
Wisconsin Forestry Notes

July 2012

Wisconsin DNR - Division of Forestry

Continuing drought conditions mean high fire danger. Please be careful as you work and play outside this summer.

Drought conditions mean active summer fire season

Wisconsin's spring fire season extended into summer this year due to drought conditions in the southern half of the state. In fact, over the past two weeks, more than 70 wildfires in DNR protection areas have kept DNR firefighters busy. Although areas of Wisconsin received rain in the last week, emergency burning restrictions remain in place in all or parts of 17 Wisconsin counties (Wood, Portage, Waupaca, Jackson, Monroe, Juneau, Adams, Waushara, Marquette, Green Lake, Crawford, Richland, Sauk, Columbia, Grant, Iowa, and Dane) and campfires continue to be banned at a number of Wisconsin State Parks system properties. While recent rains were helpful in temporarily alleviating fire danger, the dry conditions still pose significant risks. The National Weather Service is anticipating drought conditions to last into the fall. Conditions are comparable to previous historical drought years of 1976 and 1988. For the most [current fire danger](#) information and a detailed look at areas under [Emergency Burning Restrictions](#), visit dnr.wi.gov (keyword "fire") and select the county of interest. Contact your local DNR office or local fire department, town or municipal officials for more information on local fire restrictions.

Recent EAB confirmations are located near existing populations of the pest.

Active summer for EAB finds

Multiple new finds of [emerald ash borer](#) (EAB) this summer signal that the day has passed when we could assume that emerald ash borer had barely penetrated our state borders. Many of the confirmed finds this summer have been near previously identified EAB populations in southeastern Wisconsin and it appears likely that these are the result of the natural spread of those established populations. This underscores the continued importance of not moving firewood and other potentially infested materials out of quarantined counties in Wisconsin or from the heavily infested counties in northern Illinois.

New state EAB quarantines are pending as a result of the recent finds, bringing the total to 14 Wisconsin counties: Brown, Crawford, Fond du Lac, Kenosha, La Crosse, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Rock, Sheboygan, Vernon, Walworth, Washington and Waukesha. The quarantine affects some businesses that use certain ash products. For most people the quarantine means that hardwood firewood, regardless of tree species, cannot leave the quarantined area. The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection will continue to enforce a prohibition on movement of quarantined materials over state borders even where counties on both sides of the border are quarantined for EAB.

Reports of suspected emerald ash borer sightings or symptoms should go to the EAB hotline at 1-800-462-2803. Residents of the counties listed above should contact their city forestry department or a certified arborist or other tree care professional for assistance if they have concerns about their ash trees.

Comments on proposed changes to the Wisconsin Forest Landowner Grant Program are due by July 31, 2012.

Changes proposed for landowner grant program

Your comments are invited regarding [proposed changes to the Wisconsin Forest Landowner Grant Program](#) (WFLGP) to streamline administration and use the funding available more efficiently while continuing to address landowner and forest resource needs. As noted in the March 2012 issue of *Wisconsin Forestry Notes*, the rule revision also proposes a new Weed Management Area Private Forest Grant Program (WMA-PFGP), allowing groups interested in controlling invasive plants on nonindustrial private forest land to receive cost-sharing grants.

Written comments on the proposed rule must be submitted by July 31, 2012 via U.S. mail to Carol Nielsen, Department of Natural Resources, Private and Community Forest Section (FR/4), P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53703, or by e-mail to carol.nielsen@wisconsin.gov. For a copy of the proposed rule and supporting documents, contact [Kristin Lambert](#) at 608-261-0754. For more information on the rule contact [Carol Nielsen](#) at 608-267-7508.

A new online system will assist consulting foresters who are Certified Plan Writers as they prepare forest management plans for private landowners.

Online system supports management plan writing

The [Wisconsin Forest Inventory & Reporting System \(WisFIRS\) for Private Lands - Plan Writing web application](#) went into production on July 16, 2012. This application will enable foresters who are certified in writing management plans to enter data used to create a plan on behalf of a private landowner. These plans are reviewed and approved by DNR staff electronically for enrollment in the [Wisconsin Managed Forest Law program](#). In the future the application will also track when landowner practices are due and completed (e.g. timber sales), report accomplishments, calculate the financial aspects of the tax law programs (e.g. millions of dollars collected and dispersed to municipalities annually). Due to the importance of knowing where on the landscape practices are being done, geographical information systems (GIS) will be integrated throughout the system. WisFIRS Private Lands will allow foresters to be more efficient in the administration of private Forest Crop Law and Managed Forest Law programs.

Use the “@Wisconsin.gov” email format to reach state employees.

Old email format for state employees will discontinue

If you have DNR employees in your email address book with the “@dnr.state.wi.us” format, please update them to the “@wisconsin.gov” format as emails to the old addresses will no longer be delivered as of January 2013. The email address for most employees is “firstname.lastname@wisconsin.gov” (not case sensitive) but there are exceptions. Check the [online DNR staff directory](#) to ensure you have the correct address.

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