

Public Input Process for Updating the Forest Tax Law Handbook –  
Summary of Changes Based on Public Comments

Thank you to all of the individuals and groups that provided feedback on the Department of Natural Resources (Department) proposed new guidance titled “Forest Tax Law Handbook.” Included in this document are all of the public comments received.

The Department made the following changes based on the feedback:

1. Added the full name for the acronym WisFIRS in each chapter of the Forest Tax Law Handbook. The acronym WisFIRS stands for Wisconsin Forest Inventory and Reporting System.
2. Added the new name of the acronym FOT to show that the Forestry Operations Team was renamed to the Field Operations Team.
3. Fixed typographical errors to change the words “BP” to “B,” “sue” to “use,” “DRN” to “DNR” and “copes” to “copies.”
4. Added wording in two locations in Chapter 20 to clarify that wildlife food plots are excised from the Managed Forest Law (MFL) certified group and that the planting of wildlife food sources that are genetically modified, such as planting of Roundup<sup>®</sup> corn or soybeans, is permissible but not encouraged.
5. Added wording in two locations in Chapter 20 to clarify that FSC prohibited chemicals can be applied to wildlife food plots since they are excised from the MFL certified group, although the application of such chemicals is not encouraged.
6. Added wording in Chapter 21 that explains two exceptions for deactivation from the MFL certified group. These exceptions include the planting of genetically modified wildlife food sources and the application of FSC prohibited chemicals on wildlife food plots.
7. Added wording to explain that DNR Foresters must submit a new map showing the lands that remain after lands are withdrawn for a residence since the new map will be recorded at the register of deeds office.
8. Added wording that explains that many requests for spreadsheets and information is available on the DNR public web site at <http://dnr.wi.gov>.
9. Added information regarding the prefix codes of “M” and “V” in that these codes, which were previously used in the Plan Trac database system will be created in some fashion in WisFIRS, however development of these codes has not been done yet.

10. Deleted references to a "C" code to represent if services from a cooperating forester have been accepted since development of this code has not been completed in WisFIRS yet.
11. Changed references to an "E" code that represents that practices have been established to a new WisFIRS designation that a cutting notice has been approved.
12. Changed the title of the WisFIRS "REMARKS" box to "OVERVIEW."
13. Changed all page numbers to reflect actual pages once all changes were made to the handbook as a result of the 21-day review period.
14. Added information to require a new management plan is developed if a landowner should harvest trees against their management plan after October 1 and before January 1 prior to the effective date of a new MFL enrollment.
15. Added clarification that an MFL application must be entered into WisFIRS by 11:59 pm on June 1 and the application fee must be received within the next 14 days.
16. Added information to state that a signed management plan should be stored under the Documents/Correspondence tab in WisFIRS.
17. Questions were received about the time limit to commence cutting according to statute. Questions were from DNR staff, so additional training is likely needed for Foresters to understand the actions that will be needed if cutting isn't commenced within 1 year of the approval of the cutting notice.
18. Questions were received regarding whether DNR Foresters should be filling out the NHI and Archeological prescriptions for loggers and landowners in the cutting notice. Additional training is likely needed to help Foresters understand the timeline and responsibilities for filling out and/or approving a cutting notice.
19. A time frame was established when an updated map must be developed by DNR Foresters to process a withdrawal for the purpose of building a human residence. Wording now states that the map must be developed before the withdrawal is processed. Maps will be uploaded into WisFIRS and will be available for printing to include with the MFL Order of Withdrawal.
20. Questions were received regarding ensuring that information related to FSC certified wood is included on a timber sale prospectus, timber sale contract, and shipping documents and invoices. Additional training will be giving to help DNR and Cooperating Foresters understand their respective roles in complying with certification standards.

