
Wisconsin Forestry Notes

July 2011

Wisconsin DNR - Division of Forestry

Forest landowners in five northwest counties face massive recovery and salvage efforts in the wake of a severe storm on July 1.

Timber Salvage Underway in Northwest Wisconsin

Storms that moved through Northwest Wisconsin on July 1 produced severe wind damage in five counties – Polk, Burnett, Washburn, Douglas and Bayfield. Officials are in the process of doing an aerial reconnaissance to determine the extent of the damage, but early estimates are that well over 100,000 acres of primarily forest land were impacted. The National Weather Service in Duluth said the widespread damage was caused by straight-line wind gusts in excess of 60 mph, with pockets of intense winds in excess of 100 mph. A breakdown of the ownership of the impacted forest land is still being prepared, but, in addition to damage on the Governor Knowles State Forest and extensive damage on county forest lands, a large number of private family forestland was in the storm's path. Since this area of the state includes many absentee forest landowners, the DNR Division of Forestry launched a new Webpage to help field foresters with the task of connecting landowners with the resources and information they need to recover from this devastation. Although the extent of the damage is still being assessed and salvage of damaged timber will be an ongoing process for a couple of years, DNR foresters have been on the ground helping to clear roads, map damage and connect landowners with necessary resources – both in person and through this new Webpage: <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/stormRecovery/>

Tree seedling production at Hayward nursery to be curtailed in 2013 due to decreased demand.

Changes to the State Nursery Program

Even as the Wisconsin forest nursery program celebrates its centennial and the production of more than 1.5 billion tree seedlings planted in Wisconsin, it faces change. The WDNR Division of Forestry has made the difficult decision to discontinue production of forest tree and shrub seedlings at the nursery in Hayward, consolidating those operations in the other two nurseries at Wisconsin Rapids and Boscobel beginning in 2013. The Hayward nursery will continue to sell seedlings until all current stock is gone, but no new trees will be seeded. The state is not selling the facility or equipment and, if demand for nursery stock increases, the Hayward facility would be put back into the seedling business. Potential new uses of the site include a seedling distribution center, reforestation test area, tree improvement and genetics work and seed extraction. For more information, contact [Darrell Zastrow](mailto:Darrell.Zastrow@dnr.wisconsin.gov) at 608-266-0290.

Tree Farm certification of nearly 2.4 million acres enrolled in the Managed Forest Law was recently reconfirmed.

Tree Farm Certification Renewed

Forestland enrolled in the WDNR Managed Forest Law (MFL) program is part of a group forest certification through the Forest Stewardship Council (since December 2008) and the American Tree Farm System (since May 2005), creating the largest group certification program for private landowners in North America with 35,444 members and nearly 2.4 million acres. This group certification provides these private landowners the ability to sell timber in the certified wood marketplace. An audit of these properties was recently conducted to assess conformance to the requirements of the American Tree Farm Program and the MFL group was found to be in full conformance with the standards. To see the complete report and the corrective action requests listed by the auditors, visit <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/certification/MFL.html> or contact Forest Certification Coordinator [Ken Symes](mailto:Ken.Symes@dnr.wisconsin.gov) at 608-267-0547.

Updated Forest Management Guidelines available now online.

Updated Forest Management Guidelines Available

The Wisconsin Forest Management Guidelines (FMG) publication outlines practical, site-specific considerations that land managers need to take into account when they plan and carry out forestry operations. The 400+ page FMG was recently revised and the updated publication now includes Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality and Forestry Best Management Practices for Invasive Species as well as the updates to the Wisconsin Forest Management Guidelines. The new edition is now available at no cost in digital and print media. You can download the publication from this Webpage: <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/publications/guidelines/toc.htm> or you can order a free copy on CD. Mail your request for a CD of Publication Number FR226a to: Wisconsin DNR - Forestry Publications, PO Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707. A very limited supply of the printed book is also available for Wisconsin natural resource managers, Wisconsin timber producers or Wisconsin forestry enthusiasts. Application of the FMG is voluntary, but the document does refer to statutes, administrative rules and programs that could involve mandatory procedures or prohibitions. For details, contact [Carol Nielsen](#), Private Forestry Specialist, at 608-267-7508.

Public forest land management is becoming more efficient thanks to a new online application.

Online Application Aids Public Forest Management

A new online application called Wisconsin Forest Inventory and Reporting System (WisFIRS) for Public Lands will allow hundreds of DNR foresters and county forest partners to be more more efficient in the administration of public forest management and timber sale administration. This web application allows foresters to enter, plan, and report on core business functions related to forest reconnaissance (recon) data on more than 3.8 million acres of Wisconsin's public forests. The management of these properties produces annual revenues of approximately \$12 million to the state and \$30 million to counties.

A companion GIS web application was released in June to work in concert with the WisFIRS Public Lands tabular application. This new release creates a powerful visual reference using Geographic Information System (GIS) technologies to query, display and analyze data, especially when used in conjunction with supplemental reference information such as roads, hydrology, public land survey, or aerial photographs. This new application is the first GIS web application of its kind used by WDNR and will help foresters better describe, plan and manage these properties.

Both of these applications fit into a larger effort on behalf of the WDNR Division of Forestry to integrate not only the Public Lands Management activities, but also management activities on Private Lands through the Tax Law and Stewardship programs. These efforts are being developed as separate releases under the WisFIRS project. For more information, contact WisFIRS Project Manager [Janel Pike](#) at 608-266-2050.

"Wisconsin Forestry Notes" is a monthly electronic publication highlighting programs and activities of the Wisconsin DNR - Division of Forestry, Box 7921, Madison, Wisconsin 53707 Phone: 608-264-6036 Paul DeLong, Chief State Forester Kirsten Held, Editor

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