

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is seeking stakeholder input on proposed changes to the Public Forest Lands Handbook, which focus on program guidelines for department lands, county forests and Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) processes.

Why Are We Updating This Handbook?

The primary reason we are updating is the entire handbook gets updated every 2 years to review current process/procedures, incorporate approved policy changes, update language, improve clarification, process and fix broken links. The major updates at this time include new internal review language for County Forest lands and Department managed lands, revised chapter content to improve consistency, and GNA updates.

Major updates include page(s):

- TOC Renaming subheadings to match new chapter titles.
- 110 Updates to language on existing guidance and policy.
- 120 Insertion of cut Chapter 140 "recon update" content.
- 130-1 Updates to Forest Metrix info (which iOS is needed, etc.).
- 130-3 References to Acorn deleted. WisFIRS additional available fields added.
- 130-8,9 Insertion of cut Chapter 140 "completing treatments" content.
- 140 Chapter deleted. Redundant content cut or moved to Chapters 120, 130 and 150.
- 150-1 Insertion of cut Chapter 140 "compartment map" content.
- 220-2 Sustainable Forestry Grant preferences updated to reflect NR rule.
- 300 Minor wordsmithing, no guidance changes.
- 310 Updates to reflect current guidance on regeneration projects and associated funding.
- 320-2 Better clarity on existing FRM guidance.
- 330 Completely new Chapter for Internal Reviews on Department managed lands (codifying what FIT approved prior).
- 331 Completely new Chapter for Internal Reviews on County Forest lands (codifying what WCFA/FIT approved prior).
- 340 Updates on State Lands Forest Certification language, no guidance changes.
- 350 Updates on County Forest Certification language, no guidance changes.

GNA Updates

- 400 Minor changes to remove redundancies and repair formatting.
- 410 Simplified language and formatting.
- 420 Loosened policy for renumbering GNA stands with sub-units. Updated FS Form AD-3030.
- 440 60-day timber sale close-out policy clarified (aligns with state timber sale process).
- 450 Removed outdated budget code information.

App. L State Islands updated

Share Your Feedback

Please submit your comments about this proposed guidance no later than July 15, 2025 to:

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Next Steps

Once the 21-day stakeholder input period is complete:

- all comments will be considered
- revisions will be made to the draft guidance if warranted

- a Response Summary will be prepared
- the Response Summary and Final Program Guidance (final handbook language) will be made available to all internal and external stakeholders on the [DNR's Forest Planning webpage](#).