21. Eliminated the need to tally and report the number of NHI look-ups for cutting notice and WFLGP applications. The information is not needed by the Natural Heritage Conservation (NHC) Program. The Division of Forestry does not need the information and would have other methods to determine volume of work if it was found to be needed for workload planning or for other reasons.
22. Added a reference to the Private Forestry Handbook and the standard data request procedure (see <http://dndr.wi.gov>, keyword ER Review) regarding providing certified plan writers and cooperating foresters NHI data.
23. Added clarification that landowners are able to receive NHI data for their property.
24. Added clarification that only cooperating foresters who have had the NHI Training are eligible to receive NHI data from the DNR Forester when developing Managed Forest Law cutting notices and grants under the Wisconsin Forest Landowner Grant Program.
25. A question was asked if any of the guidance changes affected the ability of the public to gain access to MFL-Open lands. A response was returned to the person asking the question stating that there were no changes to gaining access to MFL-Open or Forest Crop Law (FCL) lands.
26. A question was received about which person represented private landowners on the Private Lands Management Team. A representative from the Wisconsin Woodland Owner's Association (WWOA) represents private landowners on the Private Lands Management Team.
27. A question was received about whether fish farming was an allowed use under the MFL program. Fish farms were not addressed in the current change to the Forest Tax Law Handbook, however it is expected that it will be addressed with the next revision.

## Nelson, Kathryn J - DNR

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**From:** Bozek, Nancy <nbozek@uwsp.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 14, 2014 2:19 PM  
**To:** Nelson, Kathryn J - DNR  
**Subject:** RE: Posting of Program Guidance for Forest Tax Law Handbook Revisions

Kathy,  
Who was the NIPF landowner mentioned below?  
Thanks,  
Nancy

*Nancy C. Bozek*  
**Executive Director**  
**Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association**  
PO Box 285  
Stevens Point, WI 54481  
715-346-4798  
FAX 715-346-4821  
[www.wisconsinwoodlands.org](http://www.wisconsinwoodlands.org)

*Share the Passion ... for Your Woodlands*

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**From:** Nelson, Kathryn J - DNR [<mailto:Kathryn.Nelson@wisconsin.gov>]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 14, 2014 2:16 PM  
**Subject:** Posting of Program Guidance for Forest Tax Law Handbook Revisions

This message is being sent to all DNR Foresters and Supervisors, Certified Plan Writers and Cooperating Foresters.

Proposed changes to the Forest Tax Law Handbook were made available at <http://dnr.wi.gov/news/input/guidance.html> today. Comments on the proposed changes will be received until May 5, 2014.

The proposed guidance was developed to inform and provide additional direction to department staff and certified plan writers in the implementation of the Managed Forest Law (MFL) and Forest Crop Law (FCL) Programs. MFL and FCL are landowner incentive programs that encourage sustainable forestry on private woodlands in Wisconsin. Together with landowner objectives, the law incorporates timber harvesting, wildlife management, water quality and recreation to maintain a healthy and productive forest. The proposed guidance includes revisions to Chapters 10, 20, 21 and Appendixes 1 through 12 of the Forest Tax Law Handbook.

We are now soliciting comments from the public on this guidance. The text highlighted in yellow show minor changes in existing documents. Appendixes in which there is no yellow highlighting are newly developed or are revised to the point where they should be considered newly revised documents. Other documents show track changes, where both new and deleted wording changes are shown.

This draft guidance was developed by the Forest Tax Program Staff and the Private Lands Management Team (PLMT), which is comprised of department staff, a Cooperating Forester, a NIPF landowner, and a UW Extension Natural Resource Educator.

The revisions to the guidance were based on requested changes from DNR and Cooperating Foresters to clarify guidance and provide additional examples of current policy, change documented processes to be in line with current statutes and administrative codes, move timber typing guidance from Manual Code to the Forest Tax Law Handbook, update guidance due to improvements in the MFL and FCL database record system, which is now a computer based program called WisFIRS (Wisconsin Forest Inventory and

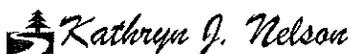
Record System), update procedures for certified plan writers to receive information from the Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation Program, and include guidance on evaluating archeological and historical information, which was previously provided in a stand-alone guidance document.

