prior to and during planting**. Includes delineation of the area and carrying out the reforestation plan for pre- or post-harvest planting treatments (e.g. meeting to help a contractor get started, flagging the planting site, conducting treatments for site prep). Also includes time required to inspect proper planting techniques such as seedling depth, spacing, and seedling handling and storage.
- B. Use the **estimated average number of stands to be planted annually for the next five (5) calendar years**. This information can be obtained from accomplishment reports and local records.
- C. Previous ad hoc time standard teams determined this is a shared responsibility between the County and the Department. Therefore, it is reasonable for Department forestry staff to be involved in half (50%) of the workload.
- D. Calculation of Columns B & C.
- F. Calculation of Columns D & E to determine base hours.

Activity #14 – Artificial Regeneration Planting & Site Prep – Survival Monitoring

- A. Time required to inspect artificial regeneration sites and maintain records for survival monitoring. At a minimum, this includes one-, three-, and five-year survival counts on artificial regeneration sites.
- B. Use the **annual average of acres planted from the previous five (5) calendar years**. This information can be obtained from accomplishment reports and local records.

- C. Previous ad hoc time standard teams determined this is a shared responsibility between the County and the Department. Therefore, it is reasonable for Department forestry staff to be involved in half (50%) of the workload.
- D. Calculation of Columns B & C.
- E. Three plots per acre was derived by figuring one plot would be taken per acre at three different times (one-, three-, and five-year survival checks).
- F. Calculation of Columns D & E to determine base hours.

Natural Regeneration

Activity #15 – Natural Regeneration Planting & Site Preparation – Planning for Site Preparation

- A. Stands which have questionable natural regeneration requiring subsequent planning for site prep to promote natural regeneration are used in this calculation. Typically, this would involve **even-aged types** and harvests (RE harvest prescription in WisFIRS) including PJ, PW, O, NH (shelterwoods), BW, MC, C, and SH. Planning for prescribed burning activities associated with site preparation are not included here (see Activity #20).
- B. Use the **annual average number of sites from the previous five (5) calendar years**. This information can be obtained from accomplishment reports and local records.
- C. Previous ad hoc time standard teams determined this is a shared responsibility between the County and the Department. Therefore, it is reasonable for Department forestry staff to be involved in half (50%) of the site visits.
- D. Calculation of Columns B & C.
- F. Calculation of Columns D & E to determine base hours.

Activity #16 – Natural Regeneration Planting & Site Prep – Field Establishment

- A. Activities associated with field establishment **prior to, concurrent with, or following harvesting**. Includes delineation of the area and carrying out the reforestation plan for pre- or post-harvest treatments that promote natural regeneration. (e.g. meeting to help a contractor get started, flagging the site, time spent conducting or inspecting scarification). Prescribed burning activities used for site preparation are not included here (see Activity #21).
- B. Use the **average number of acres established annually during the previous five (5) calendar years**. This information can be obtained from accomplishment reports and local records. Sites where natural regeneration is not in question are not to be included in the acreage.
- C. Previous ad hoc time standard teams determined this is a shared responsibility between the County and the Department. Therefore, it is reasonable for Department forestry staff to be involved in half (50%) of the workload.
- D. Calculation of Columns B & C.
- F. Calculation of Columns D & E to determine base hours.

Activity #17 – Natural Regeneration Planting & Site Prep – Evaluation & Monitoring

- A. Time required to evaluate success of ALL treatments designed to promote natural regeneration when the success of natural regeneration is questionable (HM code in WisFIRS). Sites can include both RE or RA harvest prescriptions that have received treatment via timber harvest to promote regeneration (e.g. oak

shelterwood, jack pine natural regeneration, northern hardwood single tree or group selection with gaps), and stands that have received supplemental treatments as described under Activities #15 & #16. Also included here are Forest Regeneration Monitoring (FRM) surveys above and beyond regular natural regeneration (HM code) monitoring.

- B. Use the **annual average number of acres scheduled for regeneration monitoring during the previous five (5) calendar years**. Use WisFIRS Report #205 with report parameter “Habitat Management (Non-Commercial)” under Treatment Type. If stands have not been coded in WisFIRS for regeneration monitoring, information based on other local records (historic 5-year average) or a best estimate of the number acres monitored annually should be used.
- C. Previous ad hoc time standard teams determined this is a shared responsibility between the County and the Department. Therefore, it is reasonable for Department forestry staff to be involved in half (50%) of the workload. Two plots per acre was derived by figuring one plot would be taken per acre at two different times (three- and five-year survival checks).
- D. Calculation of Columns B & C.
- F. Calculation of Columns D & E to determine base hours.

Cultural Activities

Cultural Activities include, but are not limited to, forest management activities such as pruning, invasive species control, non-commercial thinning, and release from competing vegetation. Prescribed burning (Activities #20 & 21) and chemical or mechanical treatments to promote natural regeneration (Activities #15-17) should not be included here.

Activity #18 – Cultural Activities – Planting & Site Prep – Planning

- E. The range of 8 – 40 hours accommodates the range in property sizes. The hours selected must reflect the actual need for this activity by the County.

Activity #19 – Cultural Activities – Planting & Site Prep – Field Establishment

- B. Use the previous five (5) year historic average of the number of acres established per year. This information can be obtained from accomplishment reports and local records.
- C. Previous ad hoc time standard teams determined this is a shared responsibility between the County and the Department. Therefore, it is reasonable for Department forestry staff to be involved in half (50%) of the workload.
- D. Calculation of Columns B & C.
- E. The multiplier of 3.0 hours per acre represents a statewide average to perform the task.
- F. Calculation of Columns D & E to determine base hours.

Activity #19A – Cultural Activities – Planting & Site Prep – Invasive Control

- B. Use the historic average of number acres inspected and/or treated per year. This information can be obtained from accomplishment reports and local records.
- C. Previous ad hoc time standard teams determined this is a shared responsibility between the County and the Department. Therefore, it is reasonable for Department forestry staff to be involved in half (50%) of the workload.

- D. Calculation of Columns B & C.
- E. The multiplier of 1.0 hours per acre represents a statewide average to perform the task.
- F. Calculation of Columns D & E to determine base hours.

Prescribed Burning

Prescribed burning activities included below are those intended for silviculture or other High Priority Habitat management.

Activity #20 – Prescribed Burning – Planting & Site Prep – Cultural – Planning

- A. Includes activities such as prescribed burn proposals, plan preparations, approvals, and evaluations, and silviculture and/or habitat treatments related directly to the implementation of the prescribed burn (e.g. mowing or installing additional fire breaks, herbicide treatments, mechanical treatments).
- B. Use the historic average number of burn plans per year. This information can be obtained from accomplishment reports and local records.
- E. The multiplier of 14 hours per plan represents a statewide average to perform the task.
- F. Calculation of Columns B & E to determine base hours.

Activity #21 – Prescribed Burning – Planting & Site Prep – Cultural – Field Establishment

- A. Includes activities associated directly with the prescribed burn implementation (e.g. igniting and extinguishing the burn).
- B. Use the historic average number of acres burned per year. This information can be obtained from accomplishment reports and local records.
- E. The multiplier of 3 hours per acre represents a statewide average to perform the task.
- F. Calculation of Columns B & E to determine base hours.

Infrastructure

Activity #22 – Infrastructure – Planning, Establishment, & Maintenance

- A. Includes time planning, establishing, or maintaining County Forest infrastructure that is consistent with the County's Comprehensive Land Use Plan and promotes sustainable forest management and/or recreational opportunities. Activities may include maintenance of trails, roads, fire breaks, berms, and similar projects.
- C. Previous ad hoc time standards teams determined this is primarily a County responsibility, but that the Department is uniquely positioned to provide assistance in these efforts via qualified equipment operators. Some Counties may rely on Department staff to plan, establish, and/or maintain these infrastructure elements because they lack the equipment and/or expertise. Operating equipment also helps Department staff maintain proficiencies with the equipment.
- E. The range of 0-100 hours reflects variability among the Counties. The hours selected must reflect the actual need for this activity by the County.

Administration

Activity #23 – Admin, Meetings, & Audits – Meetings and Bid Opening Attendance

- A. Time allotted includes Department time *attending* bid openings and meetings important to the County Forest program including but not limited to: County Forestry, Recreation, and/or Advisory Committees meetings, Wisconsin County Forests Association meetings, Annual Partnership meetings, annual work planning meetings, Comprehensive Land Use Plan modification discussions, timber sale bid openings, County Forest entry or withdrawal discussions, and assistance with grant application preparations. Timber sale pre-bid opening work or prospectus development is not included here (see Activities #6 & #7). Time may include other Department forestry personnel, in addition to the Liaison, who also may attend the meetings.
- E. The range of 25 – 120 hours reflects variability in the counties. The hours selected must reflect the actual need for this activity by the county.

Activity #24 – Admin, Meetings, & Audits – Forest Certification

- A. Includes the attendance and preparation for Forest Certification audits (e.g. preparing site packets, logistics, research). Also includes time directly related to policy development addressing corrective actions resulting from Forest Certification audits and internal certification monitoring. Hours associated with *activities* addressing corrective actions identified in Forest Certification audits should be accounted for under their respective categories (e.g. improve recon frequency – account for under RECON – Activity #1). This category is intended to reflect only Department Liaison time and does not include time from other Department staff.
- E. Select 40 hours for certified (FSC, FSI) Counties or 20 hours for non-certified counties.

Activity #25 – Preliminary Base Hour Commitment for Department Forestry Staff

- F. The total of Activities #1 through #24.

Adjustments

Activity #26- Base Hour commitment calculation

DNR & the Wisconsin County Forests Association (WCFA) agreed to a statewide base hour commitment of 46,000 hours for FY 2014 – FY 2018. The preliminary base hours from the worksheet (Line 25) for each individual County will be added together and compared against the 46,000 hour figure by the County Forest Specialist. This will be used to establish the pro-rate figure (Line 26 Column E) that will then be multiplied by each County's worksheet hours to arrive at the **base hour** commitment for each County (Line 26 Column F). The annual time standard commitment may be adjusted annually (see Activity #28 below).

Activity # 27 – Time Standards Grant Adjustments

At the time that the FY 2014-2018 time standards revision was being calculated, there was concurrently a draft administrative rule being developed to provide counties a greater degree of flexibility to select among an array of resources that best meet their individual needs. The proposed rule would create a new grant, which is referred to as the Time Standards Grant, which would allow counties to increase or decrease, within certain constraints, the amount of technical assistance (time standard hours) that they would receive from the Division of Forestry for a set period of time. In exchange, the county would receive a corresponding decrease or increase in grant funding which is to be used to accomplish some of the sustainable forestry tasks that have traditionally been accomplished in part via DNR technical assistance. Any change to the time standard commitment to an individual county forest as a result of the Time Standards Grant should be reflected on line #27 of the time standards worksheet. Any adjustment in hours shall be prorated evenly across all activities in the worksheet for which DNR is not solely responsible (e.g. timber sale approval process, processing withdrawals, etc.).

Activity #28 – Adjustments – Annual Additions or Subtractions

Additions or subtractions of hours involving short-term projects or staff shortages not listed above may be included here.

These hours are negotiated annually between the liaison, team leader and county forest administrator and represent special, unanticipated or short-term projects or staff shortages not addressed in Activities #1 - 24. The annual time standard commitment may be adjusted annually at the partnership meeting or at other times throughout the year based on unforeseen changes in circumstances. These adjustments become part of the time standards for that particular year. Approval by the district forester (or designee) is required for DNR.

The reasoning behind the changes and the increase/decrease in hours must be documented in the Annual Partnership Meeting minutes or in a letter/memo to be routed through channels to the County Forest Specialist in the Central Office. For additions, the specific project and hours dedicated to it must be identified. Examples of an appropriate project may include:

- Dealing with storm damage or significant pest out-breaks (NOTE: a certain percentage of this workload would be compensated for in the routine timber sale establishment hours in Activity #4)
- Initial GIS *start-up*
- Vacancies (accounting for travel time from an adjacent property to assist with the workload)
- Endangered resource surveys
- Assistance with property line establishment. The county must be the lead in this project
- Significant recon updating if the County's data is considerably poor or outdated
- Land purchases or trades (initial recon, timber appraisals, etc.)
- Assistance in administering the County Forest Law (i.e. garbage dumping problems, ATV traffic enforcement, etc.)
- Trespass onto or by the county forest
- Implementation of the road access plan
- Inspection of county natural areas
- Substantial changes to the number of acres "scheduled" for management as a result of broad-scale evaluation
- Focused efforts at invasives inventory/control
- Intensive efforts at regeneration and cultural activities unique to your County (and not accounted for under in #8-#16.

Activity #29 – Total Department Contributions

This column represents the total department contributions dedicated to the County Forest time standards for all activities in a particular year.

Comment Section

Indicate anticipated non-local workload here.

Signatures

The time standards worksheet is to be signed by the Department Liaison, Department Forestry Team Leader and the County Forest Administrator. If one approval authority refuses to sign the worksheet, then the calculation will proceed through an arbitration process involving the Department's area forestry supervisor and the County Forestry Committee.

County Forest Time Standards Worksheet Template

	DNR Time Code	Activity Technical Assistance	Units	Number of Units	Base Work Units	Time Factors	Base Hours
		Column A	Column B	Column C	Column D	Column E	Column F
RECON							
1.	(Recon & Planning)	Recon update conducted independent of timber sale or cultural activities. *Report #101.	_____ # of acres of forested types in the County Forest.	Multiply Column B by 2.50% (.0250) *DNR doing 1/2 of the 5% to be accomplished each year		Multiply Column D by .067 hours per acre	_____ hours
2.	(Recon & Planning)	Recon Update- Non-Forest Cover Types *Report #101.	_____ # of acres of non-forested types in the County Forest.	Multiply Column B by 2.50% (.0250) *DNR doing 1/2 of the 5% to be accomplished each year		Multiply Column D by .01 hours per acre	_____ hours
TIMBER SALES							
3.	(Establishment TS & TS Admin)	Planning – Annual office planning of timber sales including researching recon, pull compartment files, GIS queries, meetings on annual goals, identifying sale areas. Work planning. *Report 28A: Established	_____ Ave. # sales over last 5 years	Multiply Column B by 2.5			_____ hours
4.	(Establishment TS & TS Admin)	Pre-establishment field inspections of timber stands to determine if they are ready for a timber sale *Use the <i>accepted</i> long term harvest goal (15 yr. annual ave) – WisFIRS Report #201	_____ Average acres per year	Multiply Column B by 50%		Multiply Column D by 0.2 hours per acre. (5 acres per hour)	_____ hours
5.	(Establishment TS & TS)	Timber Sale Field Establishment	_____ Average	Multiply Column B by		Multiply Column D	

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	DNR Time Code	Activity Technical Assistance	Units	Number of Units	Base Work Units	Time Factors	Base Hours
		Column A	Column B	Column C	Column D	Column E	Column F
	Admin)	* Use the following to determine the average total acres: [(Ave. of previous 5 year's A-notice acres <i>Report 303-Established ac</i>) + (Accepted long term harvest goal- <i>Report 201</i>)] / 2	acres per year harvested even-aged	25% (DNR Contribution)		by 0.65 hours per acre (26 hours to set-up a 40 acre sale)	hours
			_____ Average acres per year harvested as uneven-aged or thinnings incl. Shelterwood in handbook	Multiply Column B by 25% (DNR Contribution)		Multiply Column D by 1.65 hours per acre (66 hours to set-up a 40 acre sale)	_____ hours
6.	(Establishment TS & TS Admin)	Timber Sale Establishment Paperwork (preparation- DNR WRITE UP) * Use the 5-year average of timber sales established – * Report 28A	_____ Average # of sales per year*	Multiply Column B by 25% (DNR Contribution)		Multiply Column D by 8.0 hours per sale.	_____ hours
7.	(Establishment TS & TS Admin)	Timber Sale Establishment Paperwork and Approval (review of the 2460-1 by the DNR) DNR REVIEW ONLY * Use the 5-year average of timber sales established * Report 28A	_____ Average # of sales per year*	Multiply Column B by 100%		Multiply Column D by 2.0 hours per sale.	_____ hours

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	DNR Time Code	Activity Technical Assistance	Units	Number of Units	Base Work Units	Time Factors	Base Hours
		Column A	Column B	Column C	Column D	Column E	Column F
8.	(Establishment TS & TS Admin)	Administration - Timber Sale Field Inspections -including final inspection * Use the 5-year average of sales closed (Final notice) * Report 28A	_____ # of sales closed per year*	Multiply Column B by 100% , then Multiply by 2 visits per sale		Multiply Column D by the hours selected. Select 2 hours/visit.	_____ hours
9.	(Establishment TS& TS Admin)	Administration- Sale Closeout (2460) *Report 28A	_____ # of sales closed per year*			Multiply Column B by 1.0 hour/sale	_____ hours
10.	(Establishment TS & TS Admin)	Administration- Post-Sale Recon Update *Report 28A	_____ # of Acres closed per year*	Multiply Column B by 50% , then		Multiply Column D by .067 hours per acre	_____ hours
11.	(Establishment TS & TS Admin)	Administration of Cut Volume * Use previous 5-year average of total volume billing *Report 32A, bottom of report	_____ Average cords per year*	Multiply Column B by 5%		Multiply Column D by 0.03 hours per cord.	_____ hours
ARTIFICIAL REGENERATION							
12.	(Planting & Site Prep)	Reforestation Planning Pre-establishment inspections for artificial regeneration * Estimate future 5 year planting.	_____ Average # of annual stands to be planted	Multiply Column B by 50%		Multiply Column D by 2.0 hours per stand.	_____ hours
13.	(Planting & Site Prep)	Field Establishment – Pre or post harvest treatments required <i>prior</i> to planting and Planting compliance * Estimate future 5 year planting.	_____ Average # of acres planted per year*	Multiply Column B by 50%		Multiply Column D by 0.6 hours per acre.	_____ hours

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	DNR Time Code	Activity Technical Assistance	Units	Number of Units	Base Work Units	Time Factors	Base Hours
		Column A	Column B	Column C	Column D	Column E	Column F
14.	(Planting & Site Prep)	1-3-5 yr survival monitoring (and record-keeping *Inspections for conducting survival counts on artificial regeneration sites * Use the previous 5 year average.	Average # of acres planted per year	Multiply Column B by 50%		Multiply Column D by 0.3 hours per acre (3 plots/acre = 1 plot / acre at 1, 3 & 5 yr. survival checks)	hours
NATURAL REGENERATION							
15.	(Planting & Site Prep)	Natural Regeneration- Planning for Site Prep Pre-establishment planning for site preparation on sites with questionable natural regeneration * Average previous 5 year number of stands.	Average # of annual sites	Multiply Column B by 50%		Multiply Column D by 2.0 hours per site	hours
16.	(Planting & Site Prep)	Natural Regeneration - Field Establishment Pre or post-harvest treatments required to promote natural regeneration * Average previous 5 year number of acres.	Average # of acres per year	Multiply Column B by 50%		Multiply Column D by 1.5 hours per acre	hours
17.	(Planting & Site Prep)	ALL Natural Regeneration - Monitoring (HM Code)- All harvests with an RE or RA. In addition, include acres you are doing FRM on, above the HM coded stand acres. *Report #205 or local records (previous 5-yr avg).	Average # of acres per year	Multiply Column B by 100% *DNR doing ½ of 2 plots/ac.			hours

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	DNR Time Code	Activity Technical Assistance	Units	Number of Units	Base Work Units	Time Factors	Base Hours
		Column A	Column B	Column C	Column D	Column E	Column F
	FRM	Average # of acres per year	Divide Column B by 5 (1 plot per 5 acres)	Divide Column B by 5 (1 plot per 5 acres)			hours
CULTURAL ACTIVITIES							
18.	(Planting & Site Prep)	Cultural – Planning (hand release, pruning, invasive control, aspen maintenance, non-commercial thinning)				Select 0-40 hours	hours
19.	(Planting & Site Prep)	Cultural –Field Establishment- (hand release, pruning, aspen maintenance, non-commercial thinning, TSI) * Use the 5-year historic average	Average # of acres per year	Multiply Column B by 50%		Multiply Column D by 3.0 hours per acre	hours
19 A.	(Planting & Site Prep)	Invasive Control, (total acres covered, including treated acres)	Average # of acres per year	Multiply Column B by 50%		Multiply Column D by 1.0 hours per acre	hours
PRESCRIBED BURNING- Silviculture and other High Priority Habitat management							
20	(Planting & Site Prep)	Cultural – Planning (prescribed burn plan utilized for silvicultural treatments/habitat work- preparation and approvals)	Average # of burn-plans per year			Multiply Column B by 14 hours/plan	hours
21	(Planting & Site Prep)	Cultural – Field Establishment- (Actual prescribed burning) * Use the 5-year historic average	Average # of acres per year	Multiply Column B by 50%		Multiply Column D by 3.0 hours per acre	hours
INFRASTRUCTURE							
22	(Infrastructure)	Infrastructure – Planning, Establishment & Maintenance (trails, roads, fire breaks, berms, etc)				Select 0 – 100 hours	hours

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	DNR Time Code	Activity Technical Assistance	Units	Number of Units	Base Work Units	Time Factors	Base Hours
		Column A	Column B	Column C	Column D	Column E	Column F
		that are consistent with comprehensive plan and promote sustainable forestry or forest recreation)					
ADMINISTRATION							
23	(Admin, Mtgs & Audits)	Meeting and Bid Opening Attendance (DNR Attendance only) *Attendance at bid openings, forestry committee, advisory committee, access planning, and recreation meetings, entry/withdraw discussions				Select 25-120 hours	_____ hours
24	(Admin, Mtgs & Audits)	Forest Certification-Liaison Only Audit preparation and attendance and any time directly related to policy development and implementation from Forest Certification findings. Includes time spent on internal certification monitoring.				40 hours (Certified Counties) 20 hours (Non-Certified Counties)	_____ hours
25		Preliminary Base Hour Commitment Subtotal of Activities 1 – 24					_____ hours
ADJUSTMENTS							
26		Base Hour Commitment for Department forestry staff *Pro-rate of worksheet hours 2019-2022 Time Std. revision resulted in agreement on a statewide total of		Enter preliminary Base Hours from Line 25, Column F		Multiply Column C by _____ *PRO-RATE FIGURE	_____ hours

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	DNR Time Code	Activity Technical Assistance	Units	Number of Units	Base Work Units	Time Factors	Base Hours
		Column A	Column B	Column C	Column D	Column E	Column F
		45,572 hrs. See pg. 210-50.					
27		Time Standards Grant Adjustments – Additions or subtractions of time standard hours provided by the Time Standards Grant should be reflected here. Any adjustment shall be prorated evenly across all activities in the worksheet for which DNR is not solely responsible.		<p>_____ (+)</p> <p>_____ (-)</p>			
28		Annual Adjustments –Additions or subtractions involving short-term projects not listed above (15 Year Plan development, KBB, endangered resources, special use area, GIS startup, vacancies) *Requires District Forestry Ldr. (or designee) approval		<p>_____ (+)</p> <p>_____ (-)</p>			
29		Total department contributions dedicated to County Forest time standards for the year of _____ (Add Activities #26 + #27 + #28)		<p>_____</p> <p>hours</p>			

The Time Standards Summary for FY20-22, with a 0.87885 pro-rate (46000hrs/52341), is found on the next five pages.

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Activity	Adams	Ashland	Barron	Bayfield	Burnett	Chippewa
1. Recon- Forested	0.2	60.5	21.9	268.7	160.1	44.1
2. Recon- Non-Forested	0.0	0.9	0.8	3.2	3.9	1.9
3. TS Planning	0.0	30.0	10.0	138.5	72.5	55.0
4. TS Pre-est.	0.0	118.8	60.7	479.5	303.7	93.1
5a. TS Even-age	0.0	52.2	18.2	487.3	350.8	37.2
5b. TS Uneven/Thin/Shelter	0.0	256.6	75.5	741.3	890.2	236.4
6. TS- 2460 Write-up, DNR	0.0	24.0	8.0	110.8	58.0	44.0
7. TS- 2460 Review-Approval	0.0	24.0	8.0	110.8	58.0	44.0
8. TS Admin-Field Inspection	0.0	44.0	24.0	210.4	104.0	68.0
9. TS- 2460 Sale Closeout	0.0	11.0	6.0	52.6	26.0	17.0
10. TS- Post Sale Recon	0.0	36.9	0.2	129.5	0.9	18.5
11a TS Admin-Field Scaling-pulp	0.0	27.4	7.9	125.8	38.9	12.5
11b. TS Admin-Field Scaling-MBF	0.0	14.6	17.0	74.1	3.5	16.8
12. Reforestation-Planning	0.0	0.5	1.0	11.0	2.0	0.0
13. Reforestation-Est	0.0	3.0	0.6	153.9	16.5	0.0
14. Survival Monitoring	0.0	1.5	0.0	213.0	8.3	0.0
15. Nat. Regen-Planning	0.0	3.0	1.0	3.0	7.0	44.0
16. Nat. Regen- Est	0.0	37.5	3.8	112.5	200.3	275.3
17 Nat. Regen-Monitoring	0.0	22.6	0.0	0.0	194.1	38.2
17b FRM	0.0	12.5	0.0	197.1	0.0	0.0
18. Cultural- Planning	0.0	10.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	10.0
19. Cultural-Est.	0.0	0.0	0.0	60.0	22.5	0.0
19.A Cultural-Invasives	0.0	25.0	12.5	138.0	1.0	12.0
20. Rx Burn-Planning	0.0	0.0	0.0	28.0	0.0	14.0
21. Rx Burn- Est	0.0	0.0	0.0	708.0	0.0	0.0
22. Infrastructure	0.0	50.0	40.0	100.0	100.0	30.0
23. Gen. Admin-meetings	0.0	50.0	90.0	80.0	25.0	30.0
24. Forest Certification	0.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0
FY23-27 Preliminary Base Hours	0.2	956	487	4817	2727	1182
FY23-27 Hours (w/Pro-Rate of .87885)	TBD	848	432	4271	2418	1048

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Activity	Clark	Douglas	Eau Claire	Florence	Forest	Iron
1. Recon- Forested	184.7	372.5	76.4	56.4	23.6	254.2
2. Recon- Non-Forested	5.8	14.3	1.8	0.7	0.3	5.4
3. TS Planning	122.5	142.5	53.0	22.5	12.0	75.0
4.TS Pre-est.	316.2	440.2	109.7	80.5	58.5	380.0
5a.TS Even-age	246.2	438.1	118.2	68.7	19.2	201.7
5b.TS Uneven/Thin/Shelter	507.0	909.6	173.6	148.7	151.4	1170.3
6. TS- 2460 Write-up, DNR	98.0	114.0	42.4	18.0	9.6	60.0
7. TS- 2460 Review-Approval	96.0	114.0	42.4	18.0	9.6	60.0
8. TS Admin-Field Inspection	192.0	216.0	80.0	36.0	16.0	152.0
9. TS- 2460 Sale Closeout	48.0	54.0	20.0	9.0	4.0	38.0
10. TS- Post Sale Recon	91.8	156.3	33.5	24.4	7.1	123.5
11a TS Admin-Field Scaling-pulp	61.7	164.4	11.9	23.2	4.8	90.5
11b. TS Admin-Field Scaling-MBF	78.0	5.6	16.3	13.3	3.5	36.4
12. Reforestation-Planning	6.0	7.0	5.0	2.2	0.4	1.0
13. Reforestation-Est	40.2	117.3	18.0	7.5	11.1	9.0
14. Survival Monitoring	20.1	58.7	6.0	12.0	5.6	4.5
15. Nat. Regen-Planning	66.0	3.0	1.2	5.0	0.4	0.0
16. Nat. Regen- Est	255.0	157.5	36.8	177.0	27.8	0.0
17. Nat. Regen-Monitoring	181.8	396.5	73.6	84.0	36.7	4.0
17b FRM	53.6	154.0	1.7	4.0	1.9	0.0
18. Cultural- Planning	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	20.0	10.0
19. Cultural-Est.	253.5	304.5	7.5	45.0	15.0	0.0
19.A Cultural-Invasives	125.5	10.0	0.5	20.0	5.0	0.0
20. Rx Burn-Planning	28.0	28.0	14.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
21. Rx Burn- Est	39.0	90.0	67.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
22. Infrastructure	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	40.0	50.0
23. Gen. Admin-meetings	120.0	120.0	120.0	100.0	90.0	40.0
24. Forest Certification	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0
FY23-27 Preliminary Base Hours	3417	4768	1311	1156	613	2805
FY23-27 Hours (w/Pro-Rate of .87885)	3029	4228	1162	1025	544	2487

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Activity	Jackson	Juneau	Langlade	Lincoln	Marathon	Marinette
1. Recon- Forested	162.7	25.8	191.5	140.0	39.0	337.3
2. Recon- Non-Forested	6.3	0.6	4.8	4.2	2.2	6.9
3. TS Planning	72.0	16.5	112.5	85.0	25.0	112.5
4. TS Pre-est.	220.4	41.4	332.0	241.9	67.2	636.8
5a. TS Even-age	188.8	37.7	226.5	187.9	64.7	709.8
5b. TS Uneven/Thin/Shelter	269.8	121.7	794.1	462.0	105.0	362.3
6. TS- 2460 Write-up, DNR	57.6	13.2	90.0	68.0	20.0	90.0
7. TS- 2460 Review-Approval	57.6	13.2	90.0	68.0	20.0	90.0
8. TS Admin-Field Inspection	89.6	14.4	228.0	132.0	32.0	189.6
9. TS- 2460 Sale Closeout	22.4	3.6	57.0	33.0	8.4	47.4
10. TS- Post Sale Recon	36.3	8.4	141.9	67.2	19.6	113.9
11a TS Admin-Field Scaling-pulp	26.3	7.0	89.3	60.1	17.2	95.9
11b. TS Admin-Field Scaling-MBF	27.5	0.0	68.3	28.0	10.3	38.0
12. Reforestation-Planning	2.0	2.0	3.0	3.0	0.4	2.0
13. Reforestation-Est	27.9	36.0	12.0	15.0	4.2	21.0
14. Survival Monitoring	14.0	12.0	3.0	1.5	2.1	10.5
15. Nat. Regen-Planning	2.0	1.5	6.0	1.0	1.0	1.5
16. Nat. Regen- Est	15.0	60.0	22.5	7.5	30.0	33.8
17. Nat. Regen-Monitoring	66.7	9.1	75.0	2.6	8.3	14.2
17b FRM	0.0	4.6	12.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
18. Cultural- Planning	18.0	20.0	16.0	20.0	20.0	10.0
19. Cultural-Est.	30.0	0.0	45.0	15.0	60.0	0.0
19.A Cultural-Invasives	60.0	7.5	206.5	181.0	10.0	2.5
20. Rx Burn-Planning	28.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.8	14.0
21. Rx Burn- Est	210.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.0	105.0
22. Infrastructure	75.0	25.0	100.0	30.0	40.0	100.0
23. Gen. Admin-meetings	80.0	55.0	50.0	52.0	80.0	60.0
24. Forest Certification	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0
FY23-27 Preliminary Base Hours	1906	576	3017	1946	744	3245
FY23-27 Hours (w/Pro-Rate of .87885)	1690	511	2675	1725	660	2877

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Activity	Monroe	Oconto	Oneida	Polk	Price	Rusk
1. Recon- Forested	11.8	60.3	112.4	27.0	121.5	132.1
2. Recon- Non-Forested	0.2	1.9	3.9	0.2	5.0	2.4
3. TS Planning	9.0	44.0	53.5	22.5	67.5	67.5
4.TS Pre-est.	28.7	108.6	178.7	40.4	228.2	322.0
5a.TS Even-age	25.7	104.8	144.3	29.4	245.1	94.9
5b.TS Uneven/Thin/Shelter	28.5	181.9	337.8	103.5	324.6	919.5
6. TS- 2460 Write-up, DNR	7.2	35.2	42.8	18.0	54.0	54.0
7. TS- 2460 Review-Approval	7.2	35.2	42.8	18.0	54.0	54.0
8. TS Admin-Field Inspection	11.2	68.8	89.6	28.8	80.8	84.0
9. TS- 2460 Sale Closeout	2.8	17.2	22.4	7.2	20.2	21.0
10. TS- Post Sale Recon	5.8	22.3	52.5	11.7	58.3	74.5
11a TS Admin-Field Scaling-pulp	2.9	17.3	46.1	7.6	45.6	33.2
11b. TS Admin-Field Scaling-MBF	3.2	8.3	14.4	5.9	10.4	49.9
12. Reforestation-Planning	1.0	4.0	2.0	3.0	1.0	0.0
13. Reforestation-Est	5.4	37.5	18.0	13.8	24.0	0.0
14. Survival Monitoring	2.7	18.8	9.0	6.9	12.0	0.0
15. Nat. Regen-Planning	2.0	1.0	1.0	2.0	1.0	5.0
16. Nat. Regen- Est	13.5	22.5	15.0	26.3	1.5	75.0
17. Nat. Regen-Monitoring	13.5	64.5	5.0	30.8	28.2	30.5
17b FRM	0.0	0.0	2.5	0.0	0.0	10.0
18. Cultural- Planning	40.0	40.0	40.0	10.0	8.0	40.0
19. Cultural-Est.	7.5	45.0	0.0	15.0	0.0	7.5
19.A Cultural-Invasives	7.5	70.0	2.5	5.0	5.0	12.5
20. Rx Burn-Planning	14.0	0.0	14.0	0.0	0.0	14.0
21. Rx Burn- Est	3.0	0.0	30.0	0.0	0.0	37.5
22. Infrastructure	50.0	40.0	100.0	20.0	50.0	100.0
23. Gen. Admin-meetings	50.0	80.0	120.0	40.0	30.0	120.0
24. Forest Certification	20.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0
FY23-27 Preliminary Base Hours	374	1169	1540	533	1516	2401
FY23-27 Hours (w/Pro-Rate of .87885)	332	1037	1366	473	1344	2129

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Activity	Sawyer	Taylor	Vernon	Vilas	Washburn	Wood	All Counties
1. Recon- Forested	160.7	26.1	2.5	59.8	210.2	48.2	3392
2. Recon- Non-Forested	4.8	0.6	0.1	1.2	6.0	2.2	93
3. TS Planning	90.0	24.5	12.5	42.5	87.0	30.0	1708
4. TS Pre-est.	360.4	49.2	5.0	107.9	418.7	79.0	5907
5a. TS Even-age	201.2	37.4	5.7	83.2	206.4	79.6	4711
5b. TS Uneven/Thin/Shelter	823.4	140.5	6.2	172.4	912.8	179.4	11506
6. TS- 2460 Write-up, DNR	72.0	19.6	2.0	34.0	69.6	24.0	1358
7. TS- 2460 Review-Approval	72.0	19.6	2.0	34.0	69.6	24.0	1356
8. TS Admin-Field Inspection	116.0	42.4	4.0	56.0	119.2	16.0	2545
9. TS- 2460 Sale Closeout	29.0	10.6	1.0	14.0	29.8	9.0	642
10. TS- Post Sale Recon	77.3	17.8	0.0	21.9	82.3	13.8	1448
11a TS Admin-Field Scaling-pulp	56.9	15.7	0.0	19.1	79.6	12.7	1201
11b. TS Admin-Field Scaling-MBF	17.7	19.8	1.9	6.3	46.6	6.4	642
12. Reforestation-Planning	1.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	2.5	2.0	69
13. Reforestation-Est	0.6	7.2	1.5	12.0	19.5	12.0	645
14. Survival Monitoring	0.3	3.6	0.8	3.5	9.8	5.3	445
15. Nat. Regen-Planning	2.0	5.0	1.0	5.0	4.6	2.0	178
16. Nat. Regen- Est	60.0	30.0	37.5	75.0	98.6	7.5	1914
17. Nat. Regen-Monitoring	8.0	51.7	5.5	50.0	145.5	30.0	1671
17b FRM	0.0	72.0	2.8	20.0	72.8	0.0	622
18. Cultural- Planning	8.0	20.0	0.0	20.0	40.0	24.0	724
19. Cultural-Est.	15.0	60.0	0.0	15.0	56.1	22.5	1102
19.A Cultural-Invasives	1.0	10.0	0.0	5.0	25.0	7.5	968
20. Rx Burn-Planning	28.0	0.0	0.0	14.0	14.0	14.0	269
21. Rx Burn- Est	90.0	0.0	0.0	6.0	30.0	37.5	1469
22. Infrastructure	75.0	80.0	35.0	75.0	100.0	75.0	1980
23. Gen. Admin-meetings	90.0	80.0	35.0	70.0	120.0	120.0	2197
24. Forest Certification	40.0	40.0	20.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	1120
FY23-27 Preliminary Base Hours	2500	885	183	1064	3116	924	51,879
FY23-27 Hours (w/Pro-Rate of .87885)	2217	785	162	943	2763	819	46,000

ANNUAL MEETING TO EVALUATE COUNTY/DEPARTMENT PARTNERSHIP

Annually, a meeting will be held between July 1 and September 30, to evaluate the degree to which the Department and the county have met their partnership obligations. The following persons shall be present; the county forest administrator, the department liaison forester, the forestry team leader, the forestry area leader, local wildlife biologist, and other Department functions or partner agencies as deemed appropriate. Documenting the meeting in the Partnership Meeting Template (required and optional discussions are outlined), prepared by the Department, by October 15, the report will be sent to team leader, county forest administrator and county forest and public lands specialist. County forest and public lands specialist will then route the report to area forestry leader, district forestry leader, public and private section chief, bureau director of field forestry operations, and chief state forester. Annual Partnership Meeting Report template can be found in the Public Lands Tool Kit.

WISCONSIN COUNTY FORESTS ASSOCIATION, INC

The Wisconsin County Forests Association, Inc. (WCFA) was incorporated in 1968 under Chapter 181 of the Wisconsin Statutes, without stock and not for profit.

The primary purpose of this Association is to provide a forum for the consideration of problems and policies of concern to the committee of the county board of each county in the state responsible for forestry programs of the county, including those programs carried out under s. [28.10](#) and [Chapter 77](#) of the Wisconsin Statutes.

Additional purposes are to:

1. Provide leadership and counsel to county forestry committees in relation to forestry policies and programs, including, but not limited to, the following:
 - a. Administration
 - b. Cooperation with state and federal agencies
 - c. Development and protection of the forests of Wisconsin.
2. Encourage local county and county board participation in forestry programs.
3. Provide leadership in obtaining financial support for forestry programs and work.
4. Facilitate communication between counties and county forestry committees with respect to various forestry programs and policies.
5. Provide leadership on proposed forestry legislation and other legislative matters affecting forestry and forest land use in Wisconsin.
6. Act as a liaison between state and county legislative representatives and other public officials with respect to proposed and existing forestry programs.
7. Work with private groups and public agencies toward the goal of strengthening forestry and forest related programs in Wisconsin.

The office of WCFA is located at: 801 N. Sales St., Suite 107, Merrill, WI 54452. The Executive Director is the registered agent of the Association.

A seventeen-member board of directors governs WCFA. The annual meeting is held each year in September. Directors are elected to two-year terms in even numbered years. The directors in turn elect a president, vice-president, and treasurer. For purposes of election to the board of directors, the board is divided into five areas described below:

Area 1 - Consisting of Marinette, Forest, Oconto, Florence and Langlade counties

Area 2 - Consisting of Vilas, Taylor, Oneida, Price and Lincoln counties

Area 3 - Consisting of Iron, Bayfield, Ashland and Douglas counties

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Area 4 - Consisting of Sawyer, Polk, Washburn, Barron, Burnett and Rusk counties

Area 5 - Consisting of Adams, Clark, Marathon, Eau Claire, Juneau, Jackson, Chippewa, Wood, Vernon and Monroe counties

Special meetings of the board of directors may be called for any purpose at any time by the president and upon request of any three directors. Regular meetings of the board of directors take place three times each year.

An executive director is hired by the board of directors to assist in carrying out the purpose of the organization. The executive director has custody of all records of the association.

Each county having a county forest employs a county forest administrator whose job it is to oversee the county forest. These individuals must be highly motivated personnel, with a strong forestry background. Most have a degree in forestry or a related field. Others have gained experience through years of forestry-related work. All are of great assistance to the WCFA.

The county forest administrators meet annually in the spring to review areas of concern and present speakers on topics of general interest. This meeting, like the WCFA annual meeting, is attended by many other interested persons, including the WCFA board of directors, forestry committee members, county board chairs, legislators, industry personnel, and Department representatives.

County forest personnel serve on Department statewide committees that deal with areas of mutual concern. Others serve on WCFA standing committees that were established to provide advice and assistance to the WCFA Board of Directors on the many problems facing forestry today. Standing committees are the Executive, Personnel and Legislative / Certification committees.

WCFA today is a strong organization, working together, providing leadership, uniting interests, and using the talents of its many members to promote sustainable forestry and the forest industries of the State of Wisconsin.

COUNTY FOREST FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

County Forests may be eligible for a variety of Federal, State, or private funding in the form of grants, loans, and cost-sharing programs. This funding can be highly variable from year to year with regards to the programs and funds available. Timeliness and following financial program procedures are essential in obtaining funding.

State-Funded Grant And Loan Programs (Department Administered)

The Division of Forestry administers the following State-funded financial programs (unless otherwise designated) that provide direct financial assistance to County Forests. The County shall establish an account known as the County Forestry Aid Fund, which shall be segregated and non-lapsing.

GRANT PROGRAMS

1. **County Forest Administration Grant Program** (s. [28.11\(5m\)](#) Wis. Stats. & [NR 47.70](#), Wis. Adm. Code)

Each County is eligible for a grant up to 50% funding of the salary and 50% of the fringe benefit costs of a Society of American Foresters (SAF) accredited degreed forester in the position of administrator or assistant County Forest Administrator. Fringe benefit costs must not exceed 40% of the total salary. The grant-funded position must be a County employee. The payment of any grant will require Department and County approval of an annual plan of work.

2. **Sustainable Forestry Grant Program** ([NR 47.75](#), Wis. Adm. Code)

Counties are eligible to apply for grants (no match required) to be used for special, short term or unanticipated projects that promote sustainable forestry. Grants are awarded on a fiscal year basis. Projects can not include land acquisition, surveying, paying of permanent staff or upgrades of existing computer software or hardware.

Sustainable Forestry Grant Guidelines

Eligibility:	Counties with land enrolled in County Forest Law s. 28.11 Wis. Stats. Adherence to County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan. Compliance with County Forest audit recommendations.
Appropriation:	Under s. 20.370(5)(bw) , Wis. Stats., from the forestry SEG account.
Rate of Funding:	Up to 100 percent of the costs of a project. Up to 50% advance payment is possible.
Eligible Projects:	Projects shall promote sustainable forestry on the County Forest. Projects shall be suitable for short term and unanticipated workload items as identified in the annual adjustment category of the County Forest time standards. Project length is 2 years. If additional time is necessary to complete the project, a request for extension must be submitted to the County Forest & Public Lands Specialist. Minimum project cost is \$1000.00 with a maximum not to exceed 25% of the total available funds in any one year. Grants shall not be used to fund work required of the Department as part of its minimum core hours under the County Forest time standards.
Application Deadline:	August 15 th for first round selection and December 1 st for the second round. First-come, first-serve basis thereafter for project approvals. No less than 25% of the annual funds shall be kept available for the second application period. A county may have no more than two projects open at one time.
Awarding of Loans:	Notification by the 30 th day following application.

Selection criteria: Project proposal requests will be divided into two preference categories as follows

1st Preference

- a) Storm related projects (e.g. salvage operations)
- b) Hiring of temporary staff to address short-term workload projects

2nd Preference

All other projects eligible under NR 47.75(4)(a), excluding the tasks outlined in the County Forest Time Standards Worksheet (2460.5, 210-23)

Within a preference category, projects in counties that have received grants the most recently shall be given the lowest priority.

Application materials:

- 1. Grant Application (received from county forest and public lands specialist)
- 2. County forestry committee minutes - approval to apply
- 3. Project specifications: maps, short narrative, estimated cost breakdown
- 4. Signature and approval of specifications by DNR liaison forester and county Forest Administrator.
- 5. Other material as the Department feels necessary.

Accountability: Projects will be approved for payment with completion of grant reimbursement form, necessary records of invoices, and payments. County Forest and Public Lands Specialist will review and approve payments. A short accomplishment narrative shall be required with final project completion.

3. County Forest Time Standards Program ([NR 47.65](#), Wis. Adm. Code)

Allows counties to increase or decrease, within certain constraints, the amount of technical assistance (time standard hours) that they would receive from the Division of Forestry for a set period of time. In exchange the county would receive a corresponding decrease or increase in grant funding which is to be used to accomplish some of the sustainable forestry tasks that have traditionally been accomplished in part via DNR technical assistance.

4. Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grant Program ([s. 23.0917](#), Wis. Stats.)

Annual bonded funding made available in the form of grants to assist counties in purchasing additional lands to add to the county forest land base, usually funded at 50% of the DNR approved appraisal price. Grant applications are evaluated jointly by a ranking panel consisting of staff from DNR Forestry and the Wisconsin County Forests Association (WCFA), and selected for funding based on ranking criteria and priorities set forth in [NR 51.960](#), Wis. Adm. Code. Parcels that best provide for nature-based outdoor recreation and the betterment of conservation in Wisconsin will rank highest. Stewardship grant property is protected in perpetuity for public benefit.

5. Forest Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program – “Nickel-An-Acre” Grants ([s. 23.09 \(17m\)](#), Wis. Stats.)
**Administered by DNR Bureau of Wildlife*

Legislation in 1995 amended [s. 23.09\(17m\)](#), Wis. Stats., changing the “Nickel-an-Acre” grant program to a direct partnership with those cooperating Counties who have County lands entered under [s. 28.11](#) Wis. Stats. Legislation in 2009 decreased this from \$.10/acre back to \$.05/acre.

The intent of the amended law is: 1) “to improve the natural environment for wildlife”; 2) decreased funding from 10 cents to 5 cents per acre; 3) establish a County Wildlife Management Fund; and 4) identify the comprehensive County Forest Land Use Plan as the cornerstone of the program.

These funds are used to finance a county forest wildlife habitat management program with primary emphasis on forest wildlife habitat improvement, inventories and wildlife education. DNR contact with the counties will be made through the DNR liaison forester assigned to the county. Recreation development on county forests is aided by other programs (see M.C. [8719.5](#) and M.C. [8718](#)). There is no grant application required as the payments are auto-generated based on acreage enrolled in the County Forest Law and available funding. When available funding is less than the \$0.05/acre, a pro-rate will occur. Payments are typically distributed from the Bureau of Wildlife in April.

Department wildlife biologists are in the best position to ensure success of this habitat improvement program. The local wildlife biologist is responsible for the program and will work closely with the Department liaison forester and the county forest administrator through the initial planning, implementation, and final reporting.

Environmental analysis requirements must be met in accordance with [NR 150](#), Wis. Adm. Code. In general, any proposed action, activity, or project, which has been previously identified in an approved property master/management plan or county forest comprehensive land use plan, does not require any further environmental analysis. Consult with your district environment analysis and review staff if you have questions.

Procedures

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Liaison Forester | 1. Notifies local wildlife biologist of annual county forest partnership meeting with county forest administrator. Coordinates planning needs and works with Wildlife Biologist in developing wildlife habitat improvement projects.
Funded projects must be identified in the county's annual work plan. |
| Wildlife Biologist | 2. Develops and is responsible for wildlife projects with input and approval from liaison forester, county forest administrator, and county forestry committee. Provides technical expertise in project design, implementation and completion. |
| Wildlife Management Program | 3. Obtains updated county forest acreage from county forest and public lands specialist in Division of Forestry and vouchers calendar year payment (in February). Payments should be made payable to the county treasurer and sent care of the county forest administrator (typically in late March). |
| | 4. Makes payment to the county's wildlife management fund account of those respective counties who have an approved comprehensive county forest land use plan prepared under s. 28.11 that identifies interest in this wildlife habitat improvement program. |
| County | 5. Upon completion of project, maintains records for audit purposes. |
| Wildlife Biologist | 6. Submits annual planning and accomplishment reports through functional channels. |
| County Forest Specialist | 7. Conducts review of county records as part of the normal county forest internal review process. |
| District Wildlife Staff | 8. Conducts periodic functional audits of program through review and approval of activities and practices incorporated into the annual planning and accomplishment reports submitted by Wildlife Biologist. |

Guidelines

“Wildlife management operations shall be limited to approved projects designed to benefit wildlife and the natural environment”, as Stated in s. [23.09\(17m\)\(c\)](#), Wis. Stats. All projects of critical importance in improving and/or enhancing wildlife - wildlife populations, wildlife habitat, and public understanding of wildlife on the County Forests, are possible under this program.

Funded projects must be generally identified in the approved County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan. Caution must be exercised by the local wildlife biologist who is responsible for the program (in cooperation with the liaison forester, county forest administrator and county forestry committee) to assure that approved projects benefit wildlife habitat and wildlife populations.

With nearly three decades of active wildlife management programs on county forests, much has been learned about the benefits and effects of various wildlife practices. With this background, specific practices and guidelines follow. No attempt is made to identify all possible activities or to list projects by priority. They are grouped by funding frequency as follows:

1. **SINGLE FUNDING** - These are projects funded once on a designated unit and/or location of the forest during the duration of the County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan:
 - a. Openings Development and Renovation - The opening sites, locations, and amounts should comply with criteria established under M.C. [2112](#) and M.C. [2112.1](#).
 - b. Trail Development and Renovation - Habitat projects would include hunter access trails, gating, and berming.
 - c. Acquisition - Sites must have critical wildlife habitat value. For example, “blocking” of properties might be important to protect wildlife values and secure access; however, these funds should not be used to acquire random tracts.
 - d. Capital Purchase - Purchases should be only for those specialized tools that are attached to existing equipment (i.e. Rotary mowers, ATV trail seeders, compatible computer software, etc.) and/or machines that have specific application for, and a direct benefit to wildlife habitat and/or wildlife population improvement.
 - e. Timber Sale Design - Projects should be for specific activities that enhance wildlife and wildlife habitat on timber sales, especially within shade intolerant forest types such as aspen, oak and jack pine.
 - f. Site Preparation and Planting - Funding is available to assist in the perpetuation of important shade intolerant forest types such as jack pine and oak, and/or unique brush-prairie and grassland communities.
 - g. Snag, Den, Nest and/or Rendezvous Sites - Projects could include various aspects in the identification, selection and management of these unique and important sites.
 - h. Aspen Maintenance - This practice, normally handled as part of standard timber sale administration, is acceptable on sites with an average of more than 20 square feet and less than 70 square feet of residual basal area.
2. **PERIODIC FUNDING** - These are projects that may require recurrent activity on the same site through the duration of the comprehensive land use plan:
 - a. Trail Mowing, Openings Maintenance and Access Management - These practices should only occur as part of an existing or planned access management program, and at an interval not less than once every

four to eight years on any specific site.

Important notes:

- i. **Annual recreational trail maintenance, which goes beyond practical wildlife habitat management, should utilize other funding sources.**
- b. Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat Inventories - Funding is available for projects that focus on specific species (Karner blue butterfly, ruffed grouse, etc.) or special needs (aspen management, jack pine management, etc.). Field surveys, aerial photography and satellite imagery are included under this category. Costs associated with general-purpose activities (i.e. ordered or traditional surveys, and forest-wide aerial photos) are not allowed.
- c. Wetlands Maintenance - Funds are only to be used for existing projects where wildlife management has a prior obligation with the Counties. These funds are to be used for dike and structure maintenance, repair, or removal, depending upon local decisions.
- d. Education - Only projects or materials that focus on wildlife education (habitat management, protection, research and/or enhancement) are allowed.
- e. Endangered and Threatened Species - Projects, for endangered and threatened wildlife, that enhance habitat through management are top priority. Access management, artificial structures, and habitat surveys are also allowed.

General Instructions

1. To meet requirements of the law, a County must have an approved comprehensive County Forest Land Use Plan that indicates its desire to “improve the natural environment for wildlife on County lands”.
2. As Stated in s. [23.09\(17m\)\(h\) and \(hg\)](#), Wis. Stats., funds will be allotted on a calendar year basis, with a carryover not to exceed the sum total of three years’ allotment. Funds exceeding this amount or any that remain unused after five years, may, by demand, be returned to the Department.
3. All wildlife habitat improvement moneys must be deposited in a segregated non-lapsing account. Any unused funds will automatically be carried over to the next year, except as Stated in Item 2 above.
4. Indirect costs, donated labor, materials, land, etc., which do not result in an actual expenditure by the County are not allowable in force account projects.
5. Actual costs incurred by the County for labor of its personnel and use of its equipment is allowable. Equipment rental should not exceed the State Department of Transportation rates. Materials and accomplishments are to be in measurable items, i.e. cubic feet, board feet of lumber, aerial photos, miles, acres. etc.
6. All projects will have a designated beginning and ending date, with projects not to exceed three years.
7. No allotment will be made prior to approval of the comprehensive County Forest land use plan. All expenditures must be within the agreed-upon project period.
8. Projects must be identified in the annual plan of work prepared by the County. If a project cannot be completed or a project is postponed, a substitution may be made by the Wildlife Biologist with approval of the forestry committee.
9. The Area Forestry Staff Specialists and Financial Specialist will provide program audits, and the Bureau of Wildlife Management will provide functional audits.

