

CHARGE & ROLE OF THE COOPERATING FORESTER SUB-TEAM

The Cooperating Forester Sub-Team (CFST) is a sub-team of the Division of Forestry's Private Land Management Specialist Team (PMLT). The CFST serves in an advisory capacity to the PLMT and Bureau of Forest Management - Public and Private Section on issues related to the Cooperating Forester (CF) Program and the Certified Plan Writer (CPW) Program. Examples of team work include:

- periodic review (and recommending changes to) of the Cooperating Forester Agreement
- providing recommendation for CPW or Cooperating Forester dispute resolution process
- identifying training and technical services needs to improve private forestry assistance
- advancing the implementation of the Division's Strategic Direction
- identifying opportunities for DNR & Cooperating foresters to collaborate and build relationships

KEY POINTS

- Primary focus of the team serves to advise the PLMT on issues related to the Cooperating Forester and Certified Plan Writer programs. However, the teams' charge can be expanded to include other issues or assignments that are determined to be appropriate for this team to work on. Those issues/assignments may come directly through PLMT or from other teams, entities or individuals (e.g. Cooperating Foresters, Wisconsin Consulting Foresters, etc.)
- The team has the latitude to formulate ideas, deliberate, discuss and decide which issues to advance (recommendations) through PLMT. It is incumbent on this team to bring issues forward, and be proactive in anticipating, addressing and influencing the outcomes through meaningful dialogue
- Ultimately, decisions are made by the Division's Field Operations Team (FOT) on issues that are 'operational' in nature (e.g. those having an impact at the operational or field level); decisions regarding policy, budget and personnel matters are made by the Division's Forestry Leadership Team (FLT). Our role (the teams' role) in this process is to do the important leg work of framing-out the issue(s), advance them through appropriate channels and ensure the best possible outcome.

WHY?

DNR's role/niche in the private forestry program has changed over time, and now relies heavily on a cooperative partnership with private-sector consulting foresters to advance the principles and practice of sustainable forest management in Wisconsin. Hence, there is a need to maintain the important relationship that exists between DNR foresters and Cooperating foresters.

Ensure there is a forum for DNR and Cooperating foresters to bring issues forward, to express / share ideas and work together to improve / maintain the partnership. Utilizing this process also enables more efficient use of resources to address concerns through a teamwork approach, which serves to strengthen the important partnership.

Effectively engage CFST for guidance, input and feedback on program priorities, direction, or when program changes are being proposed and/or implemented.