


WISCONSIN FORESTRY NOTES

December 2014

Wisconsin DNR - Division of Forestry

Forestry important to Wisconsin economy

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Division highlights economic contribution of forestry to state and local economies.

Did you know that forestry is the number one employer in seven Wisconsin counties? And it is one of the top ten employers in 23 counties. Forestry is also number one in output in 12 counties. These are among the interesting facts revealed by fact sheets detailing the economic contribution of forestry in Wisconsin at the county level. The fact sheets are a new product of the Division of Forestry and will be updated annually. To see which counties are leaders in forestry employment and output, and to access each of the 72 county level economic fact sheets, visit this [new page on the DNR website](#). For more information: [Julie Ballweg](#), DNR Forest Economist, 608-228-3256.

On a related note, *The Country Today* printed an [op/ed column](#) by [Chief State Forester Paul DeLong](#) in which he saluted those who play a part in Wisconsin's forest products industry and all the blessings our 17 million acres of forests bestow in terms of the environment, economy and social fabric of our state.

And, in a [news release issued this fall](#), DeLong reported that record timber sales from state lands during FY2014 reflect continued progress toward improving forest health and diversity while contributing nearly \$12 million to support habitat management, recreation and other DNR work.

Demonstration forests valuable for education

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Educational use encouraged on the 12 demonstration forests - and on ALL state properties!

The Natural Resources Board recently approved management plans for eight "Stewardship Demonstration Forests." The purpose of these unique state properties is to demonstrate sustainable forestry practices to students, professional foresters and non-industrial private forest landowners. There are 12 of these forests in Wisconsin totaling 1,056 acres. Eight are stand-alone properties while the other four are located within other DNR properties. Landowner, school and other groups are encouraged to use these forests for educational purposes. [See a list of the properties online](#). For more information: [Teague Prichard](#), State Lands Specialist, (608) 264-8883.

Local fire departments receive DNR grants

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Local firefighters are better prepared to handle wildfires, thanks to funding from DNR.

Wisconsin fire departments received \$564,173 in grants this year for equipment, prevention and training to enhance their forest fire protection and suppression ability. The 222 local fire departments and county or area fire organizations received funding by applying for Forest Fire Protection Grants, which were established in 1997 to strengthen local capacity to assist DNR forestry staff in suppression of forest fires. [See a complete list of the 2014 grant recipients on the DNR website](#). For more information: [Chris Klahn](#), DNR cooperative fire control specialist, 608- 297-2214.

Biomass harvesting guidelines updated

Revisions to biomass harvesting guidelines reflect changes since they were initially developed.

A new version of the Biomass Harvesting Guidelines Field Manual is now available on the [Wisconsin Council on Forestry](#) site. These voluntary guidelines, when applied in concert with other forest management guidelines ([Forest Management Guidelines](#), [Best Management Practices for Water Quality](#) and the [Silviculture Handbook](#)), address potential impacts of increased biomass harvesting on biodiversity conservation, soil nutrient depletion, physical properties of soil and water quality. The initial guidelines were designed by an advisory committee of affected stakeholders and approved by the Council on Forestry in December 2008. In 2013, the guidelines were reviewed and revised by the advisory committee, with the assistance of DNR staff, based on new research and operational information. For more information: [Sarah Herrick](#), Forest Conservation Biologist, 608-267-7689

Committee reviews oak harvesting guidelines

Oak harvesting guidelines to be reviewed during 2015.

Representatives of forestry interest groups will be meeting over the next year to review oak harvesting guidelines. At the initial meeting of the group, DNR specialists provided an overview of Wisconsin's oak resource, research completed since original development of the guidelines in 2007, the economic considerations and impacts of oak management guidelines and information about the biology of [oak wilt](#). The Oak Harvesting Guidelines Advisory Committee will determine their recommendations to maintain or modify the guidelines in May of 2015, followed by a public comment period and finalizing of the guidelines in the fall. For more information: [Becky Gray](#), Forest Health Team Leader, 608-275-3273.

Buy your seedlings now

Order tree seedlings as soon as possible to ensure best selection.

Although several species have sold out, the DNR reforestation program still has a [good selection of tree and shrub seedlings](#) available for Wisconsin landowners. [Place your order online](#) by January 31, 2015 for spring planting. Also remind your local school to [order free seedlings](#) for their 4th-grade students to celebrate Arbor Day on April 24, 2015.

Subscribe to forest products newsletter

Stay informed by subscribing to Division newsletters.

The Division's new [Forest Products Services Team](#) has reinvigorated the [Wisconsin Wood Marketing Bulletin](#). To subscribe to this (or any of the other Division of Forestry newsletters), [go to this page](#). For more information: [Steve Hubbard](#), Forest Products Services Team Leader, 608-264-9218.



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