10. Chapter [NR 50](#), Wis. Adm. Code; s. [23.09](#), Wis. Stats.; and the [Wildlife Management Program Operations Manual](#) should be used as a reference for other procedures not specifically addressed. County partners should work with liaisons or Wildlife Biologists to access this manual.

LOAN PROGRAMS

1. Variable Acreage Share Loans ([s. 28.11\(8\)\(b\)\(1\)](#), Wis. Stats.)

The County may request, by County board resolution, up to 50 cents per acre (regular class County Forest acres only) of County Forest land to be received as a loan. County requests shall be made by December 31 for the following year. Loan amounts will be based upon acreage figures as of the preceding June 30. Loan payments will be made on or before March 31 of each year. If the balance in the Department's County Forestry fund account is not sufficient to cover the requested loan amounts, payments to the Counties will be prorated.

2. County Forest Project Loans ([s. 28.11\(8\)\(b\)\(2\)](#), Wis. Stats. & [NR 47.60](#), Wis. Adm. Code)

Additional money may be received by a County from the Department's County Forestry fund account in the form of an interest free loan on a project basis when funds are available. These "project loans" may be used for productive forestry operations, including land acquisition, but may not be used for recreational facilities, fish management, endangered resources management or wildlife management projects. The State will determine if submitted applications for the project(s) are meritorious, desirable, and consistent with the comprehensive plan. The project loans will also be debited to the County's forestry fund account and repayment will be the same as with the acreage share payment through timber sale severance share of a minimum of 20%.

Project Loan Guidelines

<u>Eligibility:</u>	Counties with lands enrolled under the County Forest law.
<u>Appropriation:</u>	Under ss. 20.370(5)(bt) and (bu) , Wis. Stats., and, when a surplus is available, ss. 20.370(5)(bq) and (bs) , Wis. Stats., from the forestry SEG account.
<u>Rate of Funding:</u>	Up to 100 percent of the costs of a project. Up to 75% advance payment is possible, with the remaining 25% upon project completion.
<u>Eligible Projects:</u>	"Meritorious and economically productive forestry operations, including land acquisition." "...may not be used for the construction of recreational facilities or for fish and game management projects." Project proposal requests will be prioritized. Project must be within compliance of Comprehensive Land Use Plan. See NR 47.60 for selection criteria.
<u>Application Deadline:</u>	August 15 for first round selection and December 1 for the second round and on a first come/first serve basis thereafter for project approvals.
<u>Awarding of Loans:</u>	Notification by the 20th day following the first and second selection rounds and within 20 days on first come/first serve projects also.
<u>Multi-Year Loans:</u>	A multi year loan (up to 2 years maximum per application) for a single purpose. Each year of a multi year loan will be limited to 25% of the available funds but may exceed this limit up to 100% of available funds not used by other applications.
<u>Application Materials:</u>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. County board resolution 2. Project specifications: maps, short narrative, estimated cost breakdown

- including any County contributions
3. Other material as the Department feels necessary

Accountability Review: Projects will be audited in conjunction with regular Departmental program review.

Repayment Of Loans

Repayment of all non-interest-bearing loans will be made as timber is harvested. All timber harvested from county forest land shall pay a severance share of not less than 20% of the actual stumpage value. A higher rate of payment may be applied when agreed upon between the state and county. When the county does cutting and timber is not sold, or timber is sold as cut forest products, the severance share shall be 20% of the severance schedule under s. [77.06\(2\)](#), Wis. Stats. All severance payments are credited to the forestry fund account of the county. No severance payment is required if there is no balance due in the forestry fund account of the county, or when the wood is removed for energy conservation projects (e.g. firewood for the general public).

OTHER FUNDING SOURCES

Numerous federal, state, and local grants may be available to government and non-profit conservation organization sponsors. More information on these programs, as well as other potential funding opportunities, and assistance with grants and/or loans can be found on the [DNR Financial Assistance website](#). Federal funding options are listed below.

Federal Cost Sharing Programs

This section identifies the federal cost sharing programs that are available to the county forests. The Department's liaison forester is the primary contact for all of the programs unless otherwise specified.

1. Endangered Species Funds

Federal cost sharing and grants for management and surveys of federally listed threatened and endangered species is available through the federal Endangered Species Act. Section 6 of the federal Endangered Species Act specifies a cost-sharing rate of 75% for projects within one state, and 90% for projects that involve a cooperative agreement between two or more States. Section 15 provides for grants where 100% of the cost is federally funded. Projects for both Section 6 and Section 15 funding can include surveys for threatened and endangered species, management programs that conserve a threatened or endangered species, or monitoring the status of a candidate or a recovered species. Contact the Bureau of Endangered Resources for more information on these programs and assistance in completing the required applications.

2. Sport Fish Restoration Act (Dingel-Johnson Funds (DJ))

This fund also referred to as Dingel-Johnson funds (DJ) are utilized to improve sport fishing. The program is funded by an excise tax collected from the manufacturer or importer of fishing tackle, motor boat fuels, electronic trolling motors, fish finders and other products. Counties are eligible to apply for many types of sport fisheries projects including water access. The local fisheries biologist should be contacted for specific details on these funds.

TOWN REVENUES

Townships that contain County Forest lands receive two sources of revenue as Stated in s. [28.11\(8\)\(a\)](#) and [28.11\(9\)\(d\)](#), Wis. Stats.

1. Acreage Payments

Reference s. [28.11\(8\)\(a\)](#), Wis. Stats. This section of the statutes requires the Department to pay each town \$0.63 per acre based on the acreage of county forest located in that township as of the proceeding June 30.

The Division of Forestry makes this payment typically in June of each year.

2. Towns Timber Sales Revenue

Reference s. [28.11\(9\)\(d\)](#), Wis. Stats. This section of the statutes requires each county to pay 10 percent of their timber sales revenue annually to Townships having County Forest lands in them based on the acreage of such lands as of June 30 of the preceding year. Acreage from both special-use and regular class County Forest land is used in making this distribution.

This payment should be made by March 1. With county board approval, a county may pay more than 10 percent of its timber sales revenues to the townships annually.

Acreage By Town Printouts

The Division of Forestry provides an annual acreage by town report to assist Counties with making annual payments to towns that contain County Forest lands. This report should be used to ensure that Townships with County Forest lands in them receive the minimum of the 10% of the timber sales revenue due to them under s. [28.11\(9\)\(d\)](#), Wis. Stats., for County Forest lands.

COUNTY FOREST FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SUMMARY

Financial assistance is an important part of the State's role in the County/State partnership. The following average summary shows only those monetary forms of assistance provided through the Division of Forestry. All values shown are rounded to nearest \$100.

As of 7/1/2022

1. Administration/Sustainable Forestry Program	\$1,613,900
2. Variable Share and Project Loans	\$1,500,000 ⁽¹⁾
3. State Nursery Stock Discount	\$19,800 ⁽²⁾
4. Aid to Towns	\$1,515,400
5. Forest Certification	\$29,000 ⁽³⁾
6. Wildlife Habitat Grant	\$112,200
Subtotal	\$4,790,300
Severance payments (credit)	\$ 408,800 ⁽⁴⁾
Net Financial Assistance	\$4,381,500 ⁽⁵⁾

⁽¹⁾ These loans are repaid by each County at a rate of 20% of their timber sales receipts. This represents only the base appropriation each year. Additional funds are available from severance payments during the year.

⁽²⁾ This figure is taken from FY19

⁽³⁾ This is a five year average of the County Forest share of the forest certification contract.

⁽⁴⁾ This is a three year average of FY18, FY19, and FY20.

⁽⁵⁾ This is Division of Forestry financial assistance only and does not include costs of any technical assistance.

COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN

A County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan, also called the County Forest Plan or 15-Year Plan, shall be prepared for a 15 year period by the Forestry Committee with assistance of technical personnel from the Department and other interested agencies as required by s. [28.11\(5\)](#), Wis. Stats. The county board and the Department shall approve the plan.

This plan shall be the official record of all county forest policies, pertinent county regulations and planning documents. It shall also provide for a schedule of needs and action for the current planning period.

The objectives of the plan are to specify operating policies and procedures which the counties will follow in administering the county forest, and to provide readers of the plan with background information regarding the County Forest.

Current plans are in effect from 2021 to 2035. Revisions to plans may be added as changing conditions require. The plans shall be revised upon expiration.

The county forest plan shall include land use designations, land acquisition, forest protection, access management, annual allowable timber harvests, recreational developments, fisheries, endangered resources and wildlife management activities, roads, silvicultural operations and operating policies and procedures. Also included shall be a complete inventory of the county forest documented with maps, records and priorities showing in detail the various projects to be undertaken during the plan period.

Specific chapters of the county forest plan are traditionally as follows, although some counties may have a different numbering sequence:

100-Background	800-Integrated Resource Management
200-General Administration	900-Recreation
300-Description of Forest and Management Planning	1000- Appendix
400-County Forest Ownership	2000- Planning, Reports, & Budget
500-County Forest Administration	3000-Integrated Resource Management Units
600-Protection	4000-Public Comment Process of 15-Year
700-Roads and Access	Plan/Future Amendment List

Once a preliminary draft of the revised county forest plan is completed, it is open to public review. In addition, public informational meetings are to be held to receive comment on the plan. The Department liaison forester should ensure involvement of Department staff in this process.

The plan is then presented to the county board for their approval. Following approval the plan is forwarded to the Division of Forestry through the local Department liaison forester for approval by the Department. Department approval authority for approving county forest plans has been delegated to the Division of Forestry Administrator.

When conditions require, necessary changes in policy and procedure are to be incorporated into the plan by amendment. Amendments to the plan require approval by both the County Board and the Department. Department approval authority for approving amendments to county forest plans has been delegated to the forestry field operations director within the Division of Forestry.

As soon as they are available, and no later than [June 30](#) of each year, the county forest administrator will distribute to each official plan copyholder any approved amendments, an annual accomplishment report, and an annual work plans and budget. The accomplishment report, work plans, and budget shall be placed in the plan's appendix but do not require approval by the Department as plan amendments.

The annual work plans and budget are based upon the county forest plan. The annual work plans shall include a

schedule of annual harvest goals and a listing by location of management projects where appropriate. The annual budget, including lists of estimated expenditures for work projects, administration, and protection of the forest, shall accompany the annual work plans. Both are recommended to be submitted to the county board for approval at the November meeting. The annual work plans must be submitted to the Department for approval, as required by [28.11\(5m\)\(b\)](#), Wis. Stats. as part of the County Forest Administration Grant application. Department approval authority for approving annual county forest work plans has been delegated to the county forest and public lands specialist. Approval will be granted via the County Forest Administration Grant award letter distributed with grant checks annually.

Official updated copies of the county forest plan are to be held by the following:

1. County forest administrator
2. Department liaison forester (6 copies)*
3. Executive director, Wisconsin County Forests Association

* Department Liaison Forester copies are distributed to the district forestry leader, area forestry leader, county forest and public lands specialist, forestry team leader, the liaison forester, and the local wildlife biologist.

If at any time it appears that county forest lands are not being managed in accordance with s. [28.11](#), Wis. Stats., and the county forest plan, the Department must bring it to the attention of the forestry committee and the county clerk. If the noncompliance persists, the Department may proceed against the persons responsible pursuant to s. [28.11\(12\)](#), Wis. Stats.

LAND ACQUISITION

County forests include all county owned lands entered under the County Forest Law, [s. 28.11](#), Wis. Stats. The county may appropriate funds for the purchase, development, protection and maintenance of the forest and to exchange other county owned lands for the purpose of consolidating and/or “[blocking the boundary](#)” of the forest, in order to facilitate overall resource management. Acquisition of additional land may be by outright purchase or trade (based on competent appraisal of the values involved), by gift, bequest or action to foreclose tax liens. The county forest administrator may be the agent of the county forestry committee and county board in making first contacts with potential sellers and in carrying on acquisition activities. However, firm offers must have committee approval and final approval of purchase is subject to action by the county board.

Financing of land acquisition, either inside the forest boundary or special-use lands outside the boundary, may come from funds available in a segregated land acquisition fund, state forestry aid loan, or other suitable account providing transfer of funds is approved.

Acquisition Of Private Land Enrolled In A Forest Tax Law Program

Per [s. 77.10\(2\)\(c\)](#) Wis. Stats., private forest tax law lands sold or transferred to a county may be withdrawn without penalty if the land will be used for a public road, railroad, utility right-of-way, park, recreational trail, wildlife or fish habitat area, or as a public forest. Forest tax law lands include properties enrolled in either the Managed Forest Law or Forest Crop Law programs. A Declaration of Withdrawal – Exempt Forest Tax Law ([Form 2450-162](#)) must be filed with the Department to withdraw such lands. Counties may then apply to enter the lands into County Forest Law using the County Forest Law Entry Application ([Form 2453-001](#)) either simultaneously to or following the withdrawal.

Acquisition Of Lands By Department Personnel

Manual Code [9103.11](#) places restrictions on Department personnel before they may acquire land or timber from lands located within a County Forest boundary.

Entry Of County Forest Lands

The Department Liaison Forester and County Forest Administrator will work together on all entries into the County Forest program. Through the forestry committee, the county will purchase lands to be entered into the program. State grants and loans may be used for the purchase. Application for entry ([Form 2453-1](#)) will be prepared with the assistance of the Department Liaison Forester. Applications for entry are mailed to the County Forest & Public Lands Specialist. There are two types of lands entered under the law: regular and special use lands.

Regular Class:

Per [s. 28.11\(4\)\(b\)](#) Wis. Stats., these are lands that are primarily for the production of forest products.

Special Use:

Per [s. 28.11\(4\)\(c\)](#) Wis. Stats., lands may be designated as County Forest specific 'Special Use Land' if these lands have a unique or special use. Lands not suited primarily for timber production, but which are suitable for scenic value, outdoor recreation, public hunting and fishing, water conservation and other multiple-use activities may qualify for this designation.

Department approval authority for approving County Forest entries has been delegated to the County Forest & Public Lands Specialist, within the Division of Forestry.

Changing Designation of County Forest Lands

When County requests to change designation (Regular Class to Special Use OR Special Use to Regular Class), the County must submit to the County Forest and Public Lands Specialist:

1. Letter requesting designation change.
2. Resolution from County Board approving the change
3. Application for entry
4. Original entry documents

The County Forest and Public Lands Specialist has authority to approve designation change requests. Upon approval, a copy of the order shall be submitted to the County Clerk and County Forestry Committee. The original order shall be recorded with the Register of Deeds. The County is responsible for any recording fees.

*The next update to the 15-year Comprehensive Land Use Plan should reflect designation changes.

Acreage Printouts

County Forest acreage printouts are sent from the Division of Forestry every July. These lists are the exact legal description and acreage that is on file with the Department. Any errors in these printouts should be sent to the County Forest & Public Lands Specialist along with appropriate documentation.

County Forest Withdrawal

The legal means by which counties may apply for withdrawal of lands from County Forests is provided by s. [28.11\(11\)](#), Wis. Stats. Initially, the County Forest Administrator notifies the Department Liaison Forester of the County Forestry Committee meeting at which the proposed withdrawal will be considered. At that meeting, Department personnel and the county discuss the proposed withdrawal and, if approved by the County Forestry Committee, the committee will recommend the withdrawal by resolution to the County Board. If approved by the board by the necessary 2/3 majority, the application is prepared by the county and submitted to the appropriate Department Area Forestry Staff Specialist. The Department may ask for additional information from the county. If the Department deems advisable or at the written request of the County, the Department will hold a public informational hearing. If the application is denied, the county may appeal under s. [28.11\(11\)\(a\)4.](#), Wis. Stats.

County Forest Withdrawal Procedure

The purpose of this procedure is to provide general information in formulating and processing applications for withdrawal of County Forest lands under s. [28.11\(11\)](#) and ch. [NR 48](#), Wis. Adm. Code.

The legal means by which counties may apply for withdrawal of lands from county forests is provided by section [28.11\(11\)\(a\)](#). This section states in part: "The county board shall first refer the resolution to the county forestry committee which shall consult with an authorized representative of the department in formulating its withdrawal proposal."

Section [28.11\(11\)\(a\)](#) also states: "The county board shall not take final action thereon until 90 days after such referral or until the report thereon of the forest committee has been filed with the board."

Consequently, if the county board takes final action on a withdrawal application without referring it to the county forestry committee, the application is not valid. On the other hand, if the county forestry committee does not report to the county board within 90 days after receipt of the referral, the board may act upon the application without a committee recommendation.

The county forest and public lands specialist is designated as the authorized representative of the Department who shall consult with the county forest administrator and forestry committees in discussing withdrawal proposals. All Department communications concerning withdrawal of county forest lands shall be coordinated through the area forestry staff specialist. The final decision for requests for withdrawal presently rests with the Department's Division of Forestry administrator.

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| County Forest Administrator | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Notifies Department liaison forester to the county forest of the date and place of the county forestry committee meeting at which time the proposed withdrawal will be considered for formulation of a withdrawal application. Such notice shall include pertinent details of the withdrawal proposal including legal description of the lands involved and purpose of the withdrawal. <p>NOTE: In the event a withdrawal exchange proposal is involved, it is very important that the county postpones final financial negotiations with the owner of the land involved in the exchange until the Department has made a final decision on the withdrawal application.</p> |
| Department Liaison Forester | <ol style="list-style-type: none">2. Advises supervisor(s) and consults with the county forest and public lands specialist immediately on the proposed withdrawal and committee meeting date.3. Attends county forestry committee meeting and when consulted informs the committee on the withdrawal process. |
| County Forestry Committee | <ol style="list-style-type: none">4. At committee meeting held to evaluate proposal and to consult with (if requested) the county forest and public lands specialist, either:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Undertakes further study of the proposal; orb. Rejects applicant's request for withdrawal, orc. Prepares resolution for county board action recommending approval or disapproval of application. |
| County Board of Supervisors | <ol style="list-style-type: none">5. Upon receipt of the recommendation of the county forestry committee, or 90 days after referral to the committee, whichever is first, acts on resolution to approve, disapprove or modify the withdrawal application, or refer it back to the county forestry committee for further study.6. If approval for withdrawal given by two-thirds vote of membership, authorizes and directs county clerk and county forest administrator to prepare and submit the County Forest Withdrawal Application (Form 2453-3) for withdrawal to appropriate Department area forestry staff specialist. |
| Area Forestry Staff Specialist | <ol style="list-style-type: none">7. Upon receipt of County Forest withdrawal application (Form 2453-3), acknowledges receipt of the application to the county administrator, with copies to the Department liaison forester, team leader, area leader, district leader and county forest and public lands specialist. Requests additional information from the county as necessary to provide adequate detail for Department processing of the application. Requests for additional information must be sent to the county within 60 days as identified in s. NR 48.03(2).8. Consults with county forest and public lands specialist regarding specifics of the proposal. |

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| Area Forestry Staff Specialist | 9. Prepares a 'DRAFT' decision including Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order and Notification of Appeal Rights and sends draft to the county forest and public lands specialist. The draft shall, at the minimum, cover the items identified in s. NR 48.04 . Note: This draft is NOT a public record. It may not be released to the public upon request. |
| County Forest & Public Lands Specialist | 10. Reviews and modifies draft documents as necessary. Upon completion of Department investigation of the withdrawal application, prepares in conjunction with Bureau of Legal Services a final draft decision including Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order and Notification of Appeal Rights, for the Administrator, Division of Forestry. Note: This draft is NOT a public record. It may not be released to the public upon request. |
| Administrator, Division of Forestry | 11. Issues the final decision on the withdrawal application. Department approval authority for approving county forest withdrawals has been delegated to the Division of Forestry administrator. |

If a withdrawal decision is appealed to the review committee by a County pursuant to s. [28.11\(11\)\(a\)](#):

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| Division of Forestry | 12. Keeps the Division Administrator's and Secretary's office informed of all developments in the appeal process. |
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Adverse Possession

Wisconsin's Adverse Possession law is a statute of limitations found in [ch. 893](#), Wis. Stats. The definition of Adverse Possession is found in [s. 893.25 \(2\)](#), Wis. Stats., which says "Real estate is possessed adversely under this section only if the person possessing it, in connection with his or her predecessors in interest, is in actual continued occupation under claim of title, exclusive of any other right, and only to the extent that it is actually occupied and protected by a substantial enclosure or usually cultivated or improved."

The availability of an adverse possession claim against the state or its political subdivisions has changed several times in the last 100 years. Before 1931, no claims against the state* were possible. Beginning in 1931, a person adversely possessing state* land had to maintain that adverse possession for 40 years in order to take title. Beginning July 1, 1980, the time period for adverse possession against the state or its political subdivisions was reduced to 20 years.

*Prior to 1980, statutes did not mention political subdivisions of the state explicitly. A note from the Judicial Council Committee in 1979 states that "the previous provision presumably applied to the property of political subdivisions of the state, but this has been made express in this section."

Ripened Claims

Any legal action to establish title by adverse possession to public lands owned by the state, county, city, village, or town or political subdivision thereof, which has met the required statutory period is considered a ripened claim. Legally, the application of such statute of limitations is prospective; therefore, the 40-year period would still apply if the adverse period is commenced prior to July 1 1980, and the 20-year adverse period would apply after that date.

The adverse possession law was amended in 1998 to require that a person trying to prove adverse possession against the state or its political subdivisions show that "the adverse possession, prescription or user continues uninterruptedly for more than 20 years and is based upon a continuously maintained fence line which has been mutually agreed upon by the current landowners." This statute revision applied to those claims which have not "ripened" (or met the 20 or 40 year requirement) as of April 28, 1998.

The adverse possession law changed again effective March 3, 2016 – less than 20 years after the “fence line” requirement went into effect. Beginning on this date, no new adverse possession claims may ripen against the state or its political subdivisions. This means that a claim had to commence no later than March 3, 1996, in order to be valid.

Adverse Prescriptive Rights

State statutes also provide for the commencement of a legal action to establish prescriptive rights to land, consistent with the same time periods as for adverse possession.

To establish prescriptive rights, the adverse use of land must also be open, notorious, hostile and continued without interruption during the statutory period of limitation.

A typical example would be the continuous and uninterrupted use of an access roadway over the land of another; however, there is a statutory presumption under [s. 893.29](#) Wis. Stats., that mere use of a way over unenclosed land of another owner is presumed to be permissive rather than adverse. A successful claim would result in a court declaring an easement right, not title. As with adverse possession claims against the state or its political subdivisions, no new prescriptive rights claims can ripen after March 3, 2016.

The appropriate county corporation counsel should be consulted when dealing with this subject.

TIMBER SALES

The timber sale is a valuable tool the county forest uses to meet many of its objectives and intended purposes identified in s. [28.11\(1\)](#), Wis. Stats. Harvests are planned in accordance with the county forest comprehensive land use plan. This plan, developed with multi-source input, is designed to promote management practices which assure preservation of soil and water values while achieving multiple forest land management objectives. Such practices should consider: an accurate land inventory procedure, shoreline protection, efficient road/trail layout and timber sale design, topography, silvicultural requirements, recreational opportunities, wildlife habitat, threatened and endangered species sites, watershed protection, and stabilization of stream flow. Detailed procedures for conducting timber sales on county forest land are documented in the Timber Sale Handbook.

Authority for timber harvesting is found in s. [28.11\(6\)](#), Wis. Stats. The county forestry committee is authorized to sell merchantable timber and other forest products. Volumes of timber or products harvested are determined by tree scale, measure or count; the Scribner Decimal C log rule is used in log scaling. Only trees designated for cutting by qualified personnel recognized by the Department may be harvested. (See s. [28.11\(6\)\(a\)](#) and s. [28.11\(6\)\(b\)](#), Wis. Stats.)

Before forest products are harvested from county forests, an official cutting notice (Form [2460-1](#)) must be submitted to the Department through the appropriate channels. Approvals are required at the various levels identified in the Timber Sale Handbook. (See s. [28.11\(6\)\(b\)3.](#), Wis. Stats.)

County forests must pay to the Department a severance share for timber harvested from the county forest. Townships also receive annual payments based on timber harvested. Please see Chapter 220 for details.

Penalties

If the county harvests trees without Department approval, the Department will assess a penalty equal to double the stumpage value of the cut products. (See s. [28.11\(6\)\(b\)3.](#), Wis. Stats.) The penalty is not considered a severance tax and, therefore, cannot be credited to a county's indebtedness to the forestry fund account.

TIMBER THEFT

Per [26.05\(2\)](#) Wis. Stats., no person may cut, remove or transport raw forest products or direct the cutting, removal or transportation of raw forest products without the consent of the owner. Raw forest products are defined in s. [26.05\(1\)](#) as forest products not altered by a manufacturing process off the land from which they are taken. This includes seedlings, saplings, shrubs, whole tree chips, boughs, logs, pilings, posts, poles, cordwood products, pulp wood, fuel wood and Christmas trees.

All cases of alleged timber theft on county forests should be investigated and resolved promptly. In all cases, especially criminal cases, the county district attorney's office must be contacted for guidance to ensure adherence to County timber theft policies. These policies are also contained in Chapter 500 of the respective County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

County officials may obtain assistance with timber theft investigation from their sheriff and deputies. If requested by the county or sheriff's department, conservation wardens or non-sworn forest rangers may assist or take the investigative lead depending on availability, workload, and supervisory approval. The Department's participation in a case of timber theft on county forest land will vary depending on the policy of the individual county (see "Law Enforcement" section in Chapter 210).

An investigation of timber theft on county forest land may include the following:

1. Following standard investigative techniques; viewing the site, taking photographs, determination of land ownership and obtaining statements from County officials, complainant and witnesses.
2. Collection of physical evidence; an estimate of volumes and values by species of all forest products cut or removed. Saw timber stumps should be numerically identified in a semi-permanent manner and should be listed individually on a report including tree number, stump diameter, DBH, estimated height, estimated volume, and defect allowance. The report should document any tables or charts used. Pulpwood sized material may be estimated on a per tree or

area method. All pulp trees in a predominantly saw timber area should be individually tallied. Aesthetic value should be considered as well as fisheries and wildlife values. Individual county policy should be followed if a legal survey is needed to establish property lines.

3. Locating all cut forest products and identifying them as originating from the theft area by matching species and butt logs to the stumps.
4. Seizing and holding for evidence all identified cut products at all locations by attaching proper seizure records and confiscation tags.
5. Interviewing the person(s) alleged to have committed the theft and obtaining statement(s).
6. Consultation with the district attorney and initiation of the appropriate enforcement action (citation, criminal complaint, negotiation).
7. Reference [Timber Sale Handbook](#) (72-1 to 72-3) for further information on timber sale inspections and seizure procedures.

An allegation of theft by cutting, removing, or transporting raw forest products from the county forest does not alleviate the county from payment under s. [28.11\(9\)](#) Wis. Stats. The county will collect damages pursuant to s. [26.05](#) Wis. Stats. and may also pursue criminal charges under s. [943.20](#) Wis. Stats. and/or seek civil damages.

Additional details on timber theft enforcement, damage, and penalties can be found in [26.05](#), [26.06](#), [26.09](#) and [26.97](#), Wis. Stats.

RECREATION

Recreation is a vital part of the county forest program. The forestry committee may designate recreation areas, facilities and allowable activities within the county forest. Consult the county forest comprehensive land use plan and applicable county outdoor recreation plan for specific information on recreational inventory, policies, recommendations and planning considerations. Information regarding Department aid for recreational facilities can be found in Wis. Stat. [23.09\(11\)](#) and on the [DNR Financial Assistance](#) website.

County forests may have county forest outdoor recreation plans specific to individual forests. These plans are developed to outline the addition and maintenance of outdoor recreation opportunities on a specific county forest. It is recommended that land managers consult with their specific county regarding these plans and the impact that projects may have on outdoor recreation.

Some county forests contain recreational trails that are heavily used by the public. Many of these trails are motorized, allowing seasonal use of off-highway vehicles (OHV). Please refer to Manual Code [2112.3](#) for more information regarding trails, routing, and impact avoidance.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

A primary focus of wildlife management is the understanding and application of basic ecological principles that affect wildlife populations. It also involves a close look at the impacts to species and habitat today and in the future.

Establishing and maintaining quality wildlife habitat is an important consideration when determining management on county forest lands. The large, diverse blocks of county forest typically serve as excellent wildlife habitat.

Much emphasis has been focused on maintaining healthy populations of select game species such as the white-tailed deer, black bear, ruffed grouse, wild turkey and snowshoe hare. These very important species have generated considerable attention from the public for their hunting and wildlife viewing values. Wildlife management has generated considerable study toward perpetuating these species. Research recommends a continued, aggressive management of shade intolerant forest types for these species, and numerous other game and non-game species that rely on early successional habitat.

Alternately, numerous other wildlife species rely on late successional forest cover types. Maintaining larger blocks of hardwood forests – especially older forests and/or larger size classes – can be considerably valuable for a number of non-game, rare, and threatened or endangered species. Guidelines for both early and late successional species management have been developed and can be found in the [Wisconsin Silviculture Guide](#).

Prior to implementation, project and/or timber sale areas must be screened for potential impacts to rare and threatened wildlife, as outlined in the [Timber Sale Handbook](#). **It is *strongly recommended* to work with local Wildlife Biologists and Ecologists when considering projects impacting wildlife habitat (e.g. timber sale or project reviews, habitat mitigation, stand conversions for habitat purposes).** Collaboration at the beginning of a project can minimize potential issues or management conflicts as the project progresses.

Wisconsin Wildlife Action Plan

Initially developed as requirement to obtain federal grant funding, [Wisconsin's Wildlife Action Plan \(WWAP\)](#) contains a comprehensive inventory of the nature and status of rare and declining species, as well as natural communities and ecological landscapes within the state. Over time, WWAP has become a guiding document to help resource managers identify and implement conservation actions to promote the health and wellbeing of these species and the communities they depend on.

Natural Communities And Habitats

Natural communities are assemblages of different plant and animal species, living together in a particular area, at a particular time, in a specific habitat. Generally, county forests are a mixture of six larger communities: northern forests, southern forests, barrens and savannas, prairies, wetlands, and aquatic. The size, age, composition structure, and position of these communities in relation to each other and the county forest's neighborhood (other surrounding natural communities) is important in determining wildlife priorities. The [Wisconsin's Natural Communities](#) website and the [Ecological Landscapes of Wisconsin](#) publication can provide additional details about these communities and the rare plants and animals that depend on them.

Funding And Additional Resources

Funding for wildlife management has been almost exclusively from hunters, fishers, and trappers. In spite of this, much has been done toward habitat management of nongame, endangered and threatened species. This has occurred through the use of federal programs such as the PR (Pittman-Robertson) Program, Wisconsin non-game tax check-off efforts, hunting and fishing license fees, and a broadening of the philosophical intent of wildlife management. Incorporated into forest management prescriptions are practices that perpetuate and improve conditions for such species as bald eagles, herons, woodpeckers, reptiles, amphibians and songbirds. A few key references are listed below.

- Manual Code [1753.1](#) provides information on management concerns surrounding endangered resources.
- M.C. [2112](#) (Guidelines For Defining Forest-Wildlife Habitat Management Priorities) has been the cornerstone of forest-wildlife management with intense interest on deer. It provides land managers with a prescription for optimizing forest diversity with emphasis on the maintenance of intolerant types.
- M.C. [2112.1](#) (Forest Opening Maintenance and Construction) gives special attention to the management of small scattered herbaceous openings. These openings are focal points for numerous wildlife, including game species and several nongame as well.
- Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) provides known occurrences of threatened and endangered species and communities.
- [Wisconsin Silviculture Guide](#) gives direction on management of timber types for wildlife diversity.

The Department offers grants to counties for the development of wildlife habitat on county forests. Refer to the *County Forest Assistance* chapter (Ch. 220), and [23.09\(17m\)](#) Wis. Stats. for information on how to receive funding. Additional information on aid for county fish and game projects can be found in s. [23.09\(12\)](#) Wis. Stats. Outside funding through external partners (e.g. Ruffed Grouse Society, Wild Turkey Federation), may be available to counties for wildlife management projects. Additionally, federal funding may be available for implementing habitat projects on county forest lands. Consult with local wildlife biologists when seeking funding opportunities as type and amount of funding may vary over time.

ENDANGERED RESOURCES

Protection of endangered, threatened, and nongame species in Wisconsin is administered through both federal and state statutes and regulations. Federal laws include the Federal Endangered Species Act, the Lacey Act, the Migratory Bird Act, and the Bald Eagle Protection Act. Wisconsin laws include s. [29.604](#), Wis. Stats., and ch. [NR 27](#), Wis. Adm. Code.

The Department is required by law to implement conservation programs for federal and state listed endangered and threatened species. This involves conducting research and developing programs directed at conserving, protecting, managing for and restoring certain endangered and threatened species to the extent practical.

The [Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation](#) (NHC) implements and coordinates the Department's endangered species program by identifying, protecting, and managing native plant and animal species, natural communities, and other natural features; enhancing and restoring populations and habitats of rare and endangered species; and by promoting knowledge, appreciation, and stewardship of Wisconsin's native species and ecosystems. To accomplish this mission, the Bureau of NHC conducts inventories, maintains a statewide database of rare species and habitats, purchases and manages high quality natural areas, and implements species recovery programs. Prior to any management operations, a check for rare and endangered species needs to be conducted through the NHC online portal.

Federal Laws For Endangered Resources

1. Federal Endangered Species Act

Under the Federal Endangered Species Act, it is illegal to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture or collect any threatened or federally endangered fish and wildlife species. In addition, it is illegal to import or export, transport, sell, remove, reduce to possession, cut, dig up, or damage any federally listed plant species from areas under federal jurisdiction.

Under this act all federal agencies must seek to conserve and recover federally listed species. Therefore, the government may develop protective regulations such as critical habitat designation: cooperate with the states on inventory, conservation, and recovery efforts; and acquire land as necessary. All federal agencies must consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service if any federal project would result in a direct or incidental take of any federally listed species. In addition, any state projects that could affect a federally listed species and that are funded in whole or in part by federal funds require consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service prior to any project activity.

In order to take, transport, possess, process or sell any federally listed species an endangered species permit must be obtained from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

2. Federal Lacey Act

The Lacey Act regulates the importation, exportation, receiving, acquiring, purchasing, or interstate transportation of any fish, wildlife, or plant species.

3. Federal Migratory Bird Act

The Federal Migratory Bird Act protects all migratory birds and their parts (feathers, eggs, nests) from being killed, taken, transported or possessed without a valid federal permit.

4. Bald Eagle Protection Act

The Bald Eagle Protection Act prohibits the taking, possession, sale, purchase or barter, transport, export or import of any bald eagle, or golden eagle, alive or dead, including any part of the bird and the nest or eggs, unless allowed by a federal permit.

State Laws For Endangered Resources

According to s. [29](#), Wis. Stats., and [NR 27](#), Wis. Adm. Code, it is illegal to take, transport, possess, process or sell any wild animal that is included on the Wisconsin Endangered and Threatened Species List. In addition, it is illegal to remove, transport, carry away, cut, root up, sever, injure or destroy a wild plant on the Wisconsin Endangered and Threatened Species List on public lands. Silvicultural practices typically are exempted from the incidental take prohibitions of listed plant species.

The Department may issue permits, under specified terms and conditions, to take, transport, or possess endangered and threatened species. A scientific permit may be issued for zoological, educational or scientific purposes. An incidental take permit or authorization may be issued for a taking that will be incidental to the carrying out of an otherwise lawful activity. The proposed activity must minimize take to the maximum extent practicable, not jeopardize the continued existence and recovery of the species, and provide benefit to public health, safety or welfare.

Any activities the Department conducts, funds or approves with the potential to have a material impact on lands, wetlands, or water-bodies that are likely to support endangered resources should undergo an endangered resources screening. The DNR Endangered Resources Screening Guidance provides background information and process for DNR staff to conduct activity screening. County forest programs may obtain access to the data through a license agreement.

Consult with local ecologists on projects that may impact threatened or endangered species. More information regarding threatened and endangered species can be found at [Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation intranet site](#).

WATER REGULATIONS AND WETLAND PROTECTION

State and county forestry activities may require county, state, or federal permits for activities in or near navigable waters, including wetlands. These permit regulations exist for many reasons, among them the protection of water quality and fish and wildlife habitat, and preservation of shore cover and natural beauty. Persons unfamiliar with these regulations should contact the appropriate office or person as described below in the gray boxes.

Best Management Practices For Water Quality

All management activities, including but not limited to timber harvesting, road construction, and site preparation must refer to [Wisconsin's Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality Field Manual](#) (PUB FR-093 2010) for specific guidelines along waterways, including non-navigable waterways and wetlands. BMPs are mandatory on all state-owned lands and those county forests that are members of a forest certification group or where referenced in their county forest comprehensive land use plan.

State Of Wisconsin Water Regulations

Since 1787 when the Northwest Ordinance was adopted to govern Wisconsin Territory, the state's navigable waterways have been considered public -- for the use of all citizens. Over the years, the courts and the state legislature have developed laws and rules for protecting the rights of the public. The Department has been charged with carrying out these laws. Many of the activities affecting navigable waters, such as grading and other soil disturbing activities, pond construction, bridge and culvert construction, placement of sand, rip-rap or fish cribs, dam construction and maintenance require permits or approvals from the Department.

The state legislature and the courts have defined **navigable waters** as waterways that have bed and banks, in which it is possible to float in a canoe at some time of the year - even if only during spring floods. **CAUTION:** Even small unmapped ponds and waterways may meet the test of navigability.

Consult with the Division of Forestry's Forest Hydrologist prior to implementing any project containing wetlands that may require mitigation or permitting with management practices, as silvicultural practices may allow for certain exemptions.

If the project is located in or near wetlands, and a Department permit is required, the Department will also be involved in a review of the project to see if it can meet wetland water quality standards (ch. [NR 103](#), Wis. Adm. Code). The steps involved are determining 1) if the project will affect a wetland, 2) if the proposed activity is wetland dependent, 3) if a practicable alternative exists, and 4) if the project will have significant adverse impacts on wetland functional values. If water quality certification standards are not met, a permit will not be granted.

Work with the forest hydrologist to contact the appropriate Department water regulation and zoning specialist for information on permits that may be required for work in or near navigable waters. A Waterway and Wetland information line is available for DNR staff and the public by phone at (608) 267-3125 or by e-mail at DNRWMSPublicInquiry@wisconsin.gov.

In 2004 new Storm Water regulations were enacted (ch. [NR 216](#), Wis. Adm. Code). If a construction project disturbs more than one acre of land and is not used exclusively for silviculture it may require a storm permit.

Work with the forest hydrologist to contact the appropriate Department storm water specialist for information on permits that may be required for non-silvicultural projects disturbing more than one acre of land. A waterway and wetland information line is available for DNR staff and the public by phone at (608) 267-3125 or by e-mail at DNRWMSPublicInquiry@wisconsin.gov.

County Zoning Regulations In The Shoreland Zone

Section [59.692](#), Wis. Stats., requires counties to adopt and administer regulations to control development along the shorelands of lakes and streams. Regulations apply to lands within the "shoreland": lands within 1000 feet from the ordinary high water mark (OHWM) of a navigable lake, pond or flowage, or within 300 feet from the OHWM of a navigable river or stream or to the landward side of the floodplain, whichever is greater. The OHWM is the demarcation line between watercourse and upland. More specifically, it is the "point on bank or shore up to which the presence and action of the water is so continuous as to leave a distinct mark..." Those marks can be stains, erosion marks, vegetation, or soil mottling. Section [87.30](#), Wis. Stats., also requires counties to adopt and administer regulations to control development in floodplains (see "County, City and Village Floodplain Zoning" below).

Under County shoreland zoning (s. [59.692](#), Wis. Stats., and ch. [NR 115](#), Wis. Adm. Code), counties regulate a variety of activities in the shoreland zone. Provisions in County shoreland ordinances most likely applicable to County Forestry projects are tree and shrubbery cutting, filling and grading, and structure setbacks.

1. Cutting of Trees and Shrubby. At a minimum, County ordinances require that in the strip of land 35 feet wide inland from the OHWM, no more than 30 feet in any 100 feet shall be clear cut. For land greater than 35 feet inland, any tree and shrub cutting must be governed by sound forestry and soil conservation practices, and with consideration of its effect on water quality. These provisions do not apply to removal of dead, diseased or dying trees or shrubbery.
2. Filling, grading, lagooning, dredging, ditching and excavating. At a minimum, County ordinances state that these may be permitted only in accordance with provisions of shoreland/wetland regulations; if they meet requirements of ch. [30](#), Wis. Stats., and other state and federal laws; and if they are done in manner to minimize erosion, sedimentation, and impairment of fish and wildlife habitat.
3. Structure setbacks. At a minimum, County ordinances require that there is 75 feet from the OHWM to the nearest part of building or structure, except for piers, boathouses, and boat hoists.

Check with the local County zoning office before beginning your project. In addition to the state minimums described above, counties may have more restrictive requirements.

County, City And Village Wetland Regulation In The Shoreland Zone

County, city and village wetland zoning requirements apply to wetlands (state definition is found in s. [23.32\(1\)](#), Wis. Stats.) greater than 2 acres in size, in the shoreland zone, and on the Wisconsin Wetland Inventory map. Under these ordinances, silviculture is a permitted use in shoreland wetlands, **as long as no filling, flooding, draining, dredging, ditching, tiling or excavating is done** except in limited circumstances involving road construction and maintenance and temporary water level stabilization.

Check with the local County, city or village zoning office before you begin your project.

County, City And Village Floodplain Zoning

Under s. [87.30](#), Wis. Stats., and ch. [NR 116](#), Wis. Adm. Code, lands subject to hazards from the 100-year flood (also called the one percent chance flood or regional flood) are mapped and regulated under municipal zoning ordinances. Floodplain ordinances regulate the land use, site design, and structural design of buildings and other features of development. For example, in the “floodway district” (land necessary to convey flood flows without obstruction; generally associated with moving water), it is illegal to store logs and logging debris because it would be an obstruction to flood flow.

Check with the local County, city or village zoning office before you begin your project.

Federal Regulations

Section [404](#) of the Federal Clean Water Act regulates discharges to waters of the United States, including wetlands. Permits must be obtained from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for wetland fill. The Corps cannot issue a permit if water quality certification has been denied under the authority of section [401](#) of the Clean Water Act, using procedures and criteria found in ch. [NR 299](#), Wis. Adm. Code. Denial of water quality certification advises the Corps that projects are inconsistent with state water quality standards for wetlands (ch. [NR 103](#), Wis. Adm. Code). (Refer to "State of Wisconsin Water Regulations" section above.)

Many, but not all, silvicultural practices are exempt from these Federal regulations.

Before you begin your project, work with the Forest Hydrologist to contact the appropriate Department water regulation and zoning specialist and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers district office for more detailed information. Department water regulations specialists can be contacted through the Waterway and Wetland information line at (608)-267-3125 or by e-mail at DNRWMSPublicInquiry@wisconsin.gov.

WILDERNESS, SCIENTIFIC, AND NATURAL AREAS

Areas designated as wilderness, scientific, or natural areas should be identified in the County Forest comprehensive land use plan. Since designation definitions may vary from County to County, site specific objectives and management goals should be identified in the plan.

Each area holding these designations will be evaluated individually. Evaluation criteria may include educational, scientific, recreational, or biological diversity values. Some areas holding these designations may have certain entry or management restrictions. Consult with Department staff when conducting management within these areas. Contacting local Wildlife Biologists or staff with the Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation is recommended prior to the implementation of any management activities.

CHIPPEWA TREATY RIGHTS

American Indian treaty rights, and specifically Lake Superior Bands of Chippewa Indians (who more commonly refer to themselves as Ojibwe), were granted reserved rights to hunt, fish and gather on all ceded lands in eastern Minnesota and northwest Wisconsin as part of treaties in 1837 and 1842. Federal courts have determined that these bands retain those rights to this day.

In a Feb. 21, 1991 decision, U.S. District Court Judge Barbara Crabb determined that the Chippewa's rights do *not* include the right to harvest the commercial timber resource. When the Chippewa entered into the treaties, they ceded to the United States government their rights to the timber forever. It was determined that commercial timber harvesting within the ceded territory was not among the Chippewa's usual and customary activities at the time the treaties were signed. Besides hunting and fishing rights, the Chippewa *did* retain the right to gather miscellaneous forest products in the ceded territory including firewood, boughs, tree bark, lodge poles, marsh hay, and maple syrup. This type of gathering was determined to be usual and customary activities of the Chippewa at the time the treaties were signed.

The counties retain the right to regulate any forest product gathering conducted on county-owned lands under the 1837 and 1842 treaties in order to protect the natural resources of public ownership. County forests in ceded territories generally have special permit forms for gathering miscellaneous forest products. Depending on specific county policies, permit forms must be obtained from individual county forests prior to any gathering activities. Counties shall respond to the gathering permit request no later than 14 days after the receipt of the request.

Permit information often includes the following:

1. Property name and address
2. Applicant name, address and telephone number
3. Tribal identification card number
4. Type of forest product to be gathered
5. Amount or volume of forest product to be gathered
6. Location description and map
7. Conservation, public health, and safety items
8. Permit time frame
9. Signatures of permittee and property representative

Counties may not deny a request to gather miscellaneous forest products on their property unless the gathering is inconsistent with the comprehensive land use plan for the property, the gathering will conflict with the pre-existing rights of a permittee or other person possessing an approval to conduct an activity on the property (including a contractor of the county), or is inconsistent with conservation, public health, or safety.

No permit is necessary for fruits, seeds, wild rice, or berries unless specified by county ordinance.

Gathering of forest products listed on the Department's threatened and endangered species list (including fruits, seeds, berries, or plants) is not permitted.

Products gathered are for subsistence purposes and may not be sold commercially.

Additional details about gathering rights on public lands can be found in [Wis. Admin Code NR 13, Subchapter IV](#).

ROADS

A county forest road system is important for forest management and outdoor recreation on the county forest. Each County Forest will set its own policy on density and maintenance of roads. Roads and trails are essential for management, protection and recreation of the forest. Road density has been identified as an important issue in management considerations for some wildlife species, recreational activities, invasive species control and others. County Forests are encouraged to develop an access management plan that addresses these considerations.

The Department of Transportation has established the County Forest Road Aid program, realizing that a network of forest roads is necessary for forest management and outdoor recreation. As part of the County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan (Chapter 700), the current and future county forest roads are documented and used as a guide for entry into the County Forest Road Aid program. These roads must meet minimum road standards, as defined by s. [86.315\(4\)\(a\)](#) and [86.315\(3\)](#) Wis. Stats. Annual payments are made to county forest programs to compensate for maintenance of these roadways. The county forest and public lands specialist has responsibilities of the Annual Forest Road Certification process within the Department. County forest road maps are reviewed for consistency with the individual County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

Note: Construction of any road encompassing over one acre of area for a use other than exclusive silviculture purposes may require stormwater permitting under ch. [NR 216](#), Wis. Adm. Code or other water regulation permitting under ch. [NR 30](#), Wis. Adm. Code. Refer to Wetland Regulations chapter of this handbook (260-5 to 260-7) and contact the Division of Forestry forest hydrologist for further information. DNR Transportation Liaisons handle the waterway and wetland permitting of County Forest Roads. There are general permits available (GP2 & GP21) that will cover most road and culvert improvement projects

TREE PLANTING STOCK SOURCES

The Department operates three nurseries in Wisconsin – Hayward State Nursery in Hayward, Griffith State Nursery in Wisconsin Rapids, and F.G. Wilson State Nursery in Boscobel. Seedling stock production is currently limited to the Wilson State Nursery under provisions of ss. [28.06](#) and [28.11\(3\)\(f\)](#), Wis. Stats., and s. [NR 1.20](#), Wis. Adm. Code. These nurseries can provide the county forests the following assistance with regeneration efforts occurring on county forest lands:

1. Supply of bare root conifer and hardwood seedlings for hand or machine planting
2. Supply of bare root wildlife shrub seedlings
3. Tested and treated seed from native tree species for direct seeding operations
4. Production of specialized seedlings from selected seed sources or pre-arranged nursery culture
5. Reforestation advice and other special needs
6. Development nursery stock

The Department is capable of producing up to 10 million tree and shrub seedlings annually at the Wilson State Nursery in Boscobel. The Hayward and Griffith State Nurseries are not currently in production, but still maintain the capacity and infrastructure to produce seedlings and could begin to produce seedlings again if conditions warrant.

Seedling orders are placed starting the first Monday in October using the Tree and Shrub Application (Form [2420-31](#)) or its online equivalent. Orders are processed by staff at the Griffith State Nursery on a first come, first serve basis. Seedling delivery occurs in the spring following ordering. Counties should work with Reforestation Program staff and/or their Department Liaison Forester to plan and arrange transportation of seedlings.

Several benefits are extended to the counties as a result of the cooperative relationship between the county forests and the Department. All county forests qualify for a 50% discount from the established price for State-produced seedlings and development stock for use on lands enrolled in County Forest Law. (Note: The discounted costs not paid by the counties are paid through the Department's forestry account.) Seedling stock prices are approved annually by the Department leadership and vary based on the cost of production.

Tree seed for direct seeding efforts may also be purchased from the Reforestation Program. Seed for selected species must be ordered in advance. Seed is tested for items such as germination viability and seeds per pound, with all information available to the purchaser. The Reforestation Program determines the prices and availability of seed annually.

The Reforestation Program may produce special nursery stock for county forest regeneration efforts or may obtain it from other appropriate public nurseries. Production of seedlings from specific seed sources, with special age or size requests or other cultural requests should be coordinated through Department liaison foresters and the Reforestation Program Team Leader. Other reforestation advice is available by consultation with Reforestation Program staff or other Department specialists.

EQUIPMENT RENTALS

Procedure, types of equipment, and rates for the rental of forestry site preparation equipment from the Department is detailed in the Public Lands Tool Kit. Requests shall be submitted through the Department Liaison Forester, and the Department Liaison Forester will coordinate rental and delivery. Rates, availability and inventory may change, consulting the Public Lands Tool Kit is recommended in advance of any planned project. Upon completion of a project, Department Liaison Forester will work with local AFSS to generate any necessary bill to the County.

PEST MANAGEMENT

Forest Pests And Pathogens

Damage to forest resources caused by insects, other pests, and diseases can adversely affect management of the forest. Prevention, detection, and control of insects and diseases is an ongoing process conducted throughout the year by county and Department personnel. Significant and/or unusual outbreaks should be reported to a Department forest health specialist. The forest health specialist, in conjunction with county and other Department staff, may conduct appraisals of pest population, hazard areas, damage, and forest reconnaissance to determine if active control measures are necessary.

Losses to resource values impacted by forest pests can be minimized through Integrated Pest Management (IPM) methods. Emphasis will be placed on silvicultural prescriptions (e.g. timber sales), but control methods may also include biological and/or chemical control. After all control options are considered, the least intensive invasive control method that meets the objectives should have priority. Evaluations before and after control methods will be conducted by county and/or Department staff to measure effectiveness of control operations.

More information on forest pests, detection, and control methods can be found in Chapter 600 of the County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

Invasive Plant Species

[Chapter 23.22 Wis. Stats.](#) defines invasive species as “nonindigenous species whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.” Invasive plants can cause significant negative impacts to the forest by displacing native plants and hindering forest regeneration efforts. Preventing invasive species from dominating habitats is critical to the long-term health of the forest. [Best Management Practices](#) have been developed to help forest managers with efforts to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species during management activities.

There are a number of invasive plant species in varying densities on county forests. These species should be documented with treatment plans identified. Some invasive plants warrant immediate and continual treatment efforts while others may be allowed to remain due to extent and financial ability to control them. Chapter 600 of the County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan contains more details regarding invasive species present on the forest and control options for those plants.

County Land and Water Conservation staff, UW-Extension agents, and [Wisconsin Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas \(CISMAs\)](#) may provide local partnership opportunities and technical assistance with invasive plant treatment plans and control measures.

Grant opportunities for invasive species control funding can be found on the [Wisconsin Invasive Species Council](#) webpage. The number of grants for local governments and county forests is limited, especially for terrestrial invasive plant control. However, other Department grants, such as the Turkey Stamp Program, might support invasive plant control as part of larger efforts to promote certain outcomes. More information on Department grants can be found on the [DNR Financial Assistance](#) webpage and coordinated through the Department county liaison forester.

SPECIAL USES

Military Maneuvers

Some county forests are entering into agreements, leases, etc., which allow the military to conduct exercises or maneuvers on county forests. If approached by the military for this purpose, check your county forest comprehensive land use plan and with Corporation Counsel for present policy. The Department Liaison Forester should check with the County Forest & Public Lands Specialist and the Bureau of Legal Services.

If no policy has been set, a preliminary meeting should be held with the county, military, and Department representatives to determine the needs. After the needs have been determined, the Forestry and Parks Committee should be advised, the site field checked, Department approval sought, township officials involved, and a public informational hearing held. This information should be gathered before a legal agreement is drafted. All involved parties and the public should have input into the agreement before presentation to the county board.

One of the key items in the agreement is having a military chain of command to contact when problems arise with the agreement. Personnel changes are continual in the military so positions with phone numbers should be indicated. Only one position should be indicated as the contact. Any maneuvers held should abide by this agreement.

