

Forestry Partners and Customers,

Providing the right services at the right level is essential to any organization. And equally important is recognizing the many partners providing services and sharing a common goal of maximizing the sustainable management of Wisconsin's forests.

As one of many steps to determine the right services and level of services to support and administer Wisconsin's forest tax law program, the Division of Forestry has undertaken an effort 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. We are now sharing some "Conceptual Ideas" for your review and feedback.

With the tax law 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 functions in order to administer the growing tax law program workload. During the Division of Forestry's strategic direction process, a decision was made to reduce the investment in Managed Forest Law (MFL) administration in a manner that maintains program integrity and quality in order to place more emphasis on reaching unengaged forest landowners; those that do not now get professional assistance. This decision reflects that unengaged landowners fall into a niche DNR is well positioned to fill and the importance of those landowners to the economic and environmental benefits we depend on from our forests.

Conceptual Ideas have been generated for the purpose of stimulating dialogue for those affected including: landowners, cooperating foresters, loggers, forest products organizations, DNR staff and others.

We welcome your feedback on the MFL Administration Efficiencies-Conceptual Ideas and for your convenience are including an on-line feedback form, both which can be found at:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/news/input/> and clicking MFL Administration Efficiencies – Concepts for Discussion

The feedback period will close on October 21, 2013.

Thank you in advance for fostering dialogue and providing feedback on draft Concepts to more efficiently and affectively administer one of the nation's strongest private forest tax law programs.

Paul DeLong