Older Appendixes from the 2013 Forest Tax Law Handbook revision are proposed for deletion, including appendixes related to listing of the Large Landowners and the Habitat Classification Codes valid for tax law recon. These documents are stored in the WisFIRS database.

Finally, gypsy moth management options for each timber type are proposed for deletion from the Forest Tax Law Handbook. All forest pest management recommendations are stored on the DNR public web site, so the inclusions of these recommendations in the Forest Tax Law Handbook are no longer needed.

Once the 21 day notice period is complete, all comments will be considered, revisions will be made to the guidance documents as needed, and final guidance will be made available to internal and external stakeholders. Comments related to this draft guidance document should be sent to Forest Tax Program and Policy Chief – Kathy Nelson at: [Kathryn.Nelson@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Kathryn.Nelson@wisconsin.gov).

Kathy

 Kathryn J. Nelson

Bureau of Forest Management

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

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Website: <http://dnr.wi.gov/>

Find us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/WIDNR](http://www.facebook.com/WIDNR)

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to evaluate how I did.

**Nelson, Kathryn J - DNR**

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**From:** Gregory Wurz <wurz\_greg@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 16, 2014 8:22 AM  
**To:** Nelson, Kathryn J - DNR  
**Subject:** Proposed DNR program guidance question

Good Morning Ms. Nelson,

I read over the Forest Law Tax Handbook information on the proposed DNR program guidance website and I have a quick question...

**Q:** Are there any changes to the Forest Law Tax Handbook that may affect the general public from gaining access to enrolled lands open under such law?

Thank you for answering my question. I look forward to hearing from you.

Greg Wurz  
Lake Mills, WI

## Nelson, Kathryn J - DNR

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**From:** Crowley, Susan E - DNR  
**Sent:** Monday, May 05, 2014 2:23 PM  
**To:** Nelson, Kathryn J - DNR  
**Cc:** Courtney, Steven D - DNR  
**Subject:** comment on tax law handbook  
**Attachments:** Comments on Forest Tax Law Handbook 05 MAY 2014.docx

Hi Kathy,

Here are some comments, questions, etc... listed by page number.

Thanks,  
Sue

*Sue Crowley*

*Mississippi River Area Forestry Leader*  
Department of Natural Resources  
3550 Mormon Coulee Rd.  
La Crosse, WI 54601

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Cell: 608-792-7974

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Email: [susan.crowley@wisconsin.gov](mailto:susan.crowley@wisconsin.gov)

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Comments on Forest Tax Law Handbook 05 MAY 2014  
From Sue Crowley, Area Forestry Leader

Thank you for the opportunity. I have included suggestions or questions or just comments....

**p. 20-3**

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** Applications are due to the local DNR forester for review on or before June 1. **SUGGESTION TO ADD:** All applications must be entered in WisFIRS by 11:59pm on June 1 and the application fee must be received within 14 days(?) of submittal in WisFIRS..

**p. 20-5**

**APPLICATION FEE:** **SUGGESTION TO ADD** The application fee must be received within 14 days(?) of submittal in WisFIRS..It is sent to the local DNR forester's office with the remittance form.

**p. 20-23**

4. Prefix, if applicable.

**Are we continuing to use M and V codes? I thought we are cleaning these up and not using them anymore??** I had trouble finding these codes in WisFIRS & the ability to add these. I think it is a good idea to eliminate them.

**p.20-25**

**Where are these codes? I was not able to find them in WisFIRS? M mandatory, E established, C coop forester contracted???**

**p.20-27**

**17. Remarks:** Shouldn't this be listed as the OVERVIEW section under the Comments TAB. I don't think there is a remarks section.