Rifle Ranges

Rifle ranges are a permitted use of county forest lands. A county should have a land use agreement with any organization managing the range. This agreement must allow for a reasonable time period for use of the facility by the general public.

Land Use Agreements/Easements

Activities, events, or uses that are not consistent with s. [28.11\(1\)](#), Wis. Stats., should be covered by a land use agreement between the County and the applicant. The use agreement should be for a specific period of time and may be renewable.

Counties should only use land use agreements. Easements are not encouraged since by judicial case history they are viewed as being permanent and transferable to all future owners or parties. However; in the event that an easement is the only option for a particular issue impacting the County Forest (e.g. public utility lines, pipelines) the following should be considered:

There are specific exceptions to the prohibition on leases and easements as follows:

1. Leases for exploration, prospecting and extraction of ore, minerals, gas or oil.
2. Easements for forest protection, including fire lookout towers, telephone lines, fire lanes or forest protection structures.
3. Easements for the construction of high-voltage transmission lines for which a certificate of public convenience and necessity has been received by an electric utility.

Based on an Attorney General Opinion (OAG 08-10), other easements could be allowed where all of the following are met:

1. The easement does not conflict with s. [28.11](#) Wis. Stats.
2. The easement helps to achieve the purposes of s. [28.11\(11\)](#) Wis. Stats.
3. The easement is approved under the County Forest comprehensive management plan under s. [28.11\(5\)](#) Wis. Stats.

It is not enough that easements merely do not conflict with the County Forest Law purposes. They must also be consistent with (e.g. help to achieve) the purposes of s. [28.11\(1\)](#) Wis. Stats., and must be included in an approved County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan. For example, any easements or leases for a private purpose would not be consistent with the “maximum public benefit” language in s. [28.11\(1\)](#) Wis. Stats. This is consistent with the

Department's past interpretations rejecting a host of different types of leases and easements (cabin leases, road/access leases, private gun club leases, etc.) that directly conflict with the purpose of the County Forest Law, and notes those types of activities are inconsistent and must therefore be specifically exempted in current law.

Cabin Leases / Permits

Privately owned cabins erected and maintained on county forests are inconsistent with the public use requirement required under s. [28.11\(1\)](#), Wis. Stats. and are not permitted.

Mineral Exploration, Prospecting, Mining

The County Board has the power as described in s. [28.11\(3\)\(i\)](#), Wis. Stats., to enter into leases or agreements to explore and prospect for ore, minerals, gas or oil upon any County Forest lands. The policy of the individual County for mineral exploration, prospecting and mining is contained in Chapter 500 of the County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

The Department is required by s. [28.11\(3\)\(i\)](#) Wis. Stats., to review and approve prospecting agreements between counties and private companies. To aid in this review, a model exploration-prospecting agreement has been developed which contains basic provisions and language necessary to carry out the Department's responsibilities. Contact the County Forest & Public Lands Specialist for details.

The Department's chief concern is that the agreements provide for environmental protection and restoration during the exploration-prospecting agreement period. A site by site evaluation will be conducted to assess and determine if special protective measures need to be taken.

The County Board has the power as described in s. [28.11\(3\)\(i\)](#), Wis. Stats., to enter into leases for the extraction of deposits of ore, minerals, gas or oil upon any County Forest land. The extraction may occur on County Forest land if it can be accomplished without permanently affecting the surface of the land. Approval of this lease by the Department is required. If extraction cannot be accomplished without permanently affecting the land surface, the extraction may not begin until the land is withdrawn as County Forest land.

An environmental assessment/impact statement may be required at the time of processing a request for withdrawal of County Forest lands to accommodate actual mining. This assessment/impact is covered in M.C. [2712.1](#), *Mineral Exploration-Prospecting: County Forest*.

Sand And Gravel

Gravel and sandpits located on County Forests may be used only by units of government or contractors performing public works. Use of existing pits and the opening of new pits by other than the County Forestry Department will require committee approval and be authorized by permit only. The conditions of such permits may include, but not be limited to, requiring the pit and its access road to be screened from view from any public highway, severing trees from the stump, disposition of brush, disposing of dirt spoil by leveling or hauling away, sloping to prevent steep banks and filing with the forestry office an annual written report of gravel and sand removed. Other conditions may be set at the discretion of the committee or County Forest Administrator.

The Nonmetallic Mining Reclamation Program, ch. [NR 135](#), Wis. Adm. Code, effective starting in 1999, impacts all active, nonmetallic sites **greater** than one acre in size. Highway or building construction projects are also exempted, however, this only applies for road building conducted by WisDOT for state projects when conducted in accordance with WisDOT standards and specifications. (This is NOT applicable to county or local road projects). [NR 135](#) does cover those mining operations conducted on county forests but provides special provisions for these. Uniform standards and guidelines for a locally administered permit program are included in [NR 135](#). County forestry departments should work with their local permit coordinators (often county or local zoning office) in obtaining the necessary permits for nonmetallic mining operations.

Telecommunication Towers

Siting of telecommunications towers on county forest land is inconsistent with the purposes set forth in s. [28.11](#), Wis. Stats. Any proposals to locate such structures on county forest land will first require the filing of an application to withdraw as outlined in 250-50 of this handbook, ch. [NR 48](#), Wis. Adm. Code and s. [28.11.\(11\)](#), Wis. Stats. Any proposals for tower siting should involve early notification of the Department liaison as well as the county forest and public lands specialist. See also M.C. [2222.1](#).

STATE OWNED LANDS MANAGEMENT

In the interest of uniformity in timber sale procedures and of full utilization of specialized professional training, DNR Foresters are assigned responsibility for establishing forest management practices, including timber sales, on all Department-owned lands. Close cooperation and integration must exist between staff from the Forestry Division, the Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Division, and the **Bureau of Public Safety and Resource Protection** to maximize the success of a timber sale program. Specific property assignments will be made by the first line forestry supervisor or designee.

Management Assistance To Other State And Local Agencies

Occasionally, requests for management assistance are received from other State and local government agencies. Examples typically include the sale of timber associated with Department of Transportation (DOT) or local highway or other public works construction or maintenance projects; or the sale of timber from forest management projects on lands that are not part of the County Forest program. Such requests shall be handled in a similar fashion to inquiries from a private landowner. A DNR Forester can evaluate the timber land or timber resource involved and provide basic recommendations (e.g. advice on sale methods, competitive bidding process, provide example contracts, etc). However, a DNR Forester **shall not act as an agent** for another government entity unless a specific, formal agreement is in place, and approved by **the District Forestry Leader and the Forestry Field Operations Bureau Director, or in some cases the Department Secretary**. Rather, other agencies should be encouraged to retain the services of a Cooperating Consulting Forester who can act as their agent in establishing and administering the contractual and financial obligations related to the sale of timber.

Forest Management Planning

Property Master Planning is a process that is used to determine how a property will be managed and developed. The development of Master Plans is governed by [ch. NR 44](#) Wis. Adm. Code. This rule defines Master Planning, sets forth its purposes, specifies the general planning process, and the content of a Master Plan. This rule also establishes a uniform land management classification system to be applied in the Master Plan.

All state owned lands that do not have an NR 44 compliant Master Plan must develop an **Interim Forest Management Plan (IFMP)** prior to advertising and selling timber sales. This includes properties with older Master Plans (defined as pre-NR 44 – 1996) and those that have no Master Plan. **It is the responsibility of the Property Manager and associated program to facilitate the development, review and approval of an IFMP.**

An IFMP should not be developed for a property that is actively engaged in a property planning process. Forest management planning must be integrated into the broader property planning effort. If a property is scheduled to begin a property planning process soon (within about a year) evaluate whether to complete an IFMP or wait for the planning process. If an IFMP is developed for a property that is about to begin a planning process, any prescribed management actions should not foreclose future management options for consideration in the upcoming property planning process.

Early in a Master Planning process, opportunities for conserving biological diversity at a given property or group of properties are typically determined by completing either a “Biotic Inventory” or an “Ecological Assessment,” depending on the assigned planning tier. This analysis may result in the identification of deferral and or consultation sites, as described in [Manual Code 1750.15](#). Implementation of management activities on deferral or consultation sites in the time period between identification of such sites and final approval of a property Master Plan should only proceed pursuant to [Manual Code 1750.15](#).

DNR Foresters provide the following key services to management planning, including assisting planning teams in developing NR44 Master Plans and Interim Forest Management Plans (IFMP).

1. Forest Reconnaissance

Foresters are responsible for updating and maintaining forested habitat reconnaissance. The Habitat Manager is responsible for non-forested habitat reconnaissance. Foresters and Habitat Managers should provide and

interpret recon to the property manager. Key elements include cover types, age class, size class, and successional stage.

2. Landscape Considerations

Foresters and Habitat Managers can provide additional knowledge about the “area”, the ecological landscape considerations, and how the property fits in with the broader landscape, particularly in a forest context (including linkages with the Wildlife Action Plan, Conservation Opportunity Areas) to support information developed by Natural Heritage Conservation District Ecologists.

3. Management Objectives And Options

Foresters and Habitat Managers should provide property managers with the range of feasible options for managing the variety of cover types on each property. Foresters and Habitat Managers are well versed in developing management objectives reflecting property goals and future desired conditions. Foresters and Habitat Managers should offer expertise to craft or assist in writing management objectives for properties and cover types as well as the range of management prescriptions possible to meet the identified objectives. Treatments should be scheduled in WisFIRS based on stand conditions, property goals as described in the management plan, and based on discussions at APIMs.

4. Plan Implementation - Annual Allowable Harvest Goals

Foresters schedule treatments and facilitate or directly implement, scheduled forest management practices (e.g. timber sales). Identifying and scheduling treatments to meet future desired conditions provides predictability to managers and the public to generate a grounded annual allowable harvest goal.

5. Annual Property Master Plan Monitoring Reports

The goal of this annual monitoring is to share significant completed treatments designed to implement the Master Plan objectives with our staff, partners, and the public on each department owned property. Monitoring reports will fall into one of two categories:

a. Basic Monitoring Report

These are system generated reports showing the significant completed treatments of habitat projects from data entered within the WisFIRS database. This report will show all completed treatments for a 3-year period.

b. Expanded Monitoring Report

These will be generated by the Property Manager for large and/or complex properties of significant public interest. The report will contain all completed projects found in the basic reports plus all additional habitat, recreation, or development projects not available in WisFIRS along with supporting details and explanations. Examples could include work completed by volunteers and partners or those that have the potential to be controversial and require detailed explanations. All Northern State Forests will complete the expanded monitoring report.

See section 2.7 of the Property Managers Guidance , for additional information on Master Plans. See the IFMP guidance on the DNR intranet site for more information on IFMP development.

Annual Property Implementation Plans

1. Purpose

In 2018, Annual Property Implementation Plan (APIPs) were developed as a new method for Property Managers and resource staff from across the Department to discuss and complete integrated project planning

for Department-owned lands using a systems-based approach. This process was designed as a tool to help assist in identifying the annual work needs, reach agreement upon who is responsible for individual tasks, and serve as a method to hold each administrative program accountable for meeting their property's management goals. The overall goal of the planning process is to promote and encourage upfront discussions between Property Managers, Foresters and Habitat Managers to ensure that land management activities are being accomplished effectively and consistently within the guidance of the Master Plan or IFMP. APIPs are developed and published for review in March to allow for feedback from other staff, partners, and the public.

2. Basic APIP

These are system-generated lists of all major habitat, recreation, and development projects planned for each department property that has qualifying project listed in WisFIRS and DPS. Table 1 lists management projects that which will be listed and those that are considered routine and not listed.

3. Expanded APIP

Large or complex properties of significant public interest have the option to develop expanded APIPs which contain all of the information contained within the basic APIP plus additional habitat, recreational, or development projects not available within WisFIRS and DPS or require additional details and explanations. A template for an expanded APIP can be found within the [Public Lands Toolkit](#).

The following are examples of significant projects that must be included in APIPs and discussed at APIMs and those that are deemed routine do not need to be included in this process. This should not be considered an all-inclusive list but guidance to determine whether a project is significant or routine.

a. Significant/Noticeable Management Activities

- Prescribed burning
- New farming agreements
- New construction: Recreational/Infrastructure development
- Renovation/restoration/expansion: Recreational/Infrastructure development
- Habitat type conversions (e.g. afforestation, row crop to prairie)
- Pesticide use: Individual approvals per M.C. [4230.1](#)
- Timber management activities (harvests, establishment, site preparation, etc.)
- Large-scale hazard tree removal in developed areas
- New food plots or wildlife openings
- New fish stocking projects
- Brushing/forestry mowing to restore natural habitat/communities
- Mineral & non-mineral extraction
- Other Habitat restoration projects
- Hydrologic manipulations

b. Routine Activities

- Designated use and infrastructure maintenance (mowing trails/parking lot areas)
- Continuing farming agreements (row crops, grazing, etc.)
- Boundary posting, placing and/or replacing property signage
- Property attendance numbers, budgets
- Routine law enforcement activities
- Pesticide use: general approvals per M.C. [4230.1](#)
- Routine small-scale hazard tree removal
- Maintaining existing food plots, fields, or wildlife openings
- Continuing (routine) fish stocking

4. Public Notification

Both basic and expanded APIPs are reviewed internally by staff prior to being shared externally with our partners and the general public. APIPs can be viewed at: <https://dnr.wi.gov/> keyword APIP. They are searchable by county, property name, property type, and other key fields.

Annual Property Implementation Meetings

Annual Property Management Meetings (APIMs) provide a structured venue for Department resource professionals from the Divisions of Fish, Wildlife & Parks and Forestry, as well as other Department programs (e.g., water quality, law enforcement, & real estate) to discuss property management in a holistic, integrated fashion. The meetings accomplish multiple objectives including:

- Discussion of significant management projects planned for the upcoming growing and construction seasons
- Identification of future management projects (1-3 years out) that will require cross-program coordination
- Assessing progress toward completion of Master Plan goals & objectives

It is understood that APIMs are not necessary or appropriate for every Department property. A list containing all Department properties that are required to hold an APIM and the administrative program that is responsible can be found within the APIP/APIM Implementation Guidance document found on the [Public Lands Toolkit](#). APIMs will follow the timeline in Table 1 and be completed by Jan. 31st of each calendar year.

APIMs are used to discuss property specific APIPs and other significant projects scheduled to occur on the property within the next growing/construction season and to begin discussions on additional projects planned in the next 2-3 years. APIMs are especially important where Property Managers and Habitat Managers are new and if adequate field integration is not occurring between programmatic functions.

1. Conflict Resolution

In rare instances when a property manager, habitat manager, forester, or other program staff are unable to reach an agreement on a treatment, development, or recreation project the following procedure will be followed:

- a. Review and share the stand, compartment, or property's management goals, objectives, and prescriptions listed within its Master Plan, property plan, or IFMP for clarity.
- b. Field staff should schedule meeting or field visit to discuss and review the project and include the appropriate first-line supervisors from all involved programs and any additional resource management experts as necessary.
- c. If agreement still cannot be reached, refer project to the next level of supervision within the chain of command until an agreeable solution is reached.

Table 1. Annual Property Planning Process Timeline

Jul 1 - Jan 31	Field recon updated, treatments reviewed and scheduled in WisFIRS (focus is on next 1-3 calendar years) for all major habitat projects. Inter-program proposals discussed between Property Managers, Habitat Managers, Foresters, etc. (e.g. field integration).
By Dec 15	Annual property planning guidance released to property management programs and staff.
By Jan 31	Annual Property Implementation Meetings (APIMs) or functional equivalent held for all properties listed in Appendix 1 of Implementation Guidance document

Feb 1 - Feb 15	Treatments finalized and entered into WisFIRS; basic Annual Property Implementation Plans (APIPs) generated and expanded APIPs developed by Feb 15th
Feb 15 - Feb 28	APIPs shared with Property Managers & Habitat Managers (share with interested internals as a final integration check).
By Mar 7	Appropriate staff (Property Managers, Habitat Managers, Foresters) make any necessary changes to planned treatments based on comments received from internal review of APIPs.
Mar 10 - Mar 24	APIPs (both basic and expanded) posted for initial public review and comment on web.
Mar 24 - Mar 30	Public comments addressed by programs/Property Managers; WisFIRS, DPS and APIPs updated as needed.
Mar 31	Deadline to run and accept final harvest schedule.
Apr 1	Post final APIPs (both basic and expanded) on external website(s).

The Role of Foresters In The APIP And APIM Processes

Foresters play an important role in the APIP and APIM process by identifying any proposed forest management activities for each property. They are expected to provide updates to the Property Manager with the status of the following forest management activities:

- Forested cover type reconnaissance.*
- Sold and unsold timber sales.
- Sales established and potential sales to establish in the next 2-3 calendar years.
- Property boundary location identification needs for potential timber sales and other forest management activities.
- Properties that may need an Interim Forest Management Plan (IFMP).
- Invasive species management needs (problems, proposed projects, partners, funding sources).
- Other cultural forest management practices that may be needed (e.g. site prep, seeding, planting, release, TSI, etc.).
- Status and needs for any permits/authorizations required for planned forest management activities.

* Following the APIM, the planned treatments (both timber sale and cultural practices) entered in WisFIRS should be updated to reflect the decisions made during the APIM.

See implementation guidance within the [Public Lands Toolkit](#) for additional information on APIP/APIM processes and the expectations of all involved staff.

Timber Sale Establishment

Foresters are assigned responsibility for conducting timber sales on all Department lands. Timber sale establishment should proceed in agreement with the property Master Plan or IFMP and after general agreement at the Annual Property Management Meeting.

Timber Sale Establishment and Approval Procedures

Timber sale establishment and approval procedures, including specific responsibilities of foresters and property managers, can be found in Chapter 33 of the [Timber Sale Handbook](#).

Forest Products Permits

The administration and issuance of forest products permits for firewood and other forest products is the responsibility of the property manager. Foresters may assist with remittances and annual forest products permit reporting, as outlined in Chapter 57 of the [Timber Sale Handbook](#).

FOREST REGENERATION PROJECTS ON STATE OWNED (DNR) LANDS

DNR Foresters are encouraged to collaborate with local DNR property managers and establish forest regeneration projects and on-the-ground management in concert with Master Plan or Interim Forest Management Plan (IFMP) direction. Foresters shall participate in Annual Property Implementation Plans (APIPs) to facilitate this and to discuss and present scheduled practices for the upcoming year. Additional information on regeneration projects can be found on the [Forest Regeneration](#) site located on the [Forestry Intranet](#).

Regeneration Projects Associated with a Timber Sale

The source of funds to complete regeneration projects in accordance with NR [1.27](#), Wis. Admin. Code, shall be from an allocation of a portion of timber sale proceeds from Department properties from the account in which timber sale revenue is deposited (e.g. Forestry Account, Fish and Wildlife Account, Parks Account). Regeneration projects must meet all eligibility requirements specified in this handbook under the section entitled: *Contracting with Cooperating Foresters and Private Forestry Contractors for Regeneration Services*. **Regeneration project costs tied to a timber harvest can only be used for contract work and not to fund DNR supply and service costs (e.g. chargebacks or LTE costs).**

The Department shall make periodic requests to the DOA for allocations of funding to the appropriation, [s. 20.370 \(2\)\(cy\)](#), Wis. Stats. The size of the requested allocation shall be based on outstanding purchase requisitions and expenditures for the contracted regeneration assistance. Payments for services will not come directly from the individual timber sale that is associated with the regeneration project. The source of funds to complete regeneration projects, **associated with a timber sale**, shall be selected based on the property type and the appropriate budget code can be found in the section below titled: *Contracting with Cooperating Foresters and Private Forestry Contractors for Regeneration Services*. More information can be found on the [Forest Regeneration Intranet site](#).

For **all** regeneration projects a Forest Regeneration Project Application, a georeferenced pdf project map, and a Forest Regeneration Project Closeout Report are required.

Applications and a georeferenced pdf project map should be submitted as soon as possible after the project is identified and should be saved and sent via e-mail to DNRForestryRegenFund@Wisconsin.gov with the subject "Regeneration Funding Request".

Forest Regeneration Project Application Review

All projects will be reviewed by the forest regeneration fund administrator, as designated by the Forestry Field Operations Bureau Director, in consultation with technical experts.

Preparing a Forest Regeneration Project Application

The Forest Regeneration Project Application can be found on the Forest Regeneration Intranet site. The application is considered complete when the following is provided:

1. **Project Title**

Provide an accurate title of the work to be performed and property type for the application.

2. **Applicant Information**

Include both an assigned forester listed as the Applicant Name and the assigned Property Manager.

3. **Project Location and Information**

List the Property Name, Type (PR, WM, FM etc.), County, Forestry/WisFIRS Property Code, Total Project Acres, Compartment and Stand numbers, and identify if the treatment is consistent with the Property Master Plan or IFMP (if one is completed), and if the treatment is listed in WisFIRS.

4. Project Type

Select at least one activity and provide a Timber Sale Tract # if this is part of a planned or completed timber sale. List estimated acres for each activity and estimated number of seedlings or amount of seed to be planted.

5. Project Description

Be as descriptive as possible to thoroughly describe the work that will be undertaken and the goals and objectives the work will accomplish. Identify the different practices that will be employed and the timing windows. Identify how the work will be completed. Consistency with the funding mechanism is paramount; projects associated with a timber sale must be done by contractor(s) only. Department operations cannot be funded with regeneration funds.

Example project description: *“this stand will be mechanically mowed through a private contractor during fall of 2013 and any sprouting treated with herbicides (foliar spray) through a private contractor in summer 2014. Following a timber harvest in the stand during fall and winter 2014/2015, contractors will plant 800 oak seedlings per acre in spring 2015.”*

6. Detailed Budget

Provide a detailed budget by fiscal year and by activity for the entire project. Identify if any additional funding sources being utilized in association with this request. The estimate provided should be as reflective of anticipated costs as possible. Contact other foresters in your area who have completed similar projects, or consult with contractors for estimated costs.

7. Project Approvals

Identify Property Manager and forward request through them for submission.

8. Project Map

Provide a georeferenced .pdf file of the project map that can be used to assist in bidding out and tracking the project. Submit project map file with application.

Submitting A Forest Regeneration Project Closeout Form

The [Forest Regeneration Project Closeout Form](#) can be found under the Completing Your Forest Regeneration Project subheading on the [Forest Regeneration](#) Intranet site.

Closeout forms should be submitted as soon as possible after the work is completed or no later than September 1st for all work done during the previous fiscal year under the approved Forest Regeneration Project Application. Even if the project is not completed, report on the work done during that fiscal year. This is also a good time to amend your projects if there are expected changes to the work to be done or the timing.

1. Project Information

The Project title, Applicant Name, and Property Code can be collected from the Project Application. The fiscal year the project was funded is the year(s) it was approved for. Total Acres, Seedlings, Contractor, Start Date, and Completion Date are specific to the fiscal year in which the work was completed. *If multiple contractors are used during the fiscal year, please submit separate closeout forms for each contractor.*

2. Timber Sale Information

Identify if the project was associated with a timber sale and if the completed treatment was entered in WisFIRS.

3. Project Information

Identify the practice(s) completed and the acres affected.

4. Budget

Identify the actual costs for the practice(s) completed by the fiscal year. The information entered will provide average project costs that can be used by others to estimate future planned projects.

5. Project Completion Narrative

Describe how the project was completed in relation to how it was planned, identify contractor success, issues or concerns, timing, any work completed or not completed as planned, costs per unit and acres accomplished. This information will help other foresters develop proposals or contract language, identify contractors for bidding, or estimate costs.

Regeneration Tasks Eligible for Contracting With Cooperating Foresters And Private Forestry Contractors

The Property Manager and DNR Forester must jointly agree on which regeneration tasks need contracting for individual timber sales. DNR Foresters are responsible for monitoring cooperating forester or private contractor performance.

1. Tasks eligible for contracting

- Site preparation
- Invasive species control (only if necessary for regeneration success)
- Tree planting
- Release, including TSI for recruitment of desirable species
- Stand Inventory (regen checks)

2. Tasks ineligible for contracting

- Invasive species control **not** required for regeneration success
- Selecting areas to regenerate
- Bidding and awarding of contracts
- Preparation of regeneration reports
- Monitoring of cooperating forester and private contractor performance
- Road/access improvements to the area or property
- Boundary line establishment

Process for Contracting with a Cooperating Forester or Private Contractor

All projects must follow Department purchasing guidelines and procedures found on the Bureau of Finance Intranet site under *How to Purchase Goods and Services*. Staff should utilize competitive pricing no matter the value of the services. All services provided require the use of a Department contract.

The Department shall select areas to regenerate, determine regenerations systems to be applied, and define any additional procedures or precautions necessary to achieve objectives in approved master plans or other Department guidance. The Department shall monitor the performance of cooperating foresters and private contractors to ensure quality of service and conformance to Department standards.

Cooperating foresters and private contractors shall be compensated as established by bids for individual projects. Wherever possible, this should be a rate per project. In some instances, it may be acceptable to pay a rate per acre. Projects should not be paid at an hourly rate. When a need for regeneration project assistance is identified, the forester shall issue a project specific request for bids to cooperating foresters and private contractors that are experienced in the desired type of work, as required by s. [NR 1.27](#), Wis. Adm. Code. Eligible cooperating foresters can be found from the Forestry Assistance Locator or the Directory of Foresters. Additionally, contractors can be found on the Wisconsin DNR internet site by searching “*Tree Planting and Site Preparation Vendors*”. The total bid must include labor, travel, equipment and any supplies not identified as provided by the Department that a private contractor would need to do the work. Worker’s compensation, automobile, and liability insurance are required. Contract awards shall be determined on price alone unless additional evaluation criteria such as specialized training or experience are included in the request for bids.

The standard Department contract shall be used for contracting forestry services and can be found on the [Bureau of Finance intranet site](#). Sample contracts and performance expectations, along with a simplified services contract for projects less than \$50,000, can all be found on the [Forest Regeneration intranet site](#). Signature authority for contracts can be found in the Delegation Spreadsheet ([M.C. 1023](#)). A bureau director is the preferred signatory on contracts between \$50,000-\$150,000 and the Division Administrator for those contracts over \$150,000. Purchase orders and recurring purchase contracts have different requirements.

For regeneration services associated with a timber sale, the proper conservation fund account from which to draw the funds must be used (found on the [Forest Regeneration intranet site](#)). Payment for services does not come directly from the individual timber sale a contractor may be working on.

REGENERATION MONITORING

Successful regeneration of harvested sites is paramount for sustainable forestry. Most stands are successfully regenerated naturally, however monitoring ensures that future stocking goals can be achieved and identifies when additional follow-up treatments may be necessary to reach them. Identification of regeneration failures are best recognized early within a rotation as competing and/or unwanted vegetation can quickly impact a stand and make follow-up treatments more costly if not impractical to accomplish. Documentation of successes and failures also helps to guide future management activities to ensure proper management of the forest resource.

WisFIRS provides an easy, consistent approach to regeneration monitoring for both natural and artificial regeneration. This system can be used for planning as well as monitoring and reporting. Scheduling regeneration checks for an individual stand requires the user to create a planned treatment and utilize the HM-8 code. **Regeneration checks shall be scheduled and conducted for all regeneration harvests across all timber types including artificial regeneration sites.** Regeneration harvests include all variations of coppice, clear cut, seed tree, overstory removal, shelterwood, and selection harvests. Chapter 21 of the [Wisconsin Silviculture Guide](#) provides suggested time periods following harvesting to commence a regeneration check for different forest cover types. It is at the discretion of the local forester to decide the timing and intensity of monitoring for individual stands, except where minimum monitoring standards are noted for State Lands below. Local experience may dictate when more or less monitoring is necessary.

Regeneration checks **shall** be scheduled after the management activity (usually a timber sale) has occurred and the stand post-sale recon data has been collected and entered into the WisFIRS database. This is because it is often unknown at the time of sale establishment exactly when a stand will be harvested by the logger. The success of other reforestation activities such as direct seeding and plantation survival counts can also be scheduled. Note: It is recommended that the stand recon information be updated to reflect the anticipated species regeneration for the site, even if you plan to schedule future regeneration checks. This will minimize data changes needed after a site inspection is completed, if regeneration is successful.

Information and explanations on the size, density, and distribution of regeneration necessary can be found in the individual cover type chapters of the [Wisconsin Silviculture Guide](#), as well as in Table 21.2 of Chapter 21.

Once a stand has been field checked for adequate regeneration, the WisFIRS system must be updated to reflect the fact that the monitoring has been completed. This removes the scheduled monitoring treatment from the stand and places it in the Completed Treatment list for the property. In addition, any planting needs as a result of the monitoring can also be scheduled at this time.

Forest Regeneration Monitoring

The Forest Regeneration Monitoring program began in 2018 to better assess the status of natural regeneration across the state. The need for more detailed regeneration and deer browse impact data was evident and had been requested by the County Deer Advisory Councils (CDACs), the Natural Resources Board (NRB), Forestry and Wildlife staff, resource managers, and researchers. Monitoring is largely focused on the regeneration of oak-hickory, maple-birch-beech, and pine forests with a smaller effort in elm-ash-cottonwood, fir-spruce, and aspen-birch forest types. Federal, state, county, and private lands are being assessed in order to identify the effects of management differences and histories between the ownership groups.

The program utilizes a standardized regeneration monitoring methodology called Forest Regeneration Metric (FRM). FRM is a 1/300th acre (6'10" radius) plot-based assessment of seedling and sapling densities by species and height class. Additional variables such as deer browse severity by species, overstory condition, and understory plant competition are also assessed. Stand-level information on cover type, management history, county, and ownership group are also recorded. The Forest Regeneration Monitoring Program collects data using FRM to provide County-level data on regeneration by forest type.

Information gathered from FRM allows better tracking of long-term changes to our forests and helps to create forestry policies and guidelines to ensure the long-term sustainability of the forest resource. Making regeneration monitoring a standardized, data-driven process on public lands alongside the statewide FRM efforts will enable land managers to make well-informed property and stand-level decisions.

County Lands

The use of FRM is highly encouraged, but optional.

State Lands

Foresters shall conduct, at a minimum low intensity of 5 plots for the first 20 acres and 1 additional plot for every 5 acres thereafter, FRM survey on all-natural regeneration harvests in Oak-Hickory, Red-White-Jack Pine, and Maple-Birch-Beech forest types. This will translate to stands with the objective to regenerate or convert to a primary cover type of Oak, Central Hardwoods, Northern Hardwoods, Red Maple, White Pine, Red Pine, and Jack Pine following harvest. Foresters are encouraged to use their professional judgement to determine if a higher sampling intensity is needed, with the overall objective to collect enough plots to make sound stand-level management decisions. In all other forest types, regeneration monitoring will be required, however there is no required minimum number of FRM plots and foresters can continue to use their professional judgement to determine the level of monitoring necessary. More information on FRM and conducting stand-level regeneration monitoring can be found in Chapter 21 of the [Wisconsin Silviculture Guide](#).

Monitoring will need to be scheduled within a 1-10 year regeneration period depending on the forest type, as outlined in the [Wisconsin Silviculture Guide](#), Chapter 21. If results from assessment do not clearly demonstrate adequate and established regeneration, then additional follow up treatments and/or monitoring must be scheduled within WisFIRS.

The [Public Lands Toolkit](#) contains instructions on steps necessary to complete an FRM plot, utilizing Forest Metrix to conduct surveys, and instructions to export and submit collected data.

Foresters shall submit FRM data to the statewide regeneration database annually. Data should be in the form of Forest Metrix FRM Excel exports or the alternative of scanned paper datasheets. Data should be placed within the folder on the shared Forestry Central drive at: [\\central\\forestry\\FR_FORESTRY\\FRM Data Dropbox](#) or sent via email to the FRM data inbox at: DNRRFRRegenerationMonitoring@wisconsin.gov. Foresters may contact the FRM program specialist at this address with any questions on data submissions or collecting FRM. Additional resources can be found on the FRM webpage at dnr.wi.gov keyword: FRM.

DNR MANAGED LANDS TIMBER SALE INTERNAL REVIEW

Purpose

The Department's Division of Forestry recognizes the importance of conducting timber sales in an accurate, transparent, and accountable manner and consequently will periodically review the timber sale files for Department-owned lands. Deficiencies noted during the review process will be used to make improvements to the timber sale program. **Improvements** might include developing policies/guidance for staff and the recommendation of training in specific topic areas.

The timber sale internal review is both a fiscal and programmatic review to ensure compliance with the Department's policies for the sale of timber. **A Review Checklist has been developed for staff to complete while carrying out an internal review. The Checklist can be found on [Public Lands Toolkit](#).**

Reviews will be conducted **annually** for each of the seven Division of Forestry Areas and **select State Forests: Northern Highland-American Legion, Kettle Moraine-Northern Unit, Kettle Moraine-Southern Unit, Governor Knowles, Governor Earl Peshtigo River, Flambeau River, Black River, and Brule River.**

Participation

The Area Forestry Leader will select staff to lead the internal review.

Timeline

Reviews of the previous calendar year's closed sales must be completed between January 1 and December 31. For example, by December 31, 2025, a review of the calendar year 2024 closed sales must occur.

Determining Sales To Review

A representative sample of the previous calendar year's closed sale folders will be reviewed. This sample should include different sized sales, contractors, sale types, etc. Selection of sales to be reviewed should include a minimum of two* sales per year and will follow the listed guidance:

1. **State Forest** – **Recommended** 10% of closed sales, but no less than **one** per year
2. **Fish, Wildlife, & Parks Lands** - **Recommended** 10% of closed sales, but no less than one per year

***: The AFL has the discretion to increase to 20% of closed sales if so desired.**

Review Checklist

Area staff conducting the review shall use a standardized spreadsheet located on the [Public Lands Toolkit](#). All items in the spreadsheet must be reviewed and filled out. Chapter 91 of the Timber Sale Handbook outlines which documents are to be retained following the completion of the **internal review process.**

Internal Review Report

The report will consist of the completed checklist which includes detail for each sale reviewed. Additionally, Area staff who conduct the internal review will complete a one-page written summary of the findings.

Any significant findings shall be addressed by the AFL with their Team Leaders and staff. All AFLs shall present a brief review of the internal review findings at a scheduled Field Implementation Team meeting to create statewide sharing and consistency.

COUNTY FOREST INTERNAL REVIEW

Purpose

Internal reviews of county forest timber sales satisfy the Division's responsibility to ensure adherence to s. [28.11](#), Wis. Stats. The reviews also build our partnership with the counties and ensure responsible use of state funds. Timber sales on County Forest land shall be conducted in accordance with the applicable 15 Year Comprehensive Land Use Plan, the management objectives for that property, and s. [28.11](#), Wis. Stats. Timber sales often involve large sums of public money as well as the ethics of good forest management. Those who are delegated authority to establish, conduct, and approve timber sales have a legal responsibility to the public to establish the best forest practices possible for the sustainability of Wisconsin forests.

The Department of Natural Resources provides grants to counties for a portion of the salaries of County Forest Administrators, short-term sustainable forestry projects, and wildlife habitat projects. The Department also provides loans to the counties that are to be paid back out of timber sale revenue. The County's administrative efforts determine the degree of control and accountability over its timber sales program.

The internal review consists of three distinct portions:

1. Timber sale financials
 - a. Sale closeout process
 - b. Annual timber sale financial review
2. Fiscal Grants and Loans. Compliance with [28.11 Wis. Stats.](#)
 - a. Grants and loans
 - b. Severance to townships
3. Forest certification standards (for those counties that are third-party certified)

TIMBER SALE FINANCIALS

Timber Sale Closeout Process:

- o County will upload the final sale summary/ledger of volume/value per species/products sold into WisFIRS or provide document.
- o At the time of sale closeout approval in WisFIRS, DNR will review the uploaded ledger of final volumes/values to ensure it matches WisFIRS final reported volumes/values entry.
- o If any discrepancy is found, DNR and County Forest Administrator will discuss to resolve.

Annual Timber Sale Financial Review:

- o Utilize the County Forest Internal Timber Sale Review Checklist on [Public Lands Toolkit](#).
- o DNR County Forest Liaison is responsible to conduct the annual internal review in partnership with the County Forest Administrator (and other staff as needed) at the County Forest office.
- o Reviews will be conducted after January 1 and completed by the Annual Partnership Meeting where results shall be discussed.
- o The internal review shall include 10% of sales closed in the previous calendar year or 2 sales (whichever is greater).
- o Per each sale review
 - Verify classified newspaper ad for each sale.
 - Direct vs Advertised
 - If Direct, meet [28.11\(6\) Wis. Stats.](#) (\$10K or 500 Cd Equiv)
 - o Salvage sales are exempt from this requirement ([28.11\(6\)\(c\) Wis Stats](#)).
 - All other sales "shall announce the sale through publication of a classified advertisement announcing the sale in a newspaper having general circulation in the county in which the timber to be sold is located."
 - Invoice values add to final sale value.
 - Invoices and payments match.
 - 1 invoice per sale, check every mill/haul/woods scale slip for accuracy.

- If discrepancies, DNR Liaison and County Forest Administrator discuss.
 - Additional invoices may need to be reviewed.

FISCAL GRANTS AND LOANS

Once every five years, at minimum, the County Forest and Public Lands Specialist will conduct a review of the following items. This review will occur on the same 5-year schedule as the Forest Certification review by the Forest Certification Coordinator.

Items to review:

1. County Forest Administrator Grant
2. Wildlife Habitat Grant
3. County Forest Severance Payments to Towns (utilize WisFIRS Report 51A)

County Forest Administration Grant

1. Responsibility – To ensure that the grant was used for the Administrator or Assistant Administrator’s salary. The grant covers 50% of the salary and 50% of the fringe benefits (total fringe benefits not to exceed 40%).
2. If the review finds a difference in the documented values versus the grant application reported values, then the County Forest & Public Lands Specialist shall make an adjustment. This shall be noted in the review and the succeeding years Administrator Grant checked for the adjustment.
3. This grant is paid on the anticipated salary and benefits for the current year, with consideration to the difference of the previous year’s requested and reported values. The County Forest & Public Lands Specialist verifies the submission of the annual work plan and salary and benefit package as required by s. [NR 47.70](#), Wis. Admin. Code, each year prior to distributing the annual grants.

*References – s. [28.11\(5m\)](#), Wis. Stats, [NR 47.70](#), Wis. Adm. Code, Administrator Grant summary (provided by County Forest & Public Lands Specialist)

Wildlife Habitat Grant

1. Responsibility - Verify that the funds are being deposited in a segregated, non-lapsing wildlife habitat account and the balance is no more than the sum of the allocations for the three previous years. It is the local Department Wildlife Biologist’s responsibility to ensure that funding has been used for the agreed upon projects.
2. This grant provides up to a \$.05 an-acre grant for wildlife habitat projects on County Forest land. These funds are non-lapsing and can be carried for 3 years. Each year must be viewed individually for carryover. If funds are not spent, they should be returned to the state unless requesting and granted an extension by the County Forest & Public Lands Specialist.
3. Verify the funds are being spent. A separate ledger should itemize the grant and the expenditures.
4. Grant projects need to be identified in each County’s 15 Year County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan. These projects are agreed upon with the local Department Wildlife Biologist, approved by the County Forest Administrator, and revisited each year at the Annual Partnership Meetings and the Annual Work Plan .

*References – s. [23.09\(17m\)](#), Wis. Stats, and the Annual Partnership Meeting minutes.

Severance to Towns

1. Responsibility - To verify that towns received their statutory share of County gross timber sale financial records. In some cases, Counties have elected to distribute additional funds to the towns. This is permissible

but a minimum of 10% must be dispersed. County Forest Tax Acreage by Towns (Report 51A) is provided by the County Forest and Public Lands Specialist to identify what percentage of acreage is in each township.

2. Payments to the town are to be made by March 1 of each year.

*References – s. [28.11\(9\)\(d\)](#) Wis. Stats., Report 51A-County Forest Tax Acreage by Towns, and County financial records.

COUNTY FOREST CERTIFICATION

Many of the County Forests participate in forest certification through either the *Sustainable Forestry Initiative*® (*SFI*®) or *Forest Stewardship Council*® (*FSC*®). The individual county forests are members in a group certification format whereby the Department is the Group Manager and certificate holder. While each member county is periodically audited by third-party auditors, it is the Department's responsibility to establish internal control mechanisms to ensure group member compliance to the certification principles and standards. The regularly scheduled (5-year) Department reviews will be used to document progress on certification issues for participating counties.

Prior to the internal review, the Forest Certification Coordinator will send the County Forest Internal Certification Review document to be completed by the County Forest Administrator. The Forest Certification Coordinator and the County Forest Administrator will discuss the document to ensure completeness, and discuss any recent findings.

Use the County Forest Internal Certification Review document to record compliance with the certification standards. County forest policies and procedures are interwoven into the checklists, aligning certification indicators with existing County Forest policies. Where non-conformances are found, the Certificate Manager and Forest Certification Coordinator shall fully document the rationale for the non-conformity within the Executive Summary and Financial Program Review. It is expected that prior to the issuance of any internal CAR there will be communication between the County Forest Administrator, liaison, Department Forestry team leader, Department Group Certification Manager, Chair of the respective County Forest Committee, and the WCFA Executive Director. The Group Manager and Department Certification Coordinator shall be responsible for monitoring follow-through on Internal CARs issued by Department Certification Coordinator.

SUMMARY REPORT

Upon completion of the Compliance with Statute and County Forest Certification reviews, an Executive Summary Report will be created by the County Forest and Public Lands Specialist. A draft report will be presented to the County Forest Administrator and DNR Forestry Liaison within 15 business days of the review date. Comments must be submitted back to the County Forest and Public Lands Specialist within 15 business days of draft receipt. A final Executive Summary Report will be submitted to the County Chair of the Forestry Committee (or similar). Copies will be distributed to the County Forest Administrator, DNR Forestry Liaison, and DNR Forestry Public & Private Forestry Section Chief.

STATE LANDS FOREST CERTIFICATION

Background

Department-owned state lands are those administered by the Divisions of Forestry and Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP). Certified lands include all lands that are designated as state forests, wildlife areas, state parks, fisheries areas, state natural areas, and all other lands where sustainable forest management and timber production is compatible with the purpose of ownership.

State forests were assessed by third-party auditors and found to be in conformance with sustainable forestry standards of both the *Sustainable Forestry Initiative*® (SFI®) and *Forest Stewardship Council*™ (FSC®) with certificates issued in 2005. In 2009, approximately 1 million additional acres of State lands were added to the certificates. The principles and standards for the certification programs can be found at <https://us.fsc.org/en-us> (FSC) and <https://forests.org/> (SFI).

State lands where intensive non-forest use is the purpose of the state property are excluded from the certificates. Examples of lands that are excluded from the certificates include: all cooperative farming agreements, state tree nurseries, Poynette Game Farm, McKenzie Environmental Center, boat access sites, fire tower sites, radio tower sites, ranger stations, state trails cooperatively managed by others, and other lands owned, leased or eased for intensive non-forest use. Some facilities within certified units are also excised, for example, the Peninsula State Park golf course, the swimming pool at Blue Mound State Park, and non-forested areas of fish hatcheries and administrative buildings or facilities.

This chapter outlines the procedures used to administer the state lands certificates.

Authority and Purpose

Under authority in s. [23.11](#), [28.01](#), [28.07](#), [28.11](#) and [77.80](#) Wis. Stats., the Department may enter into voluntary agreements with the American Tree Farm System® (ATFS®) a program of the American Forest Foundation, FSC and SFI certification to advance the agency's mission. The first such declaration for State Forests was authorized by the Natural Resources Board April 28, 2004. Other agreements for County Forests, the Managed Forest Law program, and additional Department lands were subsequently approved by the Secretary with broad stakeholder support. Funding in the State Budget for third-party forest certification audits was explicitly allotted starting in 2004.

Commitment to Forest Certification

The Department will execute conformance to approved third-party forest certification standards, including ATFS, FSC and SFI, as a means for continuous quality improvement to accomplish our mission. Forest certification is a process by which the Department can assure stakeholders that our land management is consistent with state policies and internationally recognized principles of sustainability. The Department's participation in third-party forest certification also provides a supply of verified, responsibly produced raw materials to the State's manufacturing sector, promoting economic stability and growth. Our response to certification audits and our future actions should reflect these responsibilities. Any conflicts between laws, regulations or Department policies and certification standards shall be brought to the attention of Department Administrators and the certifiers for evaluation on a case by case basis.

Roles And Responsibilities

A process for inter-divisional coordination is established under a three-part framework:

1. Leadership within the Divisions of Forestry and FWP, through regular and periodic joint meetings, shall approve policies related to common management issues, develop and approve joint budget initiatives or reallocation plans to address mutual needs, and review accomplishment and monitoring reports associated with DNR certification conformance.
2. An Integrated Certification Implementation Team (ICIT) shall advise the divisions and assist the Certification Coordinator, per Manual Code [2406.1](#). The ICIT, composed of staff appointed by the divisions to represent the bureaus and programs with land and water management responsibilities, has four functions:
 - a. Develop strategic alternatives to address Corrective Action Requests (CAR) that come out of certification reviews;
 - b. Translate policies approved by the Divisions into operations;

- c. Conduct an annual internal audit of department planning and management of certified lands and compile internal accomplishment and monitoring reports needed to document conformance to certification indicators;
 - d. Conduct an annual certification review with senior management of the Forestry and FWP Divisions. The ICIT may be assisted by ad hoc working groups or other standing teams as needed.
3. The Forestry Division certification coordinator shall facilitate forest certification audits, lead the ICIT and work with others to leverage certification for benefits related to the Department's mission. The certification coordinator should be connected within the organizational hierarchy to stay informed of issues affecting certification and to develop and maintain effective relationships.

Internal Review & Monitoring

The ICIT will conduct periodic internal review and monitoring of the Department's policies and procedures for conformance to the respective certification standards. A report of ICIT's findings will be communicated to each Division and program. If the ICIT finds non-conformances it may issue internal corrective action requests to the responsible program. The ICIT program representative will coordinate a program response that will bring the Department back into conformance.

Senior Management Review

Annually, the ICIT will prepare a summary report of the Department's response to the previous year's external audit CARs, Observations, and Opportunities for Improvement; the response to the previous year's internal CARs and observations; and the results of the findings from the current year's internal monitoring. The ICIT will meet with senior management, typically division administrators and other members of division leadership to discuss the status of forest certification, and issues that require future consideration or action.

Chain of Custody

FSC and SFI certification provide an opportunity to differentiate responsibly harvested wood in the marketplace. Ultimately, when finished goods are produced from raw materials that originate from certified lands, these certification systems allow the use of on-product logos. FSC and SFI have specific on-product logos that can be used to identify wood sourced from certified lands.

Chain-of-Custody (COC) documentation allows for the tracking and tracing of a product through every step from the forest to finished goods. The FSC and SFI standards include specific requirements in the form of indicators or performance measures and associated chain of custody policies that the department must show conformance to that allows forest industry to claim certification credits.

On State land timber sales the certified chain-of-custody is maintained by the State up to the "forest-gate". The forest-gate is defined as the point at which the chain-of-custody of the forest product changes from the certificate holder to the contractor. For our purposes the "forest-gate" is the stump (the point at which the tree is physically severed) with the authorized harvest being the transfer of chain-of-custody. The purchaser is responsible for maintaining COC after leaving the sale area. This can be achieved by supplying suitable documentation to allow a contractor to maintain the COC until delivered at a certified mill. The contractor must also be COC certified or covered under a COC certificate from the destination mill. This documentation begins with timber sale documentation including lock box tickets and timber sale contracts, which contain the certification information required by the applicable certification standard.

To satisfy chain of custody standards, timber sale documents must contain the following:

1. Name and contact details of the organization
2. Name and address of the customer
3. Date when the document was issued
4. Description of the product
5. Quantity of the products sold
6. The organization's FSC and/or SFI Forest Management (FM/COC) code
7. A clear indication of the product claim.
 - a. Items 6 and 7 may be provided via a website address.
<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/timbersales/certification>

If separate transport documents are issued (e.g. haul tickets for mill scale sales or for COC documentation), information sufficient to link the sales documents and related transport documentation to each other must be included, such as property name and sale number.

In the case of mill scaled sales, the shipping documents (haul tickets) contain the required information to maintain chain of custody documentation to the receiving mill. Please visit <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/timbersales/certification>

In the case of field scaled sales or lump sum sales, where haul tickets are not issued to track timber volumes delivered to mills, haul tickets may be issued to provide COC documentation if a purchaser requests them. Haul tickets may be issued as shipping documentation to help a contractor maintain the COC. Tickets should be handled as they would for receiving mill scaled volumes as described under the Mill Scale Ticket System section of the [Timber Sale Handbook](#). Contractors shall be responsible for the tickets they are issued with a record of ticket numbers issued being maintained and unused tickets returned at the close-out of a sale.

Purchasers wishing to maintain COC documentation should deposit copies of tickets in a lock box before leaving the sale site only for any products which will be delivered as certified and require shipping documentation as requested by the purchaser. Subsequently, the receiving certified mill should send actual scaled volumes back to the timber sale administrator or manager to be reconciled with the tickets left in the drop box. This is identical to the process for mill scaling products, and is required to account for the tickets used and products claimed as certified being hauled from a particular timber sale.

When timber is harvested on either County or State lands that is not included within the forest certification certificate it is necessary to keep these products separate from any certified products. Both timber sale and shipping documents in these instances must not include any certification numbers, codes, product claim, or supporting websites.

COUNTY FOREST LAW CERTIFICATION

Background

The Wisconsin County Forest Program, as administered by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), includes thirty County Forests that are managed by county staff, through county board-appointed forestry committees, with technical assistance and oversight provided by DNR. Twenty-seven of the thirty County Forests participate in forest certification through a multi-site format. They were assessed by third-party auditors starting in 2004, and found to be in conformance with sustainable forestry standards of either the *Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®)* and/or *Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®)*. The principles and standards for the programs can be found at: [FSC US Forest Management Standard \(FSC\)](#) and [SFI Standards \(SFI\)](#). This chapter outlines the procedures used to administer the multi-site certificates.

Authority and Purpose

The DNR entered into the county forest certification agreement under authority in s. [28.01](#), [28.07](#), and [28.11](#), Wis. Stats.

The county forest certification group is intended to:

- Retain our vital Wisconsin forest industries and the thousands of jobs they represent by building a credible supply of certified raw materials
- Improve the DNR and County Forest's organizational management, efficiency, and consistency
- Provide a cost-effective way for individual counties to participate in forest certification
- Assure the public that the counties and DNR are fulfilling their statutory mandate in managing the County Forests sustainably
- Maintain the ecological integrity and functionality of the forest
- Sustainably provide the ecological, social and economic benefits of the forest
- Provide assurance of sustainable management to the public

History

The Department of Natural Resources and the County Forests have been in partnership promoting sustainable forest management since 1929. What originally started as a program to provide fire protection, access, and other services for tax delinquent land, has evolved into the largest public land program in the state. The current partnership framework of the County Forest program had its origins in 1963. The counties direct management of the forests through their county board-appointed forestry committees. DNR provides technical expertise, additional funding, and oversight. The structure of this partnership is detailed in s. [28.11](#), Wis. Stats., and in this handbook. This unique relationship provided the opportunity for group certification. In 2003, it became apparent that forest certification was a necessity if Wisconsin was going to address the increasing interest in certified forest products in the world-wide forest products industry. The County Forest program underwent a broad, scoping assessment in the fall of 2003 to see if the program was well positioned to progress with a full certification audit. The full certification audit followed in the fall of 2004 under the principles of the FSC and SFI.

FSC had its origins in 1992. It was created to change the dialogue about, and the practice of, sustainable forestry worldwide. The principles, criteria, and standards in this certification program span economic, social, and environmental concerns. It is an international certification system now being applied [in 93 countries on approximately 370 million acres \(FSC Facts and Figures, January 2025\)](#). In 1995 FSC-US was established as a national organization of FSC. FSC certification is widely accepted worldwide.

SFI was adopted by the American Forest and Paper Association (AF&PA) in 1994 as a means of demonstrating the association's strong commitment to the goal of sustainable forestry. SFI is now an independent certification system built on a comprehensive system of principles, objectives and performance measures developed by professional foresters, conservationists and scientists, that combines the perpetual growing and harvesting of trees with the long-term protection of wildlife, plants, soil and water quality. It is based on the premise that responsible environmental practices and sound business practice can be integrated to the benefit of landowners, customers, and the people they serve. It is the most popular certification program in North America and one of the largest worldwide.

Roles And Responsibilities

Group Organization

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is the organization that maintains all aspects of both the FSC and SFI multi-site certificates. DNR administration of the program includes the Division of Forestry, the supervisory hierarchy of the DNR districts, **DNR County Forest liaison foresters, and forestry technicians**. As such, the DNR is the custodian of both the FSC and SFI certificates and other official documents. The Department determines eligibility and membership requirements for individual counties as outlined in this handbook. The DNR is also responsible for fees associated with participation in the certification programs.

Certificate Manager

The DNR's Division of Forestry - county forest and public lands specialist is designated as the certificate manager who administers the affairs of the Wisconsin County Forest Certification Group. The certificate manager works with **the Division of Forestry – Forest Certification Coordinator**, district and field staff in that role and may delegate responsibilities through normal supervisory channels.

