

**NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD AGENDA ITEM**

**SUBJECT:** Approval of the Governor Knowles State Forest Master Plan

**FOR:** SEPTEMBER 2012 BOARD MEETING

**TO BE PRESENTED BY / TITLE:** Teague Prichard and Mike Wallis

**SUMMARY:**

The Department requests approval of a master plan revision for the Governor Knowles State Forest. NR 44 requires Department lands to have a master plan approved by the Natural Resources Board. Wisconsin Stats. s. 28.04 requires the development of plans for State Forests to assure the practice of sustainable forestry. The master plan spells out how the land will be managed, used and developed; how it will look; and what benefits it will provide. The plan provides a vision and framework for the use, development, management, and acquisition of the forest well into the future with an emphasis on the next 15 years. The Department worked actively with state and local governments, non-governmental organizations, tribes, citizens, and businesses over two and a half years to develop the plan. The master plan promotes diverse forest cover types and age classes; proposes enhanced recreational opportunities; maintains and expands protection of critical ecological communities; and increases the project boundary by approximately 7,989 acres.

The Environmental Analysis for the Governor Knowles State Forest Master Plan concludes that the plan complies with WEPA; s. 1.11 Wis. Stats./NR150.

ISSUES: No issues of a controversial nature.

Master Plan documents can be viewed on-line at  
<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/masterplanning/GovKnowles/>

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Department recommends approval of the Governor Knowles State Forest Master Plan.

**LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS:**

- No  Fiscal Estimate Required
- No  Environmental Assessment or Impact Statement Required
- No  Background Memo

- Yes  Attached
- Yes  Attached
- Yes  Attached

**APPROVED:**

Robert Mather  
Bureau Director

8/20/2012  
Date

Paul Stepp  
Administrator,

8/23/12  
Date

or Pat Stepp  
Secretary, Cathy Stepp

8/25/12  
Date

cc: NRB Liaison  
DNR Rules Coordinator