



Brule River State Forest Master Plan Amendment Public Involvement Plan

2014

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) recognizes sound planning is a partnership effort with the people it serves. The WDNR encourages citizen involvement throughout the planning process. This document outlines the strategy for soliciting public review and feedback into a proposed amendment to the Brule River State Forest Master Plan.

Any resulting management recommendations, revisions or additions will be guided and influenced by: existing statutes, administrative codes, scientific data, ecological capacity of the forest resources, surveys, judgment of forest management experts, and public input.

Reason for the Master Plan amendment

Based on a change in conditions, including the acquisition of 6,505 acres of newly acquired lands, and updated forest inventory data identifying 1,953 acres of backlog forest management practices, it is recommended that a master plan modification is needed to modify the annual allowable harvest to meet existing land management objectives identified in the 2003 master plan. It is proposed an annual harvest level not be specified in the 2003 plan, and more specifically, the 600 acre harvest limit set in the 2003 plan be removed.

Adjusting the annual allowable harvest level will allow the land management objectives outlined in the current master plan to be met. Land management classifications or areas, and associated objectives identified in the 2003 plan are not being proposed for any changes. The harvest level adjustment simply allows the objectives to be met using forest management practices as prescribed.

Ways to Make Your Voice Heard

You may review planning materials online on the Brule River State Forest web page. Anyone can learn more by searching for “master planning” on the DNR website dnr.wi.gov and then clicking on Brule River State Forest Master Plan Amendment, or by going directly to the Department’s web page for the Brule River State Forest.

You may submit your comments directly during a public meeting, send them by email or postal mail, or comment by phone using the contact information at the end of this document.

How the Department Provides Planning Information to You

Issue Press Releases

Statewide press releases will be issued to announce public review periods and opportunities to solicit comments.

Direct Contacts

Direct public notification will be by property manager stakeholder list via email and mail.

Announcements will also be distributed via email distribution to subscribers to the GovDelivery system. Notices provide information about the proposal; announce availability of drafts for review, or inform about other planning developments. The public may subscribe to the GovDelivery system on the Department’s main web page, and sign up to receive planning notices and announcements for the topic category, “master planning”.

Web Page

The Department will announce the amendment process, draft documents, and other important planning information on the Brule River State Forest web page.

Consultation with Other Governments

As needed, throughout the planning process the Department will consult directly with other government bodies. They include Tribes, Town and County officials and their committees or boards.

How Decisions will be Made

To make sound planning recommendations the Department must, on one hand, consider technical data and meet statutory and code requirements and Department policies; and, on the other hand, must listen to the many and varied voices of the public. Decisions on which ideas to include in the Plan and on how to best incorporate them will be made based on the property's purpose (i.e. scenic area), its physical/biological capabilities, the best role of the property in its local, regional and state-wide context, and on the professional expertise of DNR staff. Every reasonable effort will be made to communicate the reasons for key plan decisions.

While a broad range of public interests and staff recommendations will be listened to and considered, the final decision-making responsibility and authority on the plan amendment rests with the Natural Resources Board.

Contact Information

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