Forest Certification Coordinator

The DNR's Division of Forestry - Forest Certification Coordinator plays a key role in ensuring that Wisconsin's state and County forests are managed in accordance with nationally and internationally recognized standards for sustainable forestry practices. Their main duties include: forest certification oversight, monitoring and compliance, training and outreach, stakeholder engagement and facilitating the improvement of forest management practices.

The County Forest and Public Lands Specialist and the Forest Certification Coordinator work cooperatively to accomplish the following:

- Maintains the records of the group organization.
- Coordinates the selection of accredited certification firm(s) to conduct audits with the Forest Certification Coordinator.
- Coordinates group member participation on issues and activities pertaining to certification.
- Serves as a conduit for information on FSC and SFI certification to group members.
- Processes applications for membership to both the FSC and SFI groups.
- Coordinates ongoing monitoring of conformance of the group members with FSC and SFI standards.
- Represents the group organization throughout the audit process, including attending all field audits.
- Ensures that public or group member claims about the certification are accurate, truthful, and consistent with truth in advertising guidelines. (Use of FSC and SFI logos should be in accordance with FSC and SFI logo use guidelines.)
- Is responsible for timely reporting.
- Works with group member counties in identifying and providing appropriate training.
- Communicates audit findings to group members.
- Works with group member counties and group organization staff to coordinate corrective action plans in response to audit findings.
- Functions as the primary contact for FSC and SFI auditors.

Membership

The group members are the selected county forests in the Wisconsin County Forest Program as provided for in s. **28.10**, Wis. Stats. County forestry staff, the respective county forestry committee that is appointed by county board, and the lands they administer, comprise each county forest. All of the county forest lands in a member county are included in the certification. Group members voluntarily choose to participate in the certification group(s). If a county chooses to undergo certification, they may elect to participate in one or both of the certification program groups. Those choosing to participate can include their lands in the multi-site certificate(s) and share in the benefits, privileges, and responsibilities of being a certified group member. This includes the ability to market timber as FSC or SFI-approved under the multi-site certificate(s).

Group members are responsible for implementing management consistent with the principles and standards of the certification program(s) they participate in. They are also responsible for any costs of implementing changes needed to align their management with the certification standards. Communication of certification information within the group(s) is done through email, Wisconsin County Forests Association (WCFA) meetings, training sessions, and discussions/minutes of the WCFA's **Legislative/Certification Committee**. WCFA is a non-profit organization that provides leadership, and a forum for consideration of problems and policies that are common to all County Forests. WCFA also provides training, education and advocacy for member counties. The WCFA Legislative/Certification committee is comprised primarily of County Forest administrators and serves as the link between the certificate manager and group members.

Fees

The Department of Natural Resources will pay all mandatory fees related to participation in the FSC and SFI County Forest Group certification program. Mandatory fees include the contract cost of the third-party certification audits (initial & full certification), the annual accreditation fee (FSC), the Statewide Implementation Committee fee (SFI), and the annual program fee (SFI). In addition, DNR will bear responsibility for all costs associated with its role as the certificate manager. The group member counties will be responsible for costs associated with implementing the certification principles and standards on their County Forest and for incidental costs of third-party audits (i.e. lunches, etc.).

Entry And Departure From The Group Organization(s)

General Eligibility

The Wisconsin County Forest Group Certification - FSC and Wisconsin County Forest Group Certification - SFI will be available on a voluntary basis to all counties having land enrolled in the County Forest program as provided in s. 28.10, Wis. Stats., and administered in s. 28.11, Wis. Stats.

Entry Application

Eligible counties interested in participating in group certification, or group member counties under one standard that wish to be added to an additional group, shall submit a request to the certificate manager. The application for entry shall be in resolution form, include a commitment to the principles and standards of the certification group they wish to participate in, and be approved by a majority of the County Board.

Voluntary Departure from Group

Group members may elect to depart from the FSC or SFI certification groups at any time without prejudice to continued Wisconsin County Forest Program status. Member counties that wish to be removed from the FSC and/or SFI certification groups shall submit a request to the certificate manager. The withdrawal request shall be in resolution form and be approved by a majority of the County Board. The certificate manager will be responsible for communicating the change to SFI or FSC and the third-party auditors. Re-enrollment of a county in a certification group will be at the discretion of the certificate manager. A county will need to apply for entry (see above) and demonstrate a commitment to the principles and standards of that particular certification program prior to being allowed to reenter.

Involuntary Departure from Group

A group member found to be consistently out of compliance with the principles and standards of certification as implemented by the group(s), shall be removed from the certification group(s) if their continued participation, in the findings of the third-party auditors, certificate manager, **forest certification coordinator** and other group members, jeopardize the group's certification status. In the event of a finding specific to only one group member, that county shall first be made aware of the finding and provided a 60-day time frame for major findings or a 12-month time frame for Minor findings in which to initiate and complete corrective action. If that is unsuccessful, a written warning is to be issued from the certificate manager documenting the measures needed to bring that county into conformance and provide for a one-year time frame to implement necessary changes. A group member will only be removed after these initial steps and after consultation and majority consensus with the other members of that group. A county removed from a group(s) may appeal the decision through a county board resolution submitted to a review committee. The **review committee** shall consist of the certificate manager, **forest certification coordinator**, WCFA Executive Director, DNR Chief State Forester or designee, and the County Forest administrators of the other member counties. The review committee shall have 60-days after receipt of the appeal resolution to render a decision for removal or continued participation. A county may be removed from a group certification and still

remain in the Wisconsin County Forest program. However, sections in the County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan referencing certification will need to be amended accordingly. Investigations into non-compliance with the Wisconsin County Forest Law (s. [28.11](#), Wis. Stats) shall be independent of any investigation into removal of a member county from a certification group.

GROUP ADMINISTRATION

Communication

Communication of certification information within the group(s) is done through email, WCFA meetings, training sessions, and discussions/minutes of the [WCFA's Legislative/Certification committee](#).

Interpretation and Application of FSC and SFI Standards

The certificate manager, WCFA [Legislative/Certification committee](#), and forest certification coordinator will be responsible for interpreting and applying the FSC and SFI principles and standards in the context of the Wisconsin County Forest program (s. [28.11](#), Wis. Stats.). The certificate manager, [forest certification coordinator and WCFA Legislative/Certification committee](#) will jointly function to clearly explain the requirements to the group members. These considerations are addressed through the Public Forest Lands Handbook ([2460.5](#)), the Timber Sale Handbook ([2461](#)), and the Wisconsin Silviculture Guide ([WSG](#)). Group members shall include management, and considerations for certification, in their County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

Member Commitment to the Certified Group Standards

A county must commit to the principles and standards of the certification group they participate in. This is a requirement for entry into the group (see Entry Application). This commitment should also be included in their County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

Designation of New Group Members

The certificate manager will ensure that any new group members are added to membership and mailing lists, receive appropriate information from SFI and/or FSC, and take care of any other administrative details. A database of group member counties will be posted on the DNR website, <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/timbersales/countyforests>, so that prospective buyers of forest products can determine which counties are certified.

Training and Education

The certificate manager, forest certification coordinator and WCFA Legislative/Certification committee will evaluate training needs of group members to ensure there is sufficient knowledge to implement and achieve the FSC and/or SFI standards. The Department will work cooperatively with group members and other organizations/partners to offer training applicable to the certification standards. The group members will be responsible for ensuring their staff attend sufficient training to ensure proficient resource management.

Maintaining Group Records

The certificate manager [and forest certification coordinator are](#) responsible for maintaining all group organization records and documents. The County Forest certification group records include:

- Lists and acreages of FSC and SFI group members
- Copies of audit findings and reports
- Group organization corrective action requests (CARs)
- Documentation of corrective actions taken in response to CARs
- Entry applications and departure notifications from group members
- Internal review and monitoring
- Annual partnership meeting minutes including forest certification compliance
- Other relevant documents and records

Internal Review And Monitoring

A five-part approach will be used by the Department to monitor group member compliance to the certification standards. Part-one includes the assignment of a DNR “liaison forester” to each county forest. Liaison foresters have regular contact with county staff, often working jointly on timber sales or other land management practices. The liaison forester has responsibility for local DNR oversight of the county forest and has hands-on knowledge on the forest. DNR has approvals of all timber sales. Typically, either the liaison forester or DNR Forestry Team Leader are the responsible individual. Liaison foresters participate in county forestry committee meetings, and assist in formulation of Annual Work Plans to ensure the county forestry operations meet the County Forest law (s. 28.11 Wis. Stats) and forest certification standards. Management that deviates from the law or certification standards is addressed initially at the local level and if not resolved progresses through DNR supervisory channels and the Internal CAR process (see below).

In part-two annual partnership meetings are held to evaluate the partnership between the DNR and county on that particular forest. As part of those meetings, the liaison forester will lead a discussion on that county’s compliance and progress towards certification findings and corrective actions. This discussion is to be documented in the minutes of the meeting which are forwarded to the group certificate manager annually.

Part-three includes the regularly scheduled DNR forest certification internal review of the county forests, as described in Chapter 331 of this handbook. These will be completed on a rotating basis so that each county is reviewed at a minimum of once every 5 years. The forest certification internal review is conducted by the forest certification coordinator to verify and document compliance with corrective actions and ensure overall management is consistent with certification standards. Format for the internal review will follow that outlined in Chapter 331. These internal reviews are evaluated by the DNR county forest and public lands specialist (certificate manager) and approved by the director of DNR Bureau of Forestry Field Operations.

The fourth-part includes the County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plans that statutorily govern the long-term management for each forest, addressing compliance to certification and document management that is aligned with the certification standards. The DNR and local county boards must approve these plans.

Lastly, in part-five, the WCFA Legislative/Certification Committee, is continually monitoring third-party external audits and issues that arise regarding certification.

External (3rd party) Corrective Action Requests (CARs)

The Wisconsin County Forests Association (WCFA) Legislative/Certification Committee works with the certificate manager and forest certification coordinator to formulate responses to corrective actions and also serves as a main conduit for communicating forest certification information and maintaining consistency within the county forest group(s). Minutes from those meetings are shared with all County Forest Administrators and DNR liaison foresters. In addition, training on certification issues is routinely incorporated into regular meetings of WCFA. WCFA meets in general session three times annually.

Internal Corrective Action Requests (CARs)

For deviations from the forest certification standards, an Internal Corrective Action Request (CAR) may be issued as a result of the forest certification internal review process. Internal CARs may be issued by the certificate manager and forest certification coordinator. It is expected that prior to the issuance of any internal CAR there will be communication between the county forest administrator, liaison forester, team leader, certificate manager and forest certification coordinator. Internal CARs shall be submitted to the county forest administrator while copying to the liaison forester, team leader, certificate manager, forest certification coordinator, chair of the respective county forest committee, and the WCFA executive director. The county forest administrator will be responsible for addressing any internal CARs on behalf of the group member county. Internal CARs may be brought forth to the WCFA Legislative/Certification Committee for discussion. The certificate manager shall be responsible for monitoring follow-through on Internal CARs.

Senior Management Review

Annually, the group manager and forest certification coordinator will prepare a summary report of the Department’s response to the previous year’s external audit CARs, Observations, and Opportunities for Improvement; the response to the previous year’s internal CARs and observations; and the results of the findings from the current year’s internal monitoring. The group manager and forest certification coordinator will meet with senior management, typically Division of Forestry and WCFA leadership to discuss the status of forest certification, and issues that require future consideration or action.

Chain of Custody

FSC and SFI certification provide an opportunity to differentiate responsibly harvested wood in the marketplace. Ultimately, when finished goods are produced from raw materials that originate from certified lands, these certification systems allow the use of on-product logos. FSC and SFI have specific on-product logos that can be used to identify wood sourced from certified lands.

Chain-of-Custody (COC) documentation allows for the tracking and tracing of a product through every step from the forest to finished goods. The FSC and SFI standards include specific requirements in the form of indicators or performance measures and associated chain of custody policies that the department must show conformance to that allows forest industry to claim certification credits.

On County Forest timber sales the certified chain-of-custody is maintained up to the “forest-gate”. The forest-gate is defined as the point at which the chain-of-custody of the forest product changes from the certificate holder to the contractor. For our purposes the forest-gate is the stump (the point at which the tree is physically severed) with the authorized harvest being the transfer of chain-of-custody. The purchaser is responsible for maintaining COC after leaving the sale area. This can be achieved by supplying suitable documentation to allow a contractor to maintain the COC until delivered at a certified mill. The contractor must also be COC certified or covered under a COC certificate from the destination mill. This documentation begins with timber sale documentation including lock box tickets and timber sale contracts, which contain the certification information required by the applicable certification standard.

To satisfy chain of custody standards, timber sale documents must contain the following:

1. Name and contact details of the organization
2. Name and address of the customer
3. Date when the document was issued
4. Description of the product
5. Quantity of the products sold
6. The organization’s FSC and/or SFI Forest Management (FM/COC) code
7. A clear indication of the product claim.
 - a. Items 6 and 7 may be provided via a website address.
<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/timbersales/certification>

If separate transport documents are issued (e.g. haul tickets for mill scale sales or for COC documentation), information sufficient to link the sales documents and related transport documentation to each other must be included, such as property name and sale number.

In the case of mill scaled sales, the shipping documents (haul tickets) contain the required information to maintain chain of custody documentation to the receiving mill. Please visit <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/timbersales/certification>

In the case of field scaled sales or lump sum sales, where haul tickets are not issued to track timber volumes delivered to mills, haul tickets may be issued to provide COC documentation if a purchaser requests them. Haul tickets may be issued as shipping documentation to help a contractor maintain the COC.

When timber is harvested on County lands that are not included within the forest certification certificate, it is necessary to keep these products separate from any certified products. Both timber sale and shipping documents in these instances must not include any certification numbers, codes, product claim, or supporting websites.

STATE-OWNED ISLANDS MANAGEMENT

The purpose of this chapter is to assign specific responsibility for the periodic examination of state-owned islands, to establish a standard system of examination reporting and signing, and to provide guidelines in the management and/or preservation of their aesthetic qualities. A history of how and why these islands were granted to the State of Wisconsin by the federal government in 1912 is incorporated into this chapter as background information.

History

In the year 1911, the Honorable Elmer A. Morse, a member of Congress from the State of Wisconsin, introduced House Bill No. 13417, which read as follows:

A BILL granting unsurveyed and unattached islands to the State of Wisconsin for forestry purposes. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that the unsurveyed and unattached islands in inland lakes north of the township line between townships thirty-three and thirty-four north, fourth principal meridian be and the same are hereby granted to the State of Wisconsin as additions to the forest reserves only, and should the State of Wisconsin abandon the use of said islands for such purpose, alienate or attempt to alienate or use the same or any part thereof for purposes other than that for which granted, the same shall revert to the United States.

Note: In 1938 the federal act of 1912 was amended to authorize the sale or exchange of islands that are not available for forestry; the proceeds received or lands acquired in the sale or exchange to be devoted to state forestry.

Mr. Morse, in introducing the bill to the House Committee, had the following to say: “We want to include them (the islands) within our forest reserve. One of the great reasons for wanting to get title is this: We are creating there in northern Wisconsin, in the lake region, a magnificent forest reserve. We have passed a bill whereby the State is damming up the outlet of the lakes and using the water for water-power purposes; that is, letting it back up during high water and letting it out during low water. That is one reason why we want them, but the main reason is this: If those islands go into private ownership, as they have in some instances, people get possession of them, establish saloons and houses of ill repute on the islands, and in this way practically ruin our great forest reserve.”

Mr. Morse’s reasons for introducing this bill were further stressed by Mr. Griffith, then State Forester of Wisconsin, appearing before the House Committee: “A few years ago we found that certain parties, particularly some men from Chicago, were taking up these islands by scrip. These are little rock knolls, averaging only about 2 acres to the island. Most of them are not a half or a quarter of an acre. They are very beautiful, and many of them are covered with pine or hemlock. These men would go in and strip the timber off in the winter time, and then they would sell them to almost anybody they could get to purchase. There is a great inclination while lumber men are up in this country to locate saloons or get people in there who are very undesirable. Consequently Present Van Hise, of the University of Wisconsin, who is chairman of the board, and myself took the matter up with Mr. Garfield, then Secretary of the Interior, and explained the matter. After the matter was investigated somewhat Mr. Garfield withdrew those lands from entry, pending final consideration of Congressman Morse’s bill. There was no action taken upon the bill at that time. That action was continued under Secretary Ballinger until toward the end of his administration, and then those islands were again placed upon the market, and some 8 or 10 of the best of them were quickly snapped up. They are being surveyed slowly. We have again taken the matter up with Secretary Fisher and Congressman Morse, who introduced the bill, and that is the reason we are so extremely anxious to get this bill passed so we can protect these islands.

“We are leasing land around these lakes and such islands as we own for people who want them for summer camps – not only people of Wisconsin, but of the whole Mississippi Valley. People come there from as far south as New Orleans, and many of them from Kansas City, Chicago, and St. Louis. We are leasing upon reasonable terms and with certain restrictions any particular land around our lakes. We would, of course, handle these islands in exactly the same way. This is not a question, gentlemen, of giving us any amount of land for the timber that is on it, but the improvement of those islands from the aesthetic point of view.

“In connection with the control of those reservoirs, there are established monuments on the shoreline of the lake. We have a hydraulic engineer who takes those matters up with all of the resort owners, and of course we have to fix a

mean that will suit the storage men. The storage men would like to draw that water down as low as they can and fill the lakes as high as they can. The resort owner would like to get a fluctuation of not more than 10 inches. That keeps down the thoroughfares between those lakes which you can go through by launch or canoe. If these islands are taken up by private individuals, it will interfere very largely with the joint handling of those lakes both for reservoir purposes and for resort purposes as well.”

On August 22, 1912, Congress conveyed the unsurveyed and unattached natural islands in meandered inland lakes north of township 33 to the State of Wisconsin. At that time there were only 216 known islands with a total combined acreage of 476. Since then some of the islands have been sold to settle land disputes, some were awarded to private individuals by court action, and some have become sunken islands due to rising water levels or erosion. On the other hand, many more islands were located that were also covered by the grant. At this present time there are some 617 islands covered by this grant. This figure will change periodically as there are court cases contesting state ownership, as well as the fact that some islands covered by this grant are not now on the list.

The Conservation Commission in 1920 issued a publication listing some 600 islands available for lease. The leasing of islands for cottages or campsites was encouraged at that time to promote greater use of the resource.

Philosophies changed. The State Legislature in 1925 enacted into law what is now [s. 28.02\(6\), Wis. Stats.](#) This law prohibited issuing new leases and provided for renewal of existing leases only where improvements had been made or to charitable and similar nonprofit groups.

In keeping with Conservation Commission policy, the number of leases renewed was reduced throughout the years.

Surveys were conducted to locate additional state-owned islands and to determine possible trespass. Legal actions often resulted in disputed ownerships.

Island examinations in recent years have been concerned with land trespass, recording of public use, posting of signs declaring ownership and permitted uses, and scheduling cleanup of the more heavily used islands.

Statutes And Codes Governing State-Owned Islands

The following Wisconsin Statutes and Wisconsin Administrative Codes relate to the administration of island responsibility:

1. [Section 28.02\(1\), Wis. Stats.](#)

This section defines state-owned islands as state forest lands.

2. [Section 28.02\(4\), Wis. Stats.](#)

The sale of state-owned islands is subject to the same restrictions as the sale of state forest lands.

3. [Section 28.02\(6\), Wis. Stats.](#)

This section prohibits leases on state-owned islands after June 25, 1925, except existing leases to charitable and nonprofit organizations and where improvements had been made.

4. [Section 29.327, Wis. Stats.](#)

This section governs the construction, identification and removal of waterfowl blinds on state lands.

5. [Chapter NR 45, Wis. Adm. Code](#)

Code 45 pertains to the conduct of visitors to state parks, state forests, and all state-owned islands.

6. Section NR 1.31, Wis. Adm. Code

The department shall maintain state-owned islands in natural and undisturbed condition consistent with controlled public use on islands suited for recreational purposes. Each state-owned island shall be classified for its most desirable use such as camping or picnicking, or to be maintained in a natural condition. Preference shall be given to aesthetic management and every effort shall be made to maintain forest growth and ground vegetation in as near a natural state consistent with other desirable uses.

The Department maintains state-owned islands in as natural and undisturbed condition as possible while permitting limited public use on islands suited for water route camping or day use.

7. Section NR 1.48, Wis. Adm. Code

This section of Chapter NR 1 further provides that no leases for private use shall be executed, extended, or renewed, except if the Secretary determines that the lease will serve a public benefit or provide for public use.

State-Owned Islands

The federal grant of 1912 conveyed unsurveyed and unattached islands in meandered inland lakes north of the township line between townships thirty-three and thirty-four north, fourth principal meridian, to the State of Wisconsin as additions to the forest reserves.

Since the original land survey, water levels may have increased or decreased. What was once part of the mainland may now be an island. In this case the new island that is formed is the property of the party, whether government or private, who held title to that parcel of the mainland before it was flooded and the island created.

In the case of decreasing water levels, what was once an island may become part of the adjacent mainland. If this island was originally state-owned, it is still state-owned even though it is attached to the mainland. The title to the land was conveyed to the state. Riparian rights of the adjacent government lot landowners do not extend to include the island even though it becomes a part of the mainland by falling water levels or by accretion.

Note the words “unsurveyed” and “meandered” in the act of 1912. These identify the islands involved in the grant:

1. Unsurveyed

During the original land survey of Wisconsin, islands were rarely surveyed, with the following exceptions:

- a. Occasionally a surveyor would include and survey an island dependent on the values involved. This shows in the field notes and on the original GLO plat.
- b. A few islands were surveyed in subsequent federal resurveys prior to the act of 1912 upon request of individuals who were interested in acquiring title.

Federal patents were not issued on unsurveyed islands because there were no means to identify the land involved. These are the unallotted islands that were conveyed to the State of Wisconsin.

If a federal patent was issued on surveyed islands, title then passed to private ownership. A tracing of land records will disclose this original transfer from federal ownership.

2. Meandered Inland Lakes

Only the unsurveyed, unallotted islands in meandered inland lakes were conveyed. Original survey notes or GLO plats indicate what lakes were meandered.

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3. Nonmeandered Lakes

Islands in nonmeandered lakes are owned by the party holding title to the description the island falls in, whether it is private or government and regardless of the location in the state.

4. Flowages

Islands in flowages are private except in the following examples:

- a. A meandered lake contains an unsurveyed, unallotted island. The lake level is raised by a dam. The island is still present but smaller in size. This is still a state-owned island in the flowage.

The flowage probably contains newly created islands that are privately owned. To investigate if an island might be state-owned, consult the Lake Survey maps. The depth of water between the island and the present shoreline should be greater than the head of water carried on the dam, providing the dam is on the original stream bed.

- b. The Department of Natural Resources may have owned a description of land that, when flooded, left some land as an island.
- c. A privately owned island within a flowage may have been purchased or acquired by the Department of Natural Resources.

5. Rivers

Islands in rivers, meandered and unmeandered, were not granted to the state in the federal act of 1912 but may have been acquired at a later date. Management of islands acquired as a part of a DNR property is governed by the master plan of that property.

6. Other

Islands purchased by the state (or acquired by other means) regardless of their location in the state, are state-owned.

Responsibilities Of The Department Of Natural Resources

The Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry administers the state-owned islands defined in this handbook. It is responsible for the management, protection and preservation of this public resource. against private trespass and abuse. Islands will be classified as to present use and as to potential use and needs, and the individual islands will be managed accordingly.

Assignment Of Property And Personnel

The primary responsibility for state-owned islands in lakes is with the Forestry Team Leader. Duties required by this assignment may be delegated to members of their staff. Islands are organized by County as Forestry Districts, Areas and Teams may change over time The Forestry Team Leader will be the designated property manager for State -owned Islands by default but may delegate to staff.

WisFIRs

1. State owned islands have a Forestry property code that is organized by County. *Example: Florence County State-Owned islands = FR property code = 1920.*
2. Each lake, having one or multiple islands, should have a unique “compartment”.

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3. Lakes with multiple islands can have each island as an individual stand or multiple islands as one stand depending on the cover type similarity.
4. If islands have different evaluation time frames, they must be unique stands to schedule an examination treatment date.
5. DNR managed lands database has an additional real estate property code that is unique to each state-owned island. This is an 8 digit real estate code. This code should be added to the property User Defined Field, located in the stand detail page. The User Defined Field should be named the "Real Estate 8 digit code."
6. Island names and locations are shown in the appendix. These should be checked with NRB approved master plans and the master plan name should be used once approved. These names can be added in the stand detail page, User Defined Field" in WisFIRS. Island names and locations are shown in the appendix.

County	Number of Lakes	Number of Islands	County	Number of Lakes	Number of Islands	County	Number of Lakes	Number of Islands
Ashland	3	3	Iron (NHAL)	2	3	Price	11	18
Bayfield	16	32	Iron	22	35	Rusk	2	8
Barron	11	32	Langlade	6	8	Sawyer	14	40
Burnett	23	43	Lincoln	1	5	Vilas	68	139
Douglas	5	9	Marinette	4	6	Washburn	23	72
Florence	6	12	Oneida	65	121			
Forest	10	18	Polk	12	36			

Island Examinations Procedures

Definitions

1. Examination

An examination is a regularly scheduled investigation of an island to determine its use, post signs, conduct necessary maintenance, and to check for trespass, followed by submission of all necessary formal reports.

2. Inspection

An inspection is not a scheduled investigation of an island. In the course of normal work, the opportunity may arise to stop at a state-owned island and check for trespass, use, etc. No formal reports are necessary unless signs of trespass, etc., are found which were not reported in the previous examination.

Follow-Up

If signs of trespass or other illegal activity is found during the course of either examination or inspection, immediate follow-up in resolving the condition is expected. The island inspector finding such conditions should gather all pertinent information and submit it to the forestry team leader.

The forestry team leader should proceed to resolve the condition. If Department policy is involved and the trespass involves an ownership dispute, should consult with Facilities and Lands Real Estate section and Bureau of Legal Services staff to develop a resolution approach.

Schedule Of Examinations

Island responsibilities are best fulfilled by a regularly scheduled examination of each island. This does not mean that the island cannot be inspected in the normal course of work.

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1. Determining the interval between examinations

A seven-year interval between examinations of each lake containing state-owned islands is required. However, the actual interval is to be determined by the assigned personnel and forestry team leader, based upon the need for examination. Factors to consider are the amount of recreational use, need for determining possible trespass, and the need for signing or other maintenance work. Those islands which are little more than rocks with limited possibilities for trespass or other illegal use may be scheduled every seventh year.

The schedule for re-examination of all islands should be set up after the first examination of the island. This schedule may be adjusted over the years to meet changes in use and improve operational efficiency. Schedule changes should be noted on the records.

If an island has a designated use area such as a developed canoe campsite, the island should be posted, maintained and examined according to the instructions in M.C. [2527.2](#).

2. Scheduling the year of examination

It is suggested a proportional number of the total examinations be scheduled in any one year. This will distribute the workload rather than provide for a one-year examination program. However, if the number of islands assigned for examination is small, assigned personnel may schedule all examinations for one year. The exception would be for those islands that may need examination at more frequent intervals.

WisFIRS Examination Scheduling

Island examinations should be scheduled in WisFIRS as a treatment. Treatments are only available to schedule by stand. Each island could be a separate stand OR if there are multiple islands on the same lake that are of similar forest type, a stand may consist of multiple islands. Use the WisFIRS treatment code "I" Island inspection.

1. Recording the scheduled year of examination

After an examination interval has been determined, the years the examination are to be made should be listed in the lake file. The island examination schedule should be prepared jointly by the examiner and the Forestry Team Leader.

Formal Examination Reports

When an island has been re-examined, submit the Island Re-Survey Report, Form 2800-2 to the Forestry Team leader.

Island examinations should be entered as a completed treatment in WisFIRS by stand. Upload the completed re-survey report document in the completed treatments section in the treatment detail page. Name the uploaded file with: Examination Year_County_Lake_Island name. Example 2021_Bayfield_BigLake_Island1

Islands scheduled for periodic cleanup several times during the summer will require only one Island Re-Survey Report for the year.

The original of all reports pertaining to state-owned islands is retained by the assigned inspector. Lake files should include, a map of the lake with landing access indicated, information on the kind of boat needed, photos of the islands, past examination records, GPS coordinates of the landing sites if not obvious and the landowners name and telephone number. GPS coordinates of the locations of the signs on the islands and notes about their location can be helpful.

Island Classification And Management

In keeping with the management objectives of state-owned islands, each island will be evaluated and classified as to its most desirable use. No island will be classified for public use if it is within 300 feet of privately developed land. Other factors to consider in evaluating and classifying islands are the size, shape, elevation, rockiness, cover and

screening. For example, a small round island of one-half acre in size with proper cover and screening may be more desirable for camping than a larger narrow island lacking proper cover and screening. The presence of wildlife nesting sites for eagles, osprey, and loons may also be cause of use restrictions. Elevation is important in lakes that are subject to fluctuations in water levels.

Islands will be classified as follows:

1. Islands available for regulated primitive camping (lakes within DNR properties)

a. Definition

- Islands must be one-half acre or larger with suitable cover and screening.
- Islands that are prone to erosion and degradation through repeated use should not be classified for camping
- A need for primitive camping must exist either by demonstrated previous use or lack of camping opportunities on the mainland. Islands will be placed in this group only with the approval of the Forestry Team Leader.

b. Management and use

On islands located within the boundaries of a state forest or where controls may be necessary to maintain the resource, camping shall be by permit only.

Development may include a fire ring or fireplace, a picnic table, a primitive type toilet, and a facility or instructions for disposing of refuse. Approvals for development will be the same as required for state forest improvements. Cleanup shall be done on a schedule.

Sign No. 1 (Open for Camping and Public Use) along with sign No. 5 (Camping Permit Required) shall be used to post this type of island.

2. Islands available for unregulated primitive camping (lakes outside of DNR properties)

a. Definition

Islands must be one-half acre or larger with suitable cover and screening. Islands that are prone to erosion and degradation through repeated use should not be classified for camping.

b. Management and use

Same as 1 above except that no permit or fee is required. The degree of development may not be as great as 1. Subject to the approval of the Forestry Team Leader, personnel assigned island responsibilities will determine to what extent camping may be unrestricted and designate suitable camping sites.

Sign No.1 (Open for Camping and Public Use) along with sign No.6 (Camping Limited to ____ Days) may be used to post this type of island. The maximum time allowed for occupation of an individual camping site is limited to a maximum of 3 days, per [Wis. Admin. Code 45.10\(n\)](#).

3. Islands located on heavily traveled water trails.

Development may include a fireplace or fire ring, a picnic table, a primitive type toilet, and a facility or instructions for disposing of refuse. Approvals for development will be the same as required for state forest improvements. Island cleanup shall be done on a schedule or as often as needed.

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Sign No. 2 (Camping Limited to One Night Only) along with a canoe route campsite sign shall be used to post this type of island.

4. Islands located on lightly traveled water routes (may or may not be on a designated route)

No development of any type will be made. Island cleanup will be done at least once each season or as often as needed.

Sign No. 2 (Camping Limited to One Night Only) will be used to post this type of island.

5. Islands available for one-night camping (not on a designated water route)

a. Definition

Islands must be one-half acre or larger with suitable cover and screening. Islands that are prone to erosion and degradation through repeated use should not be classified for camping.

b. Management and use

The degree of development may not be as great as 1. Subject to the approval of the Forestry Team Leader, personnel assigned island responsibilities will determine to what extent camping may be unrestricted and designate suitable camping sites.

Sign No.1 (Open for Camping and Public Use) along with sign No.6 (Camping Limited to ____ Days) may be used to post this type of island. The maximum time allowed for occupation of an individual camping site is limited to 3 days or less, per [Wis. Admin. Code 45.10\(n\)](#).

6. Islands available for day use only

a. Definition

- Island must be .03 acre or larger.
- Island must be suitable for swimming or picnicking.
- Personnel assigned island examination responsibilities will approve islands to be placed in this group.

b. Management and use

No improvements shall be made on islands in this group. Cleanup shall be made at least once each season on the heavily used islands and at the time of regular inspection on the remainder.

Sign No. 3 (No Camping-Day Use Only) shall be used to post islands in this group.

7. Islands not available for public use

a. Definition

- Islands less than .03 acre.
- Islands within 300 feet of privately developed land.
- Islands unsuited for recreational use, i.e., bog, swamp, rock, etc.
- Islands with unusual wildlife potential such as nesting sites. If wildlife nesting sites are involved, consultation with the local wildlife manager is needed to determine if a complete or seasonal closure is needed.
- Islands which may be eroded and lost due to public use.

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- Islands may be placed in this group by the designated inspector with the approval of the Forestry Team Leader.

b. Management

The primary values of these islands are aesthetics, wildlife habitat and emergency landing sites. Every effort shall be made to preserve the natural appearance of these islands.

Sign No. 4 (Camping, Picnicking, and Swimming Prohibited) shall be used to post islands in this group.

Minimum Island Signage

Islands that are little more than a small rock pile with little vegetation present but are listed as a state owned island may be signed with sign No. 7 (State Owned). Islands that are listed but are completely under water should not be signed.

Size limitations on the above classifications are to be considered simply as guidelines. Classification of all islands should be done in consultation with any existing lake associations or shore land owners, especially if most or all of the lake shore is owned by a single entity. Agreements with lake shore associations or other groups for annual island maintenance may be pursued by the local inspector and approved by the Forestry Team Leader. (See Friends Groups NR [1.71](#)) These agreements should be renewed at each inspection cycle or at least once every five years.

Aesthetic Management

Every effort shall be made to preserve all islands in as near natural state as possible. Forest growth and ground vegetation will be managed solely for aesthetic purposes. Islands may be closed temporarily to public use should overuse threaten destruction of the resource. Plans for aesthetic management shall be reviewed with the Forestry Team Leader.

1. Cutting

Trees and shrubs may be cut or trimmed only for aesthetics, salvage or safety purposes. The property superintendent or employee assigned maintenance have complete discretion to determine if trees or shrubs are in need of cutting. All slash and debris will be removed from use areas, scattered, and lopped within 12” of the ground. (An exception may be limited cutting of shrubs and small trees to provide air circulation around a campsite.)

2. Planting

Planting will be authorized to enhance aesthetics, to maintain the shoreline, and to heal fire damage and areas damaged by public use.

Posting Of Islands

The type of “state-owned island” sign to post on an island will be left up to the discretion of the examiner and in accordance with the island’s classification.

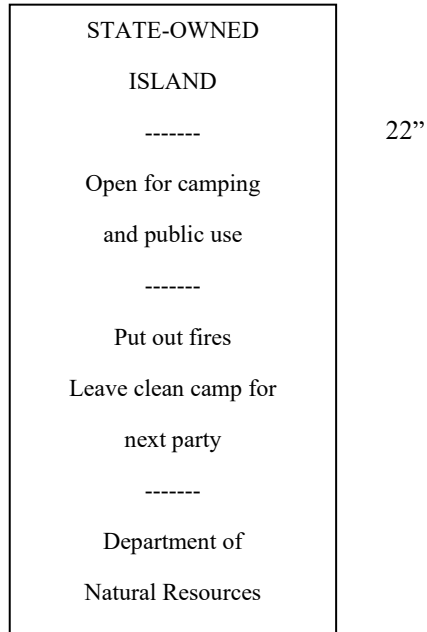
All signs designating state-owned islands should be standard metal regulatory signs and should be ordered from the Badger State Industries. The signs should be mounted on six-foot steel posts driven into the ground to an approximate depth of 2 to 2.5 feet. (The ends of the mounting screws may be peened over after securing the nut to prevent easy dismantling.)

On extremely rocky islands where it is impossible to drive a post, the sign may be mounted on a tree.

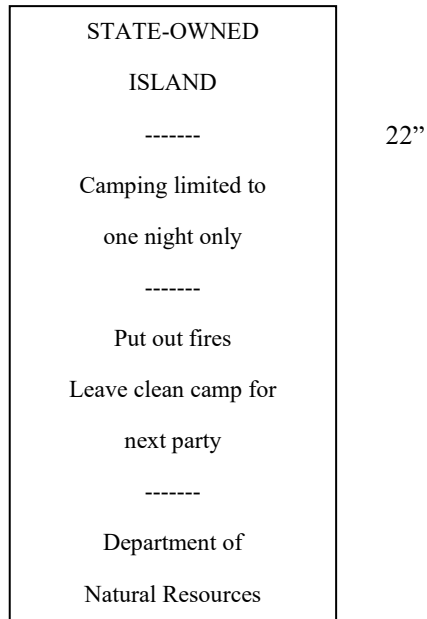
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Sign Types

1. Sign type No. 1, white on brown

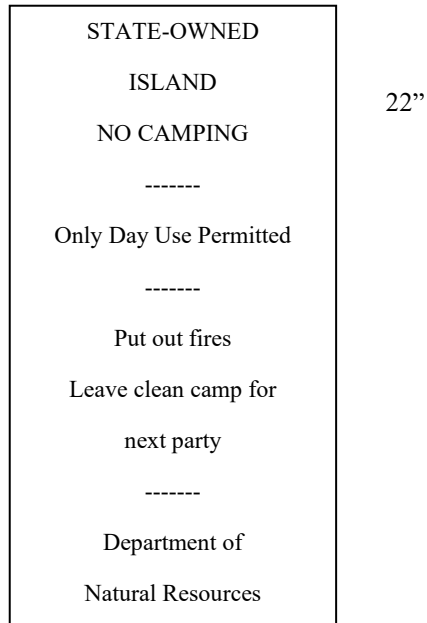


2. Sign type No. 2, white on brown

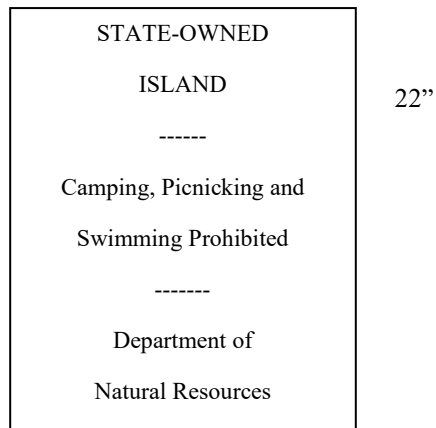


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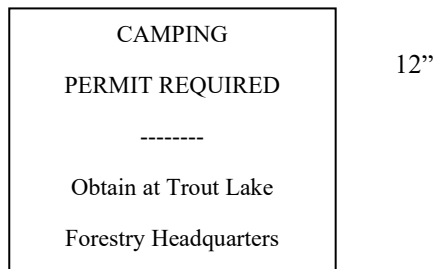
3. Sign type No. 3, black on yellow



4. Sign type No. 4, black on yellow



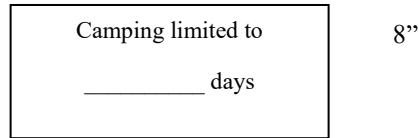
5. Sign type No. 5 – special order, white on brown



The location of the permit source will have to be lettered for each issuing station.

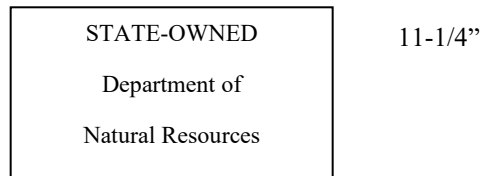
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6. Sign type No. 6 – special order, white on brown



The number of days will be in accordance with the policy established for a particular property.

7. Sign type No. 7 – special order, white on brown



Sign No. 7 may be used in situations simply to declare State ownership and where the placement of a larger sign would be too conspicuous. It may also be used as a supplemental sign where needed.

For the first examination of an island it may be necessary to carry several types of signs, unless it can be determined what type of sign to use from the previous island survey report. After the initial examination and classification of the island, the type of sign erected should be shown on the island re-survey report. (On islands where sign vandalism and loss are frequent, cardboard signs mounted on a masonite back may be considered.)

Signs should be posted in areas where access to the island is available, and in a conspicuous place not hidden by brush or trees. GPS coordinates for sign locations are helpful for relocating signs during later inspections. It is also desirable to have a sign at the use areas. Consider aesthetics. Do not place a sign directly opposite a summer home on the mainland.

One sign is sufficient on islands one or two acres in size that are seldom used. However, on islands of this size that receive heavy use, two signs may be considered.

On islands larger than two acres, two signs should be usually be erected. More may be necessary if the island is receiving heavy use by the public in two or three different areas. In this case on sign should be posted at each use area.

These are guidelines for the number of signs that may be required on various types of islands. However, one sign shall be erected on each state-owned island (unless it is underwater or very small and completely barren of vegetation) and the examiner shall decide how many more should be erected

No state island signs shall be erected on islands where recreational leases are in effect

Inspection Records

There are many historical hard copy “island folders” organized by County and Lake. There is useful information included in the island files, including access, landowner contacts, past inspection records, etc.

These remain important. A file will be maintained by the person assigned field responsibility, and the Forestry Team Leader.

1. Setting up the file

- a. Lake folders. The name of the lake, the USGS map covering the lake and the years to be examined are to be typed on a label. If there are two names, the second name is to be shown in parentheses adjacent to the preferred name.

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The individual lake folder will contain correspondence and examination reports of all state-owned islands within the particular lake.

-
- b. File dividers. A standard file divider will be used for each county and also one for “State-Owned Island General”.

Lake folders will be filed alphabetically behind the respective county divider.

- c. Master listing. Each person assigned island examination responsibilities shall maintain a master listing in the “General” file, showing by county all the lakes and islands to be examined and the year of examination.

This list should be referred to prior to the start of the annual island examination. As the islands are examined and reports filed, the year of examination should be crossed off the master list and the lake folder tab.

2. Plat books

All state-owned islands will be identified with red pencil in a plat book and the name of the island written next to it. If insufficient space does not permit writing in the name of the island, the island is given a number and the number and name written in the margin of the page.

Public access points should be marked in brown pencil and the letters “P.A.” printed next to them.

The plat book serves as a quick reference for finding the location of the state-owned islands and public access points, and determining ownership. The plat book need not be a specific part of the file since it can also be used for other purposes.

3. USGS quadrangle maps and aerial photographs

USGS quadrangle maps covering all of the state-owned islands assigned for examination can be ordered.

The islands and public access points will be recorded on the quadrangle map in the same manner as on the plat book. (Islands colored red and labeled, public access points labeled in brown.) The quadrangles serve as a more detailed map than the plat book, giving a better idea of the size and location of the islands in the lake. They also provide a more detailed description of the road network for access purposes.

Where no public access is available, the examiner will indicate through what property access can be achieved by writing the name of the landowner and identifying the location on the map.

The quadrangles are filed alphabetically behind the county divider. They are not to be duplicated where they lap over into another county – simply filed under one county or the other.

Aerial photographs of lakes to be examined will be very helpful, particularly for the initial examination, as they can be used in locating islands and determining their size, shape, and distances from the mainland

4. County maps

If county maps can provide sufficient information as to location and access, they may be substituted for quadrangles.

Equipment and Supplies

The following is a list of equipment necessary for posting and examining state-owned islands.

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1. Boat and motor

Remember, all boating regulations must be followed. See Wisconsin Boating Regulations and [Manual Code 9182.5](#) on Water Safety. Follow all boat, gear, and equipment decontamination and disinfection protocols as defined in [Manual Code 9183.1](#)

2. Signs

A sufficient number of signs of the type required for each lake to be examined should be carried. It is better to have a few too many signs than not enough. A return trip to a lake should never have to be made because of insufficient materials to post the islands in the lake.

Signs can be obtained from Badger State Industries. Orders should be made once each year. A sufficient number should be ordered to meet all of the needs. Funding for signs and travel may be available through the Regional Forestry Leader.

Signs should be ordered with 3/8" holes drilled near the top and the bottom for center mounting. The distance between the two holes must be exactly in even inches so as to match the holes in the steel posts.

3. Sign posts

Posts will be of channel steel, six feet long, and may be ordered from the same source. Specify U or Channel Post No. 40 which has 3/8" holes on 1" centers.

4. Bolts, nuts, lock washers and wrenches

Galvanized machine bolts, 2" x 3/8", with nuts and lock washers to fit, will be used to attach the sign to the post. Two 8" crescent wrenches are needed to tighten the bolts. A ball-peen hammer may be used to secure the nut.

5. Post driver

This is the most desirable tool for driving steel posts. A driver larger than is used for standard "T" posts is needed to fit over the specified steel post. If your field station does not have one available, one can be obtained at either the Hayward Nursery or the Trout Lake Forestry Headquarters.

6. Other equipment

- a. USGS quadrangle map, or aerial photograph of the lake.
- b. Lake folder with island information.
- c. Plat book of county where lake is located.
- d. Clipboard.
- e. Pencil or pen.
- f. Camera, if available.
- g. GPS unit

Miscellaneous

1. Islands not under grant

There may be other state-owned islands in assigned counties that were purchased. If a decision by the Forestry Team Leader in consultation with the property manager is made to put them under normal island inspection and maintenance, the same examination procedure used for islands covered by the original grant will be followed.

2. Communications

Where information or backing is needed on any particular problem or situation, the Forestry Team Leader is to be contacted. Document all of the information concerning the problem. If a decision is required of the Madison staff, the District Forestry Leader will contact them.

3. Trespass

Where trespass is found, a thorough examination of the case will be made by the examiner. He will interview landowners and obtain all possible information while in the area. Pictures must accompany the narrative report on the trespass. This report is to be sent to the Forestry Team Leader.

Examples of reportable unauthorized trespass would be a fill or other type of bridge built to an island, a cabin nor other permanent structure constructed on an island, or the cutting of live trees on a large scale.

Adding and Deleting Islands

New Islands

As time permits, a careful examination should be made of aerial photographs to locate islands that do not appear in the listing of state-owned islands and which the Department of Natural Resources should claim. Older aerial photographs are particularly helpful in determining if what are islands now may at one time have been connected to the mainland. This would more likely be true in lakes where the water level has been raised by dams than in others.

Where new islands are located in such flowages, it will be necessary to make soundings to determine the depth between the islands and the mainland. By comparing these depths with the height of the head of water at the dam, it can be determined if the islands were or were not connected to the mainland before the dam was constructed.

A thorough investigation should be made on the scene and of the courthouse records to determine if a particular island is claimed by an adjacent property owner. If after a thorough investigation it is determined that the Department of Natural Resources should claim ownership, the appropriate reports, including a detailed narrative, should be submitted. The Forestry Team Leader will follow up and may request additional information. The Forestry Team Leader will be notified if the Bureau of Legal Services determines that the Department of Natural Resources has a legitimate claim and that the island has been placed on the state-owned listing.

As new islands are located, their inspection will be worked into the regular schedule of examination.

Deleting Islands

On occasion, disputes may arise challenging state ownership of particular islands. When state ownership is challenged, the island examiner and Forestry Team Leader will collect all available correspondence and other pertinent information and make a complete investigation and review of the case. The Forestry Team Leader will then discuss the facts with the Area and District Forestry Leader. The region will summarize the circumstances and make a recommendation to the Administrator, Division of Forestry, with copies of correspondence and other information attached.

The Division of Forestry will review the file with the Bureau of Legal Services after which they will make a recommendation to the Secretary for his approval. The Administrator will advise the region as to the disposition of the ownership claim.

Islands will not be removed from the Public Forest Lands Handbook listing as the result of ownership disputes or other unusual circumstances unless approved in writing by the Administrator, Division of Forestry.

GNA Roles And Responsibilities

A. National Forest Specialist – Timber Management (Timber NFS)

The main job of the Timber NFS is to ensure the consistent application and functioning of all facets of the Timber Management and other portions of the GNA Agreement, and to help facilitate the day-to-day operations of the program. The Timber NFS is responsible for meeting the tracking and reporting needs of the United States Forest Service (USFS) with regards to the Timber Program, and to act as a point of contact between the DNR and the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest (CNNF). The Timber NFS serves as a Division of Forestry representative for GNA to various internal and external partners.

Timber NFS Primary Responsibilities

1. Maintain consistency within the GNA Timber Program and assure that all policies and procedures are uniformly applied by GNA staff.
 - a. Initiate and help organize annual field visits to review active and closed GNA sales.
 - b. Obtain the yearly timber sale workload from the USFS, vet the list, and distribute to staff.
 - c. Communicate updates to GNA policies and procedures to GNA staff.
 - d. Serve as a resource for staff who have questions on GNA Timber processes or procedures.
 - e. Review timber sales and obtain the necessary approvals from the USFS.
2. Facilitate internal communications among GNA staff and externally with the USFS.
 - a. Organize and facilitate GNA Working Group meetings.
 - b. Oversee the maintenance of the Public Forest Lands Handbook GNA Chapters.
 - c. Participate in Lakes States and other regional GNA meetings as a representative of the WDNR Division of Forestry.
 - d. Participate in the annual joint WDNR/USFS GNA Partner meeting.
3. Track work accomplishments and fiscal elements of the timber program for reporting purposes.
 - a. Produce annual reports for the USFS on financial and workload accomplishments.
 - b. Periodically review timber establishment progress and assure that all goals are being met within specified deadlines.
 - c. Compile annual GNA timber sale revenue estimates and expenses and provide to USFS.
 - d. Track and report closed sales data quarterly to the USFS.
4. Work on ancillary GNA functions and enhancements to GNA tools, programs, policies and data.
 - a. Oversee the consistent use of WisFIRS by GNA staff. Propose and review WisFIRS developments for the benefit of the GNA program.
 - b. Maintain the GNA GIS database and other technical data and provide it to GNA staff in a centralized location or to be distributed in a more focused release as needed.
 - c. Initiate and coordinate the collection of required post-sale regeneration data by DNR FRM crew or by other means, and supply the final data to the USFS.
 - d. Maintain the GNA timber sale bidder's mailing list database.
 - e. Assist other DNR staff with Restoration projects as requested/needed.

B. National Forest Specialist – Restoration (Restoration NFS)

The main job of the Restoration NFS is to lead policy development and program management for the statewide GNA Restoration Program for the Division of Forestry.

Restoration NFS Primary Responsibilities

1. Program Coordination
 - a. Program Lead and primary point of contact for statewide GNA program.
 - b. Work with the USFS on updates to the GNA agreement and modifications.

2. Work in collaboration with the USFS and other GNA staff on Restoration management/projects.
 - a. Participate in Restoration planning and workload prioritization with DNR and USFS staff.
 - b. Work with Area Forestry Leaders to prioritize and assign Restoration workload and projects to Area Forestry Staff Specialists (AFSS). Assignments should be made annually at a minimum but can be more frequent as needed.
 - c. Oversee Restoration projects as they are assigned, including writing of contracts, bidding and administration of such contracts.
3. Policy Development
 - a. Work with the USFS and DNR partners to develop, recommend and implement policies, positions, budget items, and legislative changes.
4. Manage Partnerships and Resources
 - a. Participate in GNA Working Group and represent GNA on internal and external meetings.
 - b. Develop and manage new partnerships to implement GNA projects.
 - c. Work on project budgets, manage contracts, estimate revenues, and develop tools for staff.
5. Reporting
 - a. Update division leadership on GNA projects.
 - b. Review, monitor, and suggest improvements in regard to operations of the GNA program and restoration projects.

C. Area Forestry Staff Specialist (AFSS)

The main job of the AFSS is to serve as a Field Lead for Restoration projects. The AFSS will work in collaboration with and receive general guidance from the Restoration NFS on Restoration projects. Coverage of the AFSS is divided by the Chequamegon-National Forest (Medford-Park Falls, Great Divide, and Washburn Districts) and the Nicolet National Forest (Lakewood-Laona and Eagle River-Florence Districts).

AFSS Primary Responsibilities

1. In conjunction with the Restoration NFS, assemble, bid, and administer assigned contracted Restoration projects.
 - a. Compile contract specifications and requirements from USFS.
 - b. Create and send out bid documents, for contracts within the assigned coverage area.
 - c. Complete financial paperwork for Purchase Order creation, administer contract, process invoices, and submit final work products to the USFS and Restoration NFS.
 - d. Working with Restoration NFS, resolve contract disputes as necessary.
 - e. Update and maintain network drives and SharePoint sites as needed with Restoration work products and documents.
2. Facilitate and oversee the field operations for assigned Restoration projects.
 - a. Provide support to DNR field staff working on Restoration projects (provide data, maps, guidance, procedures, training, etc.).
 - b. Work with Team Leaders to support and direct the work of assigned GNA LTEs as applicable.
 - c. Report project progress to Restoration NFS and DNR area supervisory staff.

D. National Forest Liaison (NFL)

The main job of the NFL is to be the liaison forester between DNR Forestry and their assigned USFS District on the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. This includes all discussions and negotiations between the DNR specialists, team leaders, foresters and techs, USFS district rangers, private contractors, county administrators, DNR and USFS silviculturists, and all USFS timber sale establishment foresters.