**p. 20-29 the fourth bullet down—"the ground acreage"... another reference to WisFIRS remarks" question from above.**

**p. 20-44 typo second paragraph "copes" Copies...**

**REVISION TO MANAGEMENT PLANS**

**Where specifically should the signed letter be stored? Other documents?**

**p.20-49 CUTTING IN VIOLATION OF THE PLAN PRIOR TO ENTRY**

**What happens if this occurs after OCT 1?**

**Are there TWO PAGES of 20-49?**

**p. 20-59**

**1. The entire description "BP???? Should this be just B**

p. 20-64

NHI Prescription--Does this mean that DNR foresters SHOULD NOT be filling this information in for LOGGERS, LANDOWNERS etc....??? REFERNECE TO APPENDIX 10??

Same for Archaeological--reference to APPENDIX 11 needed??

p. 20-65 to 20-66

#### TIME LIMIT TO COMMENCE CUTTING

I do not believe too many foresters follow this protocol. Is this really the expectation now& going forward....Is it more realistic to submit a new cutting notice if sale is not cut within 3 years.....is the expectation that the DNR re -copy it? Or does the landowner's agent need to re file??? Should there be a spot for dating and initialing an extension on a cutting notice...??

p. 20-71

What is the expected timeline for the DNR forester to submit an updated map showing the lands that remain after a partial withdrawal? This is accomplished by uploading on WisFIRS, Correct.... Or is an original hard copy desired? An updated plan should be sent to the landowner. Should the last two paragraphs be combined?

p. 20-79

#### PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST

Add a note that most of these examples are accessible on our public website.

p. 21-13—bottom of page number 2

What is the expectation and vehicle for ensuring this information is on the prospectus, contract etc.... when DNR is not doing much of this? DNR foresters have to ensure this on a private company's documents???

p. 70-36

Given that all the CPW's and CF's have access to the FTL HB -I think we should just be referencing this APPENDIX and not sending it for every request we get. It seems like that it is part of our agreement with them and they CF should be able to access this appendix.

This is also STATED on p. 70-38 number 4.

P.70-38 number 7---do we or don't we need to tally these requests? Do they need to be by CF, by Calendar year, state fiscal year, etc....?

p. 70-44 typo in letter DRN instead of DNR

## Nelson, Kathryn J - DNR

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**From:** Heyde, Mark A - DNR  
**Sent:** Monday, April 14, 2014 2:09 PM  
**To:** Nelson, Kathryn J - DNR  
**Subject:** Draft Program Guidance

Hi Kathy, fyi for the guidance just posted WisFIRS should mean "Wisconsin Forest Inventory and Reporting System". See reference on DNR Web.

Best,  
Mark

*Mark A. Heyde*

Forest Certification Coordinator  
Public and Private Forestry Section  
Bureau of Forest Management  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

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## Nelson, Kathryn J - DNR

---

**From:** Heyde, Mark A - DNR  
**Sent:** Monday, April 14, 2014 2:19 PM  
**To:** Nelson, Kathryn J - DNR  
**Subject:** Draft Guidance one more thing

Hi Kathy, sorry for the piecemeal emails. On page 10-12 FOT now means "Field Operations Team" since our reorganization.

Best,  
Mark

*Mark A. Heyde*

Forest Certification Coordinator  
Public and Private Forestry Section  
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## Nelson, Kathryn J - DNR

---

**From:** Heyde, Mark A - DNR  
**Sent:** Monday, April 14, 2014 2:25 PM  
**To:** Nelson, Kathryn J - DNR  
**Subject:** Guidance review last comment?

Hi Kathy, I know you aren't proposing this as a change but on page 20-21 there is a wrong word under Berry Patches: Picking of berries for home ~~sue~~ or sale at a farmer's... ( of course this should be "use" instead)

Best,  
Mark

*Mark A. Heyde*

Forest Certification Coordinator  
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## Nelson, Kathryn J - DNR

---

**From:** Heyde, Mark A - DNR  
**Sent:** Monday, April 14, 2014 2:36 PM  
**To:** Nelson, Kathryn J - DNR  
**Subject:** MFL Guidance review comment #4

OK, one more and this is more important: On page 20-22 for wildlife food plots here is the proposed language: Wildlife food plots are compatible with the practices of forestry and may meet landowner recreational goals. (Note: Wildlife food plots have been exempted from the MFL Group Certificate, so genetically modified corn and other food sources commonly used for wildlife are allowed under the MFL program.)

