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# Wisconsin Forestry Notes

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November 2012

Wisconsin DNR - Division of Forestry

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## Locate forest lands open to public recreation

*More than 1 million acres of private forest land are open for public recreational use.*

A [mapping tool](#) went live on the DNR Website at the end of October and was available for use during the recent nine-day gun season. The tool helped hunters more easily find private acres classified as open for specific recreational use by the public under the [Managed Forest Law](#). In the future, the Division will be able to offer a more comprehensive mapping application. In the meantime, this short-term solution gives outdoor enthusiasts a general guide to the locations of the 31,500+ open parcels of privately-owned forest land so they can contact a DNR forester or the landowner for specific boundary location and public access information. The parcels comprise 1.1 million acres, ranging from 23 acres in Racine County to 144,675 in Oneida County.

## Funding to replant drought-killed seedlings

*Landowners receive assistance to replant seedlings killed by drought.*

The Division [announced earlier this fall](#) that landowners in 49 Wisconsin counties who lost 25 percent or more of the trees they planted in 2008 through 2012 due to the [2012 drought](#) may be eligible to receive a grant for replanting the drought-killed trees through the [Wisconsin Forest Landowner Grant Program \(WFLGP\)](#). At the beginning of FY13, \$100,000 in WFLGP funding was set aside for state emergency grants. To date, 43 grants totaling nearly \$61,000 have been awarded from this emergency fund.

## Forest Management as habitat management

*Annual deer show features a forestry segment.*

A segment of DNR's Deer Hunt 2012 television program focused on the connections between forest management and deer. If you missed the show when it aired November 1st, 8th and 11th, you can see it on [DNR's YouTube channel](#).

## Videos show how to rid woods of invasive plants

*Online videos offer advice on controlling invasive plants in the forest.*

DNR offers online tips to keep your woodlands healthy, beautiful and full of wildlife by taking steps to keep invasive plants from taking over. Watch video segments on controlling honeysuckle, buckthorn and garlic mustard on [DNR's Invasive Species - YouTube playlist](#). Protect your investment and enjoyment of your woods!

*A 2-year assessment and planning process concluded in September with approval of the new master plan for the Gov. Knowles State Forest.*

## Master plan approved for state forest

The Natural Resources Board approved the revised master plan for the [Governor Knowles State Forest](#) at its September 2012 meeting. This forest, located in Burnett and Polk Counties, lies along the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway and encompasses approximately 34,000 acres, of which about 20,500 acres are state owned. Emphasis of the plan is on protecting and enhancing the forested landscape along the St. Croix River while providing recreational opportunities consistent with its scenic beauty and natural setting. Revision of the 1988 plan for the Governor Knowles State Forest marks the completion of master plan updates for all of the [northern state forests](#).

*Division moves forward with implementation of the strategic direction.*

## Business Plans for the Strategic Direction

Last spring, Division of Forestry staff worked in collaboration with the Wisconsin Council on Forestry to ask customers and partners what they would like to see achieved by the Division's strategic direction.

The resulting "business plans" outline priority outcomes for the Division of Forestry's [major programs](#). The Division has combined the outcomes from the business plans with additional outcomes identified by Forestry Leadership Team for the Division's strategic direction. Program staff are now defining performance measures for each outcome and outlining steps to implement the strategic direction over the plan's 5-year horizon. For more information, visit the [Strategic Direction Operations Plan Webpage](#).

*Division gearing up to better serve you and the forest resources.*

## Division begins to fill vacancies

The Division of Forestry has been operating with nearly 20% of its positions vacant over the past couple of years due to fiscal constraints. In addition to hiring a new class of foresters early in 2013, the Division is now in the process of filling twenty positions. Twelve supervisory positions being filled include four Integrated Team Leaders (Wisconsin Rapids, Ashland/Iron, Waupaca and Wautoma), three Area Forestry Leaders (Mississippi, Cumberland, and Wisconsin Rapids), a Section Chief for Science Services in the Bureau of Forest Management, and four Specialized Team Leaders (Forest Products, Forest Health, Urban and Private Forestry). We are also filling three state forest positions (superintendents for the Governor Knowles and Peshtigo River State Forest and a Ranger-Assistant Property Manager on the Flambeau River State Forest), two Forestry Tech mechanic positions, a pilot stationed in Rhineland-er, another Team Leader position in Bayfield, and a Business Analyst in Forestry Business Services. Some of these will be filled by Division employees creating different vacancies. We also have 15 staff in temporary assignments due to strategic direction implementation.

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"Wisconsin Forestry Notes" is a monthly electronic publication highlighting programs and activities of the Wisconsin DNR - Division of Forestry, Box 7921, Madison, Wisconsin 53707  
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