NFL Primary Responsibilities

1. Ensure the completion and adherence to the GNA Master Agreement guidelines and policies including the Supplemental Program Agreement (SPA) as assigned.
 - a. Take a leadership and guidance role in the management of projects that span across Team and Area level boundaries.
 - b. Serve as a resource for GNA expertise.
 - c. Determine performance measures and timelines, ensure quality control, and provide consistency in program implementation within the assigned USFS District.
 - d. Work with Team Leaders to mentor and direct the work of GNA LTEs as applicable.
 - e. Maintain relationships and communications with key USFS staff such as District Ranger, District Silviculturist, timber sale establishment and administration staff (TMAs), and designated USFS staff as assigned.
 - i. Participate in annual field visits to review active and closed GNA sales.
 - ii. Produce a monthly report including updates on GNA activities in the USFS District.
This report will be distributed to the Timber NFS and USFS District personnel.
2. Delineate assigned SPA stands into timber sales or projects.
 - a. Split the assigned stands into timber sales and complete initial recon.
 - b. Identify sensitive resources as outlined in the SPA and working with USFS staff to ensure that the appropriate mitigation measures will be used.
3. Work with Team Leaders to:
 - a. Assign prescription writers and reviewers to individual stands and draft Stand Data Sheets.
 - b. Assign DNR staff as leads to designated timber sales.
 - i. Includes utilizing DNR staff, counties, and private contractors as appropriate.
 - ii. Includes establishment, private contracting, county contracts, administration, pre- and post-sale projects, all or none as appropriate.
 - c. Identify presale and post-sale work needs and assignments as delineated by NEPA project, SPA and stand prescriptions.
4. Track and administer prescription writing process.
 - a. Write, review, and approve prescriptions to submit to USFS.
 - b. Track prescription progress and approvals for assigned stands and work with assigned resources to ensure that deadlines are met.
 - c. Assist/ensure negotiation of prescription variations with DNR and USFS Silviculturists and other prescription reviewers.
 - d. Ensure data entry of FACTS activities from approved prescription into WisFIRS. Includes pre/post-harvest work (Ex. presale scarification or post-harvest tree planting).
5. Maintain documents for assigned district in GNA shared drive, SharePoint, WisFIRS and GNA Timber Sale website.
 - a. Update WisFIRS and other local tracking systems as necessary. Upload documents as needed into WisFIRS and onto Timber Sale webpage.
 - b. Ensure all other relevant information which must be accessed by other DNR staff is accessible, updated, and organized on the appropriate data sites.
6. Administer county and private contracting assignments.
 - a. Draft and administer annual contracts with counties and private consultants.
 - b. Plan and coordinate logistics for the completion of projects for county or private contractors.
 - c. Track and approve marking, cruising, and payments per the contracts with both county and private contracts.
7. Track and administer timber sale establishment, pre-sale work, and sale process.
 - a. Approve marking and cruising of all sales and work with team leaders to ensure that adequate resources are provided to complete the work by assigned deadlines.
 - i. Timber Sale Establishment Lead is responsible for completing marking and cruising.

- b. Draft, review, and approve all sale documents including maps, prospectus, contracts, and 2460 forms for submission to the **appropriate Team Leader and** the Timber NFS.
- c. Obtain or ensure contractors have appropriate permits as needed.
- d. Track and enter updates in WisFIRS, including scheduling pre/post-harvest work (see guidance in Section 430 of this Handbook).
 - i. Ensure pre/post-sale treatments are completed as assigned by the prescription.
 - ii. If pre-sale scarification is necessary, make arrangements for this to be completed.
- e. Collect and manage GIS data, including the shapefiles for final timber sale boundaries; send final timber sale boundaries to the Timber NFS and USFS District Silviculturists.
- f. Conduct bid openings for sales including contact signatures and performance bonds.
- g. Ensure the administration of active timber sales including billing, enforcement, and close-out.
- h. Notify USFS District Ranger when sales become active and when they are nearing close-out.
- i. Track and complete close-out procedure for timber sales.
- j. Collect, review, and retain all timber sale documentation for closed GNA sales.

E. GNA Timber Sale Roles

Timber sales on GNA lands are prepared and administered by a variety of positions and as a team. **Keep the NFL updated on progress and accomplishments throughout each stage of the process.** Later sections of this chapter have more details on roles, approvals, and working with the USFS partners during the timber sale process.

Prescription Writer

1. Complete stand reconnaissance and draft silvicultural prescriptions for assigned stands.
 - a. Complete initial stand reconnaissance to gain initial stand data and to identify any areas of concern.
 - b. Reference the Public Lands Handbook for reconnaissance standards and guides.
 - c. If major concerns are found, or the designated harvest type does not seem appropriate due to differences in recon data, work with NFL to resolve.
2. Draft silvicultural prescription, update tracking sheets (if required by local staff) and submit to the assigned reviewer by set deadline.
3. Make corrections identified from review or USFS Silviculturists in adherence to set timeline.
 - a. Consult with NFL or DNR Silviculturist when necessary.
4. If pre-harvest site preparation needs are identified, notify the NFL immediately.
5. Notify the NFL and Timber Sale Establishment Lead that prescriptions have been approved and sale is ready for establishment.

Timber Sale Establishment Lead

1. Ensure boundary **and property** lines are established.
2. Identify, communicate, and mitigate any hazards or special concern areas including cultural resource areas, invasives or threatened/endangered species as needed.
3. Assess pre-sale scarification needs and if scarification is necessary, notify NFL immediately.
4. Coordinate resources for timber sale establishment.
 - a. DNR staff: Establishment forester and their Team Leader solicit help as needed.
 - b. County: Work with county forestry staff, serve as contract administrator.
 - c. Private Consultant: Serve as contract administrator as assigned.
 - d. The NFL approves and is notified of all coordination activity.

5. Ensure assigned timber sale is marked according to silvicultural prescription and within contract specifications, including checking the marking and/or check-cruising county forestry staff or private consultants.
6. Cruise the sale in accordance with DNR Timber Sale handbook.
 - a. Separate cruise data by stands and update in WisFIRS.
7. If this residual basal area target or other features of the prescription either cannot be or was not achieved, notify and work in conjunction with NFL to meet standards as assigned.
8. Maintain timber sale establishment records and files. Send all timber sale establishment information as requested by the NFL and at the completion of timber sale establishment activities.

Timber Sale Administration Lead

1. Perform contract administration duties similar to other Department timber sales, except:
 - a. Notify the NFL and team leader when the sale becomes active and when nearing close-out.
 - b. Keep the NFL updated during active harvesting with monthly updates.
 - c. If issues arise requiring USFS review or approval, work with the NFL to resolve concerns.
 - d. If any law enforcement issues arise, notify the NFL and USFS LE, and work with them to resolve the issue.
 - e. Monitor potential issues such as soil compaction and rutting to minimize impacts from logging operations.
2. Close-out (*see Section 440 for more information*) Timber Sale Administration Lead close-out duties will be decided through discussions with the NFL and Team Leader.
 - a. Return performance bond/final transaction, and complete GNA close-out checklist.
 - b. Upload necessary documents to WisFIRS and route to NFL for approval.
 - c. Send final timber sale folder and all documents related to the timber sale to the NFL.

Pre- And Post-Harvest Leads

1. Complete assigned pre- and post-harvest activities according to prescription within assigned deadline and notify NFL of completion.
 - a. Surveys and Regen Certification: Complete forms and send to NFL
 - b. Planting: Assess needs and report to NFL. Planting may be coordinated with other planting contracts in local area.
 - c. Invasive Treatments: Coordinate with NFL

Budget And Grants Section

1. Assist foresters by providing advice on WisFIRS financial processes such as:
 - a. Bond remittance and their entry in WisFIRS.
 - b. Entering haul tickets in the journal and other ledger entries such as late penalties, corrections, damages, etc.
 - c. Create and send and process invoices. Follow-up when payment is made or past due.
 - d. Advise on the financial close-out processes once sale is completed.
 - i. Release the bond - ILC (refunding/retaining performance bond)
 - ii. Create final reports.
 - iii. Upload documents.
 - iv. Route for “completed” approvals.
2. Assist foresters by providing advice on GNA purchasing, requisition, and contracting processes.
 - a. Purchasing requirements and guidelines.
 - b. Generating a requisition for purchasing goods and services.
 - c. Processing performance bonds and invoices for payment on service contracts.

GNA Calendar Year Timeline

This section serves as a reference for GNA staff regarding the timeline for the priorities and responsibilities of the Division of Forestry as it relates to the Good Neighbor Authority Agreements. This guidance takes State and Federal reporting deadlines into consideration. While some guidance may be similar to State timelines, there are some important GNA differences, primarily because the federal fiscal year begins on October 1. The timeline below only focuses on major GNA tasks and activities.

For more extensive guidance on other potential tasks within a monthly/annual framework and Timber NFS timeline, please refer to the GNA Excel timeline and narrative in the [GNA Toolkit](#).

A. Considerations

1. GNA timber sales are established in a two-year window. In addition, delays sometimes occur due to a variety of factors (vacancies, critical new information discovered during establishment, etc.) Because of this, several fiscal year (FY) stand assignments are being worked on in any given year.
2. Timber sale bids may be held at any time during the fiscal year, but in order to be credited for the end of Federal FY reporting, the **dates below are the latest State FY dates** for each stage of the process.
3. To avoid end-of-year bottlenecks in the approval process, it is highly recommended that work be submitted for review before required deadlines.
4. These are core GNA work activities. Every USFS District National Forest Liaison has a scaled amount of workload which will include other supportive tasks and locally-established deadlines.
5. Some tasks, such as timber sale and contract administration, occur on a regular, ongoing basis, and are therefore not accounted for in the list below.
6. Different activities require higher or lower number of hours to complete, depending on the task and the resources available to complete it. This will result in some local flexibility in the timeline.
7. There are several alternative methods being used for tracking GNA activities at the local level. Each NFL has developed a system that works for them. Local systems notwithstanding, some GNA activities are tracked and reported through specific systems and procedures (such as WisFIRS), and the use of these systems is described elsewhere in this Handbook.
8. Communication is essential (both intra-Agency and inter-Agency) to the successful operation of the GNA program. Staff need to continually communicate progress and program status to supervisors, specialists, foresters, LTEs, contractors, and USFS administrators.

B. Month By Month Activities

January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compile/advertise/bid contracts for cultural work and contracted timber sale establishment activities (as needed). • Compile annual regeneration monitoring list for upcoming field season. If utilizing the FRM crew, distribute the list to the FRM coordinator through the NFS.
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open bids for cultural/contract work and process contract paperwork.
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New timber stand list received from USFS. Collect stand data and assign RX writing duties. RXs should be written and fully approved or deferred by the end of the following State FY. (<i>approx. 16 months after receiving stands</i>) • Nursery Stock projections submitted for next 5 years of planting by March 15.
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan timber sale establishment workload distribution. Hold planning meetings. • Process previous and prepare new county contracts.

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May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Timber sales from prior year submitted for Team Leader review by May 1 (<i>due approx. 26 months after receiving stands</i>)
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Timber sales submitted to Timber NFS for review by June 1 (<i>approx. 27 months after receiving stands</i>)
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved prescriptions uploaded to WisFIRS by July 1 (<i>approx. 16 months after receiving stands</i>) Timber sales submitted by Timber NFS to USFS for review by July 1 (<i>28 months after receiving stands</i>)
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compile timber sale bid opening materials for approved sales Advertise timber sales two weeks prior to bid opening by August 15
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Timber sale bid opening September 1 (<i>approx. 30 months after receiving stands</i>) Sold acreages submitted by Timber NFS to USFS Compile/advertise/bid contracted timber sale establishment activities, as needed.
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compile FRM/staff-collected regen survey info; update WisFIRS schedule; distribute data/reports to Timber NFS and USFS District staff Open bids for contracted timber sale establishment and process paperwork.
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual regeneration data collected by FRM crew typically provided to Timber NFS for distribution to NFLs by November 15
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Run cultural practices schedule; develop plan for completion
Monthly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NFLs submit Monthly GNA Update for their District to Timber NFS, Section Chief, Area Leader, Team Leader, USFS District personnel, all NFLs and other GNA staff as needed using the Monthly Update Template in the GNA Toolkit.

GNA Timber Sale Establishment And Approval

With some notable exceptions, the GNA timber sale establishment and approval process will mirror other DNR public land timber sale processes. The GNA process contains several additional elements. GNA Agreement Appendices F includes a “statement of timber sale procedure specifics” for reference. If an element is not addressed in this GNA chapter, then the reader should follow **standard DNR** guidance.

A. Stand Silvicultural Prescriptions (RX)

The stand silvicultural prescription contains critical information on the management direction and silvicultural system to be used for each stand. Prescription writing is the first step in establishing a GNA timber sale. Every stand in a GNA sale requires a completed and approved RX. The final RX review and approval is performed by the United States Forest Service (USFS) District Silviculturist. Please refer to **the Prescription Writing Guidance document** and other supporting materials in the [GNA Toolkit](#) for more information.

Important information included in the prescription:

1. Existing stand conditions.
2. Management objective for the stand, including both short and long-term objectives.
 - a. All applied tree marking/designation procedures and timber sale design elements must meet the management objectives as stated in the RX.
3. The target residual basal area for the stand.
4. Other required tree and/or site treatments and protections.
5. Tree marking paint schemes and color assignments.
6. Required design features and mitigation measures.
 - a. Pre-screening for known cultural resources (Archeological items/sites that may have cultural significance/value) will be conducted by the USFS prior to DNR assignment.
 - b. If a cultural resource area needs to be excluded from a sale, the USFS will flag the boundaries of these protection areas prior to DNR sale establishment activities. Some coordination with the USFS will be required.
 - c. Any newly discovered potential cultural resource needs to be reported to the USFS immediately.
7. The location and condition of private boundary lines (see additional info in section 420.B.3.d below)
8. List of all scheduled stand activities (FACTS codes)
 - a. All pre- and post-sale scheduled activities for a GNA stand are the responsibility of the DNR to either complete **either internally or through contracts.**
 - b. All FACTS code activities are to be entered into WisFIRS for each stand.
 - c. Follow the pre- and post-sale tracking procedures for all scheduled stand activities as described elsewhere in this handbook.
9. Once the RX has been approved, all the following must take place:
 - a. **Update Prescription Approved date on the WisFIRS Stand Detail page.** If a stand is deferred, instead select the Deferred checkbox. Maintain deferral email correspondence between the DNR and the USFS. This correspondence **must be uploaded to the documents for the associated timber sale** (see paragraph C,6,b below).
 - b. Add a scheduled treatment(s) to the Planned Treatments section.
 - c. **Attach the approved RX pdf to the harvest treatment. When the stand is later added to a timber sale, the RX will automatically be uploaded to the documents tab of the timber sale.**
10. Note: Occasionally the USFS will provide stands in the annual timber stand list that **contain alphabetical sub-units of a single stand (such as 2079-07a).** New stand numbers **will be assigned in WisFIRS for each sub-unit.**

- a. As a suggested protocol, when only one sub-unit has been assigned to DNR within a particular stand, that stand may remain the original stand number. Then all sub-unit “A’s” will be given a 000 or 100 stand number, “B’s” will be given a 200 stand number, and so on.
 - i. For example, 2079-07a (2079-107) and 2079-07f (2079-607).
- b. This WisFIRS stand number should be added to the prescription along with the original USFS stand number for clarity throughout the process
- c. A cross-walk for USFS stand numbers and their corresponding WisFIRS stand numbers should be added to the Qualifying Comments section of the timber sale 2460.

B. Timber Sale Establishment Process

1. GNA sales may be established by DNR staff, county forestry staff through Memoranda of Agreement, or by contracting with private forestry consultants following guidance in this and other DNR handbooks.
2. Accomplishments are tracked within WisFIRS using Department and GNA Reports.
3. Stands are typically received from the USFS two years ahead of required establishment deadlines.
 - a. Stands are generally received in March.
 - b. The expectation is that all stands be established and approved for sale by the USFS by the end of the following fiscal year.
 - i. For example, stands received in March FY 2021 are expected to be approved and ready for advertising by the end of FY 2023 (June 30, 2023).
 - c. Some stands may contain Specified Road Reconstruction projects which can be handled several ways (see section 470):
 - i. Roadwork may be bid out to road construction companies and constructed prior to selling the timber sale.
 1. These road projects need to be completed during the first year of the establishment phase, to allow the new roads to “season” for a year before being used for hauling.
 2. Specified Road work will be developed and bid out by the DNR after review by the USFS. Road construction activities will be completed by road construction companies, separate from the logging contract.
 - ii. Roadwork and cost estimates may be “spec’d out” and added to the requirements of the timber sale contract, to be completed by the logger.
 1. Road specs must be developed by the DNR and approved by the USFS.
 2. No direct payment to the logger will be made for this required roadwork. Loggers will be instructed bid accordingly.
 3. The required road activities will be incorporated into the GNA timber sale contract and/or addendums.
4. Once prescriptions are approved, establish sale boundary lines.
 - a. Stand boundary delineation may be estimated with GPS and flagging prior to approval, however no paint should be applied until RXs are approved.
 - b. The USFS requires stump marks to be applied to painted boundary trees.
 - c. A final sale shapefile for all stands must be supplied to the USFS.
 - d. Private Line Boundary Location: Boundaries along private lands will be established by the USFS where there is insufficient monumentation along the boundary for the line to be followed. Always contact the USFS for line location assistance whenever the boundary line is in doubt.
 - i. If insufficient monumentation exists, contact the local USFS representative to request boundary line establishment. The USFS will survey and place boundary signs along the line. DNR will then paint in the line along the USFS sign boundary.

- ii If there is already good monumentation along the line (USFS boundary signs or obvious previously painted trees), then the DNR may refresh the lines as needed.
- 5. Once lines have been established, individual tree marking can begin.
 - a. Be sure to follow all marking guidelines as detailed in the approved RXs.
 - b. Final basal area must be within +/- 10 ft² of the target basal area listed in the RX.
- 6. Once field work is complete, work on sale establishment documents can begin.

C. Timber Sale Establishment Documents

Note: The Prospectus, Map, and other documents are considered addenda to the Timber Sale Contract. Because of this, legally, items may be placed in any one of these documents. Replications of items in multiple documents for the purpose of added emphasis can be done, but it is not necessary.

The following documents are required for the GNA timber sale establishment and approval:

1. Sale Map
 - a. All maps should contain the statement: “This map is for informational purposes only and may not have been prepared for or be suitable for legal, engineering or surveying purposes. The user is solely responsible for verifying the accuracy of information before using for any purpose. By using this product for any purpose user agrees to be bound by all disclaimers found here: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/legal>”.
 - b. The WisFIRS GNA Timber Sale Print Template may be used to produce your map but is not required. Maps produced by other GIS software are acceptable as well.
 - i Detailed requirements for sale maps are listed in the “GNA Timber Sale Review” document on the GNA Toolkit.
 - c. When possible, use set scales for sale maps (ex. – 1:15,840, 1:7,920).
2. Prospectus
 - a. If the sale borders private lands, the prospectus should include the statement: “The harvesting of any portion of a tree that lies outside the physical ownership of the USFS will not be allowed. Trees lying across the property line must be bucked at the ownership line and all portions of the tree that reside on the private side of the line must be left in place. Conversely, the remaining portion of the tree that lies within the physical ownership of the USFS may be harvested and utilized.”
3. Form 2460-001
 - a. Unlike DNR sales, GNA sales do NOT require a timber sale narrative.
 - b. The residual basal area of a stand must be within +/- 10 square feet of the goal, as stated in the RX, for thinnings and selection cuts. Residuals for other treatments should follow the guidance as provided in the RX. If deviating from these guidelines, provide justification in the Qualifying Comments section.
4. Contract
 - a. Using the latest version of the GNA Timber Sale Contract (Form 2400-005G), work up a draft sale contract with all applicable special conditions included.
 - b. List all the roads to be used, with their restrictions and maintenance requirements in the appropriate tables. Do NOT list town roads, since maintenance and use of these roads are under the control of the township.
 - c. Also be sure to include a list of post-harvest road berming and closure needs by road number.
 - d. At times, it may be necessary for loggers on two or more different sales to use the same main hauling routes during the same time frame. This could involve two different GNA sales, or a GNA sale and a regular USFS sale. When this does occur, a Dual Use Road Maintenance Agreement should be written up by the DNR sale administrator and signed by all parties involved (DNR, USFS, loggers). This Agreement will be attached to, and become a part of,

the timber sale contract for each sale. A template of this Agreement can be found in the GNA Toolkit.

5. Sale Volume Summary
 - a. USFS requires a species breakdown of proposed sale volume in cords and MBF, and is automatically reported through GNA WisFIRS functionality.
 - b. Individual species breakdowns must be supplied for any product/species combination that contains multiple species. This is done by entering each species in the Appraisal Species Breakdown section contained in the Appraisal page for that product/species. Keep adding species until the total volume percentage equals 100%. This percentage is automatically tracked in the upper right corner of the form.
 - c. **The WisFIRS GNA Sale Report is** supplied to the USFS during the sale approval process are automatically generated by WisFIRS.
6. Approved Prescriptions for all stands in the sale.
 - a. Copies of the approved RX are automatically placed in the Documents tab by WisFIRS when a stand is added to a sale. If a stand is removed from the sale, the associated RX will be removed from the Documents tab.
 - b. For any stands that would have originally been included in a particular sale but are deferred - a copy of the email correspondence documenting the deferral of that stand needs to be included in the sale Documents tab.
7. A shapefile of the GPS boundaries of the stands in the sale. The Timber NFS can obtain this information from the Stands layer in WisFIRS once it has been updated by the sale establisher.

D. Sale Approval, Bidding, And Awarding

The approval process relies heavily on WisFIRS.

1. Update the stand recon in WisFIRS based on cruise and/or RX data. Stand lines need to be edited in WisFIRS to match the cutting boundary of the sale.
2. Create a new draft timber sale in WisFIRS and enter all needed sale data.
 - a. Use the FY of the timber stand list in the Tract number, no matter when the sale is established. This will help keep track of which GNA Agreement the sale applies to.
3. Be sure to place all documents listed in the section above into the WisFIRS Documents tab.
 - a. The stand shapefile does not have to be in the Documents tab.
4. Using the WisFIRS Approval tab, route the sale for Established sale approvals.
 - a. If someone other than the NFL is establishing the sale (i.e., Lead Forester, GNA LTE), route to the appropriate NFL first.
 - b. Route to NFL's Team Leader.
 - c. Add the Timber National Forest Specialist last.
 - i After any needed corrections are made, the Timber NFS will then route the sale to the USFS for approval. This is currently done via email at the request of the USFS.
 - ii Once the sale is approved by the USFS, the Timber NFS will sign off on the approval in WisFIRS and the sale will go from Draft to Established.
 - iii The Timber NFS will track the sale approval process by keeping the Sale Approval Tracking Spreadsheet up to date.
5. Once the sale is approved by the USFS, it can be advertised for bids.
 - a. Send bid notifications out to contractors via postcards and email notifications using the GNA mailing list maintained by the Timber NFS.
 - b. When putting the sale bid packet together, you must use the "GNA Cover Sheet Prospectus Template" document found in the GNA Toolkit.
 - c. Update the [GNA timber sale website](#) with timber sale bid documents.
 - d. The Timber NFS will supply the USFS with a volume summary of all sales to be bid. This volume summary will be based on the per-species cord and MBF volume estimates supplied

- to the Timber NFS earlier in the timber sale process. This report (GNA Prospectus Summary) is automatically generated by WisFIRS, and can be found in the GNA Reports link under the Reports tab.
6. Once bids are opened,
 - a. Confirm high bidder through SAM.gov. Collect form AD-1048 and AD-3030. The latest forms can be found in the GNA Toolkit.
 - b. Place a copy of the bid opening results on the GNA Timber Sale Webpage and email a copy to the Timber NFS and USFS contacts.
 7. Go to the GNA Sale Number Assignment spreadsheet and assign a sale number to each sold sale
 - a. Sales should not be assigned a sale number until after they are successfully sold.
 8. After the performance bond is secured and the timber sale contract has been signed,
 - a. Place a copy of the signed contract in the WisFIRS Documents tab.
 - b. Fill in the appropriate sold sale information in WisFIRS.
 - c. Using the WisFIRS Approval tab, route the sale for Sold sale approvals.
 - i. Route to the appropriate Team Leader.
 - ii. The Timber NFS does NOT need to be routed/notified for Sold sales.

Pre And Post Sale Treatment Management On GNA Stands

Stands identified in the Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) Agreements are managed by DNR staff and partners following prescriptions approved by the United States Forest Service (USFS). This section identifies the current procedures used for administrative management and tracking of prescribed treatments derived from approved prescriptions. By following this guidance, managers and field staff will be able to use WisFIRS to help plan and execute treatment activities. These procedures fit within the larger timber sale process. For additional information on that process, please refer to section 420 of this Handbook, as well as Appendix F of the GNA Supplemental Project Agreement (SPA). The tasks behind these processes are complex, and as the relationships between the DNR, the USFS, and partners continues to evolve, the processes detailed in this section will need to evolve as well. For the purposes of this section, ‘practices’ and ‘treatments’ refer to the same thing.

A. Prescription Development

1. GNA stand silvicultural prescriptions are written by the assigned prescription writer following guidelines developed by the USFS, reviewed by a DNR Silviculturist or other DNR staff member who is well-versed in prescription development, and approved by the USFS District Silviculturist. For more detailed information on the prescription writing process, refer to the prescription writing guidance document in the GNA Toolkit. More information can also be found in section 420 of this Handbook.
2. Stand treatments are detailed in the FACTS code section of the approved prescription:
 - a. Treatments will consist of at least one harvest treatment per stand, and may contain other pre, during and post-sale treatments.
 - b. Completing these treatments is the responsibility of the DNR, unless a special agreement has been reached with the USFS to defer certain treatments on a case-by-case basis. *Prescribed fire treatments are the only exception to this rule. Due to liability concerns, all fire treatments will be handled by the USFS.
 - c. For tracking, planning and accomplishment reporting purposes, **all** stand treatments listed in the FACTS codes for each approved prescription will be entered into WisFIRS as detailed below. Fire treatments, for the reasons mentioned above, are the only practices that do not need to be entered.

B. Entering Approved Practices into WisFIRS

1. While anyone with WisFIRS edit permissions for a GNA property can enter practices into the system, it is the responsibility of the NFL to ensure that all practices for their District are entered properly and completely.
2. Due to recent updates in WisFIRS, only harvest Scheduled Treatments (RE, RA, T, TN) are tied to the stand boundary, and automatically change when the stand boundary is changed. Because of this behavior, **all other practices for a stand should not be entered until after the final timber sale stand boundary is edited/mapped in WisFIRS.** Adding non-harvest treatments too early will result in editing complications later, when stand lines are updated to match the timber sale cutting area. Regardless, the harvest Scheduled Treatment for a stand should still be added immediately after prescription approval, since this will facilitate timber sale paperwork flow as described in an earlier chapter, and there is no similar issue with the changing of stand lines for a harvest treatment.
3. Treatments can be classified into four categories. These categories are discussed in further detail below. When entering treatments in WisFIRS as a Scheduled Treatment, attempt to pair the FACTS code from the prescription to the best matching WisFIRS Treatment code. A listing of all FACTS

codes, and the management action they represent, can be found in the [GNA Toolkit](#). For a listing of all WisFIRS treatments, see Appendix H of this Handbook.

a. Pre-sale

- i. Most commonly Site Prep practices.
- ii. By definition, these treatments are scheduled to take place prior to the sale being sold and/or harvested, and therefore can be challenging to execute in a timely and appropriate fashion. Constant and continuing communication between all parties involved in the management and execution of these practices is essential.
 1. When entering these practices in WisFIRS, use the current year for the Treatment Date field.
 2. The NFL should be notified of any pre-sale practices immediately after the prescription has been approved by the USFS.
 3. The NFL should utilize spreadsheets, Word documents or other local tracking systems of their design to stay on top of these types of treatments. This will help ensure that none fall through the cracks.
 4. Due to inherent timing issues, it's recommended these treatments be completed with DNR staff and equipment if at all possible.
 5. Begin gathering and drafting necessary materials (e.g., documents, forms, maps, etc.) after the prescription is approved and forward these to the appropriate DNR Team Leader for assignments.
 6. The NFL will follow up with assigned equipment operators. Many types of practices will need to be completed as close to the timber harvest as possible. The NFL will need to be in frequent communications with the logger, the equipment operator, and the sale administrator to properly time these treatments.
 7. Once the practice is finished, the treatment should immediately be entered in WisFIRS as a Completed Treatment. Do not wait until after the timber sale is finished to enter pre-sale Completed Treatments.

b. Concurrent with sale

- i. Most commonly cutting of non-merchantable stems or chemically treating softwood stumps. This would also include the timber sale harvest practice itself.
 1. When entering these treatments in WisFIRS, use the same date for all practices in this category (they should all match the date of the harvest treatment). Typically, this will be the FY date code of the master stand list from which it came (ex. – stands from the FY23 list should be scheduled in 2023)
 2. These practices will be entered as a Completed Treatment in WisFIRS at the time of timber sale closeout.

c. Post-sale or Future Practices

- i. Most commonly planting site prep, tree plantings, regen surveys, TSI, and release treatments.
- ii. The scheduling of these practices is more dynamic than the previous categories. This is because they cannot begin until the timber sale has been completed. Given that most sales typically use multi-year contracts, it is impossible to predict, at the time of prescription approval, exactly when a post-sale practice will occur. Therefore, we will use a two-stage process for scheduling post-sale treatments:
 1. At sale establishment, schedule the year based on the assumption that the timber sale contract will go its full length. Use a “1” in the hundreds position of the date code to signify this is an estimated date (denoted using “21XX”, with XX being the estimated year the practice is to occur).

2. At sale closeout, re-schedule the year of the practice, starting with the year of sale completion and adding the appropriate number of years onto it. Also, drop the artificial “1” from the date code. The date should then accurately reflect the true date the practice will occur.
 - iii. Once the practice is finished, the treatment should immediately be entered in WisFIRS as a Completed Treatment.
 - iv. If the successful completion of one treatment negates the need for one or more already-scheduled treatments, those subsequent treatments can be deleted from WisFIRS at the time the first treatment is Completed. (ex. – a regen survey shows the stand as fully stocked and the USFS approves it as certified. At that point, any other scheduled future regen surveys are no longer needed, and can be safely deleted).
- d. Optional Practices
- i. Most commonly additional regen surveys based on additional establishment activity, additional tree planting, animal damage control, or release treatments.
 - ii. Like post-sale treatments, these are also dynamic, and rely on the fluctuating end date of the timber sale contract. However, these practices are also wholly contingent treatments, that may or may not be required, based on the successes or failures of the practices that are completed before them. These treatments are usually tagged in the prescription FACTS codes section with the words “ONLY IF NEEDED”, or something similar.
 - iii. Because of these characteristics, we will use a modified two-stage process for scheduling these types of treatments:
 1. At sale establishment, follow the guidance in B.2.c.ii.1 above, EXCEPT substitute a “9” in the hundreds position instead of a “1”. By using a 9, managers will be able to easily query for, and identify, these contingent treatments.
 2. At sale closeout, re-schedule the year of the practice, based on the year of sale completion and adding the appropriate number of years to it, but do NOT drop the “9” from the date code. By maintaining the “9” code, managers will still be able to identify contingent practices, even after sales are closed out.
 3. If the completion of an earlier practice switches a contingent practice to a mandatory one, the 9 code should then be removed from the contingent practice. The date should then accurately reflect the true date the practice will occur.
 - iv. Once the practice is finished, the treatment should immediately be entered in WisFIRS as a Completed Treatment.
 - v. If the successful completion of one treatment negates the need for one or more already-scheduled treatments, including contingent treatments, those subsequent treatments can be deleted from WisFIRS.

C. Use of the FRM (Forest Regeneration Metric) Crew for Regen Survey Treatments

Each summer the Division of Forestry hires a crew of FRM LTE staff to collect regeneration data on various ownerships throughout the State. In past years, the GNA program has piggy-backed on this effort and used FRM staff to help complete our required GNA regeneration checks. This was done to capitalize on the available labor force, to seek efficiencies in data collection, and to provide additional survey sites on USFS land that benefited the FRM program. While it is not mandatory, use of the FRM crew to collect regen data remains an option for USFS District GNA staff. If the FRM crew is not utilized, field data still

needs to be collected, and therefore must be accomplished either by local DNR staff or through contracting. If you do choose to use the FRM crew, the following considerations apply:

1. Information on stands in need of regen monitoring can be obtained by querying for these treatments in the Scheduled Treatments section of WisFIRS. Querying can be done by treatment type and year.
2. Determining current-year needs should begin in December, and the NFL for each USFS District should have the list of stands needing regen checks prepared by Feb. 1.
3. The list of stands for the FRM crew will be consolidated by the Timber NFS and supplied to the FRM crew leader by Feb. 15, to facilitate planning and crew hiring by the FRM program.
4. Any stands that the FRM program feels they will not be able to accomplish will be communicated back to the Timber NFS by the end of March. The Timber NFS will then relay this information back to the USFS District NFLs.
5. During the subsequent field season, check-ins should occur on a regular basis (at least monthly). These check-ins will help determine FRM crew progress, and whether any additional resources or alternate methods will need to be employed in order to complete the required GNA regeneration checks.
6. The Timber NFS will receive the final regeneration data and reports from the FRM crew leader by Nov. 15 and will distribute the data to the USFS District NFLs and the USFS Silviculturist.
7. The NFLs should then distribute the FRM and any other locally-collected data and reports to their respective USFS District Silviculturist. Locally-collected data should also be sent to the Timber NFS, so they have a complete copy of the regen data collected that season. The Timber NFS will forward a complete copy of all regen data collected that year to the USFS Silviculturist.

D. Reforestation

For some GNA stands, prescription specifications or the lack of adequate regeneration will require tree planting. To facilitate the planning and timely execution of such reforestation treatments, diligent updating of these treatments in WisFIRS is critical. Site prep and tree seedling needs must be planned for in advance. Being able to query accurate scheduled treatments from WisFIRS will benefit GNA managers with this task. Sites that require reforestation should be planted as soon as possible after the stand has been harvested; before competition on the sites becomes established. Much of the workload in reforestation is handled through contracting. For more information on contracting, see the related info in section 450 “Timber Sale Contracting”, as well as example bids and reforestation contracts on [DNR Forestry’s intranet page on regeneration](#).

Some additional reforestation considerations:

1. Nurseries operate and plan up to 5 years ahead. The GNA program is required to supply the nurseries with estimated tree seedling needs for that 5-year period.
 - a. Currently, this data is reported annually to the nursery via an Excel spreadsheet. The Timber NFS is responsible for gathering this data and filling in the spreadsheet.
 - i. The NFS can query WisFIRS for planting treatments, and should also reach out to the NFL’s to verify tree seedling needs.
 - ii. The spreadsheet needs to be returned to the nursery by March 15.

- b. A WisFIRS development project has been approved, and is currently being programmed, which will automate this data collection and do away with the Excel spreadsheet.
 - i. The new program will operate by requiring detailed tree seedling data from GNA managers. Managers will include this data when they are entering planting Scheduled Treatments in WisFIRS. It will be important for managers to enter the most accurate data possible when scheduling these planting treatments. This will allow the system to provide more meaningful predictive tree seedling numbers to the Nursery.
 - c. Faster growing species or those with readily available seed crops are less restrictive.
 - d. Best practices involve tracking and updating planting info regularly in order for DNR and other nursery stock to be available in the appropriate planting window.
 - e. DNR nursery planting stock should be the primary source for stock on GNA sites. Stock from the USFS's Toumey nursery is also an option, but such stock is not always available. When Federal stock is used, the USFS nursery must be either re-imbursed with in-kind stock from the DNR nursery, or a collection agreement must be initiated to pay for the Federal stock.
- 2. Look specifically at plantings while analyzing future treatments during winter planning. Planning for site prep and planting should be done the year before the practice is needed.
 - 3. The NFLs should work with the Team Leader to order the necessary seedlings and contract the planting labor.
 - a. All site prep work should be completed before freeze-up in the fall prior to next spring's hand planting. Bids for plantation work should be drafted in December and bid out in January.
 - b. DNR seedlings become available for ordering the first Monday in October.
 - c. Schedule post planting maintenance checks, TSI, and release work in WisFIRS upon completion of the planting, if not already in the system.

E. After practices have been completed

- 1. It is the NFL's responsibility to confirm the completion of all scheduled practices. The Timber NFS will monitor overall progress and serve as an additional resource to ensure all practices are completed.
- 2. The USFS must be notified of any completed practices. The Team Leader and the Timber NFS should also be notified. All completed practices should be reported to the USFS at least annually, but more frequent notifications can be beneficial and are encouraged. The method of notification will depend on the type of practice involved. One option is to use the NFL monthly report for notifications. Notification specifics for certain practices:
 - a. Concurrent practices completed during the timber sale (harvest treatments, cutting 1-5 inch stems, etc.) – These are reported after sale closeout on a quarterly basis by the Timber NFS, through the timber sale closeout process.
 - b. Regen checks/planting reports – these are reported annually, through the NFLs and Timber NFS, as noted in Section D5 and D6 above.
 - c. All other treatments should be reported within 30 days of completion. Notify the Team Leader, the Timber NFS, and the USFS District Silviculturist.
- 3. Upload relevant documents into the WisFIRS documents tab for the specific scheduled treatment. Place a copy of the documentation in the corresponding timber sale file folder.
- 4. Complete the treatment in WisFIRS. Completing treatments guidance can be found starting on page 140-3 of this handbook and in the WisFIRS Online Help.

F. Additional notes on updating treatments in WisFIRS

1. The DNR is responsible for the adequate regeneration of all stands in a GNA timber sale that are considered regeneration harvests. Minimum regeneration certification standards have been established for the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest for natural and artificially regenerated stands. These standards can be found in the GNA Toolkit. Regeneration and plantation stocking survey instructions and data collection forms and reports are also located in the GNA Toolkit. These forms should be used for regen surveys (unless collected by the FRM crew as detailed above), as well as plantation reports and evaluations. If the regeneration in a stand meets the minimum certification standards, forward the data to the USFS District Silviculturist for approval of the certification. If approved, complete the regen certification scheduled treatment in WisFIRS.
2. WisFIRS now handles scheduled treatments (along with their corresponding polygons) differently, depending on the treatment code used.
 - a. Scheduled harvest treatments (codes T, TN, RA, RE) are still tied to the stand boundary, like before, but be aware that once these treatments are completed, the completed treatment can no longer be deleted. If a mistake is made and data needs to be edited or deleted for these harvest completed treatments, the user should report a defect in WisFIRS, and the Madison IT staff will correct it.
 - b. For all other scheduled treatments, the treatment is no longer tied to the stand boundary and if stand lines are changed, the treatments will cross stand lines and will be automatically replicated in all stands they touch. This can lead to multiple additional scheduled treatments in stands that originally did not contain them. Do NOT delete the extra treatments from the tabular stand record unless you are certain the record was part of the original treatment for that stand. It is possible to remove a treatment for a stand different from the one you're working in if the treatment was added automatically by the system due to changing stand lines. To be sure you are working on the proper treatment, you may need to cross-verify it by checking the treatment tracking number of the polygon in the WisFIRS map. To re-align Scheduled Treatment polygons to the stand, you have two options. The first is to edit the treatment polygon in the map to match the stand lines. The second, much easier and recommended method, is to delete the original tabular treatment record and then re-enter it for the stand. This will force the system to re-draw the scheduled treatment to match the current stand boundary.
3. Treatments are an ever-changing and dynamic list of practices that will require due diligence on the part of managers to ensure that all treatments are completed in a timely manner, are rescheduled when necessary, and are deleted when appropriate, so that obsolete treatments do not clutter up the system. If treatments are delayed from their original schedule for any reason, keep the date fields for the treatment updated in WisFIRS, as well as any related treatments that may be affected. Treatments should be reviewed for accuracy on an annual basis, at a minimum. Ultimately, the responsibility for ensuring that all treatments are managed appropriately lies with the NFLs and the Timber NFS positions.

GNA Timber Sale Close-out Procedure

Additional information can be found in Chapter 80 of the Timber Sale Handbook. **Within 60 days of the final timber sale invoice being paid and a final sale inspection, all sales shall be closed out.**

1. The Timber Sale is considered complete and ready for closeout when:
 - a. All cutting is complete and final field inspection has been conducted and documented on the Timber Sale Inspection Record (Form 2460-002). This includes any post-harvest roadwork, other repairs, cleanup, or restoration requirements.
 - b. All haul tickets and scale sheets have been submitted for billing.
 - c. The final payment has been received and the Ledger Balance is equal to \$0.00.
 - d. If necessary, process excess stumpage as a refund or transfer to another sale.

A. Steps to Complete Treatment in WisFIRS.

The following procedure assumes that the stand polygons and scheduled treatments have been previously entered into WisFIRS during the sale establishment phase.

1. In WisFIRS Public Lands application:
 - a. Go to the Timber Sale Tab > Notice and Report Tab > Recon Information Box
 - b. Click “Complete Treatments” Button. For each stand in the sale:
 - i. Enter Actual Cut Acres
 - ii. Enter Treatment Date
 - iii. The check box for Create CT (Completed Treatment) GIS Shape will automatically be selected – this will create a completed treatment polygon for each stand that exactly matches the current stand boundary. If only part of the stand was completed, be sure to edit the CT polygon to match the treated area (**this can only be done after the Complete Button is pushed in the next step - additional** info below).
 - c. Click Complete Button

Only after this step is completed AND the Ledger balance is zero can a Final Report be created.

2. Notify your DNR Financial Specialist that you are ready to close out the sale, and request “Create Final Reports”. Only a Financial Specialist or someone with WisFIRS Financial Role permissions can initiate the creation of a Final Report. The Create Final Reports button on the Journal tab is greyed out for all other users.
3. Items that will need to be gathered to proceed with a closeout include:
 - a. The original timber sale file folder with all original paperwork.
 - b. Sale admin file with all haul tickets, mill scales and field scales.
 - c. Form 2460-013 Timber Sale Closeout Checklist. Details for filling out for Timber Sales on GNA stands are below (5a-d). Once completed, place a copy of the form in the final sale folder.
 - d. Final Journal, Final Ledger, and Final Value/Volume by Extension (blue link at the bottom of the Notice & Report Tab).
4. Release the Performance Bond.
 - a. Shall be processed within 60 days. Ideally, this should be done as soon as possible after cutting is complete and final inspections have been made. The bond should be held until all required roadwork and other restorations have been completed.

- b. Use Form 2460-004 (Timber Sale Closeout Transaction) and follow the procedures as outlined in Chapter 85-1 of the Timber Sale Handbook.
5. Complete Form 2460-013 - Timber Sale Closeout Checklist.
 - a. Include the sale number, tract number, and sale name in the upper right of page 1.
 - b. For Box 8, check that completed treatment polygons are accurate and reflect the actual area treated. Make changes to the polygon boundaries and acreage figures as needed. This is especially important if harvested sale stand boundaries are different than those created during sale establishment. Also, update the schedule of any post-sale treatments as necessary, based on the date the stands were harvested or completed (see Chapter 430 for additional information).
 - c. Completely fill out Page 2, including details of any sale changes, prescribed reforestation or site-prep activities performed, or after-sale actions taken through the withholding of bond monies. List compartment-stand numbers and the treatment completed (e.g., “Stand 2119-005: Canopy gap cleaning performed by contractor during harvest operations”).
6. Fill in all appropriate information the WisFIRS Notice & Report\General Information Tab.
 - a. Make sure all boxes are complete and fill in missing items as needed.
 - b. Click on the “Run Total Over/Under %” button at the bottom of the page. If the error is greater than 20%, either positive or negative, click on the “Add Over/Under Comment” button and provide a justification for the discrepancy between the estimated volume and the harvested volume. Include the total Over/Under % amount in the justification text, so that this percentage appears on the final 2460 form.
 - c. Use the Qualifying Comments section to explain any sale accounting or financial irregularities, or other items of note that would be important for an Auditor or the USFS to know about.
7. Scan and/or convert to PDFs and upload the following completed documents to the WisFIRS Documents Tab (*these documents can be obtained through various links within the WisFIRS timber sale page, and therefore are optional for uploading to the Documents tab. The NFS can obtain them through the links):
 - a. 2460-001 - Timber Sale Notice and Cutting Report*
 - b. 2460-002 - Harvest Inspection Record
 - c. 2460-004 - Timber Sale Closeout Transaction
 - d. 2460-009 - Timber Sale Contractor Checklist Pre-Sale Meeting
 - e. 2460-013 - Timber Sale Closeout Checklist
 - f. Final Sale Ledger*
 - g. Final Sale Journal*
 - h. Final Value/Volume by Extension Report*
 - i. Sale admin map detailing roadwork completed, and locations of berms installed
 - j. Notes on any gravel removed from USFS pits and amounts used
 - k. Any amended prospectus or map, and any contract amendment executed during the sale.
 - l. If any scheduled post-harvest treatments are waived, include correspondence of waiver justification, including correspondence from USFS representatives.
 - m. Approved Prescriptions for each stand, if not already present.
8. Route the sale for closeout approvals in WisFIRS > Approvals tab > Completed section**
 - a. Route to the NFL first if someone else is closing out the sale (e.g. Lead Forester, GNA LTE)
 - b. Add the name of the appropriate Team Leader next
 - c. Then add the Timber National Forest Specialist

****Special Note:** When closing out older GNA sales, the stand lines may not be accurate or may not exist at all. The WisFIRS system will not allow stand line changes to Active sales, so routing for approval signatures will have to be done **before** you can correct stand lines. You should still be able to add completed treatments, scheduled treatments, and change tabular data as necessary before routing for approval.

B. Timber NFS Closeout Duties

1. Verify that all elements of the sale closeout as described above have been completed.
2. Obtain the final sale stand shapefiles from WisFIRS, if not supplied by the National Forest Liaison (NFL) earlier.
 - a. If a stand was only partially harvested/treated, be sure to also obtain the Completed Treatment polygon for that stand.
 - b. Add a 14-digit Stand ID field to the attribute table of the shapefile, if not already present
 - c. Add an acreage field if not present.
 - d. Edit tabular data attributes as necessary in preparation for submittal to the USFS.
3. Verify that all post-harvest treatments listed in the approved prescription for each stand have been scheduled in WisFIRS **according to the date protocol as described in Chapter 430.**
 - a. If a treatment has been waived, make sure proper justification/documentation is included in closeout paperwork, **and sent to the USFS with the other closeout documents.**
4. Sale closeouts are tracked in WisFIRS. **The Timber NFS should also track closeouts using the GNA Closed Timber Sale Record spreadsheet located in the Timber Sales Folder on Division of Forestry's GNA shared drive.** The spreadsheet tracks closed sale values and dates of completion, as well as the USFS Bills for Collection, of minimum stumpage and road aid payments made by the DNR to the USFS.
 - a. Bills for Collection only apply to GNA Agreement 1 sales and not Agreement 2 sales.
 - b. **The NFS should track bills and enter billing amounts into this spreadsheet once they are received from the USFS.**
5. At the end of each quarter of the DNR FY, send the closed sale documents for each closed timber sale to the USFS.
 - a. Use the list in A.7. above for documents to include.
 - b. Include the total stumpage received for each sale.
 - c. Send each sale as a separate email. Send them to the USFS Timber Program Manager and Timber Resource Specialist.
 - d. Bills for Collection will then be sent by the USFS to DNR Finance for payment of minimum stumpage and road aids **(for Agreement 1 sales).** A copy of the invoice will also be sent to the Timber National Forest Specialist.
6. Work with each NFL to assure that all post-harvest treatments are completed.
 - a. Once treatments are done, verify that WisFIRS has been updated completed treatments.
 - b. Verify that relevant USFS District personnel have been notified of the completed treatment.

GNA Contracting with Consultant Foresters

Guidelines for contracting with consultant foresters on DNR lands can be found in Chapter 25 of the Timber Sale Handbook and is a good source of information on the topic. However, additional guidance, specifically related to GNA timber sales, is provided in the section below. For GNA sales, if guidance between the two Handbooks seems inconsistent, the guidance provided in this section shall override what is found in Chapter 25 of the Timber Sale Handbook. Contact the Timber NFS for any questions on the applicability of a specific contracting guideline.

The team leader and national forest liaison (NFL) will jointly agree on which, if any, tasks will be appropriate to contract out on individual GNA timber sales. The NFL is responsible for quality control and monitoring of consultant forester contract performance. This task can be delegated out to other DNR staff, but the overall responsibility for contract compliance still resides with the NFL.

A. Tasks Eligible for Contracting

1. The following tasks may be contracted.
 - a. Timber marking, excluding boundary establishment
 - b. Cruising for sale data (volume, residual BA, etc...)
 - c. Preparing draft maps for GNA timber sale establishment

B. Tasks ineligible for Contracting

These listed tasks are DNR responsibility by code, statute, or GNA SPA (Supplemental Project Agreement), making them ineligible for contracting with outside consultants.

1. The following tasks are ineligible for contracting.
 - a. Painting in sale boundary lines
 - b. Writing prescriptions for GNA stands
 - c. The following tasks specified in the Timber Sale Handbook
 - i. Selecting areas to harvest
 - ii. Determining the silvicultural prescription
 - iii. Bidding and awarding of sale
 - iv. Preparing of timber sale cutting notice & report and contract
 - v. Receiving and remitting bonds and stumpage
 - vi. Ultimate responsibility for administering the sale
 - vii. Monitoring cooperating consultant forester performance

C. Additional information for contracting with a consultant forester on GNA sales

1. Contracts of \$5000 or more must be bid out and cannot be done directly.
 - a. All bids must follow DNR purchasing guidelines, which can be found on the [DNR intranet](#).
2. Bids may be solicited from any consultant forester that is not currently debarred from working on National Forest lands. You may also solicit bids from foresters not currently on the DNR's cooperating consultant forester list.
 - a. Cooperating consultant foresters can be found from the [Forestry Assistance Locator](#)
OR
 - b. Request approved bidders from the **DNR Timber NFS** or USFS Contracting Officer.
3. The GNA-approved State contract for services can be found in Forms Catalog (Form 2400-138).
 - a. The team leader for the area shall sign the contract on behalf of the Department.

4. Contracted services are NOT to be funded from the local expense budget. The services are paid for from GNA funds.
 - a. The budget string that costs are charged to will depend on whether the work is being done on GNA Agreement 1 or Agreement 2 sale stands. Consult with the Timber NFS or the Budget Section Chief for additional questions regarding Peoplesoft codes.

D. Fiscal codes for GNA contracted services: See the [GNA Toolkit](#) for most recent GNA budget codes.

E. Sample Specifications for GNA Timber Sale Contracting

1. Related guidance materials can be found in the Division of Forestry's intranet Public Lands Toolkit.
2. Examples of previous GNA contracts and exhibits can also be found in the GNA folder stored on the Division of Forestry's shared drive.
3. As an additional resource, each USFS District has unique examples of their recent documents for contracting located under the USFS District folder within the GNA shared folder.
4. Reach out to the NFL for your USFS District or the Timber NFS for guidance on contract specifications.

F. Additional Details on Eligible Tasks

1. Timber Marking
 - a. Ensure that all management specifications are following the approved prescription criteria.
 - i State all timber sale expectations for contracting work.
 - ii Include the silvicultural prescription, including residual BA, order of removal, and all prescription specifics to ensure that the extent of timber marking is understood. This document will be part of the contract exhibit package for bidding and execution of the contract work.
 - b. The paint scheme must follow the colors as indicated in the GNA SPA (Supplemental Agreement). Indicate the tree marking colors to be used in the contract documents (cut trees – blue, leave trees – orange, etc.).
 - i All painted sale boundaries are required to be established by the NFL, or DNR representative, prior to contracting out marking services to a consultant.
 - c. Create a detailed map with all specifics and landmarks.
 - d. Indicate type of paint to be used (e.g., lead-free).
 - i Only lead-free paint is to be used on GNA timber sales.
 - ii No brand names are to be specified but can include a statement such as: 'paint needs to be of a quality to last 4 to 5 years under normal conditions.'
 - e. Indicate all paint lines or "ribbon lines" in existence on the contract timber sale bidding map.
2. Cruising for Timber Sale Data
 - a. Detail check cruise frequency and accuracy requirements. Detail process for incomplete or sub-par work that requires additional contractor time to bring sale work into compliance and approved for contractor payment.
 - b. GNA reporting requirements call for specific species volume breakdowns on all GNA sales. For species that are sold as combined products (e.g., Mixed Hardwoods), ensure cruise volume data is collected in such a way as to provide for this species breakdown. The species volume breakdown data is entered into WisFIRS during sale write-up.