I suggest that you say (Note: Wildlife food plots have been excised from the MFL Group Certificate so genetically modified organisms (e.g. Roundup Ready® corn or soybeans) that may be used as wildlife food sources are allowed but not encouraged under the MFL program.

Best,  
Mark

*Mark A. Heyde*

Forest Certification Coordinator  
Public and Private Forestry Section  
Bureau of Forest Management  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
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## Nelson, Kathryn J - DNR

---

**From:** Heyde, Mark A - DNR  
**Sent:** Monday, April 14, 2014 2:39 PM  
**To:** Nelson, Kathryn J - DNR  
**Subject:** RE: MFL Guidance review comment #4

Applies to the change proposed on 20-26 as well.

*Mark A. Heyde*

Forest Certification Coordinator  
Public and Private Forestry Section  
Bureau of Forest Management  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

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**From:** Nelson, Kathryn J - DNR  
**Sent:** Monday, April 14, 2014 2:37 PM  
**To:** Heyde, Mark A - DNR  
**Subject:** RE: MFL Guidance review comment #4

Cool. Thanks Mark. ☺

Kathy

---

**From:** Heyde, Mark A - DNR  
**Sent:** Monday, April 14, 2014 2:36 PM  
**To:** Nelson, Kathryn J - DNR  
**Subject:** MFL Guidance review comment #4

OK, one more and this is more important: On page 20-22 for wildlife food plots here is the proposed language:

Wildlife food plots are compatible with the practices of forestry and may meet landowner recreational goals. (Note: Wildlife food plots have been exempted from the MFL Group Certificate, so genetically modified corn and other food sources commonly used for wildlife are allowed

## Nelson, Kathryn J - DNR

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**From:** Heyde, Mark A - DNR  
**Sent:** Monday, April 14, 2014 2:48 PM  
**To:** Nelson, Kathryn J - DNR  
**Subject:** Guidance review comment #5

Hi Kathy, under the forest certification section here is the opening paragraph:

**“BACKGROUND**

The Wisconsin Managed Forest Law Certified Group is registered by third-party auditors and found to be in conformance with sustainable forest certification standards established by the American Tree Farm System® (ATFS) Group Certification and the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) programs. This recognition allows MFL Certified Group members to claim that timber harvested from their land is produced from well-managed forests meeting ATFS and FSC standards. Participation in the MFL Certified Group is entirely voluntary for woodland owners in MFL and separate from statutory MFL regulations. This chapter outlines the procedures used to manage the entry and departure of group members, maintain records, pay fees, monitor performance of group members, conduct internal and external audits, and administer other activities relative to certification standards.”

Since this is the 1<sup>st</sup> use of Forest Stewardship Council and FSC the 1<sup>st</sup> use should be stated “Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®)”; subsequent use in the same document doesn’t need the registered symbol.

Best,  
Mark

*Mark A. Heyde*

Forest Certification Coordinator  
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## Nelson, Kathryn J - DNR

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**From:** Heyde, Mark A - DNR  
**Sent:** Monday, April 14, 2014 2:57 PM  
**To:** Nelson, Kathryn J - DNR  
**Subject:** guidance review #6

On page 21-10:

Deactivation from the MFL Certified Group

MFL Certified Group membership for an MFL Order may be deactivated under any of the following circumstances following appropriate procedures as outlined in Chapter 60 on Enforcement:

1. Voluntary withdrawal from MFL
2. Involuntary MFL withdrawal
3. MFL order expiration
4. Use of an FSC prohibited, highly hazardous pesticide
5. Planting FSC-prohibited Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) in a forest
  6. Mixing forest products harvested from non-MFL Certified Group land with MFL Certified Group wood to falsely claim the non-MFL products under the MFL Chain of Custody certification
7. Willful or blatant violations of Wisconsin Forestry Best Management Practices
  8. Refusal to allow forest certification auditors or DNR staff onto the property for the purpose of conformance reviews
  9. Deliberate or repeated violations of federal, state or local laws and regulations applicable to forest management
10. Inappropriate use of certification logos or trademarks
11. Deliberate or manifest nonconformance with other forest certification indicators

You may want to add to #5 above "except on a food plot that has been excised from the MFL group certificate."

