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# WISCONSIN FORESTRY NOTES

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March 2015

Wisconsin DNR - Division of Forestry

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## Fact sheets showcase value of Wisconsin forests

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*Fact sheets highlight forestry contributions to local economies.*

The Division of Forestry gathered information for the Department to use in county-level impact reports that give a snapshot of DNR initiatives, partnerships and how grant money is being spent in each county. That effort prompted division staff to recognize there would be efficiency in identifying forestry data that is commonly requested and questions that are frequently asked by both internal and external partners. To meet this need, we produced a series of forestry-related fact sheets. In addition to the usual information requests we receive, the division typically experiences a spike in requests when a state budget is being developed and discussed. Since the purpose of these fact sheets is to provide commonly requested information, they do not include information on all the other important work accomplished by the Division of Forestry programs. If we learn that these fact sheets are well-received and helpful to our partners, we will assess whether or not additional fact sheets should be developed. Here are the current fact sheets:

1. DNR Service to Private Landowners
2. Ensuring Timber Supplies
3. Economic Impact
4. Forest Management on Wisconsin DNR Lands
5. Wildfire Suppression
6. Value to Local Governments
7. Recreation in Northern State Forests

## 2015 fire season is underway

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*Reminder: Debris burning is Wisconsin's top cause of wildfires.*

Wisconsin's 2015 spring fire season got off to a roaring start in mid-March when strong winds and dry conditions created the first widespread risk of high to very high fire danger. Fire officials temporarily suspended burning permits in 22 counties and warned everyone to be extra careful during spring yard and property cleanup since debris burning is Wisconsin's top cause of wildfires. The Division produced a new brochure titled "Preventing Wildfires" that is filled with good information, including a reminder that spring is the most critical fire season in Wisconsin and any person responsible for setting a fire (either accidentally or intentionally) and allowing it to become a wildfire is liable for all suppression costs and potentially any damages.

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## Gypsy moth quarantine expands

*Taylor County becomes the 50th county under gypsy moth quarantine.*

Taylor County was recently added to the **gypsy moth quarantine** bringing the list of Wisconsin counties under the quarantine to 50. When their populations are high, gypsy moth caterpillars can strip an entire neighborhood or forest of leaves in May and June. DNR's gypsy moth suppression program will only be spraying one site (located in Rock County) in 2015. The Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection will be administering "Slow the Spread" treatments on sites in 21 counties this year. For more information about the gypsy moth spray programs, visit the **DNR website** or the **Wisconsin gypsy moth site**.

## Printed biomass harvesting guidelines available

*Printed copies of biomass harvesting guidelines field manual now available.*

Wisconsin's Forestland Woody Biomass Harvesting Guidelines, originally designed in 2008 by a committee of affected stakeholders, were reviewed and revised in 2013 and have been available on the **Council on Forestry website**. The **field manual** is now also available in hard copy. If you would like a printed copy, send an email to **DNRFRPublications@wisconsin.gov** with your shipping address (no post office boxes please) or contact **Sarah Herrick** if you have questions about the publication.

## How will YOU celebrate Arbor Day?

*DNR helps 35,000+ students celebrate 2015 Arbor Day.*

Wisconsin's official celebration of **Arbor Day** – a worldwide tree-planting holiday that has been celebrated in our state since 1883 – is the last Friday in April. **DNR's reforestation program** will provide more than 35,650 tree seedlings to 4th-grade classrooms throughout Wisconsin for the students' Arbor Day celebrations. Visit the DNR website for a **poster with tree planting tips** and for ways you can **celebrate Arbor Day** on April 24, 2015!

## Elk coming to Black River State Forest

*Elk will soon be delivered to one of Wisconsin's state forests.*

After many years of planning, wild elk are coming to the Black River State Forest. The elk will soon be transported to the property from the state of Kentucky. Initially the elk will be in a closed quarantined area so they can be tested for disease and acclimate to the area, after which time they will be released on the property. This release is the first stage in a multi-year project to bring up to 150 wild Kentucky elk to Wisconsin with half of these coming to the Black River area and the other half going to the Clam Lake area where a herd was established in 1995. For more information, watch the **Black River State Forest home page** or visit **dnr.wi.gov** and search keyword "elk."



Wisconsin Forestry Notes highlights programs and activities of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources - Division of Forestry, Box 7921, Madison, Wisconsin 53707

Paul DeLong, Chief State Forester

Kirsten Held, Editor, Phone: 608-264-6036

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