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# Wisconsin Forestry Notes

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January 2011

Wisconsin DNR Forestry Division

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## Your invitation to help set the future direction of Wisconsin's Forestry Division

On December 17, the DNR Forestry Division released a draft of its proposed Strategic Direction ([http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/assessment/strategy/SD\\_DRAFT\\_121710\\_Final.pdf](http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/assessment/strategy/SD_DRAFT_121710_Final.pdf)). The *Draft Strategic Direction* is a proposed 5-year plan detailing how the Division can most effectively and efficiently serve Wisconsin citizens and the diverse members of the state's forestry community while working to achieve the mission of protecting and sustainably managing the state's forest resources - while meeting the growing number of economic and environmental challenges.

*Public input sought on future role and direction of the state Forestry Division.*

As a way of ensuring input from the Forestry Division's partners is included in the final version of this important planning document, you are invited to share your feedback on the Draft Strategic Direction by responding to the following questions:

- Overall, do you think the Strategic Direction represents an appropriate role for the Forestry Division - and the best use of resources?
- Specifically, which program(s) and proposal(s) do you agree and/or disagree with, and why? (Be specific as possible in identifying the statements and proposals to which your comments refer.)
- If you believe there needs to be an increased investment in a particular program (or part of a program, from which area or program would you reallocate resources? (What trade-offs would you make in order to increase the investment of resources in a particular program?)

**Responses are due by February 4.** Submissions can be sent by e-mail or by letter to Rebecca Gass ([Rebecca.Gass@Wisconsin.gov](mailto:Rebecca.Gass@Wisconsin.gov)), DNR-Forestry Division, P.O. Box 7921, Madison WI 53707.

In addition to reviewing the *Draft Strategic Direction* document, survey participants may want to look at some of the information on the Statewide Forestry Strategy webpage (<http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/assessment/strategy/overview.htm>). The page includes links to information about the detailed process that went into the Draft Strategic Direction and provides background, context, and perspective integral to responding to the survey questions.

"The major issues affecting Wisconsin's forests *cannot* be tackled by one group, one organization, or one agency, and there are not enough resources to implement all of the value-added strategies that have been identified during the careful planning process that resulted in the draft Strategic Direction," DeLong said. Being proactive, adaptive, and flexible will assure Wisconsin's forest resource is well-managed, that the people of the state are well-served, and that Forestry Division staff will be able to help meet all of the challenges and to reflect the interests and values of the agency's customers and stakeholders."

## Still time to share your views on the State Nursery Program Deadline for participating in the Public Comments Survey is Jan. 7

There is still time for stakeholders and others to share opinions and ideas on a new business plan being developed for the State Nursery Program. Public hearings to solicit input were held earlier this month in Tomahawk and Baraboo. An online survey (which can be found at <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/nursery/plan2011.htm>) will be available until January 7.

*State nurseries are located in Boscobel, Hayward, and Wisconsin Rapids.*

Because of public concerns and a falling demand for seedlings, a new business plan is being developed. The DNR also recognizes the agency's responsibility to the forestry community to make prudent use of Forestry account funds. The State Nursery program webpage (<http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/nursery/>) also includes relevant background information on Nursery Program operations.

## New legal requirement for Managed Forest Land Program landowners selling their MFL-enrolled properties

As of January 1, landowners enrolled in Wisconsin's Managed Forest Law (MFL) program *must* provide to a prospective buyer a written disclosure that the MFL lands will continue to be subject to MFL requirements after a sale - unless a decision is made to withdraw the lands, according to Forest Tax Program and Policy Chief Kathy Nelson. The new requirement is the result of a legislative change passed earlier this year.

**MFL landowners should contact a DNR forester before selling their MFL-enrolled property.**

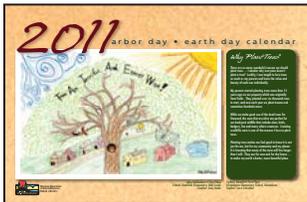
The disclosure statement *must be provided no later than 10 days* after the contract of sale or option contract is accepted. Nelson said the disclosure statement must:

- Explain that terms of orders designating managed forest land are for 25 or 50 years (depending on the legal document being signed by the original landowner).
- State the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Forestry Division will monitor MFL management plan compliance for the land.
- Include information on how to contact the Forestry Division.

Nelson said the disclosure must include this wording: "Changes you make to the property that is subject to an order designating it as managed forest land, or to its use, may jeopardize your benefits under the program or cause the property to be withdrawn from the program and may result in the assessment of penalties." MFL landowners - and realtors - are strongly encouraged to contact a DNR forester early in the sale process for information about specific MFL properties to ensure those lands will meet all applicable requirements after a sale. "A DNR forester is an excellent source of information, can provide an explanation of the MFL program, and can share applicable legal requirements," Nelson said. Contact information for DNR foresters serving a particular county can be found online (<http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/ftax/County/asp>) or by calling the Forestry Division (608.267-7494). Information about the Managed Forest Law can also be found at <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/ftax/> or by contacting Kathy Nelson by e-mail ([Kathryn.Nelson@Wisconsin.gov](mailto:Kathryn.Nelson@Wisconsin.gov)) or by telephone at 608.266-3545.

## 2 student contests end, but celebrating trees in WI still important

Two student contests coordinated by the Forestry Division are being discontinued.



An electronic copy of the 2011 Arbor Day-Earth Day Calendar can be found at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/ce/eeek/cool/arbordaycalendar.htm>.

As a result of a decision by the Arbor Day Foundation (ADF), the nation-wide Arbor Day Poster contest for Grade 5 students has ended. And the Forestry Division's annual Forest Appreciation Week Writing Contest for the state's Grade 4 students is also being suspended for 2011. "Budget constraints and current staffing levels do not allow the Forestry Program to proceed with either contest," according to Genny Fannucchi, forest resource education and awareness specialist and a moving force behind the contests in Wisconsin. "But students of all ages can still celebrate Arbor Day (on the last Friday in April) and Earth Day (April 22) by *properly* planting trees in their community and by taking advantage of the wealth of educational resources available on the Wisconsin DNR website (including links to Project Learning Tree, EEK!-Environmental Education for Kids! and workshops from the Forestry Division partner LEAF-Learning Experiences and Activities in Forestry).

The Forestry Division's Arbor Day Free Tree Program (<http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/ftax/>) provides seedlings to Grade 4 classroom students, the State Nursery Program continues to offer seedlings to educational groups at a much-reduced price, and Tree Planting for Climate Change Initiative (<http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/ftax/>) with Polar Bears International also embodies the lessons that were part of the 2 student contests. "Circumstances change, but the enthusiasm, creativity, and dedication to sharing a love of nature and a respect for Wisconsin's forest resource with the next generation remains a priority with Forestry Division staff," Fannucchi said.

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**Wisconsin Forestry Notes is a monthly electronic publication highlighting programs and activities of the Wisconsin DNR-Forestry Division; P.O. Box 7921, Madison, Wisconsin 53707.**

**Phone: 608.267-7494; Paul DeLong, Chief State Forester.**

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