G. Billing and Tracking

1. Billing of GNA Timber Sale Contracted Work

- a. Before the billing process begins, all required documentation of completed partial or total contract accepted work must be received by the GNA contract administrator.
 - i **Do not accept/request an invoice from a Contractor before all work has been inspected, verified, and accepted by the GNA contract administrator.**
 - b. Once work has been accepted, the GNA contract administrator will sign and date the invoice with the date received and write the appropriate GNA accounting code (for specific GNA Agreement #) on the invoice. The invoice should then be scanned and sent in an email to Forestry Accounts Payable for payment.
 - c. Finance will pay the invoice within 30 days of the date received. Payments made more than 30 days after the date received will automatically include a late payment fee, calculated by Finance.
 - d. If the work is being done under a Purchase Order, the accounting codes do not have to be added to the invoice. In this case, the invoice should contain the Purchase Order number for reference. Supply copies to the NFL and the Team Leader.
2. Tracking of Completed Contract work
- a. Inspection documentation and all data, notes and maps should be placed in the timber sale folder by the NFL or connected to the timber sale folder electronically.
 - b. File locations and record keeping specifics are the responsibility of the NFL.
3. Reminders:
- a. If the contract will be below \$5,000, a Purchase Order does not have to be generated and the services can be paid for directly via invoice to Finance.
 - b. If the contract is between \$5,000 and \$50,000, use the Simplified Bidding process as spelled out on the Finance Purchasing web page. A Purchase Order will need to be generated.
 - c. If you believe the contract will be for an amount above \$50,000, contact a Purchasing Agent to assist you with the bidding process (see link in 2.f. below for more information).
 - d. When using Simplified Bidding, bids may be submitted by any method you deem acceptable (email, fax, verbal, sealed envelope, etc.) The acceptable methods must be spelled out in the bid solicitation materials.
 - e. A minimum of three vendors must be contacted for bid solicitation. However, it is at the discretion of the contract administrator (in conjunction with the NFL) to decide which three vendors they wish to send bid requests to.
 - f. Additional information on the purchasing process, including forms, payment procedures, and contract information, can be found on [DNR Finance's intranet page](#).

GNA County Agreements and Contracts

A. County Agreements

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources may contract with a county for the purposes of conducting forest management activities on Federal Lands under a cooperative agreement pursuant to s. [28.15\(3\), Wis. Stats.](#)

1. A county must have a County Forest as defined under ss. [28.10](#) and [28.11](#), Wis. Stats. to be eligible to participate in the Good Neighbor Authority Program (GNA). See Chapter 200 of this handbook for more information on county forests.
2. Counties that meet eligibility requirements must pass a resolution to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR).
 - a. The template resolution document is available in the [GNA Toolkit](#) and is titled: “County Resolution Template”.
 - b. This resolution shall be dated and kept on file with the NFS and the appropriate NFL. A copy shall be placed in the County MOA and Contracts folder of the GNA Drive.
3. Counties interested in working on GNA Projects must then agree to and sign the MOA between the DNR and the county for implementation of the GNA Agreement.
 - a. The template MOA document is available in the [GNA Toolkit](#) and is titled: “County MOA Template”. This template is a PDF document and is designed to be physically signed by all parties mentioned below.
 - b. The MOA shall be signed by the DNR Secretary, County Board Chair, County Forestry Committee Chair, and County Forest Administrator (CFA) and kept on file with the Timber NFS and the appropriate NFL. A copy shall be placed in the County MOA and Contracts folder of the GNA Drive.

B. County Good Neighbor Authority Program Contract

When a county has met eligibility requirements, passed a resolution, entered an MOA with the DNR, and is ready to engage on a specific project, the county applies using the County GNA Contract.

1. The National Forest Liaison (NFL) shall have discussions with the CFA and forestry staff to detail their interest in project areas and associated tasks they are willing to perform for a determined contract period, typically the State fiscal year.
2. The NFL produces a draft Work Plan Document outlining the specific work areas and tasks the County Forestry Department has shown interest in performing. This document details the types of activities and the time determined to complete all the activities.
3. The NFL presents the draft Work Plan to the CFA. Once accepted, the CFA determines the following:
 - a. County staff salary
 - b. Fringe benefits
 - c. Supplies and services
 - d. Indirect (overhead) costs

4. The CFA presents the completed draft Work Plan to the NFL for review and final approval. The final Work Plan shall be submitted as an Addendum to the County GNA Contract.
5. The NFL completes the appropriate County GNA Contract and presents the document to the CFA for review.
 - a. This document shall be signed by the County Finance Director or Corporation Counsel and the CFA.
 - b. Once the contract is signed by county affiliates:
 - i The NFL forwards the contract to the DNR Division of Forestry Budget and Grants Section Chief for final signature **AND**
 - ii A requisition for purchase order to fund the contract. Specify the GNA Agreement for which the work is to be funded.
 - iii The NFL holds final signed contract and purchase order.
 - iv A copy shall be provided to the CFA.
 - v A copy shall also be placed in the County MOA and Contracts folder of the GNA drive.
 - c. A blank contract form can be found in the DNR Forms Catalog ([Form 2400-143](#)).
6. The NFL and the County Forestry Department shall communicate regularly when the work is being accomplished and when it is final. Completed work must meet the approved prescription documents. The NFL shall inspect all contracted work, within 30 days of notification, and must accept the work as satisfactory before any payment reimbursement installment can be submitted to Finance.
7. Once the NFL and the county deem the work complete:
 - a. The County Forestry Department shall submit to the NFL an invoice for the work performed.
 - b. The NFL reviews the invoice for completeness and fills out the GNA County Reimbursement Request form. This form can be found in the [GNA Toolkit](#).
 - c. Both the CFA and NFL sign the form.
 - d. The NFL emails a copy of the invoice, with PO#, and signed form to DNRFRAccountsPayable@wisconsin.gov to request reimbursement to the county.

Road Reconstruction

Changes to new and existing forest roads are often necessary while executing GNA timber sales and even stand treatments. Most of the time, road use and construction on GNA sales is handled through the timber sale contract as a normal part of sale administration and is considered simple maintenance of existing roads or construction of temporary roads. These temporary roads are closed off after use. Some select roads, however, are classified as Road Reconstruction. These reconstructed roads will remain part of the USFS road system long-term, and supply access to an area for future management activities. Because of their long-term use, much more effort is needed to upgrade these roads to a minimum acceptable road specification. These Road Reconstruction projects are identified by the USFS and are assigned to the DNR during the yearly timber sale stand list process. Once we receive these road projects, DNR employees work in concert with the USFS engineering Points of Contact (P.O.C.) on forms and approvals, but the State is ultimately responsible for administering and overseeing the road reconstruction projects within GNA stands. At a higher level, the DNR and USFS have an all-encompassing MOU that outlines the interagency coordination process for road reconstruction projects, and which can inform GNA road reconstruction projects. There is also a General Permit (GP14) specific to road and trail improvement projects on USFS lands. When questions on permits arise, the DNR transportation liaisons are the permitting points of contact for waterway and wetland impacts. The USFS currently operates under a West Zone and East Zone for road projects within the Chequamegon and Nicolet areas, respectively.

A. Preplanning

1. Obtain road reconstruction work in early March (or when upcoming yearly work is assigned) for all GNA road work.
2. Meet/discuss with the National Forest Liaison (NFL) their needs for the road, whether pre-timber sale or as a part of the timber sale bid process.
3. **If possible, road reconstruction work should be a part of the timber sale bid process with a logger.**
 - a. With the USFS appraisal system, there is no cost allowance for cutting and removing cut trees from the 22-foot cleared roadway. That is because the USFS roads that are constructed are done by the logger awarded the timber sale, either by themselves or by a contractor they hire. The trees to be removed from the roadway are harvested by the logger prior to road reconstruction and utilized by them - a benefit.
 - b. If hiring a private contractor for road reconstruction, trees needing to be cut and removed from the 22-foot cleared roadway is a cost - not a benefit. Unlike the logger who likely uses a processor to cut trees, the private contractor more often uses a chain saw – much slower and much more work.
 - i Example: Appraisal for 3 roads that were reconstructed in 2021 came to around \$20K using the USFS bid system. These roads were built in advance, and not part of the timber sale bid process. It was bid to a private contractor, not a logger. The contractor submitted a bid for \$55K to do the work because of the high expense incurred by the private contractor to cut, buck, and bunch wood that they would not/could not use.
 - c. Few exceptions should be made to road building in advance of the timber sale bid process. One legitimate exception is if a lengthy road needs to be reconstructed for very little cut product which could adversely affect timber sale bid interest.
 - i Example: A decision was made to build a ½ mile of road 6143103 in advance of the timber sale. The reason for the road was to access a 4-acre stand at one end of it. There might be 20 cords of wood harvested from that stand. The estimated cost of

this road was \$8.7K. Too much initial expenditure and work for 20 cords of wood, which might jeopardize the timber sale interest if made a part of it. Also, a road such as this could be desired by the USFS as part of their long-term road access network, and therefore the need to construct it goes beyond just current stumpage access.

4. Obtain/prepare road map for use in the field depicting all intersecting roads, streams, or wetland areas.

B. Field Work

1. Contact respective USFS engineering Point of Contact (P.O.C.) a minimum of 5 business days in advance of meeting on site to look at roads. Meet on the ground with the P.O.C. to walk each planned road reconstruction segment to be used for the timber sale to determine the required road work to remove forest products. Things to consider during meeting(s):
 - a. Determine if a wetland permit (widening road in wetland areas) or a stormwater permit will be needed (extensive fill required for both). Also determine if stream crossing permits are needed.
 - i For questions, contact the Forestry Division Forest Hydrologist and, if need be, contact the DNR Transportation Liaison and USFS Hydrologist covering the district. Meet onsite as needed.
 - b. Identify need for culverts, if any. If the need is for cross drainage only, no permit is required for replacing an existing culvert.
 - c. Stumps of trees that are on the 22-foot-wide cleared road can be grubbed out. On wetland crossings, fecon mowing may be used instead.
 - d. Additional truck turnarounds should be installed depending on the length of the road.
 - e. Needs for approach to existing roads (widening, surfacing, etc.)
 - f. Location of nearby USFS gravel pits for gravel and breaker run removal. *(If a source other than the USFS is planned on being used, the State will ensure, prior to the road being constructed, that the source does not contain any NNIS (Non-native invasive species) as defined by the USFS.*
 - g. Ask any other questions that come to mind.
2. Measure the length of the road to be reconstructed.
 - a. Identify location of important design features. Include exact start-to-finish measurements for:
 - i Location of culverts to be replaced
 - ii Areas of road to outslope
 - iii Areas to be excavated
 - iv Water bar location
 - v Areas in need of gravel/breaker run
 - vi Truck turnaround locations
 - vii All known design features
 - b. Take notes on the map, on paper, and/or tablet including culvert lengths, size, angle of culvert and other items listed above.
 - c. Measure and paint trees 11 feet from the road centerline in yellow paint. These need to be cut by the logger and stumps must be removed. Stump mark. *If merchantable trees, a tally of trees can also be useful.*

C. Prepare Road Spec/Plan

1. Assemble a road package including, at a minimum:

- a. USFS Road Number and length
 - b. Typical details (roadway width, turn outs, water bars, etc.)
 - c. Schedule of items for each road to include:
 - i. Aggregate quantity
 - ii. Permanent Culvert size(s) and length(s)
 - iii. Erosion control measures
 - iv. Temporary stream/wetland crossing(s)
 - v. Clearing and Grubbing quantities
 - vi. Geotextile quantity (if needed)
 - vii. Closure devices (if needed)
 - d. Any specifications regarding slash treatment, stump height requirements, seasonal restrictions, etc.
 - e. Any other construction items that may be needed.
2. Before site visit, submit this package to the delegated USFS engineering P.O.C for review.
 3. Meet USFS representative on site to perform a plan-in-hand review of the proposed roadwork in the timber sale to ensure feasibility of the proposed work.
 4. Adjust the plan as needed.

D. Prepare Bid Package

1. **If work is to be done by a private contractor independent of the timber sale**, mail to at least 3 contractors. Document all correspondences and file all Email. Mail blind carbon copy. Package to include:
 - a. Cover Letter
 - b. Request for Bid Sheet (DOA-3070)
 - c. Hiring Contract (2400-138)
 - d. Contract Exhibits (A, B, etc.)
 - e. Schedule of Items
 - f. Quantities Table
 - g. USFS Road Locator Map
 - h. Project Road Map
 - ii. Design Appendices.
2. **If part of the Timber Sale Bid Package**, work with the NFL to determine how this information will be incorporated into the bid package. Items to include in the Timber Sale Contract for Road Reconstruction work are:
 - a. Hiring Contract (2400-138)
 - b. Contract Exhibits (A, B, etc.)
 - c. Schedule of Items
 - d. Quantities Table
 - e. USFS Road Locator Map
 - f. Project Road Map
 - g. Design Appendices
3. Any questions brought up by potential timber purchasers during the solicitation period shall be fielded by the State; but the State can contact their USFS engineering P.O.C. for clarification.
Contractors and timber purchasers should not be contacting USFS engineering P.O.C. directly.

E. Awarding Bid, Forms, and USFS notification

1. If Reconstruction Bid is **awarded directly to a private contractor**:
 - a. Notify winner of reconstruction bid promptly. Recommend both a phone call (personal) and written notification (documentation).
 - b. Email (or mail) contract for signing. The signed Contract, Certificate of Insurance, and Performance Bond must be returned within 30 days.
 - c. Fill out Simplified Bidding Record (DOA-3088) supplying all bidder information (or at least a minimum of 6 bidders).
 - d. Obtain a Purchase Order through the Timber National Forest Specialist by submitting the following:
 - i Simplified Bidding Form
 - ii Signed contract from contractor
 - iii Copies of bids received
 - iv Copy of bid package sent out to bidders
 - v Verification that both the performance bond and the certificate of insurance have been received
2. If Reconstruction Bid is **awarded to the logger as a part of the timber sale contract**:
 - a. Make sure that the road reconstruction criteria are either spelled out directly in the contract or are referenced as an addendum to the contract.
3. Notify the USFS P.O.C. of Reconstruction Bid award and tentative startup date.
4. An on-site meeting should occur with the contractor/logger prior to any road reconstruction work.

F. Construction Period

1. Meet often with logger/contractor onsite once work begins. Road reconstruction work can be completed in less than two weeks. It is strongly suggested that daily or at least every-other day inspections occur. Much can be done and done incorrectly if the State representative is not “hands on” during this period.
2. State shall:
 - a. Contact USFS engineering P.O.C. as soon as the award is made; and then 48 hours advance notice when the road work is to begin.
 - b. Be responsible for providing all construction staking and placarding, if needed, on the project.
 - c. Contact the USFS engineering P.O.C. when they feel the road work is 90% complete and the USFS engineering P.O.C. shall meet with the State representative(s) on-site to do a walkthrough before the final acceptance of the road reconstruction.
 - d. Give the USFS Engineering P.O.C. a 48-hour notice when they seek additional assistance in construction oversight.
 - e. Be responsible for the final inspection and acceptance prior to removal of commercial timber.
3. USFS shall:
 - a. Assist the State representative with the startup of the operations and will assist as needed throughout the project.
 - b. Assist the State with conducting the final road closeout inspection/approval, after all harvesting/hauling is finished and any necessary road repairs are complete.

G. Payment

1. If Reconstruction Bid is awarded directly to a private contractor:
 - a. Notify the Timber NFS of satisfactory completion of all road work.

- b. The Timber NFS will contact DNR Finance to process the Purchase Order for payment.
- 2. If Reconstruction Bid is awarded to the logger as a part of the timber sale contract:
 - a. Notify the Timber NFS of satisfactory completion of all road work.
 - b. No direct payment for road work will be made to the logger. This expense should have been factored into the logger's stumpage bid. Exceptions to this can be made under extraordinary circumstances, such as when unforeseen road expenses, beyond what were detailed in the original road plan, are required during sale administration (extra culverts needing to be placed, additional road fill needed, etc.). Before any such additional work can take place, the work plan must be reviewed and approved by the DNR, a payment amount agreed to and a contract amendment detailing these items is drafted and signed by both parties.

Invasive Species Procedures and Responsibilities on GNA Stands

Non-Native Invasive Species (NNIS) management on GNA stands is a cooperative effort between the USFS and the DNR. To be effective, it requires open and frequent communication between the two agencies. The primary approach for management of NNIS on GNA stands will be one of avoidance. If avoidance is not a viable, desirable, or practical option, depending on the situation and timing, either the DNR or the USFS will take the lead on active NNIS suppression and control activities. Active control of NNIS on USFS lands located in areas outside of a GNA timber sale is the responsibility of the USFS, unless the State agrees to take these treatments on as part of a Restoration project. Restoration projects need to be detailed in a Modification to the GNA Master Agreement.

Any active control treatment plan should be reviewed and approved by the USFS District NNIS Specialist before DNR staff take action. The DNR will be responsible for following BMPs for invasive species management on all timber sales and cultural treatments. Locational data for known NNIS is supplied to the DNR by the USFS on an annual basis. This data consists of a GIS data layer, which is included along with other USFS GIS data, on the GNA drive. Staff should reference this GIS data, as well as other sources of NNIS information, when working on GNA stands. Additional general information on USFS NNIS management can be found on the GNA drive and in the [GNA Toolkit](#).

A. GNA Invasive Treatment Scenarios

1. **Invasives discovered prior to prescription approval:** invasive species inventoried as part of or involving GNA timber stands. Treatment(s) for invasive species written into stand prescriptions. This would only apply to invasive species requiring active treatment, not ones that will simply be avoided by time-of-year restrictions.
 - a. Detailed in stand and GIS data given as part of the official yearly stand list or discovered during prescription field recon activities.
 - b. Will be entered and tracked in WisFIRS as a treatment.
 - c. Funded out of the regular GNA budget.
 - d. Responsibility of the DNR.
2. **Invasives discovered after prescription approval and while sale is active:** during GNA sale establishment or other administrative activities.
 - a. If invasive species can be avoided and/or their presence does not impact the timber sale or prescriptions as written.
 - i. Notify the USFS of the discovery.
 - ii. Proceed with sale work as before.
 - iii. Treatment (if pursued) is the responsibility of, and funded through, the USFS.
 - b. If invasive species cannot be avoided and/or treatment required to meet goals of the timber sale or prescription.
 - i. Rx needs to be modified to detail needed invasive treatment.
 - ii. Treatment needs to be entered/tracked in WisFIRS.
 - iii. Funded out of the regular GNA budget.
 - iv. Responsibility of the DNR until the sale is closed out (including monitoring and follow-up treatments)
3. **Invasive species detailed, inventoried, and treated on USFS lands that are outside the scope of a GNA timber sale.**
 - a. These would fall under Restoration Project guidelines and funding.
 - b. Would be the responsibility of the DNR only if a Restoration Project is created and agreed upon by all parties. The Project would need to be included in a signed Modification before any work could take place.

B. Invasive Considerations

1. Invasive presence
 - a. Invasives are either known in advance through data sources, NEPA documents, and information provided with the annual timber stand list, **OR** they are discovered in the field during sale establishment and administrative activities.
 - b. It's also possible that previously 'known' locations of invasives no longer exist, either through senescence or because they were treated in the past. All 'known' locations which could potentially affect GNA management activities should be field verified by staff during the prescription development and writing process.
 - c. Newly discovered invasives need to be reported to the USFS District Plant Specialist.
 - i. The report should detail the species, density, and location of the new discovery. Follow the guidelines for reporting invasive species details as described on page 130-8 of this Handbook.
 - ii. Optionally, in addition to reporting it to the USFS, this data can be entered into the invasive species section of the Stand Detail page in WisFIRS for each stand involved.
2. Planning (for DNR-responsible active treatments)
 - a. All active treatments that need to be conducted to facilitate management on a GNA timber sale are the responsibility of the DNR, regardless of when the species was discovered. Treatments that fall outside of this scope are in turn the responsibility of the USFS.
 - b. If invasive species are identified during any stage of the timber sale process, the DNR shall develop a plan with the USFS to mitigate the spread of the invasives (see GNA Invasives Scenarios below). However, waivers of active treatment may be granted by the USFS Plant or Invasive Specialist for certain species, on a case-by-case basis. Copies of treatment waivers should be filed in the timber sale folder and included with other timber sale paperwork at sale closeout.
 - c. Once invasive species have been confirmed, a waiver has not been granted, and avoidance is not possible, the invasive treatment needs to be written into the prescriptions for the affected stands, and the treatment need to be entered into WisFIRS.
 - d. Because these treatments are taking place on the National Forest, we do NOT need to go through the WisFIRS pesticide use/approval process before treatment.
 - e. Treatments can be performed by either DNR or county staff or can be contracted out to a consultant. In some cases, it may be possible to facilitate treatment with USFS staff or crews, but only if they are available, it fits into their schedule, and they agree to do it.
 - f. Costs for invasive treatments that are the DNR's responsibility will be charged to the GNA account.
3. Reporting
 - a. Once a treatment has been completed, fill out a CNNF Invasives Species Treatment Form and submit it to the USFS Plant or Invasive Specialist. This form can be found in the GNA Toolkit. A copy of the form should also be placed in the timber sale folder and uploaded to the Documents section of the WisFIRS Completed Treatment.
 - b. Complete the treatment in WisFIRS, following the guidelines set forth in section 430 of this handbook.
4. Follow up treatments
 - a. Treated areas should be monitored while the sale is active. If any additional treatments are needed, the DNR will be responsible for those treatments.
 - b. Once a sale has been closed out, all invasive treatment responsibility shifts back to the USFS.

APPENDIX A - MAPPING & MAPPING SYMBOLS

Mapping

When creating a map for a timber sale using WisFIRS-GIS map template, ArcView or other mapping program (Department Lands-hand drawn maps are not approved), or for other natural resource management purposes, include the following statement: "This map is not a survey of the actual boundary of any property this map depicts." This inclusion is a requirement under s. [443.14\(16\)](#) Wis. Stats., which applies to people who performs services related to natural resources management, including creating any map prepared as a part of those services.

[WisFIRS Link](#)

* Non-exportable layer.

APPENDIX B - COMPLETING A TALLY SHEET

1. Header Information – Complete all areas of the header to ensure data is appropriately accounted for.
2. Pulpwood Tally - For trees between 5” and 11” DBH (hardwood) and between 5” and 9” DBH (softwood).
 - A. Record species codes at the top of columns.
 - B. Tally each tree by number of 8’ sticks in appropriate species column.
 - C. Calculate cords per acre for each species using the sticks + trees method. $(\text{Sticks} + \text{Trees}) / 2$.
 - a. Count the number of trees recorded for each point, by species. *Example: 5 red oak recorded on Point No. 1*
 - b. Add all sticks recorded to determine the total number of sticks on each Point, by species. *Example: 20 sticks of red oak recorded on Point No. 1*
 - c. Add the number of trees recorded to the total number of sticks for each Point by species, and divide the total by 2 to calculate cords per acre. *Example: $5 + 20 = 25$, $25 / 2 = 12.5 \text{ cd/ac red oak on Point No. 1}$*
 - D. Record cords per acre by species for each point (circled number).
 - E. Determine total cords by adding the species columns from top to bottom (Cords Total/Acre by species) and by adding point rows to the right (Total Cords per point).
 - F. Divide totals by number of points sampled to obtain volumes per acre.
3. Sawtimber Tally - Both the small sawtimber and large sawtimber categories are cumulative tally sheets. The small saw portion is for trees between 11 and 15 inches DBH (hardwoods) and 9 and 15 inches DBH (softwoods). The large saw portion is for trees over 15 inches DBH.
 - A. List species code in Species column.
 - B. For each sawtimber size tree tallied, strike out (/) a number in the appropriate size and species category. (Example: a 14” DBH red oak containing 1 log would be tallied by striking out 6 in the vertical column labeled “1”.) At the same time, a dot must be placed in the correct saw-timber total basal area tally for that point. The next small sawtimber size red oak containing 1 log should be tallied by striking out 12, the next by striking out 18, etc. The same process is followed for other species and other size classes.
 - C. Total the board foot volume by adding **the last numbers struck in each log category** for each species. (Example: Small sawtimber red oak in above example: add $3 + 12 = 15$). The 15 represents hundreds of board feet per acre, so two - zeros (“00”) must be added to the 15. Total the “Board Feet” column for both small and large sawtimber categories and divide that by the number of points sampled in the stand to determine the average total board feet per acre.
4. Site Index Tally - Measure the age and height of at least three dominant or co-dominant trees for each stand.
 - A. For even-aged stands, measure and record the age and height of the primary species to determine site index.
 - B. Record species of trees sampled under ‘Species’.
 - C. Record total age of trees sampled under ‘Age’.
 - D. Record total height of trees sampled under ‘Height’.
5. Tree Diameters and Calculation of the Quadratic Mean Stand Diameter - Randomly measure one tree per plot *Examples: first tree in north cardinal direction or third tree in the plot.* On large stands measure one tree for every other or every third plot. The individual diameters will be entered into the calculator on the WisFIRS Stand Detail screen during data entry, and be automatically calculated.
6. Basal Area Tally – Tally 1 dot for each tree tallied in sapling, poletimber, and sawtimber categories: Each dot = 10 sq. ft. BA/acre if using a BAF 10 factor cruising tool. The basal area will also need to be averaged by both the stand total and by species for all size classes.

A. Point And Stand Basal Area Tally

- a. Tally the number of poletimber category trees per point by counting the total number of poletimber size trees recorded on each point and entering that sum in the right column for basal area by Point total. *Example: Point 1: 5 OR +3 MR + 3 OB = 11 trees for a total 110 BA/acre of pole-timber.*
- b. Tally the number of sawtimber trees in each size category per point by counting the total number of small and large sawtimber trees recorded on each point and entering that sum in the appropriate right column. *Example: Point 1: 1 small sawtimber sized tree recorded with a dot for a total small sawtimber basal area of 10 for that Point.*
- c. Total the basal area for each point by adding the basal area entered for poletimber, small sawtimber, and large sawtimber categories. *Example: 110 BA pulpwood + 10 BA small sawtimber = 120 Total BA for Point 1.*
- d. Average the basal area for the stand by adding the Total Basal Area (far right column) for each Point sampled and dividing by the total number of points sampled for the stand. *Example: Point 1, 120 BA + Point 2, 90 BA +3, 90 BA + 4, 80 BA + 5, 90 BA + 6, 110 BA, + 7, 80 BA = 660 BA. 660 BA / 7 points sampled = 94 average Total BA/acre for the stand.*

B. Species Basal Area Tallya. Poletimber –

- i. Add the total number of trees entered by species for each point in the Basal Area Total/Acre row above the sawtimber tally section. *Example: For Red Oak, 5 trees in Point 1 + 5 trees Point 2 + 4 trees Point 3 + 6 trees Point 4 + 5 trees Point 5 + 1 tree Point 6 + 3 trees Point 7 = 29 trees, 29 trees x 10 BA = 290. You can see this value is entered under the P column within the red oak species column.*
- ii. Average this value by dividing by the total number of plots taken for that stand and enter that value below the total BA. *Example: 290 BA for red oak / 7 points sampled = 41 BA/Acre rounded for red oak pole-timber.*

b. Small and Large Sawtimber

- i. Add the total numbers of trees tallied by species for small sawtimber and large sawtimber. This can be done by adding the number of strike-outs (/) for each species by sawtimber category. *Example: 3 strike-outs for red oak small sawtimber x 10 BA = 30 entered in the SS column listed in the red oak species column.*
- ii. Average this value by dividing by the total number of plots taken for that stand and enter that value below the total BA. *Example: 30 BA red oak small sawtimber / 7 points sampled = 4 BA (rounded).*

c. Average Total BA by Species – Calculate by adding the BA /acre by species for each size category and entering the value it in the Total BA row under each species column. *Example: For red oak, 41 BA/Acre poletimber + 4 BA/Acre small sawtimber + 0 BA/Acre large sawtimber = 45 BA Total BA/Acre for Red Oak.*d. Double check BA values - The average Total BA by species should be added to the right and equal the Total Stand BA/Acre calculated in the bottom of the right column.

7. Remarks - Determine and record appropriate management recommendations. Include all treatment recommendations. Mention small inclusions under remarks if they are not given a stand number.

DRAFT

Sheet 1 of 1

For in 2400-032 (R 5/07)

Property/Comp No. or Landowner GOV. KNOWLES S.F.										Compt. 1										Stand No. Acres Estimator 3 35 WALLIS					Date 5/9/07				
Section 20			Town 36			Range 20W			1/4 1/4 SENW			Primary 05-11³					Secondary MR 5-11'					Understory							

Point No.	Species				Total Cords	Trees/Acre Seed/Sap	Total Basal Area				Total
	OR	MR	OB	PW			P	SS	LS	15+	
1	3,4,5,4,4 (12.5)	4,3,4 (7)	2,4,3 (6)		25.5		110	10			120
2	3,3,6,4,5 (13)	5 (3)	2,3,2 (5)		21		90				90
3	5,5,3,3 (10)	4,4 (5)	3 (2)		17		70	20			90
4	5,3,3,3,2,5 (13.5)		2,2 (3)		16.5		80				80
5	4,3,3,5,5 (12.5)	4,3,2 (6)			18.5		80	10			90
6	5 (3)	5,4,4,6,2,3,3 (17)	3,3 (4)	5 (3)	27		110				110
7	4,2,5 (7)	2,2 (3)	3,2,1 (4.5)		14.5		80				80
8											
9											
10											
Cords Total/Acre	71.5 10.2	41 5.9	24.5 3.5	3 .4	20						94

Basal Area Total/Acre												Tree Diameters														
P			SS			LS			P			SS			LS			P			SS			LS		
290			30			180			140			10			10											
41			4			26			20			1			1											
Total BA												1														

Sp	No. of 16-foot logs BAF 10												Board Feet	Site Index																							
	1/2				1				1 1/2					2				2 1/2				3				Species	Age	Ht									
OR	7	10	13	17	4	12	18	24	30	36	42	9	17	26	35	43	52	61	10	21	32	42	52	63	13	26	39	52	65	78	15	30	45	60	OR	82	65
OB	7	10	13	17	6	12	18	24	30	36	42	9	17	26	35	43	52	61	10	21	32	42	52	63	13	26	39	52	65	78	15	30	45	60	OR	80	60
	3	7	10		6	12	18	24	30	36	42	9	17	26	35	43	52	61	10	21	32	42	52	63	13	26	39	52	63	73	15	30	39	48	OR	72	68
	3	7	10		6	12	18	24	30	36	42	9	17	26	35	43	52	61	10	21	32	42	52	63	13	26	39	52	63	73	15	30	39	48			
	3	7	10		6	12	18	24	30	36	42	9	17	26	35	43	52	61	10	21	32	42	52	63	13	26	39	52	63	73	15	30	39	48			
	3	7	10		6	12	18	24	30	36	42	9	17	26	35	43	52	61	10	21	32	42	52	63	13	26	39	52	63	73	15	30	39	48			
	3	7	10		6	12	18	24	30	36	42	9	17	26	35	43	52	61	10	21	32	42	52	63	13	26	39	52	63	73	15	30	39	48			
	3	7	10		6	12	18	24	30	36	42	9	17																								

Remarks: Aesthetic zone. Poor quality - oak wilt.
Convert to pine with reserves,
MIX

CLCT. - 2008
Treat small buckthorn patch with herbicide - 2008
Replant with PR/PW mix post-harvest.
190-10

Appendix C – WISFIRS STAND PREFIX CODES

Code	Description	Code	Description
A	Aesthetic Zone	N	Designated State Natural Area
B	Camping	O	Old Growth
C	Extended Rotation	P	Plantations
D	Deer Yard	Q	Oak Woodland
E	Dog Trial/Training (Class 1)	R	Designated Wild River Zone +
F	Food Plot	S	Species & Communities of Special Concern
G	Consultation/Deferral Areas*	T	Oak Opening
H	Mgt. Objective Not Yet Determined**	U	County Forest Special Use class lands
I	Dove Field	V	Silvicultural concerns
J	Oak/Pine Barrens	W	Wild Area
K	Wildlife Opening - Treated	X	Non-productive Forest Type (<20 cu ft /ac./yr.growth)
L	Lake or River Zones	Y	Designated Wilderness Area +
M	Wild Rice	Z	Other stand to be omitted from mgt. schedule +, ***

+ Designates omission from management schedules

*** G Consultation / Deferral areas (G-consultation & GZ-deferral)**

NOTE: This code should only be utilized when stands have been identified as part of either consultation or deferral areas as part of the master planning process for a property, as described in Manual Code 1750.15. Consultation areas may receive treatments after discussion by an interdisciplinary team; consequently, such stands in these areas should have a G-prefix assigned and should not be accompanied by a Z-prefix. Areas identified for deferral may not receive management treatments until after NRB approval of the master plan; consequently, such stands in these areas should have a G-prefix assigned and should also have a Z-prefix assigned (to remove them from the harvest schedule).

**** H Management objective not yet determined**

NOTE: This code may be used if no master plan exists, for properties with pre-NR44 master plans where management objectives and/or prescriptions are not well defined, or if there is a temporary failure to agree on objectives when developing an Interim Forest Management Plan. Not to be used on properties that have an NR44 compliant master plan, are currently undergoing NR44 master planning, or have a pre-NR44 master plan with clear land management objectives, unless the property manager and forester agree that the master plan objectives should be reconsidered as it relates to vegetation management and will pursue a plan amendment or variance. If clear master plan objectives for passive management exist but there is agreement that they should be reconsidered, this prefix should be used in combination with the Z-prefix (to remove them from the harvest schedule), but only until such time as a decision is reached on whether the stand will be actively or passively managed. The H-prefix should not be used for stands if properties have a Deferral/Consultation Agreement in place (use G-prefix). All attempts shall be made to minimize use of the H-prefix by determining management objectives. When utilized, it should be for only a brief period and removed as soon as possible (e.g. stands that have been H-prefixed, perhaps because of unclear master plan objectives, management options should be discussed at the annual integrated property management meeting and the H-prefix should be removed or changed to a more appropriate code prior to the next integrated property management meeting, which may require development of an IFMP or pursuit of a master plan amendment or variance).

***** Z Other stands to be omitted from the management schedule for some reason –explain in remarks**

NOTE: This code should be utilized to omit stands from the harvest schedule for some reason other than designation as a wild river zone or wilderness area (R or Y-prefix, which also removes stand from harvest schedule). Stands prefixed by the letter Z require explanation for removal from the harvest schedule under remarks section of the stand detail page. If the current master plan prevents active forest management as determined by the appropriate managing program Bureau, then those stands should also be coded “Z”. Another example for use of a code “Z” is a cedar stand that is associated with numerous springs, is located along a trout stream, and has extremely difficult access.

APPENDIX D - COVER TYPE, SIZE, & DENSITY CLASSIFICATIONS AND STAND CLASSIFICATION PROCEDURE

Cover Type Classification

Cover Type – A contiguous group of plants sufficiently uniform in species composition, structure, and age-class growing on a site of sufficiently uniform quality. Forested Habitat (FH) types are characterized by the predominance of one or more key species which make up 50 percent or more of the basal area of sawtimber and poletimber stands, or by the number of trees per acre in seedlings and saplings. Non-Forested Habitat (NFH) types generally contain less than 10 percent stocking of commercial tree species and are classified by predominant vegetation, landforms, or use.

The table below contains a list of Forested and Non-Forested Habitat type codes and descriptions found in WisFIRS.

Note: Forest cover type codes FS (Fir-Spruce) and SC (Swamp Conifer) are no longer available for use but will remain in the WisFIRS database until they are updated. Significant changes also occurred in 2019 to non-forest habitat cover types. WisFIRS requires utilization of these new cover type codes when recon is updated.

WisFIRS Cover Type Codes & Descriptions

Cover Type	Code	Description
Farmland – NFH (Non-Forest Habitat)		
Farmland	F	Sites actively used to produce field crops including, but not limited to, grains, livestock forage, fruits, vegetables, and wildlife food plots. Examples include corn, soybeans, alfalfa, and mixed species hay. Alfalfa/hay is only considered agricultural land if part of a crop rotation, permanent hay is considered cool season grass. Common species include: Corn, Soybeans, Sunflowers, Hay/Cover Crops, Winter Wheat, Sorghum, Alfalfa
Forest – FH (Forested Habitat)		
Aspen	A	Aspen comprises 50% or more of the basal area in sawtimber and poletimber stands, or 50% or more of the stems in sapling and seedling stands.
Bottomland Hardwoods	BH	Any combination of silver maple, green ash, swamp white oak, American elm, river birch, and cottonwood comprising 50% or more of the basal area in sawtimber and poletimber stands, or 50% or more of the stems in sapling and seedling stands. Hardwood-dominated forests occurring on floodplains and some terraces.
White Birch	BW	White Birch comprises 50% or more of the basal area in sawtimber and poletimber stands, or 50% or more of the stems in sapling and seedling stands.
White Cedar	C	White cedar comprises 50% or more of the basal area in sawtimber and poletimber stands, or 50% or more of the stems in sapling and seedling stands. In mixed swamp conifer stands, white cedar is predominant.
Central Hardwoods	CH	Any combination of oaks, hickories, elms, black cherry, hackberry, red maple, white ash, green ash, basswood, and sugar maple, which does not satisfy the defining criteria for NH, MR, or O cover types. The CH type occurs only on uplands within and south

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		of the Tension Zone (southern Wisconsin).
Balsam Fir	FB	Balsam fir comprises 50% or more of the basal area in sawtimber and poletimber stands, or 50% or more of the stems in sapling and seedling stands. In mixed swamp conifer stands, balsam fir is predominant.
Hemlock	H	Hemlock comprises 50% or more of the basal area in sawtimber and poletimber stands, or 50% or more of the stems in sapling and seedling stands.
Miscellaneous Conifers	MC	Conifer forests dominated by uncommon or exotic species; e.g. Eastern red cedar, Scotch pine, Norway spruce, European Larch.
Miscellaneous Deciduous	MD	Hardwood forests dominated by uncommon or exotic species; e.g. box elder, honey locust, black locust, Norway maple.
Red Maple	MR	Red Maple comprises 50% or more of the basal area in sawtimber and poletimber stands, or 50% or more of the stems in sapling and seedling stands. If soil is poorly drained, then swamp hardwood.
Northern Hardwoods	NH	Any combination of sugar maple, beech, basswood, white ash, and yellow birch comprises 50% or more of the basal area in sawtimber and poletimber stands, or 50% or more of the stems in sapling and seedling stands.
Oak	O	Oak comprises 50% or more of the basal area in sawtimber and poletimber stands, or 50% or more of the stems in sapling and seedling stands. Generally used for fair- to excellent-quality stands with a site index of greater than 50.
Scrub Oak	OX	Oak comprises 50% or more of the basal area in sawtimber and poletimber stands, or 50% or more of the stems in sapling and seedling stands. Generally used for poor-quality stands containing northern pin or black oak with a site index of less than 50.
Jack Pine	PJ	Jack pine comprises 50% or more of the basal area in sawtimber and Poletimber stands, or 50% or more of the stems in sapling and seedling stands. In mixed pine stands, jack pine is predominant.
Red Pine	PR	Red pine comprises 50% or more of the basal area in sawtimber and poletimber stands, or 50% or more of the stems in sapling and seedling stands. In mixed pine stands, red pine is predominant.
White Pine	PW	White pine comprises 50% or more of the basal area in sawtimber and poletimber stands, or 50% or more of the stems in sapling and seedling stands. In mixed pine stands, white pine is predominant.
Black Spruce	SB	Black spruce comprises 50% or more of the basal area in sawtimber and poletimber stands, or 50% or more of the stems in sapling and seedling stands. In mixed swamp conifer stands, black spruce is predominant.
Swamp Hardwoods	SH	Any combination of black ash, green ash, red maple, silver maple, swamp white oak, and American elm comprises 50% or more of the basal area in sawtimber and poletimber stands, or 50% or more of the stems in sapling and seedling stands. This type occurs on wetlands characterized by periodic inundation (fluctuating water table

		near or above the soil surface) and nearly permanent subsurface water flow.
White Spruce	SW	White spruce comprises 50% or more of the basal area in sawtimber and poletimber stands, or 50% or more of the stems in sapling and seedling stands.
Tamarack	T	Tamarack comprises 50% or more of the basal area in sawtimber and poletimber stands, or 50% or more of the stems in sapling and seedling stands. In mixed swamp conifer stands, tamarack is predominant.
Black Walnut	W	Black walnut comprises 50% or more of the basal area in sawtimber and poletimber stands, or 50% or more of the stems in sapling and seedling stands.
Grasslands – NFH (Non-Forest Habitat)		
Bracken Grasslands	BK	Open upland sites in northern Wisconsin occurring on infertile sandy soils. Some sites have variable coverages of low shrubs. Common species include: Bracken Fern, Penn Sedge, Canada Bluegrass, Poverty-Oat Grass, Gray Goldenrod, Common Strawberry, Blueberries, Sweet Fern, Prairie Willow, Hazelnuts
Cool Season Grass	CSG	Upland sites dominated by non-native cool season grass species. May include some native or non-native forbs or legumes (e.g. clover) and would include permanent or semi-permanent planted pasture and hay fields. Common species include: Smooth Brome, Timothy, Orchard Grass, Reed Canary Grass, Clover
Planted Prairie/Warm Season Grass	PP	Planted sites dominated by native warm season grasses that may contain a native forb component and are generally less than 10% stocked with trees. Soil types can range from wet-mesic to dry with a wide range of native grasses and forbs associated with each soil and moisture regime. Common species include: Big Bluestem, Little Bluestem, Indian Grass, Switch Grass, Yellow Coneflower, Purple Coneflower, Asters sp., Bergamot
Remnant Prairie	RP	Non planted sites of unplowed sod dominated by characteristic native grasses, sedges and forbs. They occur on a wide variety of topography, soil types and moisture regimes. Prairies are located mostly in the southern and western parts of the state and are divided into six different types. Prairies are characterized by a lack of trees and tall shrubs, but will succeed to woody species over time without frequent fires. Common species include: Heath and Smooth Aster, Silky Aster, Bee-Balm, Little Bluestem, Big Bluestem, Purple Prairie Clover, Round-Headed Bush Clover, Prairie Coneflower, Cylindrical Blazing-Star, False Heather, Field Sage-Wort, Frostweed, Gray Goldenrod, Stiff Goldenrod, Hairy Grama, Indian Grass, June Grass, Needle Grass, Panic Grass, Poverty-Oat Grass, Side-Oats Grass, Lead Plant, Long-Beard Hawkweed, Prairie Coreopsis, Prairie Dock, Prairie Dropseed, Rattlesnake-Master, Sand Cress, Spiderwort, Flowering Spurge, Prairie Sunflower, Western Sunflower, Western Ragweed

Remnant Prairie - Dry	RPD	<p>Non-planted sites, usually occurring on steep south or west facing slopes or at the summits of river bluffs with sandstone or dolomite bedrock near the surface. Most remnants are distributed in southern and western Wisconsin. Dominated by short to medium-sized prairie grasses.</p> <p>Common species include: Little Bluestem, Side-Oats Grama, Hairy Grama, Prairie Dropseed, Lead Plant, Silky Aster, Flowering Spurge, Purple Prairie-Clover, Cylindrical Blazing-Star, Gray Goldenrod</p>
Remnant Prairie – Dry-Mesic	RPDM	<p>Non-planted sites distributed in southern Wisconsin occurring on slightly less droughty sites than dry prairie in soils that are somewhat sandy; either loamy sands or sandy loams. Dry-mesic prairie has many of the same grasses as dry prairie, but is dominated by taller grass species such as big bluestem and Indian grass. Needle grass and prairie drop-seed may also be present. The herb component is more diverse than in dry prairies, as it may include many species that occur in both dry and mesic prairies. Composites and legumes are particularly well-represented in relatively undisturbed stands.</p> <p>Common species include: Big Bluestem, Little Bluestem, Indian grass, Needle grass, Prairie Dropseed, Prairie dock, Lead Plant, Heath and Smooth Asters, Prairie Coreopsis, Prairie Sunflower, Rattlesnake-Master, Flowering Spurge, Bee-Balm, Prairie Coneflower, Spiderwort, Silky Aster, Flowering Spurge, Purple Prairie-Clover, Cylindrical Blazing-Star, Gray Goldenrod</p>
Remnant Prairie - Mesic	RPM	<p>Also commonly called tallgrass prairie. Non-planted sites, occurring on rich, moist, well-drained sites, usually on level or gently rolling glacial topography, mostly distributed in southern and western Wisconsin. The forb layer is diverse in the number, size, and physiognomy of the species.</p> <p>Common species include: Big Bluestem, Little Bluestem, Indian grass, Needle grass, Prairie Dropseed, Prairie Dock, Lead Plant, Heath and Smooth Asters, Prairie Coreopsis, Prairie Sunflower, Rattlesnake-Master, Flowering Spurge, Bee-Balm, Prairie Coneflower, Spiderwort</p>
Remnant Sand Prairie	RPS	<p>Non-planted dry upland grassland community dominated by grasses such Drought-adapted fungi, lichens, and mosses are significant components of sand prairie communities.</p> <p>Common species include: Little Bluestem, June Grass, Panic Grass, Poverty-Oat Grass, Sand Cress, Field Sage-Wort, Western Ragweed, Flowering Spurge, Frostweed, Round-Headed Bush Clover, Western Sunflower, False Heather, Long-Beard Hawkweed, Stiff Goldenrod, Spiderwort</p>
Great Lakes – NFH (Non-Forest Habitat)		
Alvar	AL	<p>Rare sites of thin discontinuous soil overlying horizontal beds of limestone or dolomite in the vicinity of Great Lakes shorelines. Characterized by relatively low tree cover and a distinctive biota which includes elements of rock pavement, prairie, savanna and boreal forest communities. Small coniferous and deciduous trees (cedar, fir, pine, oak, aspen, birch) are scattered among an assemblage of species that can</p>

		<p>include big bluestem, little bluestem, Indian-grass, and wood lily, as well as shoreline plants such as silverweed and dwarf lake iris.</p> <p>Common species include: Cedar, Fir, Pine, Oak, Aspen, Birch, Big Bluestem, Little Bluestem, Indian Grass, Wood Lily, Silverweed, Dwarf Lake Iris</p>
Great Lakes Beach	GLB	<p>Sites that occur at the interface of land and water along the margins of Lakes Michigan and Superior, often in association with sparsely vegetated, semi-stabilized dune systems. Are extremely dynamic features, strongly influenced by water level changes and storms. The beach flora is typically sparse due to the scouring action of waves and ice. However, following several years of low water with few major storm events, the vegetation of the upper beach zone can become quite dense. The beaches along Lake Superior are mostly un-vegetated.</p> <p>Common species include: (associated with L. Michigan) Seaside Spurge, American Sea-Rocket, Silverweed, Baltic Rush, Water Horehound</p>
Great Lakes Dune	GLD	<p>Sites that are the more interior of the beach. Among the relatively few plants that successfully colonize active, un-vegetated dunes are several drought resistant perennial grasses.</p> <p>Common species include: Dune Grass, Sand Reed, Sand-Dune Wheatgrass, Crinkled Hair Grass, Canada Wild Rye, Beach Pea, Field Sage-Wort, Common Evening-Primrose, Common Milkweed</p>
Great Lakes Alkaline Rockshore	GLR	<p>Crevice, wave-splashed, horizontal or gently sloping exposures of dolomite bedrock that dip toward Lake Michigan and occur only along the Lake Michigan shoreline of the northern Door Peninsula. The extent of the exposed rock is dependent on Lake Michigan water levels.</p> <p>Common species include: Ninebark, Shrubby Cinquefoil, Silverweed, Birds-Eye Primrose, Grass-Leaved Goldenrod, Kalm's Lobelia, Gentians, Grasses-of-Parnassus, Indian Paint-Brush, Low Calamint</p>
Great Lakes Ridges and Swales	GLRS	<p>Associated closely with Great Lakes shorelines. Series of narrow sandy ridges alternate with low swales, parallel to the lakeshore. The vegetation on the dry ridges can vary from open herbaceous or shrub communities on the semi-stabilized dunes closest to the shoreline, to dry forests dominated by pines and oaks farther inland, to mixed mesophytic forests of northern hardwoods or hemlock-hardwoods farthest from the shore. Water depth is a controlling factor in the swales, which are typically deeper and more open near the shoreline, supporting marsh or sedge meadow communities. Farther away from the lake, an alder-dominated shrub community may develop, and still farther inland forested wetlands of swamp hardwoods, bog conifers, or northern white cedar may be present. Best developed along Lake Michigan with a few on the Lake Superior coast.</p> <p>Common species include: Pine, Oak, Dune Grass, Sand Reed, Sand-Dune Wheatgrass, Crinkled Hair Grass, Canada Wild Rye, Beach pea, Field sage-wort, Common Evening Primrose, Common Milkweed, Alder, Reed Canary Grass, Aster sp., Joe-Pye Weed, Meadowsweet, Goldenrod (<i>Solidago</i> sp.), Sedge (<i>Carex</i> sp.),</p>

		Canada Bluejoint Grass, Cattails (Typha sp.), Smartweeds, Bulrushes, Giant Bur-Reed, Bidens sp., Arrowhead, Phragmites, Water Hemlock, Rice Cut Grass, Purple Loosestrife, Swamp Milkweed, Redtop, Wool Grass, Marsh Milkweed, Sunflower (Helianthus sp.), Boneset, Nettles, Jewelweed, Manna Grass, Mint, Meadowrue, Glossy Buckthorn, Common Buckthorn, Honeysuckle, Dogwood, Willow (Salix sp.), Elderberry, Lake Sedge, Woolly Sedge
Great Lakes Interdunal Wetland	GLW	<p>Wind-created hollows that intersect the water table within active dune fields along the Great Lakes shores. They may also occur where moving sand encroaches on nearby wetlands, surrounding and isolating all or portions of them.</p> <p>Common species include: Twig-Rush, Little Green Sedge, Baltic Rush, Silverweed, Seven-Angled Pipewort, Spike-Rushes, Ladies-Tress Orchids, Bladderworts</p>
Miscellaneous – FH & NFH (Forest Habitat & Non-Forest Habitat)		
Developed Use	D	General developed use
Parking Area	IA	An area which is used for parking in conjunction with a recreational facility such as a beach, picnic area, observation tower, public hunting area, etc.
Campground	ICG	Areas designated for either family camping (tent and trailer), group tent camping or indoor group camps
Picnic Area	IP	Maintained day use areas containing picnic tables, toilets, etc., for picnickers
Nature or Hiking Trail	ITH	Trails used strictly for hiking, skiing, or nature interpretation
Motorized Vehicle Trail	ITM	Trails used by motorized vehicles (mini-bikes, trail bikes, four-wheel drive vehicles, and all-terrain vehicles-ATVs) excluding snowmobiles
Snowmobile and/or Horse Trail	ITS	Trails used for snowmobiling and horseback riding
Water	L	Lakes, ponds and flowages in excess of 40 acres in area, or rivers in excess of 1/8 mile in width
Minor Lake	LM	Water less than 40 acres in area, excluding rivers less than 1/8 mile in width
Minor Stream	LMS	Streams less than 1/8 mile in width
Recreational	R	An area developed for general recreation use
Right of Way	ROW	Improved roads, railroads or right-of-way for gas, power or telephone lines
Rock Outcrops	Z	Rock outcrops more than 1 acre in extent. They are generally associated with cliffs, which are geologic features more so than plant communities. Plant composition on such sites is highly influenced by rock type, exposure, surrounding land cover (plant communities), and other environmental factors. These factors lend to two distinct

		<p>types of rock outcrops, or cliffs; Dry Cliffs and Moist Cliffs.</p> <p>Common species on Dry Cliffs include: Pine, Oak, Cedar, Honeysuckle, Huckleberry, Rock Polypody Fern, Smooth Cliff Brake Fern, Rusty Woodsia Fern, Northern Fragile Fern, Wild Columbine, Harebell, Sand Cress, Sleepy Catchfly, Pale Corydalis, Rock-Spike Moss, Crustose Lichens</p> <p>Common species on Moist Cliffs include: Fragile fern, Wood Fern, Rattlesnake-Root, Wild Sarsaparilla, Lichens, Mosses</p>
Non-Forested Wetlands – NFH (Non-Forest Habitat)		
Emergent Wetland	EW	<p>Permanent or semi-permanent wetlands dominated by non-woody hydrophytes, excluding deep marshes, bogs and fens. Water depths may vary from a temporarily saturated soil condition during part of the year, to permanent inundation of water above the soil surface up to 6 inches deep. Emergent wetlands encompass numerous community types, such as shallow marshes, wet prairie, sedge meadows, and wet meadows.</p> <p>Common species include: Cattails (<i>Typha</i> sp.), Canada Bluejoint Grass, Smartweeds, Bulrushes, Sedges, Aster sp., Giant Bur-Reed, Bidens sp., Arrowhead, Phragmites, Reed Canary Grass, Water Hemlock, Rice Cut-Grass, Purple Loosestrife, Swamp Milkweed, Redtop, Woolgrass, Marsh Milkweed, Sunflower, Goldenrod (<i>Solidago</i> sp.), Boneset, Joe-pye weed, Nettles, Jewelweed, Manna Grass, Mint, Meadowrue, Glossy Buckthorn, Common Buckthorn, Honeysuckle, Alder, Dogwood, Willow (<i>Salix</i> sp.), Elderberry</p>
Wet Prairie	EWP	<p>Prairies occurring in wetland complexes with sedge meadows, emergent marshes and calcareous fens. In southern and western Wisconsin occur on level or gently rolling glacial moraine or outwash landforms where there were few natural barriers to wild fire. Each type is dominated by tall grasses.</p> <p>Common species include: Canada Bluejoint Grass, Prairie Cordgrass, Canada Wild-Rye, Timothy, Sedge (<i>Carex</i> sp.), Prairie Dock, Saw-Tooth Sunflower, Prairie Blazing Star, Culver's-Root, Yellow Star Grass, Cowbane, New England Aster</p>
Sedge Meadow	EWS	<p>Open wetlands dominated by sedges with some grasses. The northern and southern types differ somewhat in species composition. Northern sedge meadows occur in depressions in outwash or ground moraine landforms in which there is groundwater movement and internal drainage, on the shores of some drainage lakes and on the margins of streams and large rivers. Southern sedge meadows are most common in glaciated landscapes, where they often border streams or drainage lakes.</p> <p>Common species (north and south) include: Tussock Sedge, Canada Bluejoint Grass, Blue Flag Iris, Marsh Fern, Panicked Aster, Joe Pye-Weed.</p> <p>Common northern species also include: Lake Sedge, Woolly Sedge, Manna Grasses</p> <p>Common southern species also include: Marsh Wild-Timothy, American Water Horehound, Swamp Aster, Swamp Milkweed</p>

