

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
**Natural Resources Board Agenda Item**

**SUBJECT:** State County and Managed Forest Law Timber Sale Status

**FOR:** January 2014 Board meeting

**TO BE PRESENTED BY:** Paul DeLong - Forestry Division Administrator and James Warren - Public and Private Forestry Section Chief

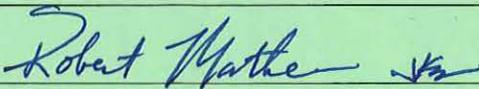
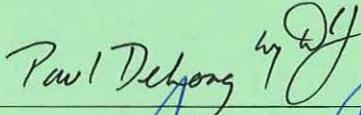
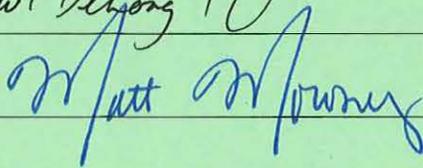
**SUMMARY:**

The briefing will provide the current status of timber harvests on Department owned and managed lands, County Forest lands and private forest lands enrolled in Managed Forest Law.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Information only

**LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS (check all that are applicable):**

- Background memo
- Briefing Summary
- Type name of attachment or type N/A if not applicable
- Type name of attachment or type N/A if not applicable

Approved by	Signature	Date
Robert Mather, Bureau Director		12/23/12
Paul DeLong, Administrator		12/30/13
Cathy Stepp, Secretary		1/6/14

# NRB Briefing Summary

## State, County and Managed Forest Law Timber Sale Status

### Background

For department owned and managed lands guidance is provided in chapter 28 of the Wisconsin Statutes, Act 166 (2005) and Natural Resource Administrative Rule 44. County Forest direction can also be found in chapter 28 of the Wisconsin State Statutes while the Managed Forest Law provision are found in chapter 77 of the Wisconsin State Statutes and Natural Resources Administrative Rule 46.

A key component for the Division of Forestry to administer and/or assist with the management of these three land groups is the development and maintenance of partnerships. Internally, it has been a collective effort between the divisions to achieve the outcomes of the last handful of years. Within the County Forest Program we rely heavily on the long standing partnership with County Forest Administrators and their staff. Finally, through a cooperative agreement and partnership with consulting foresters and certified plan writers the ability to implement the statutory guidelines of the Managed Forest Law have increased while department foresters can spend more time on department lands and other priority work such as private landowners who are not engaged with any Department programs.

### Summary

The focus of the Division of Forestry efforts over the last few years on department owned lands have been to improve accuracy of our harvest goals and work plans by updating the oldest forest reconnaissance (recon) data, achieve our long term harvest goals and to make progress on the backlog of scheduled timber sales on properties where backlogs exist.

As of January 1, 2013, 99% of the DNR's state lands currently have recon data, totaling over 1.5 million acres contained within 874 properties. As of January 1, 2013, 99% of the DNR's state lands currently have recon data, totaling over 1.5 million acres contained within 874 properties.

Approximately 58,000 acres were evaluated for timber harvest in 2011-12. Of those, nearly 41,000 acres were ready for harvest and established for commercial sale.

In reviewing the prior three DNR Lands Timber Harvest and Inventory reports, the improvement in both timber sale acres established and percentage of our long term harvest goals is significant.

### State Land Timber Harvesting

	2005-06	2007-08	2009-10	2011-12
<b>Acres evaluated for sale</b>	37,534	42,921	40,983	58,342
<b>Actual Establishment Acres</b>	25,818	32,771	35,105	40,949
<b>% of Long Term Harvest Goal</b>	69%	78%	86%	119%

In 2011-12 properties statewide were successful in reducing the amount of backlogged timber sales. Collectively, DNR lands achieved 119% of the long term harvest goal statewide, which points to the successes of many properties at reducing the amount of backlogged harvests. There has been continued steady progress on State Forests and an accelerated reduction in backlogged timber harvests on the non-state forest DNR lands.

For County Forest lands the department continued to focus on providing technical support through an agreement that includes a whole host of activities that achieve sustainable forest management. Included here is just a summary of timber sale activity over the last few years.

### County Forests Timber Harvesting

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
<b># of Sales</b>	713	777	694	745	797	728
<b>Acres</b>	48,741	52,430	49,475	52,043	63,926	52,476

Since approximately 2000 the Division of Forestry has been ramping up its effort and strengthening the partnership with the private consulting forester in an effort to reach and service private non-industrial landowners while maximizing the work the division accomplishes. The information below shows this effort is working.

### Managed Forest Law Timber Harvesting

	2001 - 2005	2006-2011
<b>Avg. Cordwood Equivalents</b>	763,000	957,000

While the focus of this briefing paper has been around timber sale establishment on Department, County and the Managed Forest Law Program lands it should be noted that these efforts also contribute to our state's tourism and forest products industry and positively influence directly and indirectly wildlife habitat.

Wisconsin has assumed the top spot among states in forestry jobs employing over 52,000 workers and an economic value of over 18 billion dollars. The mix of uplands and lowlands provides excellent habitat for deer, bear, wolves, ruffed grouse and a host of

other birds and mammals. Whether it is for hunting, fishing, hiking or sight-seeing these working lands continue to provide a wide array of opportunities for all citizens of Wisconsin.