Best,  
Mark

*Mark A. Heyde*

Forest Certification Coordinator  
Public and Private Forestry Section  
Bureau of Forest Management  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

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## Nelson, Kathryn J - DNR

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**From:** Mueller, Scott A - DNR  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 23, 2014 7:35 AM  
**To:** Nelson, Kathryn J - DNR  
**Subject:** RE: Posting of Program Guidance for Forest Tax Law Handbook Revisions

Kathy,

I have a few comments regarding the updates to the Tax Law handbook. First on page 20-19, what happened to fish farm example of being allowed or not? Second on page 20-26 it read as "wildlife food plots are exempted from MFL Group Certification so genetically modified corn are allowed" so what about herbicide use on these food plots? Are the restricted herbicides still restricted? Thank you.

**Scott A. Mueller**

*Taylor County Private Lands Forester*

*Division of Forestry*

*Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources*

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**From:** Nelson, Kathryn J - DNR  
**Sent:** Monday, April 14, 2014 2:16 PM  
**Subject:** Posting of Program Guidance for Forest Tax Law Handbook Revisions

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We are now soliciting comments from the public on this guidance. The text highlighted in yellow show minor changes in existing documents. Appendixes in which there is no yellow highlighting are newly developed or are

## **Nelson, Kathryn J - DNR**

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**From:** Peterson, Dan <Dan.Peterson@newpagecorp.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 01, 2014 12:20 PM  
**To:** Nelson, Kathryn J - DNR  
**Subject:** RE: Posting of Program Guidance for Forest Tax Law Handbook Revisions

Kathy – I just paged through the draft revisions for the Forest Tax Law Handbook. I like all of the changes that are recommended. Good job! This is a great resource for CPW's like me.

*Dan L. Peterson  
Lake States Wood Supply  
NewPage Corporation  
PO Box 8050  
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495-8050  
715-422-3450 (office)  
715-459-3649 (cell)*

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**From:** Nelson, Kathryn J - DNR [mailto:Kathryn.Nelson@wisconsin.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 14, 2014 2:16 PM  
**Subject:** Posting of Program Guidance for Forest Tax Law Handbook Revisions

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We are now soliciting comments from the public on this guidance. The text highlighted in yellow show minor changes in existing documents. Appendixes in which there is no yellow highlighting are newly developed or are revised to the point where they should be considered newly revised documents. Other documents show track changes, where both new and deleted wording changes are shown.

This draft guidance was developed by the Forest Tax Program Staff and the Private Lands Management Team (PLMT), which is comprised of department staff, a Cooperating Forester, a NIPF landowner, and a UW Extension Natural Resource Educator.

The revisions to the guidance were based on requested changes from DNR and Cooperating Foresters to clarify guidance and provide additional examples of current policy, change documented processes to be in line with current statutes and administrative codes, move timber typing guidance from Manual Code to the Forest Tax Law Handbook, update guidance due to improvements in the MFL and FCL database record system, which is now a computer based program called WisFIRS (Wisconsin Forest Inventory and Record System), update procedures for certified plan writers to receive information from the Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation Program, and include guidance on evaluating archeological and historical information, which was previously provided in a stand-alone guidance document.

Older Appendixes from the 2013 Forest Tax Law Handbook revision are proposed for deletion, including appendixes related to listing of the Large Landowners and the Habitat Classification Codes valid for tax law recon. These documents are stored in the WisFIRS database.

