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# Wisconsin Forestry Notes

October 2011

Wisconsin DNR - Division of Forestry

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*Division works on turning forest plan into “boots on the ground.”*

## Division continues work to implement strategic direction

In the spring of 2011, the Division of Forestry finalized our Strategic Direction with guidance and input from our staff, partners and customers. The Strategic Direction maps out a path for DNR to take over the next five years. The Statewide Forest Assessment and Statewide Forest Strategy (known as the Forest Action Plan) were the foundation of our Strategic Direction. They helped us identify with partners the major issues and concerns in forestry and what the forestry community collectively might do to address them.

The next step in the Division's work was to determine how to implement the Strategic Direction. You can review the Operations Plan at <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/assessment/strategy/opPlan.htm>. This describes how we will most efficiently and effectively use our limited resources to meet the intent of the Strategic Direction. Where the Strategic Direction explained the ways in which we will increase, maintain or decrease the varied investments in DNR forestry programs, the Operations Plan identifies where and how those changes will take place. We're allocating resources based on our niche and we've made decisions considering our partners' strengths and the private sector's capacity. The Division will finalize the Operations Plan in January and intends to begin implementing it over the following months.

## Governor announces forest legacy easement

In early October, Governor Scott Walker recognized the first major stewardship purchase of his administration, an initiative that protects land in Northwestern Wisconsin for public use. The recent transaction was for a conservation easement purchase of 10,083 acres from Plum Creek Timberlands. The purchase price was \$4,547,100 (\$2,500,000 from the USDA's Forest Legacy Program and the balance of \$2,047,100 from the state's Knowles-Nelson Stewardship program). This is phase 2 of a two-part transaction, timed to best use federal dollars. Phase 1 closed in December of 2010 – 8,096 acres for \$3,659,900. In total, the transaction covers 18,179 acres.

The easement keeps this significant forest area in productive forest use under private ownership and provides a very large area for permanent public access for hunting, fishing, trapping, cross country skiing and hiking. The mix of uplands and lowlands provides excellent habitat for deer, bear, wolves, ruffed grouse and a host of other birds, mammals and other northern forest animals. The land includes 32 miles of rivers and streams and is located just south of the Chippewa Flowage, a world-class fishery for muskellunge and walleye. The land will remain in undeveloped condition and will be managed by the private landowner as a productive, working forest, as it has been for several decades.

*More than 18,000 acres will be maintained as working forests after two-part Chippewa easement.*

*Grant applications invited in areas of urban forestry, forest stewardship, fire hazard mitigation or forest health.*

## **Applicants invited for USDA Forest Service funding**

The Division of Forestry has announced the 2012 State & Private Forestry Redesign Competitive Allocation grant process. Grants will focus on issues, challenges and opportunities in urban and community forestry, forest stewardship, and integrated forest fire hazard mitigation or forest health. Grants require at least a 1:1 match and awards are a minimum of \$25,000 (federal share); however, there is no minimum for forest fire hazard mitigation or forest health management and treatment proposals. Notification of intent to apply is due November 7 with final proposals due by December 15. Contact Jim Warren at (608) 264-8990 or [jamesk.warren@wisconsin.gov](mailto:jamesk.warren@wisconsin.gov) to learn details about the application process.

*Potawatomi tribe earns award for their urban forestry innovations.*

## **Potawatomi honored with urban forestry award**

The 2011 Innovations in Urban Forestry Award was presented to the Forest County Potawatomi Community (Potawatomi) by the Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council at an October 13th award ceremony in Crandon. The award recognizes outstanding innovations in the development or enhancement of an urban forestry project or program and the Potawatomi were selected because of their pro-active approach to managing the Tribe's forest land. Their comprehensive approach to forest management included a large-scale forest inventory which identified approximately 1,200 trees that were in need of critical safety pruning or removal. The Tribe also created a new Strategic Forestry Plan to address both developed and non-developed areas on the reservation. By prioritizing the condition of the forest, the Potawatomi have improved both the reservation's aesthetics and local public safety, while also increasing tree and land value.

*You are invited to make an ornament for the 2011 state capitol holiday tree coming from the Brule River State Forest.*

## **Wisconsin trees to adorn state capitol and White House**

The 2011 holiday tree for the state capitol is coming from the Brule River State Forest with cutting and transportation arranged by the Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association. Community and school groups throughout the state are invited to make ornaments that will decorate the 36-foot tall balsam fir while it stands in the state capitol rotunda during the month of December. A tree/forest theme is suggested for the ornaments in honor of the tree's origin on the state forest, the centennial celebration of the state nursery program and the International Year of Forests. The nonreturnable ornaments need to be about 6 inches in size, lightweight, non-breakable and a color that will be visible on the tree. Ship the ornaments by November 18 to DOA/Facilities Management, Attn: Claire Franz, Risser Justice Center, 17 West Main Street, Suite 119, Madison, WI 53703. Direct questions to (608) 266-1485.

Congratulations to Tom and Sue Schroeder, Schroeder's Forevergreens of Neenah, who will be presenting an 18-foot tree from their farm to First Lady Michelle Obama during Thanksgiving weekend. This is the seventh time in the past 45 years that a Wisconsin grower has been selected for the honor of donating the official White House Christmas tree. Schroeders own one of the nearly 1,400 Christmas tree farms in Wisconsin that collectively add \$50 million to the state's economy and place Wisconsin in 5th place nationally for the number of trees produced.

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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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