Fen	FN	<p>Open peatlands mainly are found from central Wisconsin north. The most common types (central poor fen, poor fen) are acidic and nutrient poor. The rarer types (Great Lakes shore fen, boreal rich fen) are weakly acidic to alkaline more nutrient availability than the poor fens. Sedges are dominant. Floristic diversity and species composition varies with pH and nutrient availability.</p> <p>Common species include: Sedge (<i>Carex</i> sp.), Wool Grass, Pitcher Plant, Bog Bean, Cotton Grass, Orchids, Sphagnum Moss</p>
Calcareous Fen	FNC	<p>Open wetlands that occur mostly in southern Wisconsin on sites that are fed by carbonate-enriched groundwater at the bases of morainal slopes, on sloping deposits of glacial outwash, in the headwaters regions of spring runs and small streams and on the shores of alkaline drainage lakes. Most cover no more than a few acres, and are often associated with more widespread southern sedge meadow, wet and wet-mesic prairie, shrub-carr, emergent marsh and southern tamarack swamp. An accumulation of peat due to groundwater upwelling can raise the fen surface to a height of several meters above the adjoining lands. The diverse flora is distinctive, containing many calciphiles of restricted distribution. Many calcareous fens have a significant number of prairie or sedge meadow components, and some contain plants often associated with bogs, such as tamarack, bog birch and pitcher-plant.</p> <p>Common species include: Sedge (<i>Carex</i> sp.), Marsh Fern, Shrubby Cinquefoil, Shrubby St. John's-Wort, Ohio Goldenrod, Grass-of-Parnassus, Brook Lobelia, Boneset, Swamp Thistle, Tamarack, Birch, Pitcher-Plant</p>
Muskeg-Bog	KB	<p>Acidic, low nutrient peatlands dominated by Sphagnum mosses. Trees are absent or scattered and stunted.</p> <p>Common species include: Sphagnum Moss, Black Spruce, Tamarack, Cotton Grass, Leatherleaf, Cranberry, Labrador Tea</p>
Shallow Lake/Deep Marsh	SL	<p>Wetlands with water depths that are on average no deeper than 6 ft. during the growing season. These habitats contain an interspersed of floating, submergent, and emergent vegetation with open water.</p> <p>Common species include: Wild Rice, Cattail (<i>Typha</i> sp.), Hard-Stem Bulrush, Pondweed, Lesser Duckweed, Water Lily, Pickerelweed, Giant Bur-Reed, Phragmites, Water Shield, Coontail, Eurasian Water Milfoil, Manna Grass, and Lotus</p>
Wetland Shrub	WS	<p>Wetland sites less than 10% stocked with trees but having 50% or more of the area stocked with a mix of persistent shrubs. Use one of the following codes for alder or dogwood dominated sites.</p> <p>Common species include: Glossy Buckthorn, Common Buckthorn, Honeysuckle, Alder, Dogwood, Willow (<i>Salix</i> sp.), Elderberry, Reed Canary Grass, Aster sp., Joe-Pye Weed, Meadowsweet, Goldenrod (<i>Solidago</i> sp.), Milkweed, Sedge (<i>Carex</i> sp.), Canada Bluejoint</p>
Wetland Shrub – Alder	WSA	<p>Wetland shrub sites with more than 50% alder (Primary).</p> <p>Common species include: Alder, Reed Canary Grass, Aster sp., Joe-Pye Weed,</p>

		Meadowsweet, Goldenrod (<i>Solidago</i> sp.), Milkweed, Sedge (<i>Carex</i> sp.), Canada Bluejoint
Wetland Shrub - Dogwood	WSD	Wetland shrub sites with more than 50% red or silky dogwood. Common species include: Red dogwood, silky dogwood, Reed Canary Grass, Aster sp., Joe-Pye Weed, Meadowsweet, Goldenrod (<i>Solidago</i> sp.), Milkweed, Sedge (<i>Carex</i> sp.), Canada Bluejoint
Savanna/Barrens – NFH (Non-Forest Habitat) <i>*The oak/pine barrens and oak openings categories should be typed as Oak (or Jack Pine) and identified using the prefix dropdown menu in stands that are “forested”. Oak barrens and oak openings stands that are “non-forested” may be typed as non-forested.</i>		
Oak/Pine Barrens	BOP	Sites occurring on sandy soils that are dominated by grasses, low shrubs, small trees, and scattered large trees. Barrens have a dynamic nature with variability in structural types and species composition. Depending on the type of barrens, common trees include jack pine, black oak, and Hill’s oak. The understory is composed of grasses, sedges, and forbs, many of them associated with dry prairies. Plants of the heath family, such as blueberries and bearberry, and shrubs such as prairie willow, hazelnut and redroot are often prominent members of the barrens flora. Pine/oak barrens (BOP) or oak opening (OVS) should be captured under “Forested” stand type when $\geq 10\%$ are stocked with commercial tree species and may use harvesting as a restoration tool (stands must be in “Forested” if they are to possibly have a harvest). BOP and OVS will be available as non-forested primary cover types when less than 10% forested and they won’t be managed with timber sales.
Oak Opening	OVS	Found in southern and western Wisconsin with greatest abundance in the following ecological landscapes: Western Coulee and Ridges, Southwest Savanna, and Southeast Glacial Plains. Most remnants are on moderate to steep south- and west-facing slopes or gravelly morainal ridges. Generally comprised of $< 50\%$ canopy coverage, with characteristic open-grown tree structure. The herb layer is potentially diverse, including some members of the prairie and oak forest communities, but also featuring grasses, legumes, composites and other forbs that are adapted to light conditions of filtered shade. Representative and characteristic herb species can be found in Chapter 7 of the Ecological Landscapes of Wisconsin (Handbook 1805). Pine/oak barrens (BOP) or oak opening (OVS) should be captured under “Forested” stand type when $\geq 10\%$ are stocked with commercial tree species and may use harvesting as a restoration tool (stands must be in “Forested” if they are to possibly have a harvest). BOP and OVS will be available as non-forested primary cover types when less than 10% forested and they won’t be managed with timber sales.
Stand Prefix Only Oak Woodland		<i>* The Oak Woodlands should be typed as Oak and identified using the prefix drop down menu for Oak Woodland in stands that are “forested”. Oak barrens and oak opening stands that are “non-forested” may be typed as non-forested. *</i> <i>Oak stands that are intermediate between oak opening and oak forest. Found in southern and western Wisconsin with greatest abundance in the following ecological landscapes: Western Coulee and Ridges, Southwest Savanna, and Southeast Glacial</i>

		<p><i>Plains. Canopy closure is 50-95% and is dominated by white oak having more of a forest-grown architecture. There are lesser amounts of bur and black oak, sometimes with red oak, shagbark hickory, hackberry, and black cherry. Oak woodland has a more open sub-canopy and understory than oak forest, and the ground layer herbs are more prominent than tall shrubs or saplings due to historically frequent low intensity fires. This habitat includes prairie, oak opening, and oak forest flora; it features herbs that are best adapted to highly filtered sunlight such as rattlesnake fern, poke milkweed, pointed-leaved tick-trefoil, and elm-leaved goldenrod. Spring ephemerals may be present but are far less frequent than those found in the denser shade of oak forests. Representative and characteristic herb species can be found in Chapter 7 of the Ecological Landscapes of Wisconsin (Handbook 1805). Additionally, topography will help facilitate proper identification of oak woodlands on the landscape. Most remnants are on moderate to steep south- and west-facing slopes or sites with thin or coarsely-textured soils.</i></p> <p><i>Common species include: White oak, Bur oak, Black oak, Red oak, Shagbark hickory, black cherry, Hackberry, American hazelnut, Upland boneset, violet bush-clover, Virginia bush-clover, Culver's root, rough-leaved sunflower, eastern shooting star, Short's aster, yellow-pimpernel, bottlebrush grass, silky wild-rye, bracted tick-trefoil, Rattlesnake fern, Poke milkweed, Pointed-leaved tick-trefoil, and Elm-leaved goldenrod Buckthorn, Honeysuckle, Garlic mustard.</i></p>
Upland Shrubs – NFH (Non-Forest Habitat)		
Upland Shrub	US	<p>Upland sites less than 10% stocked with tree species but having 50% or more of the area stocked with taller growing, persistent shrubs.</p> <p>Common Species include: Hazelnut, Gray Dogwood, Juneberry, Sumac, Ninebark, Prickly Ash, Willow</p>
Upland Shrub - Alder	USA	<p>Alder sites occurring on upland soils, commonly occurring in abandoned pastures and along wetland fringes.</p> <p>Common species include: Alder</p>

Forest Stand Size Classification

Size classes - The size class designation for a forested cover type is assigned according to the following size class chart:

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>WisFIRS Code</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>DBH</u>
0 – 5	0005	Seedling and Sapling	0 - 5"
5 – 9	0509	Softwood Poletimber	5 - 9"
5 – 11	0511	Hardwood Poletimber	5 – 11"
9 – 15	0915	Softwood Small Sawtimber	9 – 15"
11 – 15	1115	Hardwood Small Sawtimber	11 - 15"
15+	1500	Large Sawtimber	15"+

Sawtimber stands - Stands typed as saw-timber within the primary cover type having a minimum net basal area of 10 sq. ft./acre. Saw-timber trees are 9.0 inches DBH or larger for softwood species and of 11.0 inches DBH and larger for hardwood species (including aspen).

Large sawtimber stands (15+" DBH) - Sawtimber stands typed as large sawtimber within the primary cover type based on the basal area size class distribution of saw timber trees 15.0 inches DBH and larger.

Small sawtimber stands (Softwoods 9-15" DBH, Hardwoods 11-15" DBH) - Sawtimber stands typed as small sawtimber within the primary cover type based on the basal area size class distribution of sawtimber trees less than 15.0 inches DBH.

Poletimber stands (Softwoods 5-9" DBH, Hardwoods 5-11" DBH) - Stands typed as poletimber within the primary cover type having a minimum net basal area of 10 sq. ft./acre. Poletimber trees are trees of softwood species 5.0 - 8.9 inches DBH or hardwood species (including aspen) 5.0 - 10.9 inches DBH.

Seedling and sapling stands (0-5") - Forest stands typed as seedlings and saplings within the primary cover type having a minimum of 200 seedlings or 100 saplings per acre. Seedlings are trees smaller than 1 inch DBH. Saplings are trees larger than a seedling but smaller than a poletimber tree, ranging from 1 to 4.9 inches DBH. For reconnaissance and mapping purposes, seedlings and saplings should be combined into a reproduction (restocking) class 0-5.

Forest Stand Stocking Density Classification

Stocking classes - Forest stand stocking density classification is based on basal area or number of trees as shown in the following table.

Stand size and Density Classification

Size Class	Units Per Acre	Density Classes ³				
		1	2	3	4	5
Seedlings ^{1,2} (0-0.9)" DBH	Trees	200 - 600	601 – 1,500	1,501+		
Saplings ^{1,2} (1-4.9)" DBH	Trees	100 – 300	301 – 900	901+		

Pole-timber and Saw-timber (5+)” DBH	Basal area (sq. ft./acre)	10 - 30	31-70	71 - 110	111 - 150	150+
1/ Seedlings and saplings should be combined into a reproduction (restocking) class 0-5. 2/ Stocking levels considered adequate to regenerate a stand vary by cover type – see Silviculture Handbook (2431.5) for details. 3/ Minimum “medium” density stocking for tax law eligibility differs slightly and can be found in NR 46.02 (24m).						

Forest Stand Type Classification Procedure

Each distinctive stand (cover type) will be assigned a cover type classification. Each forest stand will be given a type classification showing cover type, size class, and density. The primary cover type will be required in all cases. If a secondary and /or understory type(s) are present they may also be recorded. For mapping purposes, the primary type classification, including size and density for forest stands, shall always be shown. If a secondary and/or understory type is shown, the primary type will be placed first, followed by a slash and then the secondary and/or understory type(s) on the type maps for ready identification. For example: A 5-11⁴/ NH 5-11²/ PW 0-5².

The goal of stand typing is to best describe the condition of a stand and some subjectivity may be involved. When determining the primary cover type and size class, if it is unclear as to what type to assign to a stand (e.g. 50 ft² of aspen & 50 ft² of oak) the forester should make a determination based on what they think best represents the current and/or anticipated near term stand condition. The cover types as defined in this Appendix typically have a threshold of 50% stocking of a given species, or suite of species, and at times the forester will have to choose the best cover type without meeting these requirements.

Choose only one primary type, one secondary type and one understory type based on basal area (poles & saw timber) or stems / acre (seedlings & saplings). Always try to record a secondary and/or understory type because they provide insight into the species composition of the primary type, and the next successional stage most likely to occur. The secondary and/or understory type data is valuable when reviewing the data in the office. For example:

Primary Type	A 5-11 ⁴
Secondary Type	NH 5-11 ²
Understory Type	PW 0-5 ²

NOTE: Density is written in numeric characters.

In typing a stand using basal area, use the following procedure to determine the primary type.

1. Determine the cover type based on the highest distribution by basal area of all merchantable trees in a forest type. For seedling and sapling stands, determine the cover type based on the number of seedlings and saplings by forest type. In some cases no one timber type will reach 50% and you will have to choose the type that best represents the stand.
2. Determine the size class based upon the basal area size class distribution of all merchantable trees within the primary cover type determined above. For seedling / sapling stands use 0-5.
3. Determine the density code based on the basal area of all merchantable trees in the primary product class (saw timber or pole timber). For seedling and sapling stands use the number of trees in the stand.

Secondary and understory types should be identified when present. These cover types typically provide additional clarity as to the species mix and structure present in a stand. Secondary types should be selected based on the size class or density of those trees not used in the primary type. The primary type density symbol reflects the total basal area of all species in that product class (poles or sawtimber). Use only the basal area of the secondary type to determine the density of the secondary type. For seedling/sapling stands it should reflect the total stems/acre in that size class.

Example 1

<u>Stand Basal Area</u>		15 sq. ft. of large sawtimber oak 15 sq. ft. of large sawtimber northern hardwoods 45 sq. ft. of small sawtimber northern hardwoods 25 sq. ft. of northern hardwood pole timber 10 sq. ft. of aspen pole timber
<u>Primary Cover Type:</u>	NH	85 sq. ft. northern hardwoods, 15 sq. ft. oak, 10 sq. ft. aspen
<u>Size Class:</u>	11-15	The majority of the northern hardwoods basal area is small saw timber size.
<u>Density:</u>	3	Total of 75 sq. ft. in saw timber <u>product</u> class (combine large and small)
<u>Secondary Cover Type:</u>	NH	40 sq. ft. northern hardwoods (45 BA small saw from primary type excluded), 15 sq. ft. oak, 10 sq. ft. aspen
<u>Size Class:</u>	5-11	Majority of remaining northern hardwood basal area is pole timber size.
<u>Density:</u>	1	25 sq. ft. in secondary type (NH) and size class (5-11).
<u>Primary Type:</u>	NH 11-15 ³	
<u>Secondary Type:</u>	NH 5-11 ¹	

Example 2

Stand Basal Area – All merchantable trees are pole timber size (5-11”),

		90 sq. ft. of aspen 15 sq. ft. of red maple 10 sq. ft. of hard maple 15 sq. ft. of red oak 10 sq. ft. of white ash 600 seedlings & saplings of white pine
<u>Primary Cover Type:</u>	A	>50% aspen by basal area (90 out of 140 sq. ft.) All
<u>Size Class:</u>	5-11	aspen are in the 5-11” size class.
<u>Density:</u>	4	140 sq. ft. in the pole timber product class.
<u>Secondary Cover Type:</u>	NH	35 sq. ft northern hardwoods (red maple, hard maple, white ash) and 15 sq. ft of oak remaining after removing the primary aspen type
<u>Size Class:</u>	5-11	Northern hardwood species are in the 5-11” size class.
<u>Density:</u>	2	35 sq. ft. of northern hardwood pole timber
<u>Understory Cover Type:</u>	PW	600 seedlings and saplings of white pine
<u>Size Class:</u>	0-5	
<u>Density:</u>	2	
<u>Primary Type:</u>	A 5-11 ⁴	
<u>Secondary Type:</u>	NH 5-11 ²	
<u>Understory Type:</u>	PW 0-5 ²	

The cover type from the example on the previous page, A 5-11⁴ / NH 5-11² /PW 0-5², should be recorded on the Stand Detail screen in WisFIRS as follows:

	Forest Cover	Size	Density
Primary Type	A	0511	4
Secondary Type	NH	0511	2
Understory Type	PW	0005	2

For mapping purposes the appropriate type designation would be: A 5-11⁴ / NH 5-11² /PW 0-5².

APPENDIX E - WisFIRS FOREST HABITAT TYPE CODES

The Forest Habitat Type Classification System is described in the [Chapter 12 of the Wisconsin Silviculture Guide](#). Detailed descriptions of individual habitat types listed here can be found in *A Guide to Forest Communities and Habitat Types of Northern Wisconsin*, second edition (Kotar, Kovach, & Burger, 2002), *A Guide to Forest Communities and Habitat Types of Central and Southern Wisconsin* (Kotar & Burger, 1996), and *Wetland Forest Habitat Type Classification System for Northern Wisconsin* (Kotar & Burger, 2017).

Code	Habitat Type	Code	Habitat Type
AArL	Acer-Acer/Lysimachia	ATiDe	Acer-Tilia/Desmodium
AArVb	Acer-Acer/Viburnum	ATiDe(Pr)	Acer-Tilia/Desmodium Prunus phase
AAs	Acer/Arisaema	ATiDe-As	Acer-Tilia/Desmodium Arisaema variant
AAt	Acer/Athyrium	ATiDe-Ha	Acer-Tilia/Desmodium Hamamelis variant
AAtRp	Acer/Athyrium Rubus	ATiFrCa	Acer-Tilia-Fraxinus/Caulophyllum
AbFnThIx	Abies-Fraxinus-Thuja/Ilex	ATiFrCa(O)	Acer-Tilia-Fraxinus/Caulophyllum Osmorhiza phase
AbFnThOs	Abies-Fraxinus-Thuja/Osmunda	ATiFrCi	Acer-Tilia-Fraxinus/Circaea
AbThArAsp	Abies-Thuja-Acer rubrum/Acer spicatum	ATiFrVb	Acer-Tilia-Fraxinus/Viburnum
ACaCi	Acer/Caulophyllum-Circaea	ATiFrVb(Cr)	Acer-Tilia-Fraxinus/Viburnum Cornus ph.
ACaI	Acer/Caulophyllum-Impatiens	ATiH	Acer-Tilia/Hydrophyllum
ACl	Acer/Clintonia	ATiSa	Acer-Tilia/Sanguinaria
AFAd	Acer-Fagus/Adiantum	ATiSa-De	Acer-Tilia/Sanguinaria-Desmodium Variant
AFAl	Acer-Fagus/Allium	ATM	Acer-Tsuga/Maianthemum
AFAs	Acer-Fagus/Arisaema	ATTr	Acer-Tsuga/Trientalis
AFAs-O	Acer-Fagus/Arisaema Osmorhiza Variant	AVb	Acer/Viburnum
AFH	Acer-Fagus/Hydrophyllum	AVb-V	Acer/Viburnum-Vaccinium variant
AFrDe	Acer-Fraxinus /Desmodium	AVCl	Acer/Vaccinium-Clintonia
AFrDe(Vb)	Acer-Fraxinus/Desmodium Viburnum Phase	AVDe	Acer/Vaccinium-Desmodium
AFrDeO	Acer-Fraxinus/Desmodium Osmorhiza	AVVb	Acer/Vaccinium-Viburnum
AFTD	Acer-Fagus-Tsuga/Dryopteris	FnAbArOn	Fraxinus-Abies-Acer rubrum/Onoclea
AFVb	Acer-Fagus/Viburnum	FnAbI	Fraxinus-Abies/Impatiens
AH	Acer/Hydrophyllum	FnArI	Fraxinus-Acer rubrum/Impatiens
AHI	Acer/Hydrophyllum-Impatiens	FnArI-Ix	Fraxinus nigra-Acer rubrum/Impatiens capensis-Ilex verticillata variant
AHVb	Acer/Hydrophyllum-Viburnum	FnOn	Fraxinus nigra/Onoclea sensibilis
AOCa	Acer/Osmorhiza-Caulophyllum	FnThAbAt	Fraxinus nigra-Thuja-Abies/Athyrium filix-Femina
AQVb-Gr	Acer-Quercus/Viburnum Geranium variant	FnUB	Fraxinus nigra-Ulmus rubra/Boehmeria cylindrica
ArAbCo	Acer-Abies/Cornus	HYDME	Hydromesic site – wet mesic south
ArAbSn	Acer-Abies/Sanicula	HYDRI	Hydric site – wet forest lowland
ArAbVC	Acer-Abies/Vaccinium-Coptis	LArIx	Larix laricina-Acer rubrum/Ilex verticillata
ArAbVCo	Acer-Abies/Vaccinium-Cornus	PArGy	Pinus strobus-Acer rubrum/Gaylussacia baccata
ArCi	Acer/Circaea	PArV	Pinus-Acer/Vaccinium
ArCi-Ph	Acer/Circaea-Phryma variant	PArV-U	Pinus-Acer/Vaccinium, Uvularia variant
ArDe	Acer/Desmodium	PArVAa	Pinus-Acer/Vaccinium.-Aralia
ArDe-V	Acer/Desmodium-Vaccinium variant	PArVAa-Po	Pinus-Acer/Vacc.-Aralia, Polygonatum variant
ArFnRh	Acer rubrum-Fraxinus nigra/Rubus hispidus	PArVAa-Vb	Pinus-Acer/Vacc.-Aralia, Viburnum variant
ArVRp	Acer/Vaccinium-Rubus	PArVAm	Pinus-Acer/Vaccinium-Amphicarpa
ASaI	Acer/Sanguinaria-Impatiens	PArVAo	Pinus-Acer/Vaccinium-Apocynum
ASnMi	Acer/Sanacula-Mitchella	PArVHa	Pinus-Acer/Vaccinium-Hamamelis
ATAtOn	Acer-Tsuga/Athyrium-Onoclea	PArVPo	Pinus-Acer/Vaccinium-Polygonatum
ATD	Acer-Tsuga/Dryopteris	PArVRh	Pinus-Acer/Vaccinium-Rubus
ATDH	Acer-Tsuga/Dryopteris-Hydrophyllum	PEu	Pinus-Euphorbia
ATFD	Acer-Tsuga-Fagus/Dryopteris	PmLLe	Picea mariana-Larix/Ledum groenlandicum
ATFPo	Acer-Tsuga-Fagus/Polygonatum	PmLLe-An	Picea mariana-Larix larcina/Ledum groenlandicum-Aronia melanocarpa variant
ATFSt	Acer-Tsuga-Fagus/Streptopus	PmLNe	Picea mariana-Larix/Nemopanthus mucronatus
ATiAs(De)	Acer-Tilia/Arisaema Desmodium Phase	PQE	Pinus-Quercus/Epigaea
ATiCa	Acer-Tilia/Caulophyllum	PQG	Pinus-Quercus/Gaultheria
ATiCa-Al	Acer-Tilia/Caulophyllum Allium variant		
ATiCa-La	Acer-Tilia/Caulophyllum-Laportea variant		
ATiCr(As)	Acer-Tilia/Cornus Arisaema Phase		
ATiCr(O)	Acer-Tilia/Cornus Osmorhiza Phase		

<u>Code</u>	<u>Habitat Type</u>
PQGCe	Pinus-Quercus/Gaultheria-Ceanothus
PVCr	Pinus/Vaccinium-Cornus
PVG	Pinus/Vaccinium-Gaultheria
PVGy	Pinus/Vaccinium-Gaylussacia
PVHa	Pinus/Vaccinium-Hamamelis
PVRh	Pinus/Vaccinium-Rubus
QAp	Quercus/Amorpha
TFAa	Tsuga-Fagus/Aralia
ThAbFnC	Thuja-Abies-Fraxinus/Coptis groenlandica
ThAbFnIx	Thuja-Abies-Fraxinus/Ilex
TMC	Tsuga/Maianthemum-Coptis

APPENDIX F - WISFIRS ACCEPTED SPECIES CODES

Accepted Species Codes are for use ONLY when listing major tree species within a stand, or as product codes on Line 16 of Form 2460-001. For cover type classification codes, see Appendix D.

Code	Species	Code	Species	Code	Species	Code	Species
AS**	Ash	CR	Cedar, Red	LB	Locust, Black	OW*	Oak, White
AB	Ash, Black	CB*	Cherry, Black	LH	Locust, Honey	PA	Pine, Austrian
AG	Ash, Green	CP	Cherry, Pin	MN	Maple, Norway	PJ*	Pine, Jack
AW*	Ash, White	CW	Cottonwood	MO	Maple, Other	PR*	Pine, Red
A*	Aspen	CX	Conifer, Mixed**	MR*	Maple, Red	PS	Pine, Scots
AQ*	Aspen, Quaking	E	Elm	MS	Maple, Silver	PW*	Pine, White
AY*	Aspen, Big-toothed	EA*	Elm, American	MH*	Maple, Sugar	S**	Spruce
BG	Balm of Gilead	EC	Elm, Chinese	MX**	Hardwood, Mixed**	SB*	Spruce, Black
FB*	Balsam Fir	ER	Elm, Rock	MA	Mountain Ash	SN	Spruce, Norway
BA*	Basswood	ES	Elm, Slippery	MV	Mulberry	SW*	Spruce, White
BE*	Beech	HB	Hackberry	OB	Oak, Black	SY	Sycamore
BR	Birch, River	H	Hemlock	OM	Oak, Bur	T*	Tamarack
BW*	Birch, White	HI	Hickory, Bitternut	OJ	Oak, Northern Pin	W	Walnut
BY*	Birch, Yellow	HS	Hickory, Shagbark	OP	Oak, Southern Pin	WI	Willow (includes Black)
BS	Box Elder	IR	Ironwood	OO**	Oak, Other	PY	Yellow Poplar (Tulip)
BN	Butternut	KC	Kentucky Coffee Tree	OR*	Oak, Red	XX**	Mixed Species (All)
C*	Cedar, Northern White	L	Larch	OS	Oak, Swamp White		

*Indicates species with site index curves in database

**Forest Product Code Only

WisFIRS NURSERY STOCK CODES

SS	Shrub Species
SCP	Crabapple, Prairie
SCC	Cherry, Choke
SHC	Cranberry, American Highbush
SDG	Dogwood, Gray
SDO	Dogwood, Red Osier
SDS	Dogwood, Silky
SEB	Elderberry
SHW	Hawthorne
SHZ	Hazelnut, American
SJB	Juneberry
SPL	Plum, American
SCWB	Winterberry
SNB	Ninebark

WisFIRS BROWSE LEVEL CODES

1	No Browse Evidence
2	Low (1-25% Stems Browsed)
3	Medium (26-50% Stems Browsed)
4	High (51-75% Stems Browsed)
5	Very High (>75% Stems Browsed)
6	No Woody Palatable Vegetation Present

WisFIRS INVASIVE LEVEL CODES

Code	Description
30	Present
31	Not Present
32	Not Evaluated (not trained)
33	Not Evaluated (off season)

WisFIRS INVASIVE DENSITY CODES

Code	Description
1	< 5%
2	5 – 20 %
3	20 – 35%
4	35 – 50%
5	>50%

WisFIRS INVASIVE SPECIES CODES

AUOL	Autumn Olive
BLLO	Black Locust
BRBJ	Barberry, Japanese
BTCO	Buckthorn, Common
BTGL	Buckthorn, Glossy
BTSO	Bittersweet, Oriental
DAMR	Dame's rocket
GRSR	Grass, Reed Canary
Code	Species
HNYS	Honeysuckle spp.
KNJA	Knotweed, Japanese
KWSP	Knapweed, Spotted
MUFR	Multiflora Rose
MUGA	Mustard, Garlic
OTHR	Other
RUOL	Russian Olive
SPUL	Spurge, Leafy

APPENDIX G - WISFIRS MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES CODES & DESCRIPTIONS

Non-Forested (NFH)		
Maintain	M	To keep a stand in its "current state" condition. Maintaining a stand WILL NOT change the habitat classification.
Restore	N	To intentionally alter the vegetative species composition of a stand from its "current state" to a condition similar to its pre-settlement vegetation regime. Restoring a stand MAY OR MAY NOT change the habitat classification.
Conversion	P	To intentionally change a stand from one cover type (habitat classification) to another; for example, planting prairie in a former agricultural field, or utilizing a timber harvest to change an oak woodlot to a savanna. Conversion of a stand WILL change the habitat classification.
Enhance	Q	To modify the "current state" condition of a stand through intentional enrichment of desirable species (increasing the density of existing species and/or introducing species not already present); for example, interseeding a diverse forb mix into a prairie to increase pollinator and brood rearing habitat, or spreading wild rice in a wetland where little/none previously existed. A stand enhancement WILL NOT change the habitat classification.
Succession	Y	To intentionally allow a stand to transition from one habitat classification to another over time; for example, allowing a forest opening to convert back to trees. Succession of a stand WILL change the habitat classification at a point in time when a new classification is more suitable for the stand than the original classification.
Forested (FH)		
Natural Type Maintenance		
NTM	A	Natural maintenance or regeneration
Natural Type Conversion (after cutting or treatment)		
NTC	B	To Spruce or Fir (natural or previously planted)
NTC	C	To White Pine (natural or previously planted)
NTC	D	To Red Pine (natural or previously planted)
NTC	E	To Jack Pine (natural or previously planted)
NTC	F	To Northern Hardwoods
NTC	G	To Red Maple
NTC	H	To Aspen
NTC	I	To Central Hardwoods
NTC	J	To White Birch
NTC	K	To Oak
NTC	L	To other forest or non-forest species
Forced Type Maintenance (artificial regeneration)		
FTM	O	
Forced Type Conversion (artificial regeneration)		
FTC	R	To Spruce or Fir after cutting or treatment
FTC	S	To White Pine after cutting or treatment
FTC	T	To Red Pine after cutting or treatment
FTC	U	To Jack Pine after cutting or treatment
FTC	V	To Northern Hardwoods after cutting or treatment
FTC	W	To Oak after cutting or treatment
FTC	X	To other forest or non-forest species after cutting or treatment

APPENDIX H - PLANNED TREATMENTS


Treatment Type	Code	Treatment/Method	Description
Aquatic Habitat Management			
AQ	1	Streambank Brushing	Removal of undesirable woody vegetation near streams that is negatively affecting in-stream or riparian habitat. Some examples may be box elder, tag alder and invasive species removal etc.
AQ	2	Streambank Mowing	Cutting herbaceous species to maintain the stream corridor in a grassy or other desirable condition in an effort to limit succession of woody vegetation in the riparian zone.
AQ	3	Streambank Restoration	Grading, sloping and/or stabilizing the streambank using rock, wood or other structures. Some examples may be integrated bank treatment, rock rip/rap, toe wood, bio-log, bank re-sloping etc.
AQ	4	Streambank Stabilization	Grading/sloping, seeding, or other material placement and/or tree/debris removal along the banks and periphery of a river or stream with the purpose of maintaining the stream corridor and minimizing erosion.
AQ	5	In-Stream Habitat Restoration	Intentional placement of rocks, boulders, logs, or other materials within a stream channel to manipulate or maintain fish habitat and flow patterns within the channel.
Biological Application			
BA	1	Biological Application	The use of animals, fungi or diseases to control invasive populations. Control organisms usually come from the native range of the target species, and require a period of study to ensure that they will remain specific to the target population, and will not harm native species, crops, or other ornamental species. This does not include grazing.
Drawdown			
DR	1	Drawdown	Water purposely temporarily removed from a wetland for management purposes including maintenance work, vegetation management, or other purposes.
Discing			
DS	1	Discing	Discing is the cutting and loosening of natural ground or layer of soil and mixing same with a; plow, disc, OR rotovator. Not for use in conjunction with Farming/planting etc. where discing is presumed to happen as PART OF the treatment process. When used this is a single treatment. Ex. may be utilized to plow/disc idle for control/reduction of willow brush, or cattails.
Grazing			
GZ	1	Intensive	12 to 24-hour movement between paddocks
GZ	2	Rotational	2 to 4-day movement between paddocks
GZ	3	Controlled	7 days or longer with movement between paddocks
GZ	4	Continuous	No movement between paddocks
GZ	5	Mob Stocking	High density for shrub removal
Hay Cutting			
HC	1	Hay Cutting	Harvesting of upland and or Lowland grass hay. This may include improved planted fields of alfalfa/clover etc. OR general upland or lowland (e.g., reed canary) grass.

Treatment Type	Code	Treatment/Method	Description
Habitat Management (Non-Commercial)			
HM	8	Survival Check of Planting/Seeding/Natural Regen	Conduct a follow-up field survey to determine the success of regeneration in a stand.
HM	9	Animal Damage Control (Bud, Cap, Tube, Repel, Etc.)	
HM	10	Certification of Adequate Regeneration Stocking	
HM	11	Release - Regeneration (via Mechanical)	
HM	12	Invasive Plant Control (Via Hand Pull)	
Inspections/Examinations-not related to other habitat manipulation activities			
I	1	Island Inspection	Regular scheduled examination of state-owned islands to determine use, post signage, and check for trespass
Mow Herbaceous			
MH	1	Mow Herbaceous	Mowing/cutting of herbaceous, NON-WOODY, vegetation. Presumably for species control or release of desired species. E.g., mowing wild parsnip before seed dispersal, mowing common goldenrod to reduce seed dispersal/prevalence, etc.
Planting (Artificial Regeneration)			
PL	1	Hand Plant (Seedling)	Plant tree seedlings by hand.
PL	2	Machine Plant	Plant trees or seeds using machinery.
PL	3	Direct Plant/Seed (Grass/Forbes, Trees)	Non-Forest: Plant to permanent cover or inter-seed an area for increased forbs and biodiversity. Examples include seeding a field to warm or cool season grass after sharecropping, seeding a berm after a wetland restoration, or inter-seeding after a prescribed burn.
PL	5-16	Species Recommended for Planting	
PL	20-32	Planting Rate/Diversity	
Pruning			
PR	1	Pruning	
Pesticide			
PS	1	Herbicide (Invasive Control)	Use of chemical pesticide to control undesirable vegetation. Typical methods/applications include foliar, basal bark, cut stump, wick, boom spray.
PS	2	Herbicide (Tree Release)	Use of chemical herbicides to control undesirable vegetation negatively competing with desired seedlings/sapling. Typical methods/applications include foliar, basal bark, cut stump, wick, boom spray.
PS	3	Insecticide/Fungicide	Use of chemical pesticide to control undesirable insects/fungus causing negative effects on desired cover types.

Treatment Type	Code	Treatment/Method	Description
Harvest Method for All-Aged Stand			
RA	6	Group Selection	Harvest to create canopy group openings from 75 feet (1/10 acre) to 160 feet (1/2 acre) in diameter.
RA	7	Single Tree Selection	Harvest individual trees of various size and age classes.
RA	9	Patch Selection Harvest	Harvest to create even-aged patches from ½ to 2 acres in size
RA	12	Partial Cut (Uneven-Aged)	Harvest single trees or groups of trees of various sizes and ages.
RA	16	Conversion from Even-Age to Uneven-Age	Combination of thinning and canopy gap formation techniques to develop uneven-aged stand conditions.
Rowcrop			
RC	1	Rowcrop	The use of traditional row-crop farming methods for the purpose of keeping land open or preparing for a site conversion; or the annual establishment of wildlife food plots or dove fields, which may remain on the landscape through winter.
Harvest Method for Even Aged Stand			
RE	1	Coppice (e.g. Aspen Regen. Cuts)	Cutting all trees except designated reserved trees allowing trees to regenerate from root and/or stump sprouts after harvest.
RE	2	Clearcut (Relying on Regeneration by Seed)	Cutting all trees except designated reserved trees, allowing trees to regenerate naturally from seed produced by adjacent stands or trees cut in the harvest operation.
RE	3	Seed Tree Harvest	Remove all seed trees except for designated reserve trees.
RE	4	Shelterwood Harvest	Conduct the final harvest to remove all overstory trees except for designated reserve trees.
RE	5	Overstory Removal	Harvest all overstory trees in this stand except designated reserve trees to allow full sunlight to reach established seedlings and saplings.
RE	8	Other	
RE	10	Clearcut (Relying on Planting or Direct Seeding)	Cut all trees except designated reserve trees allowing full sunlight to reach the young trees planted or directly seeded into the opening.
RE	11	Partial Cut (Even-Aged)	Harvest single trees or groups of trees of various sizes.
Prescribed Burns			
RX	1	Prescribed Burns	Intentional application of fire to accomplish management objectives.
Site Preparation			
SP	1	Seedbed preparation for natural or direct seeding	
SP	2	Preparation for planting	
SP	3	Treatment to stimulate coppice or root suckering	
SP	4	Slash Treatment	
SP	5	Motorized or mechanical equipment	
SP	6	Mechanical treatment with hand tools	
SP	7	Prescribed fire	
SP	8	Chemical treatment	
SP	9	Other - Specify in remarks	

Treatment Type	Code	Treatment/Method	Description
Intermediate Treatment - Commercial			
T	1	Harvest Scattered Mature or Overmature Trees	
T	2	Thinning or Improvement Cutting	Reduce stand density by removing trees to improve tree growth, enhance forest health or recover potential mortality. Thin to reduce stocking and concentrate growth on trees that are more desirable.
T	3	Salvage or Sanitation Cutting	Remove trees damaged by natural events (wind, fire, etc.), or trees infected by or highly susceptible to insect damage or disease to keep the rest of the stand healthy.
Non-Commercial Thinning			
TN	1	Thinning, Improvement Cut or Crop Tree Release	Reduce stand density by removing trees to improve tree growth, enhance forest health or recover potential mortality.
TN	2	Cull Tree Removal (Includes Girdling)	Remove, girdle or kill trees that are poor in quality due to disease, injury, insect infestation or poor form.
TN	3	Insect or Disease Control (Sanitation Cutting)	Remove trees damaged by natural events (wind, fire, etc.), or trees infected by or highly susceptible to insect damage or disease to keep the rest of the stand healthy.
Wetland Restoration			
WR	1	Scrape	An excavated area intended to pool water and provide wetland habitat.
WR	2	Berm/Dike Installation	A mounded line of material across a water drainage intended to back water over an area to provide wetland habitat.
WR	3	Tile Removal	Drainage tile removed to restore wetland hydrology and habitat.
WR	4	Culvert/Water Control Structure installation	Installation of a device designed to regulate water elevation while passing water through the drainage flow of a wetland.
WR	5	Ditch Plug	Filling an area of a dug ditch that drains a wetland to restore the wetland hydrology and habitat.
Woody Shrub Control			
WS	1	Cut/Mow/Brush	Using any type of mechanical means to set back/reinvigorate vegetation. Examples include FECON, shearing with bulldozer, rotary mower, rollerchopping, boom mower, etc.

APPENDIX I – STAND EXAMINATION DATA SHEET (WISFIRS) EXAMPLE

	<h2 style="margin: 0;">Stand Examination Data Sheet</h2>	Form 2400-26 (R 4/19)																												
1. Add _____ 2. Update <u> X </u> 3. Delete _____	Property Code: <u> 5873 </u> Compartment No: <u> 6 </u> Stand Prefix(s) & No.: <u> A </u> <u> 1 </u>																													
Exam Date- S.I and B.A measured Primary Type / Size / Density Secondary Type / Size / Density Understory Type / Size / Density Habitat Type Acres Year of Origin Total Height Mean Stand Diameter Site Index Species / Site Index Number of Crop Trees/Acre % Acceptable Growing Stock % Unacceptable Growing Stock Total Basal Area Total Volume - Cords / Acre Total Volume - Bd. Ft / Acre Major Species Species BA Species Volume - Cds. / ac. Species Volume - Bd. Ft. / ac. Invasive Species Level Invasive Species Type Invasive Species Density Browse Level Primary Objective Secondary Objective Last Changed Date	<u> 0 3 / 1 4 / 2 0 1 3 </u> <u> N H 1 5 + 2 </u> <u> N H 0 5 1 1 2 </u> <u> N H 0 0 0 5 3 </u> <u> A O C a </u> <u> 5 2 </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> 1 2 </u> <u> </u> <u> 5 1 </u> <u> 6 7 </u> <u> 3 3 </u> <u> 9 7 </u> <u> 1 7 </u> <u> 6 0 0 </u> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="border-right: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"><u> M H </u></td> <td style="border-right: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"><u> M R </u></td> <td style="border-right: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"><u> B A </u></td> <td style="padding: 2px;"><u> </u></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border-right: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"><u> 6 0 </u></td> <td style="border-right: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"><u> 1 5 </u></td> <td style="border-right: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"><u> 1 1 </u></td> <td style="padding: 2px;"><u> </u></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border-right: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"><u> 1 0 </u></td> <td style="border-right: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"><u> 4 </u></td> <td style="border-right: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"><u> 3 </u></td> <td style="padding: 2px;"><u> </u></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border-right: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"><u> 4 0 0 </u></td> <td style="border-right: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"><u> 1 0 0 </u></td> <td style="border-right: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"><u> 1 0 0 </u></td> <td style="padding: 2px;"><u> </u></td> </tr> </table> <u> 3 0 </u> <u> M U G A </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> 1 </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> 2 </u> <u> A </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>		<u> M H </u>	<u> M R </u>	<u> B A </u>	<u> </u>	<u> 6 0 </u>	<u> 1 5 </u>	<u> 1 1 </u>	<u> </u>	<u> 1 0 </u>	<u> 4 </u>	<u> 3 </u>	<u> </u>	<u> 4 0 0 </u>	<u> 1 0 0 </u>	<u> 1 0 0 </u>	<u> </u>												
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<u> 6 0 </u>	<u> 1 5 </u>	<u> 1 1 </u>	<u> </u>																											
<u> 1 0 </u>	<u> 4 </u>	<u> 3 </u>	<u> </u>																											
<u> 4 0 0 </u>	<u> 1 0 0 </u>	<u> 1 0 0 </u>	<u> </u>																											
Planned Treatments:	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 15%;">Year</th> <th style="width: 15%;">Treatment Type</th> <th style="width: 15%;">Treatment Action</th> <th style="width: 15%;">Species / Method</th> <th style="width: 15%;">Planting Rate / Spp. Diversity</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><u> 2025 </u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u> RA </u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u> 7 </u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u> </u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u> </u></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><u> </u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u> </u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u> </u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u> </u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u> </u></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><u> </u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u> </u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u> </u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u> </u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u> </u></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><u> </u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u> </u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u> </u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u> </u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u> </u></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>					Year	Treatment Type	Treatment Action	Species / Method	Planting Rate / Spp. Diversity	<u> 2025 </u>	<u> RA </u>	<u> 7 </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
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Remarks: <u> dense hazel and muscledwood in understory. </u>																														

APPENDIX J - WISFIRS SECURITY OPTIONS

1. **Property specific:** Property specific authorizations can be delegated by authorized supervisors and/or WisFIRS system administrators listed as having delegation authority through the Security Tab. WisFIRS Security Tab currently only allows the viewing of delegations for TS Edit and RX Habitat Manager. Brief descriptions of current authorities are:
 - A. **RX Habitat Manager-** Typically reserved for county forest administrators and lead DNR biologist/Wildlife Technician for the property. This authority allows user to initiate and approve burns plans for assigned properties.
 - B. **Timber sale edit-** Allows user to create, modify, and delete recon information in both tabular and GIS applications. It also allows user to establish, view, and approve timber sales on assigned properties. For state lands only; individuals with TS edit authority will be allowed to upload documents and create journal entries but will not be able to produce an invoice within the ledger tab or create final reports for close-outs.
2. **Additional/ Non-property specific:** These are designed to give individuals additional, specific authorities to complete specialized functions within the database. These authorities are not viewable on the Security Tab and must be granted by WisFIRS system administrators. Current authorities are:
 - A. **Timber Sale Financials-** Allows authorized users to enter and edit all 3 financial tabs (journal, ledger, invoice). This authority is necessary to generate invoices and create final reports for close-outs. Financial edit authority is reserved for Forestry Financial Specialists and select foresters from each Team. Preferred method is to utilize Financial Specialists to ensure accuracy and consistency in the billing process.
 - B. **Pesticide use-** Authority given to individuals who have pesticide use, monitoring, and/or reporting responsibilities on Department lands and County Forest lands. Individuals need to have completed WisFIRS Public Lands training and an additional pesticide use training module offered through the Department training system. Additional information can be located on the [Pesticide Use Page](#).
 - C. **RX Burn (Burn Boss)-** Authorizes individuals who have active RxB3 quals to complete the prescription range, fire behavior, and implementation tabs within the RX Burn function. Qualifications are pulled directly from IQS and updated weekly within the WisFIRS database.
 - D. **Technical reviewer-** Reserved for individuals responsible for approving burn plans; typically the Area Forestry Leaders. Qualifications and expertise needed for this are further described within the Prescribed Burn Handbook.
 - E. **Stumpage Edit-** Allows for annual editing of stumpage base rates for designated stumpage area. For Department lands, this authority is granted to two individuals per stumpage area. For county lands, the County Forest Administrator and Liaison Forester will be granted this authority. Authority is granted by the County Forest & Public Lands Specialist.

APPENDIX K – PLANTING AND CULTURAL REPORT EXAMPLE

Department of Natural Resources

PLANTING AND CULTURAL REPORT
Form 2400-79 1-84

SECTION II – PLANTATION AND SEEDING DATA					
Species	PJ	Stock Age	1.0	Year Planted	2009
Acres	2.7	Total Trees	25,650	Trees Per Acre	950 (+150 VOL/AC)
Percent Survival	1st Year	2nd Year	3rd Year		
	838 (88%) + 188 VOL/AC	825 (87%) + 263 VOL	725 (76%) + 288 VOL		
Cultural Pest Inspection	5th Year	7th Year	10th Year		
	713 (75%) + 263 VOL	713 (75%) + 263 VOL	613 (65%) + 325 VOL/AC		

SECTION I – DESCRIPTION			
Property	ALSF		District
Town	39N	Range	8E
Section	8.17		
Compartment Number	9-A		
Soil Type	Habitat Type or Ground Cover Species		
Seed Lot Number	Origin		

SECTION III – PLANTATION THINNINGS						
	Acres	Year	Vol/AC Removed	Returns \$/AC	Residual BA	Remarks
1st.						
2nd.						
3rd.						
4th.						
5th.						
6th.						
7th.						
8th.						
9th.						
10th.						

Additional Remarks:

* SITE HERBICIDE RELEASED AUG. 2011

* SITE THINNED / HAND-RELEASED SPRING 2013

MAP

Map Scale 1: _____

RAINBOW DRIVE

State Islands Listings

A listing of unsurveyed and unallotted islands controlled by Department of Natural Resources, north of Townships 33-34.
Listings are organized by county.

