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# WISCONSIN FORESTRY NOTES

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October 2013

Wisconsin DNR - Division of Forestry

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## Division seeking input on MFL efficiencies

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*We want your thoughts on how to more efficiently administer the Managed Forest Law program*

The Division of Forestry has proposed some ideas to foster dialog on how to more efficiently and effectively administer one of the nation's strongest private forest tax law programs. With the **Managed Forest Law (MFL)** program growing at a rate of about 3% per year, and with resources (staff and funding) having been either declining or flat for many years, the DNR has been cutting back on other high priority work in order to administer the growing tax law program workload. The Division is trying to identify possible ways to reduce the amount of time the Department spends administering the MFL program and to increase consistency and predictability for program participants and partners. Please offer feedback on the "**MFL Administration Efficiencies-Conceptual Ideas**" via this [online form](#). The feedback period closes **October 21, 2013**.

## Proposal would reduce distance for firewood transport

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*Proposed rule change would limit firewood access on state properties to ten miles*

As the risk from invasive forest pests and diseases moving in firewood has increased, DNR has acted to help prevent spread into state lands by regulating firewood that may enter state campgrounds and other properties. Currently, campers may only bring in firewood that is either certified by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection or that is cut from within 25 miles of the destination state property. In response to the establishment of emerald ash borer in more locations in Wisconsin and the threat of other invasive species that can be transported in firewood, DNR is proposing to decrease the allowable distance that non-DATCP certified firewood can be transported to within 10 miles of the destination state property. Public hearings on this proposed change will be on **Oct. 29, 2013** at 7 p.m. See the [news release for locations](#). Written comments may also be submitted prior to **Nov. 4, 2013** to [Andrea Diss-Torrance](#).

## Funding for drought-killed seedlings; also for oak management

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*WFLGP offers grants for seedling replacement and for oak management*

Landowners who have experienced a significant loss this year of trees planted in 2008 through 2012 may be eligible to receive a grant for replanting the trees through the **Wisconsin Forest Landowner Grant Program**. Funds have been designated again this year for tree planting failures of greater than 25 percent due to the 2012 drought in 49 counties. [Details here](#).

Privately-owned oak woodlands in southern Wisconsin will benefit from a FY14/FY15 Turkey Stamp Grant. The \$82,500 will be distributed through the Wisconsin Forest Landowner Grant Program and must be used to establish and/or regenerate oak, or to maintain/ensure an oak component in a forest stand. [More information here](#).

## DNR tree seedling sales underway

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*Place your order now for best selection of species from the DNR nursery program*

Conifer, hardwood and shrub seedlings sales began on September 27 through the DNR nursery program for the spring 2014 planting season. The minimum sale consists of a 300 seedling packet and the stock must be used for conservation plantings in Wisconsin. Access the seedling application [online](#), by calling 715-424-3700 or from your [local DNR forester](#).

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## Wisconsin #2 nationally in Tree City USA program

Wisconsin now has 191 communities that have earned the "Tree City USA" designation, in second place nationally only behind Ohio. Of the top 7 states in the nation, Wisconsin is the only one that increased the number of Tree Cities (by a net of 8) in 2012. Communities achieve Tree City USA status by meeting four core standards of sound urban forest management: maintaining a tree board or department, having a community tree ordinance, spending at least \$2 per capita on urban forestry and celebrating Arbor Day. Tree City USA is a national program of the [Arbor Day Foundation](#) with administrative support in Wisconsin from the DNR-Division of Forestry.

*Wisconsin moves up to second place with an increase in communities earning Tree City USA designation*

## Grants help fire departments prepare for wildland fires

DNR issued 215 Forest Fire Protection (FFP) grant awards at the end of September totaling more than \$543,200. Local fire departments in Wisconsin will use these grants to purchase wildland personal protective equipment, training materials, prevention materials, wildland fire-fighting tools and equipment. See a [complete list of grant recipients here](#).

*DNR awarded more than a half million dollars to local fire departments*

## Federal program helps protect community forests

The USDA Forest Service [Community Forest Program](#) has issued a request for project applications to be submitted to the Wisconsin DNR-Division of Forestry. This grant program was established by the 2008 Farm Bill and provides financial assistance to local governments, Tribal governments and qualified nonprofit entities for community forests. This program is a fee acquisition program that provides a 50% cost share for eligible activities. Applications must be submitted by **January 15, 2014** to: Community Forest Program, c/o Amy Singh FR-4, 101 S. Webster Street, PO Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921. Applicants must also send an email to [communityforest@fs.fed.us](mailto:communityforest@fs.fed.us) to confirm an application has been submitted for consideration. For questions relating to this program, contact [Amy Singh](#) at 608-266-9805.

*Applications for federal Community Forest Program must be submitted to DNR*

## Division hosted regional fire meeting

The Division of Forestry hosted the annual meeting of the [Great Lakes Forest Fire Compact \(GLFFC\)](#) in September at Wisconsin Dells. GLFFC includes Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan, as well as the Canadian Provinces of Ontario and Manitoba. Relationship-building with partner agencies is an important aspect of the annual meeting, the benefit which was demonstrated by the assistance supplied by the GLFFC agencies for the [Germann Road Fire](#).

*Five members of a regional fire organization assist each other as needed*

## Fourth season underway for "First Downs for Trees" program

The [First Downs for Trees](#) program – a cooperative effort of the Green Bay Packers, the U.S. Forest Service, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and Wisconsin Public Service – donates trees to participating Brown County communities based on the number of first downs achieved by the Packers. Since the 2010 football season, the program has received more than \$100,000 in support which has resulted in the planting of more than 2,000 trees, providing total lifetime benefits in excess of \$9 million through stormwater runoff reduction, CO2 reduction, energy savings, air quality improvement and property value increase. It pays to cheer for the Packers!

*First downs made by the Green Bay Packers during three seasons translated into 2,042 trees planted in Brown County communities*  
**GO PACK GO!**



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