

Wisconsin's 2020 Forest Action Plan

Dear Wisconsin's Forestry Community,

We are excited to announce the kick-off for developing Wisconsin's 2020 Forest Action Plan. Over the next year and a half, the Division of Forestry, along with Wisconsin's greater forestry community, will be working collaboratively to review trends in the current state of forestry and identify future strategies that can help the forestry community refine how we collectively invest resources to address major management and landscape priorities. While the plan does not prescribe the work of any member of the forestry community, it is a tool we can use to:

- Provide a resource for forest relevant data, information, and trends
- Define and explore emerging threats to Wisconsin forests
- Help the state focus on the work that is most significant and important during the plan's timeframe
- Identify specific regions or issues that could benefit most from increased or focused attention in the 10-year timeframe
- Help the Division of Forestry and other partners focus their work and determine their niche in addressing the strategies identified in the Forest Action Plan

What is the Forest Action Plan?

The Forest Action Plan is a 10-year strategic plan for Wisconsin's forestry community. The purpose of the Forest Action Plan is to provide long-term, comprehensive, coordinated strategies to help the forestry community refine how it collectively invests state, federal and leveraged partner resources to address major management and landscape priorities. The plan is comprised of two parts: the Statewide Forest Assessment, a data-rich description of the forests and analysis of trends; and the Statewide Forest Strategy, a set of practical, long-term strategies for investing resources where they can be most effective. Each state must submit a Forest Action Plan approved by the Chief State Forester every 10 years to qualify for federal funding under the Farm Bill. Wisconsin's plan is due June 2020.

You can find Wisconsin's 2010 Forest Action Plan here: <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestPlanning/actionPlan2010.html>

Timeline for the 2020 Forest Action Plan

Over the next year and a half, we will be developing Wisconsin's 2020 Forest Action Plan. At the beginning of January 2019, the assessment phase was initiated. The Assessment work will be completed by a technical team of internal experts with feedback from partner groups. Once the Assessment is completed, we will move into developing the Strategy. This section of the plan will be very collaborative and involve input from the wider forestry community.



How will the forestry community be engaged in the process?

In order to engage the forestry community in the development of the 2020 Forest Action Plan, the Division of Forestry will be organizing operational partner groups. These groups will be representative of the forestry community, related to specific subject areas within the Forest Action Plan. These specialized groups will participate in surveys and workshops to help create the Forest Action Plan. Where possible, the division will rely on groups that already exist, however for some subject areas, new groups will be created.

These operational partner groups will have representation from over 20 different sectors of the forestry community, including private forestry, industry, county lands, federal lands, research, environmental organizations, urban and community forestry, and more. Once finalized, operational partner groups will be posted on the internet (see the link to 2020 Forest Action Plan below).

Role of operational partner groups in the Assessment:

- Participate in survey on threats and opportunities
- Participate in survey on Priority Landscapes and Issues
- Review of Assessment

Role of operational partner groups in the Strategy:

- Participate in workshops on strategies
- Review of Strategy drafts

Other members of the forestry community not represented on an operational partner groups will have multiple opportunities to weigh in on the Forest Action Plan throughout the process. Additionally, we will continue to communicate on the process and progress with the broader public through updates, like this one.

How can I get involved or stay informed?

If you would like to get updates on the process and progress of the 2020 Forest Action Plan, please sign up for the [Forest Action Plan GovDelivery list](#).

You can find up to date information on the 2020 Forest Action Plan here:

<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestPlanning/actionPlan2020.html>

If you have questions about your involvement or the Forest Action Plan in general, please contact Amanda Koch at AmandaA.Koch@wisconsin.gov or at (608) 576-8146.

Looking Forward

We are looking forward to working with the forestry community on the development of this document, and the discussions that will occur along the way. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to get together and talk collectively about what Wisconsin's forests mean to us.

Thank you for your commitment to sustainable forestry in Wisconsin!