Ashland County

<u>Lake</u>	<u>Location</u>			<u>Island</u>	<u>Quarter</u>	<u>Location</u>			<u>Acres</u>
	<u>Section</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>Range</u>			<u>Section</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>Range</u>	
Hoffman	26, 35	41	1E	No. 1	S½SE	26	41	1E	1.00
Little Clam	5	42	4W	Snowshoe	SWSW	5	42	4W	.75
	32	43	4W						
Twin Lakes	13,23,24	44	2W	Wolf	W½NW	24	44	2W	.45

Barron County

<u>Lake</u>	<u>Location</u>			<u>Island</u>	<u>Quarter</u>	<u>Location</u>			<u>Acres</u>
	<u>Section</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>Range</u>			<u>Section</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>Range</u>	
Big Dummy	28, 33	36	13 W	No. 1	NESW	28	36	13 W	1.40
Crystal	28, 33	35	14 W	No. 1	SESW	28	35	14 W	.25
				No. 2	SWSE	28	35	14 W	.30
				No. 3	S½SE	28	35	14 W	.20
Devils	5, 6, 8	36	11 W	No. 5	NENE	6	36	11 W	.90
	31, 32	37	11 W	No. 6	NWNE	6	36	11 W	3.50
				No. 7	E½NE	6	36	11 W	1.80
				No. 8	SWNW	5	36	11 W	1.50
				No. 9	N½SW	5	36	11 W	1.00
				No. 10	NWSW	5	36	11 W	.80
				No. 11	NESW	5	36	11 W	.10
				No. 12	NESW	5	36	11 W	.40
Hemlock	25, 26, 27)	36	10 W	No. 1	NWSE	25	36	10 W	.30
	35, 36)			No. 2	S½SE	26	36	10 W	.80
				No. 3	SWSE	26	36	10 W	.25
				No. 4	SESW	26	36	10 W	1.40
Hogback	11, 12	36	13 W	No. 1	NESE	11	36	13 W	.40
Horseshoe	6, 7	34	14 W	No. 1	(SWSW	6	34	14 W	2.00
	1, 12, 13, 14	34	15 W		(NWNW	7	34	14 W	
				No. 2	NWNE	7	34	14 W	3.00
				No. 3	NENW	7	34	14 W	1.10
				No. 4	E½NW	7	34	14 W	.30
				No. 5	(W½NE	7	34	14 W	1.10
					(E½NW				
				Big Island	NW¼	7	34	14 W	35.00
Montanis	26, 27, 34) 35)	35	11 W	No. 1	NENE	34	35	11 W	.30
Pickereel	3, 4	36	10 W	No. 1	NWSW	3	36	10 W	.40
Red Cedar	2, 3, 10, 11)	36	10 W	No. 1	NWNE	27	36	10 W	.05
	14, 15, 22)			No. 4	NWSE	22	36	10 W	.10
	23, 27)			No. 5	NWSE	22	36	10 W	.05
	34	37	10 W	No. 6	NENE	15	36	10 W	.15
				No. 7	NENE	15	36	10 W	.02
				No. 8	NWNE	10	36	10 W	.35
Spider	1, 2	36	13 W	No. 1	SWSW	1	36	13 W	.50
Spring	24, 25	36	14 W	No. 1	SESW	24	36	14 W	.10

Public Lands Handbook

Bayfield County

<u>Lake</u>	<u>Location</u>			<u>Island</u>	<u>Location</u>			<u>Acres</u>	
	<u>Section</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>Range</u>		<u>Quarter</u>	<u>Sectio</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>Range</u>	
						<u>n</u>			
Birch (Bass)	3, 4, 9	44	9 W	Elm	SESE	4	44	9 W	3.00
				Stub	NESE	4	44	9 W	1.20
Buffalo	26, 35, 36	43	5 W	Bog	NWSE	35	43	5 W	.02
				Emerald	SWNE	35	43	5 W	1.20
				Twin Rock	SWNE	35	43	5 W	.15
Cable	7)	43	7 W)	Cherry	NESE	12	43	8 W	.75
	1, 12, 13)	43	8 W)	Lilly	SESW	1	43	8 W	1.00
				Shadow	SESE	12	43	8 W	.50
				Tamarack	NWNE	12	43	8 W	.20
Chippewa (North Two)	15, 16	43	5 W	Pine	NWSW	15	43	5 W	.40
	21, 22			Tag Alder	NESE	16	43	5 W	.50
Crystal	5	43	6 W)	Loon’s Nest	NESW	32	44	6 W	.04
	32	44	6 W)						
Dells (North Four)	21, 22	43	5 W	Moline	SWNW)	27	43	5 W	1.50
	27, 28				NWSW)				
Ghost (or Bass)	20, 21, 29	43	5 W	Huff	SESW	20	43	5 W	.60
Half Moon (Mill Pond)	8, 17	47	8 W	Star	NENW	17	47	8 W	.15
Lake Millicent	29, 22, 27, 28	47	8 W	Francis	SENE	28	47	8 W	.10
Namekagon	34, 35	44	6 W)	Chief	SWNW)	3	43	6 W	2.15
	2, 3, 4)	43	6 W)	Namekagon	SENW)				
	9-16)			Della	NENE	13	43	6 W	.80
	Inc.,)								
	21, 24)								
	7, 18)	43	5 W						
Owen or Long	11-15,)	44	7 W	Long	N½SW	22	44	7 W	4.10
	Inc., 22,)				SWSW)				
	23, 27			Red Cliff	NENE)	22	44	7 W	.70
	28, 32, 33				NWNE)				
	4, 5	43	7 W)						
Price (Swenson)	8	43	7 W	Pine	SWNE	8	43	7 W	.90
Siskiwit	20, 21	50	6 W	Long	NESE)	20)	50	6 W	1.80
					NWSW)	21)	50	6 W	
				Round	(NESE)	20	50	6 W	2.00
				Siskiwit	NWSE	20	50	6 W	.03
Star	9, 10	45	7 W	Balsam	SESE	10	45	7 W	.60
	11, 15			Crooked	SESE)	10)	45	7 W	4.80
					W½SW	11)	45	7 W	
				East	SWSW)	10	45	7 W	3.80
					SESW)				
				Middle	SWSW	10	45	7 W	.60
				West	SWSW	10	45	7 W	2.70
Totagatic	29-32 inc. 43	43	8 W	Lone Pine	NENE	31	43	8 W	1.80
	inc.								
Upper Eau Claire	2, 3, 9, 10, 44	44	9 W	Three-In-One	S½SW)	2)	44	9 W	11.00
	11, 15, 16				N½NW	11)	44	9 W	

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Burnett County

<u>Lake</u>	<u>Location</u>			<u>Island</u>	<u>Location</u>			<u>Acres</u>	
	<u>Section</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>Range</u>		<u>Quarter</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>Range</u>	
Bashaw	7, 17, 18, 19	38	14 W	No. 1	N½NE	19	38	14 W	.70
Birch Island	7, 8, 17, 18,19)	40	14 W	Burnt	W½SW	18	40	14 W	12.0 0
	13, 24	40	15 W						
Clam	2, 3, 9, 10)	38	16 W	No. 1	NWNE	14	38	16 W	18.0 0
	11, 12, 14, 15)				E½NW				
	34, 35	39	16 W						
Connors	25, 35, 36	40	16 W	No. 1	SWNW	36	40	16 W	.60
Elbow	6	37	16 W	No. 1	SESE	31	38	16 W	1.30
	31, 32	38	16 W						
Goose	2, 3, 11	40	14 W	No. 1	SWSW	2)	40	14 W	.40
					NWNW	11)	40	14 W	
				No. 2	SWSW	2	40	14 W	.30
				No. 3	SWSW	2	40	14 W	.30
Green	26, 27	40	15 W	No. 1	E½	34)	40	15 W	1.60
	34, 35				W½	35)	40	15 W	
				No. 2	SWNW	35	40	15 W	1.70
				No. 3	NWNW	35	40	15 W	1.30
				No. 6	NWNW	35	40	15 W	.12
Johnson (Pickerel)	14, 23, 24	40	16 W	No. 1	SWSE	14)	40	16 W	.50
					NWNE	23)	40	16 W	
				No. 2	SWSE	14	40	16 W	.25
				No. 3	SWSE	14	40	16 W	1.60
				No. 4	NWNE	23	40	16 W	.08
				No. 5	SWNE	35	40	16 W	.40
Little McGraw	13, 24	42	15 W	No. 1	SWSE	13	42	15 W	.04
Long	16, 17, 20	38	16 W	No. 1	SWNW	21	38	16 W	.70
	21, 28	38	16 W	No. 2	NWSW	21	38	16 W	.30
Lost	23, 25, 26, 35	41	14 W	No. 1	NWNE	26)	41	14 W	.35
					NENW	26)	41	14 W	
Lower Loon	16	40	15 W	No. 1	SENE	26	40	16 W	.10
Middle McKenzie	(18, 19	40	13 W)	No. 1	NENE	24	40	14 W	.20
	(13, 24	40	14 W)						
Mud	26, 27	40	16 W	No. 1	NWSW	26	40	16 W	.50
				No. 2	S½NW	26)	40	16 W	6.00
					N½SW	26)	40	16 W	
				No. 3	NWSW	26	40	16 W	.10
Myre (Mid Loon)	16, 17	40	15 W	No. 1	S½SE	17	40	15 W	.60
Nicaboyne	(2, 3	40	14 W)	No. 1	SENE	3	40	14 W	.25
	(35, 36	41	14 W)						
Oak	19, 20	40	14 W	No. 1	E½SW	20)	40	14 W	16.5 0
					SWSE	20)	40	14 W	
				No. 2	E½SW	20	40	14 W	.40
Point (Buckhorn)	28, 29	40	15 W	No. 4	NWSE	29	40	15 W	.55
				No. 5	NESE	29	40	15 W	.40
Shoal	11, 14	40	15 W	No. 1	SESW	11)	40	15 W	.30
					NENW	14)	40	15 W	
Tomoe	30, 31	40	15 W	No. 1	NWNE	31	40	15 W	.70
Trade	16, 20, 21	37	18 W	No. 1	N½NE	29	37	18 W	.30
	28, 29			No. 2	N½NE	29	37	18 W	1.30
Webb	8, 9, 16	41	14 W	No. 1	E½SE	17	41	14 W	.45

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Wood (Big Wood)	17, 20, 21	38	18 W	No. 1	SWSW	27	38	18 W	.20
	26, 27, 28			No. 2	NENW	34	38	18	1.40
	33, 34							V	
				No. 3	N½NW	34	38	18 W	2.00
				No. 4	SWNE	34	38	18 W	.90
				No. 5	SWNE	34	38	18 W	.50
				No. 6	NESW	34	38	18 W	.40

Douglas County

<u>Lake</u>	<u>Location</u>			<u>Island</u>	<u>Location</u>				<u>Acres</u>
	<u>Section</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>Range</u>		<u>Quarter</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>Range</u>	
Amnicon	12, 13	46	14 W	Dollar	NWNW	13	46	14 W	.05
				Little (3 Pine)	SESW	12	46	14 W	.60
				Tomahawk	SESW	12	46	14 W	23.50
					NWNE	13	46	14 W	
					NENW	13	46	14 W	
Murray	13, 24	45	10 W	No. 1	NENW	24	45	10 W	.40
Muskrat	28, 33	45	11 W	No. 1	NWNW	33	45	11 W	.15
St. Louis River	8	48	15 W	Nekak	Govt. Lot 2	8	48	15 W	20.20
				Amik	Govt. Lot 3	8	48	15 W	8.74
Steel	28, 32, 33	47	11 W	No. 1	NWNW	33	47	11 W	1.50
				No. 2	NWNW	33	47	11 W	.60

Florence County

<u>Lake</u>	<u>Location</u>			<u>Island</u>	<u>Location</u>				<u>Acres</u>
	<u>Section</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>Range</u>		<u>Quarter</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>Range</u>	
Ellwood	8, 16, 17	39	19 E	No. 1 (Norway)	SWSE)	8	39	19 E	.50
				No. 2	SESE)				
Price Sealion	17, 18	39	17 E	No. 1	NWNE	17	39	19 E	.75
	1, 2, 11, 12	39	17 E	No. 1	NESW	17	39	17 E	.10
				No. 1	NENE	11	39	17 E	.70
				No. 2	NENE	11	39	17 E	.15
				No. 3	NENE	11	39	17 E	.15
				No. 4	NWNW	12	39	17 E	.10
				No. 5	NENE	11)	39	17 E	.10
Shadow (Boot)	7, 18	40	17 E	No. 6	NWNW	12)			
				No. 1	SESW	12	39	17 E	.05
					SWSE	7	40	17 E	.50
Spread Eagle	3, 4, 5	39	19 E						
Chain	28, 29, 32)	40	19 E						
	33, 34)								
Bass				Bass	NWNW	4	39	19 E	.60
East				Paradise	SWSW	34	40	19 E	.80

Public Lands Handbook

Forest County

<u>Lake</u>	<u>Location</u>			<u>Island</u>	<u>Location</u>			<u>Acres</u>	
	<u>Section</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>Range</u>		<u>Quarter</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>Range</u>	
Arbutus (Little Sand)	27, 28	34	13 E	No. 1	NWSW	27	34	13 E	.25
Butternut	21, 22, 27)	40	12 E	No. 1	NWNW	34	40	12 E	1.00
	28, 29, 33)			No. 2	NWSE	28	40	12 E	1.75
	34)								
	3	39	12 E						
Crane	18, 20, 21)	34	13 E	No. 1	SESW	20	34	13 E	.15
	29)								
Franklin	15, 16, 20)	40	12 E	Franklin	SESE	20	40	12 E	1.75
	21)								
Julia	5, 6, 7	38	12 E	No. 1	NWSE	6	38	12 E	1.10
	1, 12	38	11 E						
Long	24, 25	39	14 E	No. 1	SENE	25	39	14 E	.05
	19, 30	39	15 E						
Lucerne	3, 10, 11, 14)	35	13 E	Bay	NWNW	23	35	13 E	.05
	15, 22, 23)			Birch	NENE	22	35	13 E	.40
	34	36	13 E	East	NENE	22	35	13 E	.20
				Marsh	NWNE	22	35	13 E	.10
				Pine	N½NE	22	35	13 E	.90
				Rocky	NENE	22	35	13 E	.15
				Slim	NENE	22	35	13 E	.20
				Stony	NWSW	14	35	13 E	.05
Pickereel	30, 31, 32)			Rocky (No. 3)	SENE	32	34	13 E	.15
See Langlade County also for islands in this lake									
Pine	10, 15, 16)	37	12 E	No. 1	SESE	21	37	12 E	.10
	21, 22, 23)								
	27, 28)								
Wabikon (Rat)	5, 6	35	14 E	Wild Rice	W½SW	32	36	14 E	14.00
	29, 30, 31)	36	14 E						
	32)								

Public Lands Handbook

Iron County

<u>Lake</u>	<u>Location</u>			<u>Island</u>	<u>Location</u>			<u>Acres</u>	
	<u>Section</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>Range</u>		<u>Quarter</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>Range</u>	
Bearskull	25, 26	41	3 E	Wild Rose	S½NW	25	41	3 E	.20
Cedar	13, 14	43	4 E	*No. 2	E½NE	14	43	4 E	2.40
				*No. 3	NENE	14	43	4 E	.04
Charnley	20	41	3 E	Pine (No. 1)	NENW	20	41	3 E	.10
				No. 2 (Alder)	SENE	20	41	3 E	.006
Crystal (Bass)	27, 33, 34	43	3 E	Seven Pine	NENW	34	43	3 E	.10
Echo	24, 25	43	3 E	North	SWSE	24	43	3 E	.20
				South	SWNE	25	43	3 E	.15
Ess	16, 17	41	3 E	John	NESE	17	41	3 E	.03
Ferry	23	41	3 E	East Twin	NWSE	23	41	3 E	.10
				West Twin	NWSE	23	41	3 E	.10
Island	(24, 25, 36	44	1 E	Grass	NESW	25	44	1 E	.05
	(19, 30	44	2E	Three Balsam	SWNW	19	44	2E	.20
				No 1.	SWSW	19	44	2E	.32
					NWNW	30	44	2E	
Little Pike	(2, 3	42	3 E	East	SESW	35	43	3 E	.20
	(35	43	3 E	West	SWSW	35	43	3 E	.05
Long	18, 19, 20	44	4 E	No. 1	(NWNW	29	44	4 E	1.30
	29, 30, 31	44	4 E		(NENE	30			
	32			No. 2	E½NE	30	44	4 E	.50
				No. 5	(SWNE	32	44	4 E	1.00
					(SENE				
Martha	29, 30, 31	43	4 E	No. 1	SWNW	29	43	4 E	.30
	32			No. 2	NESE	30	43	4 E	1.30
McDermott	30	41	3 E	Lois	SENE	30	41	3 E	.10
Moose	2, 3, 10	43	2 E	Six Pine	SWSW	2	43	2 E	.40
North Bass	14, 23	43	4 E	*No. 1	NENW	23	43	4 E	.10
O’Brien	8, 17	44	1 E	Cedar	SESW	8	44	1 E	.40
Owl	15, 22	44	4 E	Pine	(SWSE	15	44	4 E	1.30
					(NWNE	22	44	4 E	
				No. 2	SWSE	15	44	4 E	.04
Pine	20, 28, 29	44	3 E	Beaver	SE¼	29	44	3 E	.80
	32, 33			Cedar	SWNE	29	44	3 E	.70
Pleasant	27, 34	44	1 E	Evergreen	(SESW	27	44	1 E	2.00
					(SWSE				
Rice	23, 24,	43	3 E	Rice	NENE	26	43	3 E	.10
	25, 26								
Sand	24	42	2 E	Jennie	SENE	24	42	2 E	3.00
	19	42	3 E	Katie	SWNW	19	42	3 E	.50
Spider	7, 8, 17,	43	4 E	North (No. 2)	N½SW	8	43	4 E	.07
	18								
				South (No. 1)	SWNW	17	43	4 E	.15
Stone	16, 21	41	3 E	Alder	NWNE	21	41	3 E	.20
Virgin	21, 22	44	4 E	No. 1	SWNW	22	44	4 E	.05
Wilson	15, 16	42	3 E	No. 1	SENE	16	42	3 E	.10
	21, 22			No. 2	SESE	16	42	3 E	.10

* Within NHSF.

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Langlade County

<u>Lake</u>	<u>Location</u>			<u>Island</u>		<u>Location</u>			<u>Acres</u>
	<u>Section</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>Range</u>		<u>Quarter</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>Range</u>	
Camp	7	34	10 E	Tamarack	NWNE	7	34	10 E	.03
Enterprise	3, 4, 9, 10	34	10 E	No. 1	SESW	4	34	10 E	.35
Lower Post	10, 11, 14 15, 22, 23	34	11 E	E. Wilber	NWSW	23	34	11 E	.10
				Middle Wilber	NWSW	23	34	11 E	.05
				W. Wilber	NWSW)	23)	34	11 E	.50
					NESE)	22)			
Moccasin (Bass)	8	34	10 E	No. 1	SWNE	8	34	10 E	.15
Otter	12	34	10 E	North (One Pine)	SESW	12	34	10 E	.04
Pickerel*	24, 25	34	12 E	Mericle or Indian	NESE)	25	34	12 E	1.70
	28, 29, 30	34	13 E		SESE)				
	31, 32								

* See Forest County also for Islands in this lake.

Lincoln County

<u>Lake</u>	<u>Location</u>			<u>Island</u>		<u>Location</u>			<u>Acres</u>
	<u>Section</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>Range</u>		<u>Quarter</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>Range</u>	
Seven Island	14, 15, 22) 23)	34	8 E	Long (No. 1)	SWSE	15)	34	8 E	2.60
					NWNE	22)			
				Round (No. 2)	NWNE	22	34	8 E	1.10
				Birch (No. 3)	SESE	15)	34	8 E	.75
					NENE	22)			
				Lone Pine (No. 4)	SESE	15	34	8 E	.15
				Twin Pine (No. 5)	SESE	15	34	8 E	.05

Marinette County

<u>Lake</u>	<u>Location</u>			<u>Island</u>		<u>Location</u>			<u>Acres</u>
	<u>Section</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>Range</u>		<u>Quarter</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>Range</u>	
Coleman	8, 9, 17	36	18 E	No. 1	NESW	8	36	18 E	.55
Hilbert	1	37	16 E	No. 1	SENE	7	37	17 E	.60
	5, 6, 7, 8	37	17 E	No. 2	SWNE)	7	37	17 E	.50
					SENE)				
				No. 3	SWNE	7	37	17 E	.60
Island	12, 13	34	20 E	No. 1	SWSE	12)	34	20 E	1.20
	7, 18	34	21 E		NWNE	13)			
Oneonta	6	37	17 E	Spruce	NENW	6	37	17 E	.25

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Oneida County

<u>Lake</u>	<u>Location</u>			<u>Island</u>	<u>Location</u>			<u>Acres</u>	
	<u>Section</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>Range</u>		<u>Quarter</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>Range</u>	
Alva	10, 11	37	7 E	White Birch	NESW	10	37	7 E	.20
Bear	19	38	6 E	Cub (No. 1)	SENE	24	38	5 E	.40
	24, 25	38	5 E						
Brown	15, 16	38	8 E	Low	NESE	16	38	8 E	.02
				Pine	NESE	16	38	8 E	.55
				South	NESE	16	38	8 E	.65
Buckskin	1, 2, 11,1 2	39	4 E	No. 1	NESE	2	39	4 E	.40
	35, 36	40	4 E	No. 2	NWSW	1	39	4 E	2.00
				No. 3	NESW	1	39	4 E	1.20
				No. 4	SESW	1	39	4 E	.60
				No. 5	E½NW	12	39	4 E	8.00
Buffalo	11, 12, 13, 14	39	7 E	Spruce (Jacobs)	NESE	11	39	7 E	.20
Burnham	30, 31	38	7 E	Dumbell	NENW	31	38	7 E	1.50
Burrows	3, 4	36	5 E	McDonald	NWSW	3	36	5 E	.50
Carrol	(4, 5, 8	39	7 E	Balsam	(SESE	5	39	7 E	.80
	(33, 34	40	7 E		(NENE	8	39	7 E	
				Oak	(SWSW	4	39	7 E	1.00
					(SESE	5	39	7 E	
				Turtle	NWSE	4	39	7 E	3.00
				West	(SESE	5	39	7 E	1.85
					(NENE	8	39	7 E	
Coon	18, 19	37	8 E	Coon	NENE	19	37	8 E	.15
Crescent	7, 8, 17, 18	36	8 E	Campfire	N½NW	17	36	8 E	.35
	20, 21								
Crooked	26, 27	38	11 E	Seven Pine	NESE	27	38	11 E	.40
	34, 35								
Currie	13, 14	37	6 E	Spruce (No. 1)	(SENE	14	37	6 E	.25
					(NESE				
				Pine (No. 2)	NESE	14	37	6 E	.50
Emma	21, 28	36	8 E	Pine	SESW	21	36	8 E	.80
Fifth	(4, 5	36	10 E	Pelican	(NENW	4	36	10 E	5.20
	(33	37	10 E		(SESW	33	37	10 E	
Flannery	28, 33	37	8 E	Brush	NWNE	33	37	8 E	.03
				Lone Pine	SWSE	28	37	8 E	.02
				Shack	N½SE	28	37	8 E	.30
Four Mile	22, 23	39	11 E	No. 1	SENW	23	39	11 E	.40
Franklin	15, 16	39	5 E	Bear	SWNE	16	39	5 E	2.60
				Spruce	NWNE	16	39	5 E	.20
George	11, 13, 14	36	9 E	Long	W½SW	14	36	9 E	1.50
	15			Spring	SWSW	14	36	9 E	.10
Gilmore	13, 24	39	7 E	Knob	SENW	24	39	7 E	.45
Ginty	(24	37	10 E	East	NWSW	19	37	11 E	.02
	(19, 30	37	11 E	Long	NWSW	19	37	11 E	.20
Hancock	8, 9, 17	36	7 E	Loomis	NESE	8	36	7 E	4.85
Hasbrook	25, 26, 27	39	7 E	Crescent (West)	SESE	27	39	7 E	.20
	34, 35								
Hook	29, 32	37	8 E	Hook	NWNE	32	37	8 E	.30
				Pine	SWSE	29	37	8 E	.40
Horsehead	10, 11, 14, 15	38	7 E	Burnt	NENW	14	38	7 E	1.30
	22, 23			Tamarack	NWNW	14	38	7 E	.10
Indian	(1	38	9 E	Balsam	SWNE	1	38	9 E	.50
	(6	38	10 E	Point	SENE	1	38	9 E	1.10

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	(36	39	9 E	Squash	(W½NE	1	38	9 E	3.20
	(31	39	10 E		(SENE				
Island	28, 29	39	11 E	Olson	SWSW	28	39	11 E	.25
	32, 33								
Julia	(12, 13	36	8 E	Pine	NESE	12	36	8 E	.65
	(7, 18	36	9 E	Tamarack	SESE	12	36	8 E	.08
Katherine	2, 3, 10, 11	38	6 E	6 Pine	NENW	11	38	6 E	.10
	14, 15								
Kawaguesaga (Kewasokogan)	9, 10, 15, 16	39	6 E	Norway	E½SE	16	39	6 E	.45
	21, 22								
Little Bearskin	11, 12	37	6 E	No. 1	(SENE	11	37	6 E	1.35
					(NESE				
				No. 2	NESE	11	37	6 E	.70
				No. 3	NWSE	11	37	6 E	.85
Long	9, 10, 15, 16	38	8 E	Big Rock	(W½SW	10	38	8 E	.35
					(E½SE	9	38	8 E	
				Little Rock	(SWSW	10	38	8 E	.25
					(SESE	9	38	8 E	
				Dead Pine	NWSE	9	38	8 E	.15
				Spruce	NENE	16	38	8 E	.50
Lucille	14, 15	35	11 E	Hill Billy	NWSW	14	35	11 E	1.70
Lumen	33	38	7 E	Lone	(SWNE	33	38	7 E	.25
					(NWSE				
Madeline	(5, 8	39	6 E	Farm	NESW	5	39	6 E	2.70
	(32	40	6 E						
Mason	32, 33	36	7 E	Loon's Nest	SWSW	33	36	7 E	.30
				Manson	SENE	32	36	7 E	.35
Margaret	3, 4	37	11 E	Bear	(NWSW	3	37	11 E	.65
					(NESE	4	37	11 E	
Maud	13, 23, 24	37	7 E	Muskrat	NWNW	24	37	7 E	.65
				Squirrel	(SESW	13	37	7 E	.50
					(NENW	24	37	7 E	
Mercer	13, 14	39	5 E	No. 1 (Pine)	SWNW	13	39	5 E	1.75
				No. 2 (Poplar)	(SENE	13	39	5 E	1.70
					(NESW				
Mildred	(24	37	7 E	Bearpaw (West)	SWSW	20	37	8 E	.40
	(19, 20, 29	37	8 E	Crane (North)	S½SW	20	37	8 E	.40
				Doughnut (Big)	(SWSW	20	37	8 E	2.40
					(NWNW				
				Mildred (Pine)	SESW	20	37	8 E	1.00
Minocqua	(11, 12, 13, 14	39	6 E	Crescent	SWNE	13	39	6 E	.25
	(18	39	7 E	*G. L. 7	E½NW	13	39	6 E	5.80
Neptune (Ogemaga)	(24	36	10 E	Alder	SENE	19	36	11 E	.20
	(19	36	11 E		NESW				
Oscar Jenny	(12	36	6 E	South	W½SW	7	36	7 E	1.00
	(7	36	7 E	Spruce	NWSW	7	36	7 E	.60
				Tamarack	NWSW	7	36	7 E	.05
Oneida	4, 5, 8, 9	36	7 E	Fournier's	(SWSW	4	36	7 E	1.85
					(SESE	5			
					(NENE	8			
				Three Stumps	SWSW	4	36	7 E	.07
Perch	6, 7	39	11 E	Muskeg	NENE	7	39	11 E	.05
Pier	31, 32	39	8 E	Hidden	S½NE	31	39	8 E	.05
Pine	(36	39	4 E	No. 1 (Faun)	NESE	36	39	4 E	1.30
	(31	39	5 E						
Seed	(31, 32	38	7 E	Seed	SWSW	32	38	7 E	.07
	(5, 6	37	7 E						
Seventeen	8, 17, 18	38	6 E	Muskeg	SWNE	17	38	6 E	.02

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				No. 1	NESW	17	38	6 E	.15
				No. 2	NESW	17	38	6 E	.35
Shisebogama	(1, 2, 3, 10, 11	39	5 E	No. 1 (Scotty)	(SWSW	2	39	5 E	6.40
	(35, 36	40	5 E		(SESE	3	39	5 E	
South Two	(15, 16	38	7 E	No. 2 (South)	SESW	16	38	7 E	.25
	(21, 22								
Squash	(13, 24	36	7 E	Marshall	SESE	13	36	7 E	1.10
	(18, 19	36	8 E	Scrub Oak	SESW	24	36	7 E	.15
Squaw	(4, 8, 9	39	4 E	No. 1 (Boulder)	NWSW	9	39	4 E	.50
	(16, 17			No. 2 (South)	NWNW	16	39	4 E	.30
	(33	40	4 E						
Squirrel	(5, 8, 9, 16	39	5 E	Ivy	SESW	8	39	5 E	.10
	(17, 18, 19, 20			Lone Rock	NENW	8	39	5 E	.003
	(30			North	NESW	5	39	5 E	.75
	(32	40	5 E						
Stella	1, 2, 11, 12	37	10 E	Stella	E½SW	1	37	10 E	.20
Sunday	3, 10	39	5 E	No. 1	NWNW	10	39	5 E	.40
				No. 2	NWNW	10	39	5 E	.10
				No. 3	NENW	10	39	5 E	.05
				No. 4	SWSW	3	39	5 E	.20
Swamsauger	10, 11, 14, 15	38	4 E	Bulrush	E½NW	14	38	4 E	.25
				Three Pine	NENW	14	38	4 E	.55
Sweeney	14, 15, 22, 23	39	7 E	Cabin (White	SESE	15	39	7 E	2.30
				Birch)					
Thompson	1, 2, 3	36	9 E	Camp	NESW	2	36	9 E	1.00
				Squirrel	NWSW	2	36	9 E	.40
				Swamp	NESE	3	36	9 E	.50
Thunder	2, 3, 9, 10	38	10 E	Kuney's (No. 5)	NWNE	15	38	10 E	1.75
	11, 12, 14, 15			No. 1 (Squash)	SESW	15	38	10 E	.35
	16			No. 2 (Beaver)	NWSW	15	38	10 E	.35
				No. 3 (Rock)	SWSW	14	38	10 E	.25
				Brush	SWSW	14	38	10 E	.10
Tomahawk	(24, 25, 36	39	6 E	Balsam	SESW	5	38	7 E	.06
	(1	38	6 E	Crescent	SWNE	5	38	7 E	.25
	(29, 30, 31	39	7 E	Dead Pine	NWNW	5	38	7 E	.02
	(32, 33, 34			High	NENW	5	38	7 E	2.50
	(3, 4, 5,	38	7 E	Hughston	E½NW	5	38	7 E	.80
	(6, 8, 9								
Tom Doyle	21, 22, 28	38	8 E	Otter	SWSE	21	38	8 E	2.10
Town Line	(2	36	8 E	Swamp	SESW	35	37	8 E	.05
	(35	37	8 E						
Two Sisters	16, 17, 18	38	8 E	Ellis	NWNE	19	38	8 E	4.75
	19, 20								
Virgin	10, 11, 14, 15	38	11 E	Pine	NWNW	14	38	11 E	2.50
Wind Pudding	20, 21, 28, 29	38	7 E	Punk	SESE	20	38	7 E	.50
				Stump	SWSE	20	38	7 E	2.00

* Non-Grant Island. Listed for Periodic Inspection purposes.

Public Lands Handbook

Lake	Polk County								Acres	
	Location	Island	Location	Location	Location	Location	Location			
	Section	Town	Range		Quarter	Section	Town	Range		
Alabama	8, 17	36	18 W	No. 1	SWSW	8	36	18 W	.70	
				No. 2	(W½NE (E½NW	17	36	18 W	16.80	
				No. 3	(SESW (NESW	17	36	18 W	2.00	
				No. 4	NESW	17	36	18 W	1.00	
Balsam	5, 6	34	16 W	No. 9	SESE	3	34	17 W	.10	
	31	35	16 W	No. 10	NWSW	6	34	16 W	.15	
	1, 2, 3, 4, 10	34	17 W	No. 11	SWNW	6	34	16 W	.75	
	(26, 27, 34	35	17 W	No. 12	SESW	6	34	16 W	.08	
	(35, 36			No. 13	(NESW (NWSE	6	34	16 W	1.60	
Bass Lake	30, 31 36	36	16 W	No. 1	SENE	36	36	16 W	.40	
Blom	4, 5	37	17 W	Banana	S½NW	4	37	17 W	3.60	
Bone	(5, 6, 7, 8 (17, 18, 20 32, 32	35	16 W	No. 1	(SWNW (NWSW	8	35	16 W	3.00	
Diamond	3, 4	37	17 W	No. 2	SWNW	3	37	17 W	.60	
				No. 3	SWNW	3	37	17 W	.25	
				No. 4	NWSW	3	37	17 W	.20	
				No. 5	SWNW	3	37	17 W	.20	
				No. 6	SESW	3	37	17 W	1.00	
				No. 7	E½NW	3	37	17 W	.80	
Horseshoe	6, 7, 8	34	14 W	No. 1	W½NE	1	34	15 W	.10	
	1, 12, 13, 14	34	15 W	No. 2	SWNE	1	34	15 W	.80	
				No. 3	SWNE	1	34	15 W	.50	
				No. 4	SWNE	1	34	15 W	.60	
				No. 5	S½NE	1	34	15 W	2.20	
				No. 6	E½SE	1	34	15 W	1.20	
				No. 7	SESE	1	34	15 W	.25	
See Barron County also for Islands in this lake				Bunker's	SWNW	13	34	15 W	.25	
				Emerald	NENE	12	34	15 W	.50	
	Long	5, 6, 7, 8	34	17 W	No. 1	SESW	8	34	17 W	1.50
	Lykens (Howie)	15, 22	34	17 W	No. 1	NENE	22	34	17 W	.40
Pipe	10, 15, 22	35	15 W	Birch	NENW	22	35	15 W	1.60	
				Juniper	NWNE	22	35	15 W	.40	
				Maple	NWNE	22	35	15 W	.20	
				Pine	NWNE	22	35	15 W	.40	
Rice	17, 18	37	17 W	No. 1	(NWSW (NESE	17 18	37	17 W	.50	
Wild Goose	13	34	17 W	No. 1	NWNE	13	34	17 W	2.40	
				No. 2	(SESW (NESW	13	34	17 W	.50	

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Price County

<u>Lake</u>	<u>Location</u>			<u>Island</u>	<u>Location</u>			<u>Acres</u>
	<u>Section</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>Range</u>		<u>Quarter</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>Range</u>
Cochran	9, 10	40	3 E	Echo	NESE	9	40	3 E
				Camp Edgell	SENE	9	40	3 E
				Chicken Park	SENE	9	40	3 E
				Long	SENE)	9	40	3 E
Dardis	34, 35	38	1 E	Dardis	NESE)	34	38	1 E
					NWNW)	35	38	1 E
Hultman	25, 36	34	2 E	Picnic	NWNE	25	34	2 E
Lake Ten	3, 10	36	1 W	Marie	S½SW)	3	36	1 W
					N½NW	10	36	1 W
Lake Sixteen	16	36	1 W	Tamarack	NWNW)	10	36	1 W
				North	SWNE)	16	36	1 W
				Middle	SWNE)	16	36	1 W
				South	SENE)	16	36	1 W
					SENE)	16	36	1 W
Long	30, 31, 32	39	2 W	Long Lake	NESW	31	39	2 W
					W½SE	31	39	2 W
Miles	2, 3	40	3 E	No. 1	NWSW	2	40	3 E
Pike	25, 26, 35, 36	40	3 E	Pike	NESE	35	40	3 E
				South	SESE	35	40	3 E
Sailor	1, 2, 11, 12	39	3 E	Lone Pine	SWNW	29	39	2 E
Stone	20, 29, 30	39	2 E	No. 1	SWNW	30	34	3 E
	25	34	2 E					
Worcester	30	34	3 E	Cedar	SWNW	24	36	1 E
	23, 24	36	1 E					

Rusk County

<u>Lake</u>	<u>Location</u>			<u>Island</u>	<u>Location</u>			<u>Acres</u>
	<u>Section</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>Range</u>		<u>Quarter</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>Range</u>
Bass	16, 21	34	9 W	No. 1	NESW	16	34	9 W
				No. 2	NESW	16	34	9 W
				No. 3	NESW	16	34	9 W
				No. 4	NESW	16	34	9 W
				No. 5	SESW	16	34	9 W
				No. 6	SESW	16	34	9 W
				No. 7	SESW	16	34	9 W
Island	20, 32, 28, 29	33	8 W	Unnamed*	NWNE	29	33	8 W

* Non-grant island. List for periodic inspection.

Public Lands Handbook

Sawyer County

<u>Lake</u>	<u>Location</u>			<u>Island</u>		<u>Location</u>			<u>Acres</u>
	<u>Section</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>Range</u>			<u>Quarter</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>Range</u>
Birch	19	37	9 W	Penny	NWSW	19	37	9 W	.40
Black Dan (McDonald)	24, 25	37	10 W						
	1	39	5 W	Emma	(NWNE (NENW	1	39	5 W	2.00
	36	40	5 W	Grace	NWNE	1	39	5 W	.80
Connors Evergreen	22, 27, 28	38	3 W	Jeanette	NWNE	1	39	5 W	.10
	1	38)	3 W	Pine	SWNW	27	38	3 W	2.40
	36	39)	3 W	Herman	SWSE	36	39	3 W	.35
Grindstone	13, 23, 24)	40	9 W	Birch	NWNE	26	40	9 W	1.75
	25, 26)								
	17, 18, 19	40	8 W	Observation	N½NE	26	40	9 W	5.25
Little Sissabagama	20, 29, 30								
	17, 18, 19	38	9 W	No. 1	W½NW	20	38	9 W	.15
	20			NW No. 3	(NESE (NWSW	19 20	38	9 W	.50
Patsy	(3, 4	42)	6 W	SE No. 3	W½SW	20	38	9 W	3.20
	(33, 34	43)	6 W	Hermit	NENE	4	42	6 W	1.10
Round	(18, 19, 30	41)	7 W	Evelyn	SWNE	14	41	8 W	1.20
	(13, 14, 22	41)	8 W						
	(23, 24, 25								
Sissabagama	(26, 27, 35, 36)								
	(5, 6, 7, 8	38	9 W	Cowhorn	SWSE	6	38	9 W	.60
	(16, 17			No. 1	NWNE	7	38	9 W	.40
				No. 2	SESW	6	38	9 W	.80
				Sunnyside	(SENW (NESW	8	38	9 W	1.80
Spider	14, 22, 23, 26)	42	7 W	Brewer	SWSW	27	42	7 W	.05
	27, 28, 33, 34)			No. 2 (North)	SESW	14	42	7 W	.35
				No. 3	E½NW	23	42	7 W	.40
				No. 4	NWSE	23	42	7 W	.05
				No. 6	SENE	22	42	7 W	.10
				No. 7	NESE	22	42	7 W	.20
				No. 8	W½BE	22	42	7 W	.80
				No. 9 (Picnic)	NENE	27	42	7 W	1.20
				No. 10	NESE	27	42	7 W	.25
				No. 11	NWSE	27	42	7 W	.001
	22, 27, 28	42	7 W	Butternut	(SWNW (SENE	27) 28)	42	7 W	9.75
				Norway	NESE	28	42	7 W	.70
				Grapevine	N½NE	12	40	9 W	.35
Spring	6, 7	40)	8 W						
	1, 12	40)	9 W						
Squaw	31	41)	7 W	N. Part Papoose	SWSW	31	41	7 W	.50
	1	40)	8 W						
	6	40)	7 W						
Teal (Little Duck)	26, 27, 28	42	6 W	Cedar	SENW	34	42	6 W	1.00
	33, 34)			Knot	W½SW E½SE	27) 28)	42	6 W	18.80
				Loons Nest	W½NE	33	42	6 W	3.80

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Windigo (Bass)	21, 22, 26 27, 28)	40 40	9 W 9 W	Paradise	SWNW	26)	42	6 W	14.00
					NWSW	26)			
					SENE	27)			
					NESE	27)			
				Raspberry	SWSW	27)	42	6 W	12.80
					N½NW	34)			
				Southwest	SENE	33	42N	6 W	.50
				Crescent	(SESW	22			
					(SWSE		40	9 W	1.20
				Heart (North)	NWSE	22			
				Pine (East)	SE¼	22			
				South	NWNE	27			

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Vilas County

<u>Lake</u>	<u>Location</u>			<u>Island</u>	<u>Location</u>			<u>Acres</u>	
	<u>Section</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>Range</u>		<u>Quarter</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>Range</u>	
Alequash	9, 15, 16, 17	41	7 E	Alder	SESW	9	41	7 E	.10
				*Balsam	NENW	16	41	7 E	.12
				*Burnt	NENW	16	41	7 E	.10
				No. 6	NWSE	9	41	7 E	.15
				Three Pine	SESW	9	41	7 E	.30
Armour	2, 3, 10, 11	43	6 E	Bill's	SW¼	11	43	6 E	9.30
Arrowhead	35, 36	40	6 E	Alder	(NESE	35	40	6 E	.45
					(NWSW	36	40	6 E	
Aurora (Rice)	18, 19	41	8 E	Brush	(NWNW	19	41	8 E	.45
					(NENW				
				East	SWNE	19	41	8 E	1.25
				North	SWNE	19	41	8 E	1.50
Ballard	3, 4, 5, 9, 10	41	8 E	East	(SWNW	3	41	8 E	1.70
					(NWSW				
				Spruce	SWNW	3	41	8 E	.20
Big	13, 14, 23, 24	43	8 E	Beaver	SWSW	13	43	8 E	.35
Big Crooked	1, 12	42	6 E	No. 1	S½NW	7	42	7 E	.45
	6, 7	42	7 E	No. 2	NWSW	7	42	7 E	1.00
Big Muskellunge	15, 16, 21, 22	41	7 E	Dome	NWNW	27	41	7 E	1.20
	23, 27, 28			Is. Of Bays	N½NE	28	41	7 E	6.35
				Minnow	NENE	28	41	7 E	.15
				* No. 4	(SWNE	22	41	7 E	25.00
				(G.L. 7 & 8)	(SENE				
Big Portage	7, 8, 17, 18	42	10 E	Boulder-Out-Crop	(SWSW	8	42	10 E	.05
					(NWNW	17	42	10 E	
Big St. Germain	16, 17, 18, 19	40	8 E	Pickeral	SWSW	20	40	8 E	1.00
	20, 21, 29, 30								
Birch	2, 3, 10, 11	43	5 E	Kleo (No. 1)	NWNW	14	43	5 E	1.00
	14, 15								
Boulder	13	42	6 E	Balsam	E½NW	17	42	7 E	1.40
	7, 8, 17, 18	42	7 E	Norway	SWNW	17	42	7 E	.50
Buckatabon	13, 14, 22, 23	41	9 E	Aspen	E½SE	22	41	9 E	.90
	24, 26, 27			Drowned	NWNW	24	41	9 E	.15
Camp 12 (Bass)	4	40	9 E	Cranberry	S½SE	33	41	9 E	3.30
	33, 34	41	9 E	(No. 1)					
Carpenter	17, 18	40	11 E	Dead Pine	SWNW	17	40	11 E	.10
	19, 20			(No. 1)					
Catfish	1, 2	39	10 E	Long	SWNE	2	39	10 E	.40
	35, 36	40	10 E						
Cochran	20, 21	43	8 E	Virgin	S½SE	20	43	8 E	5.00
Crab	13, 14, 15, 22	43	6 E	No. 2	NENE	23	43	6 E	.50
	23, 24, 26, 27	43	6 E	No. 21 (No. 17)	S½SE	22	43	6 E	1.10
Dry	16, 17, 20	40	7 E	Dead Pine	SESE	17	40	7 E	.50
				Muskeg	SWSE	17	40	7 E	.20
				Pine	SESE	17	40	7 E	.50
				Swamp	SWSW	16	40	7 E	.10
				West (No. 1)	SWSE	17	40	7 E	.20
Escanaba	2	41	7 E	Brush	NENE	2	41	7 E	.15
	35	42	7 E	Burnt	NE¼	2	41	7 E	5.10
				South	S½NE	2	41	7 E	3.00

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				Town Line	NENE	2	41	7 E	.30
				Spruce	NENE	2	41	7 E	.05
Fishtrap	1, 2, 11, 12	42	7 E	No. 1	S½SE	2	42	7 E	2.10
Found	11, 13, 14	40	8 E	Hog's Back	SWNE	14	40	8 E	.60
Frank	13	41	7 E	Bear	NWSW	18	41	8 E	.10
	18	41	8 E	Cub	NWSW	18	41	8 E	.15
Harris	23, 25, 26	44	5 E	No. 1	SWNE	26	44	5 E	1.00
	35, 36								
High	1	42	7 E	Frog (No. 1)	SE¼	31	43	8 E	15.00
	6	42	8 E	Lunch (No. 3)	NENW	6	42	8 E	.15
	36	43	7 E	Paquette	E½SW	31	43	8 E	.75
	31, 32	43	8 E	(No. 2)					
Horsehead	2, 3, 11	43	6 E	No. 1	NWSW	2	43	6 E	.20
				No. 2	SWNW	2	43	6 E	.30
Irving	2, 3, 10, 11	41	8 E	East	SESW	2	41	8 E	.10
				Musky Inn	W½SW	2	41	8 E	1.30
				Pike	SWSW	2	41	8 E	.75
Island	13	42	5 E	No. 2	SWNE	18	42	6 E	.30
	7, 17, 18	42	6 E	No. 3	SWNE	18	42	6 E	.60
	19, 20			No. 4	NWNE	19	42	6 E	.45
				No. 5	NESW	18	42	6 E	.60
Jag	26, 27, 34, 35	42	6 E	MacPhail	NENE	34	42	6 E	.20
Jenny	24	43	6 E	No. 1	SESE	24	43	6 E	.65
	19	43	7 E	No. 2	SWSW	19	43	7 E	1.60
Lac du Lune	8, 9, 16, 17	42	9 E	Black Spruce (No. 1)	SESW	9	42	9 E	.75
				Hemlock (No. 2)	NENW	16	42	9 E	.90
				High Point (No. 4)	NW¼	16	42	9 E	.70
				Middle (No. 3)	NENW	16	42	9 E	.60
				Rocky	SWNW	16	42	9 E	.03
Landing	5	42	10 E	Middle (No. 3)	SENE	32	43	10 E	.10
	32, 33	43	10 E	North (No. 2)	NENE	32	43	10 E	1.60
				South (No. 1)	E½SE	32	43	10 E	2.10
Little Bass	15	40	8 E	* E 2/3 of Erdlitz	W½NE	15	40	8 E	1.20
Little John	20, 29	41	7 E	Heron	SWSE	20	41	7 E	1.20
				Loon	NENE	29	41	7 E	1.10
Little Presque Isle	3	43	7 E	Alder	NWSE	3	43	7 E	.10
				Grass	NESW	3	43	7 E	.05
Little St. Germain	23, 24, 25	40	8 E	East Bay (No. 1)	NWNE	25	40	8 E	.80
	26								
	19, 30	40	9 E	Lone Pine (No. 2)	NWNE	26	40	8 E	.20
Lone Tree	9	41	8 E	*Loon Egg	SENW	9	41	8 E	.50
Lost Canoe	34, 35	42	7 E	No. 2	N½SE	34	42	7 E	.35
				No. 3	(SWNE	34	42	7 E	.85
					(NWSE				
Lynx	(24	43	6 E	Cedar	NESW	18	43	7 E	.01
	(18, 19	43	7 E	Virgin	NWNW	19	43	7 E	2.50
Mamie	20, 21, 28, 29	43	9 E	Porcupine	NWSW	21	43	9 E	1.10
Mann	30, 31, 32	41	7 E	Deer	SENW	32	41	7 E	.50
Manitowish	14, 22, 23	42	5 E	Pinnacle (No. 1)	NWNE	23	42	5 E	.20
	24								
McCollough	13, 14, 23	43	7 E	John	SESW	13	43	7 E	.50
	24			Long Birch	NWNW	24	43	7 E	.55
Middle Gresham	3, 4, 9	41	6 E	Campsite	SESE	4	41	6 E	1.20
Mirror (George)	7	43	8 E	Raven	SESW	7	43	8 E	.15
Nebish	10, 11	41	7 E	*Muskeg	SWNW	11	41	7 E	.02
				*Pine	NWNW	11	41	7 E	.10

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No Mans	17, 20	44	5 E	No. 1	NESW	20	44	5 E	.40
North Turtle	(4, 5	43	5 E	Balsam (No. 1)	NW¼	4	43	5 E	.80
	(33	44	5 E						
Oxbow	(1, 12	43	6 E	Alder	NWSE	36	44	6 E	.03
	(6	43	7 E	Cedar	W½SW	31	44	7 E	1.80
	(36	44	6 E	Grass	NENW	6	43	7 E	.05
	(31	44	7 E	Lone Pine	NWSE	36	44	6 E	.06
Papoose	(24, 25	43	5 E	No. 1	(SWNW	30	43	6 E	.35
	(19, 20	43	6 E		(NWSW				
				No. 2 (Green)	E½NE	25	43	5 E	3.00
				No. 3 (Tourist)	SWSW	19	43	6 E	5.20
Partridge	28, 29, 32	42	8 E	Balsam (No.1)	(NWNE	33	42	8 E	1.10
	33				(NENW				
Plum	(25, 36	41	7 E	Five Pine	SENE	28	41	8 E	.30
	(21, 27, 28	41	8 E	Swamp	SESW	21	41	8 E	.15
	(29, 30, 31, 32								
Razorback	17, 20, 21, 29	41	8 E	Burnt	SESE	20	41	8 E	.60
				Razorback	S½NE	20	41	8 E	1.60
Rock	28, 33	44	5 E	Balsam (No. 1)	NESE	28	44	5 E	.40
				No. 2	SESE	28	44	5 E	.30
				No. 3	SESE	28	44	5 E	.05
Ross	10, 11, 15	40	7 E	No. 3	SENE	15	40	7 E	.10
				Pine	S½SE	10	40	7 E	.20
				Ross	NWNE	15	40	7 E	.35
Rudolph	7, 17, 18	43	7 E	No. 1	E½NE	18	43	7 E	1.10
				No. 2	SENE	18	43	7 E	.30
Sanborn	18, 19	43	8 E	No. 1	SESW	18	43	8 E	.60
Scattering Rice	13, 23, 24	40	10 E	Norway	SENE	24	40	10 E	3.00
South Turtle	5, 8, 17, 20	43	5 E	Cedar (No. 1)	SENE	17	43	5 E	1.00
				Lone Birch (No. 3)	NWNE	8	43	5 E	.20
				South (No. 2)	SENE	17	43	5 E	.20
Star	10, 14, 15	41	8 E	Balsam	NENE	22	41	8 E	.50
	16, 21, 22, 23			Cucumber	NWNW	22	41	8 E	.10
				Loon	NENE	21	41	8 E	.002
				Pine	(NENE	22	41	8 E	.40
					(NWNW	23			
				*Prospect	(SENE	16	41	8 E	10.80
				(G.L. 6)	(NESE				
Stateline	26, 34, 35	44	6 E	No. 1	NENW	35	44	6 E	.20
Street (Poor Farm)	23, 24, 25	42	6 E	No. 1	E½NE	26	42	6 E	.45
	26								
Trilby	11, 12, 13, 14	40	6 E	No. 1	NWNW	13	40	6 E	4.00
Trout	(12, 13, 24	41	6 E	*Eustice (No. 3)	S½SE	13	41	6 E	11.70
	(5, 6, 7, 8	41	7 E						
	(17, 18, 19, 20			Loon	SWSW	7	41	7 E	1.00
	(31, 32	42	7 E	North	NWNW	7	41	7 E	.30
				Tenpin	SESW	7	41	7 E	1.00
Twin Island	2, 10, 11	43	7 E	No. 1	SWNW	11	43	7 E	.50
				Vilas (No. 2)	SWNW	11	43	7 E	.30
Wharton	25	41	8 E	*No. 1	NENE	25	41	8 E	.40
White Birch	(5	41	8 E	Beaver	SENE	5	41	8 E	.80
	(32	42	8 E	Pine	NWNE	5	41	8 E	.35
Wildcat	27, 28, 33	43	7 E	Moody (No. 1)	W½SW	27	43	7 E	2.60
	34			No. 2	SESE	28	43	7 E	.50
				No. 3	SESE	28	43	7 E	.50
				No. 4	SESE	28	43	7 E	2.40

*Non-Grant Island. Listed for periodic inspection purposes.

Public Lands Handbook

Washburn County

<u>Lake</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>Location</u> <u>Town</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>Island</u>	<u>Quarter</u>	<u>Location</u> <u>Section</u> <u>Town</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Baker (Christie)	2, 3, 10, 11	38	11 W	W. No. 1	(SESE (N½NE (SENE	3) 10) 10)	38	11 W 30.00
				E. No. 1	NENE	10	38	11 W 1.20
				No. 2	NENE	10	38	11 W .10
Bass	5, 6, 7, 8	37	10 W	No. 1	NWNE	7	37	10 W .35
				No. 2	NWNE	7	37	10 W .50
				No. 3	SWNE	7	37	10 W .35
				No. 4	NWSE	7	37	10 W .10
				No. 5	NWSE	7	37	10 W .15
Birch	(19	37	9 W)	No. 1	SWSE	24	37	10 W .03
	(24, 25	37	10 W	No. 2	SESW	24	37	10 W .10
Cable	(18	39	12 W)	No. 1	NESE	13	39	13 W .15
	(13	39	13 W)					
Devils*	31, 32	37	11 W	No. 1	N½SW	32	37	11 W .80
				No. 2	W½SW	32	37	11 W 2.10
				No. 3	SESE	31	37	11 W 2.80
Dock	16, 21	39	13 W	No. 1	NWNE	21	39	13 W .60
				No. 2	NWNE	21	39	13 W .40
Ellsworth	7, 17, 18	39	13 W	No. 1	NENE	18	39	13 W .50
Fenton	20, 21, 28	37	11 W	No. 1	W½NW	28	37	11 W .25
				No. 2	SWNW	28	37	11 W .05
Island	11, 14	40	13 W	Half Moon	NENW	14	40	13 W 2.10
Kimball	13, 14	42	13 W	No. 1	N½SE	14	42	13 W 1.00
Leesome	9, 16	38	11 W	Boot	(SWNE) (SENW)	16	38	11 W 2.10
Loon	16	37	10 W	No 1.	SESW	16	37	10 W .47
Long	34, 35	38	13 W	No. 1	S½NW	35	38	13 W 1.00
				No. 2	NENE	34	38	13 W .62
				No. 3	NENE	34	38	13 W .29
MacRae (Martin)	27, 28, 33	38	10 W	No. 1	NENE	28	38	13 W .40
				No. 2	NENE	28	38	10 W .50
				No. 3	NWNE	28	38	10 W .25
				No. 4	SENE	28	38	10 W .10
				No. 5	S½NE	28	38	10 W .30
				No. 6	NWSE	28	38	10 W .90
				No. 7	NWSE	28	38	10 W .70
				No. 8	NWSE	28	38	10 W 2.25
				No. 9	E½SE	28	38	10 W .20
				No. 10	SESE	28	38	10 W .15
				No. 11	SESE	28	38	10 W .80
				No. 12	SESE	28	38	10 W .45
				E. No. 13	NENE	33	38	10 W .50
				W. No. 13	(SESE (NENE	28) 33)	38	10 W .80

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Nancy	22, 27, 28, 33	42	13 W	No. 1	(W½SE	28)	42	13 W	40.00
Nick (Duck)	3, 4	37	10 W	No. 1	(NENW	33)			
				No. 2	NENW	3	37	10 W	.06
				No. 3	NW¼	3	37	10 W	1.75
				No. 4	SENE	4	37	10 W	.03
				No. 5	SENE	4	37	10 W	.90
No Name	3	37	10 W	No. 1	SENE	4	37	10 W	1.00
Oak	19, 20, 30	41	13 W	No. 1	SESW	3	37	10 W	.90
Offers (Office)	30, 31	37	13 W	No. 1	NWNW	20	41	13 W	.50
Shallow	16, 17, 20	37	12 W	No. 1	SESW	30	37	13 W	.50
				No. 2	SESE	17	37	12 W	.25
				No. 3	SESE	17	37	12 W	.10
				No. 4	SWSE	17	37	12 W	1.40
				No. 5	SWSE	17	37	12 W	.20
Shallow	(31	37	13 W)	No. 5	NWNE	20	37	12 W	.20
				Shallow	NWSW	31	37	13 W	1.10
				(No. 1)					
	(36	37	14 W)						
	(1	36	14 W)						
	(6	36	13 W)						
Shell	(25, 36	38	13 W)	Scout	(SWSW	31	38	12 W)	11.00
					(SESE	36	38	13 W)	
	(1	37	13 W)		(NENE	1	37	13 W)	
					(NWNW	6	37	12 W)	
	(29, 30, 31, 32	38	12 W)						
	(5, 6	37	12 W)						
Silver	25, 26, 35, 36	41	12 W	No. 1	SWSW	36	41	12 W	.25
Spider	(35	38	10 W)	No. 2	SENE	3	37	10 W	.50
	(2, 3, 10, 11	37	10 W)	No. 3	SWNE	3	37	10 W	1.00
				No. 4	NWSE	3	37	10 W	.75
				No. 5	SESE	3	37	10 W	4.00
				No. 8	NENE	10	37	10 W	.20
				No. 9	NENE	10	37	10 W	2.00
				No. 10	NWNE	10	37	10 W	.30
				No. 11	(NWNE)	10	37	10 W	4.25
					(NENW)				
				No. 12	NENE	10	37	10 W	1.20
				No. 13	SENE	10	37	10 W	.60
				No. 14	W½NE	10	37	10 W	.20
				No. 15	NWNE	10	37	10 W	.40
				No. 16	SWNE	10	37	10 W	.30
				No. 18	(SWNE)	10	37	10 W	1.60
					(SENW)				
				No. 19	(SWNE)	10	37	10 W	4.20
					(SENW)				
					(NESW)				
				No. 20	SENW	10	37	10 W	.45
				No. 21	SESW	10	37	10 W	.49

*See Barron County also for islands in this lake (islands 5-12)