
Wisconsin Statewide Forest Plan Newsletter



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Issue 2

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Managing the impacts of changes in Wisconsin's land use and forest ownership

On November 3, 2005, 1000 Friends of Wisconsin, Gathering Waters Conservancy, UW-Madison Department of Forest Ecology and Management and UW-Extension co-sponsored a half-day workshop entitled "Using the Managed Forest Law as a Conservation Tool" at UW-Madison's Pyle Center. A brief synopsis of the workshop can be found here:

www.wisconsinforestry.org/pdf/Gov/MFLSeminarRe-Cap11-19-05.pdf

USDA grant proposal to address and understand forest parcelization

A proposal, submitted by Mark Rickenbach, Assistant Professor of Forest Ecology and Management at UW-Madison, takes an integrated, interdisciplinary approach to forestry and seeks to understand the implications of continued forest parcelization on forest owners and their ability to manage their land for financial and ecological benefit. In this research and extension project, he:

- Defines and categorizes small-, medium-, and operational scale forest ownerships through an analysis of practice data;
- Models the intentions and behaviors of forest owners in completing forestry practices using the Theory of Planned Behavior;
- Designs, delivers, and evaluates a targeted, "just-in-time" extension program to increase the likelihood that owners will complete prescribed forestry practices; and,
- Develops and disseminates policy and practice recommendations within the region that reduce the negative effects of scale on owners of small- and medium-scale forest parcels.

In seeking to shape policy and practice, he believes that no single group or interest can overcome the challenges presented by parcelization; it will require a concerted collective effort that spans field forestry, forest policy, and land use.

View the letter of support from 1000 Friends of Wisconsin here:

<http://www.wisconsinforestry.org/pdf/Gov/1000friendssupport11-28-05.pdf>

For more information about this grant proposal contact Mark Rickenbach at 262-0134 or email him at mgrickenbach@wisc.edu.

DNR Forestry Services Bureau News

- The Wisconsin Forestry Website has been redesigned! Please check out www.wisconsinforestry.org to view changes and updates.
- Kathleen Lane has joined the Forestry Services Bureau as an Associate Planner and will be working on implementation of the Statewide Forest Plan and developing an Action Plan for Wisconsin Forests. She graduated in May 2005 with a MS in Urban and Regional Planning and has most recently worked as a planner and grant writer for a Madison-based non-profit organization. You can reach Kathleen at her email address, kathleen.lane@dnr.state.wi.us, or by phone at 608-264-6039.
- Amy Peterson has also joined the Forestry Services Bureau as an Associate Planner and will be working to develop a set of Wisconsin Criteria and Indicators for sustainable forests as well as updating and promoting the planning toolbox for the Smart Forestry for Smart Growth initiative. Amy has an MLS in Environmental Planning and has most recently worked for a regional planning agency in Iowa. You may contact Amy by email at amy.peterson@dnr.state.wi.us or by phone at 608-264-6039.

Wisconsin Council on Forestry Steering Committee Updates

Updates from:

Lisa MacKinnon, Forest Fragmentation
John Duplissis, Private Landowner Assistance
Fred Clark, Invasive Species
Earl Gustafson, Forest Economy
Bill Horvath, Woody BioMass

No updates from:

Mary Jean Huston, Biodiversity
Dave Marcouiller, Recreational Use Conflicts
Joe Wilson, Urban Forestry

Current activities of sub-committees:

Lisa MacKinnon, 1000 Friends of Wisconsin Forest Fragmentation

Lisa continues to meet with other members of the Wisconsin Council on Forestry to discuss possible projects related to both land use and bio-diversity issues.

This group has also been considering working with Mark Rickenbach on his study of the Managed Forests Law's impact on net local revenues for town and county governments. This study has three objectives: 1) to calculate the net revenue to town and county governments under three MFL scenarios – current enrollment, no enrollment, and full enrollment; 2) to model net revenue effects as a function of literature-based and expert opinion factors; and, 3) disseminate study findings to local, county, and state policymakers.

On July 12th Lisa will be leading a “Forest Fragmentation Education Tour” for the Wisconsin Rural Leadership Program at their event at Kemp Station in Woodruff / Minoqua. Steve Guthrie will be joining Lisa to contribute his experience and insights into the issue of forest fragmentation.

**John DuPlissis, UW-Stevens Point Extension Forestry Outreach Program
Enhancing Assistance to Wisconsin’s Private Forest Landowners**

John and his team have been working on two major initiatives. The first project is the development of a market research survey to guide development of a comprehensive strategy designed to appeal to woodland owners who have not yet participated in forest management activities, existing programs, or woodland owner organizations. The UW Survey Center (UWSC) will develop a formal plan to conduct focus group interviews with Wisconsin landowners.

The team is also looking for ways to provide greater access for forest landowners to the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). Team members will work together to identify where there is a significant forest resource and where there are significant needs for cost-share assistance. Another goal is to educate private forest landowners about the EQIP program and encourage their involvement in the public input process. These projects will include the Chief State Forester, which will ensure DNR Forestry participation on the local EQIP work group.

**Fred Clark, Clark Forestry
Invasive Species**

The group’s main effort is to establish the Advisory Committee for Forestry Best Management Practices (BMP). DNR staff and team members have met to develop BMPs and will provide a report in July.

A new focus group has formed to develop BMPs for recreational forest users. This is in the preliminary stages and they are hoping to contact, and work with, Dave Marcouiller and members of his recreational use team in the future.

**Earl Gustafson, Wisconsin Paper Council
Forest Economy**

Earl has been working on developing the Forest Economy Team of the Council by contacting potential participants. When members are recruited they will hold a meeting prior to Labor Day.

**Bill Horvath, Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association
Woody BioMass**

The Task Force met on March 21 to continue refining the components for comprehensive legislation on the production and utilization of woody biomass. The Task Force has identified 31 components and will have this prepared by December 1, 2006.

Meetings were held with Annie Higgins, Deputy Supervisor for Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, Gene Francisco, Professional Loggers Association and Collette Mathews, Ex. Director of Wisconsin County Forest Association, to explore stewardship contracting for a “Fuel For Schools” program.

A meeting between the Wisconsin School Administrators Association and Wisconsin School Boards Administration will take place to develop a "Fuel for Schools" program of the 426 school districts to burn wood for heat. The Wisconsin Association of RC&D Councils has voted to take the lead on developing such a program.

Meetings were held with Vernon County and Excel Energy to explore opportunities to increase woody biomass production for a power plant in LaCrosse and to develop a pilot project in Vernon County with 27 objectives.

A meeting was also held with Marth Corporation in Marathon, Wisconsin, to explore ways to increase wood residue for their wood pellets and shaving business.

Follow up continues between UW Stevens Point and DOA Energy Division to explore converting the campus heating and cooling to wood. The Governor's office is involved.