## Nelson, Kathryn J - DNR

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**From:** Sullivan, Henry - DNR  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 15, 2014 8:59 AM  
**To:** Nelson, Kathryn J - DNR  
**Cc:** Pulvermacher, Todd M - DNR; Wood, Tyler R - DNR; Williams, Craig B - DNR  
**Subject:** Question on Changes to Tax Law Handbook

Thanks for the opportunity to comment on changes!

I have a question about the text in red from this statement on pg 20-64 of the proposed changes to that Tax Law Handbook. We've had some NHI concerns in our office lately, and Tyler Wood picked up on this statement.

**NHI Prescription.** Address any prescriptions to avoid impacts to rare species or any management considerations needed because of the likely presence of rare species and/or high-quality natural communities. A search of the Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) Database is required, but there may be additional sources for this information. Obtain NHI information prior to establishing management practice. Requests for NHI information should be made in writing or e-mailed directly to the DNR Forester assigned to your county. The NHI data can only be provided to eligible individuals (at the time of this writing, CPWs and trained Cooperating Foresters); all other requests should be referred to the Natural Heritage Conservation Program. Use the Forestry Assistance Locator to find the DNR Forester assigned to your county by going to <http://dnr.wi.gov> and search 'Forestry Assistance Locator'. Document the date of the NHI search and verify any suitable habitat for species identified and describe the protection measures that will be taken to protect the species or community

There are several "foresters" in our area that are not cooperating foresters. Some are Forest Service employees that do not have the educational requirements to become a cooperator (AA degrees), some have wildlife degrees, and others do not want to sign the cooperating forester agreement.

Correct me if I'm wrong, if these changes are made.....

- They will need to make their NHI requests directly to NHC and pay any associated fees (I think it's \$75). Will NHC then work with them to complete the statement on the Cutting Notice if there is an Occurrence?
- When one of these folks submits a cutting notice and it comes in without a NHI statement (which is common), should they be denied and returned to the preparer for completion?
- Can Forestry staff only do NHI screens for cooperating foresters? Or, can DNR complete NHI screens for landowners who complete their own Cutting Notices?

Thanks!

*Henry Sullivan*

County Forest Liaison - Forester Ranger  
Division of Forestry  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
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(✉) e-mail: [Henry.Sullivan@dnr.state.wi.us](mailto:Henry.Sullivan@dnr.state.wi.us)

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## Nelson, Kathryn J - DNR

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**From:** Walroth, Christine M - DNR  
**Sent:** Monday, May 05, 2014 3:31 PM  
**To:** Nelson, Kathryn J - DNR  
**Subject:** RE: Posting of Program Guidance for Forest Tax Law Handbook Revisions

Kathy –

I have no comments on the content of the proposed changes.

However, you should look at your page numbering. Page 20-49 was repeated.

Christine Walroth  
(608) 269-6901

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**From:** Nelson, Kathryn J - DNR  
**Sent:** Monday, April 14, 2014 2:16 PM  
**Subject:** Posting of Program Guidance for Forest Tax Law Handbook Revisions

This message is being sent to all DNR Foresters and Supervisors, Certified Plan Writers and Cooperating Foresters.

Proposed changes to the Forest Tax Law Handbook were made available at <http://dnr.wi.gov/news/input/guidance.html> today. Comments on the proposed changes will be received until May 5, 2014.

The proposed guidance was developed to inform and provide additional direction to department staff and certified plan writers in the implementation of the Managed Forest Law (MFL) and Forest Crop Law (FCL) Programs. MFL and FCL are landowner incentive programs that encourage sustainable forestry on private woodlands in Wisconsin. Together with landowner objectives, the law incorporates timber harvesting, wildlife management, water quality and recreation to maintain a healthy and productive forest. The proposed guidance includes revisions to Chapters 10, 20, 21 and Appendixes 1 through 12 of the Forest Tax Law Handbook.

We are now soliciting comments from the public on this guidance. The text highlighted in yellow show minor changes in existing documents. Appendixes in which there is no yellow highlighting are newly developed or are revised to the point where they should be considered newly revised documents. Other documents show track changes, where both new and deleted wording changes are shown.

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