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# WISCONSIN FORESTRY NOTES

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March 2014

Wisconsin DNR - Division of Forestry

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## Review of large 2013 fire completed

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*Review of the 2013 Germann Road fire identifies lessons learned.*

After a 9-month review process of the **Germann Road Fire**, the “after action review” report is now complete and **available online**. The purpose of the review was to clarify what happened and identify the positives, concerns and lessons learned from this May 14, 2013 event – Wisconsin’s largest forest fire in 33 years. Some of the recommendations will be applied immediately, while others need further work before implementation during future fire seasons.

## Changes announced for nursery program

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*New name and consolidated operations will mark new era for the state nursery program.*

DNR announced this month that the **state nursery program**, established in 1911, is being renamed the reforestation program, reflecting its multiple services in addition to seedling production. Seedling production will also be merged into one nursery within the coming year, though the specific location is yet to be determined, providing more cost-effective production and availability of high quality native trees and shrubs to meet demand for conservation plantings from public and private landowners. Changing landowner objectives and product preferences, economic influences and lack of strong federal cost-share programs have resulted in fewer trees being distributed from the state nursery facilities in recent years. DNR will release a Request for Proposals this spring for non-DNR groups interested in leasing portions of one or more of the state’s nursery properties for reforestation and conservation purposes. For more information, contact Forestry Science Section Chief **Carmen Hardin** at 608-267-3139.

## Efficiencies sought in MFL program administration

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*The process continues to improve MFL administration as the program workload increases annually.*

As part of a process to identify efficiencies for the forest tax law program, the Division of Forestry solicited input on a number of ideas to decrease the time and cost needed to administer the Managed Forest Law (MFL). The Division asked for external and internal feedback on the draft concepts in terms of reducing administration time while maintaining program integrity and enhancing program consistency. The next step in the process is finalizing team structure, guidance and membership for each of the concepts that will be moving forward. Most teams will be expected to complete their work by the end of this calendar year. For more information contact **Nina Carranco** at (608) 266-3841.

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## Forest legacy grant applications due June 16th

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*The Forest Legacy Program is helping maintain working forests in Wisconsin, while expanding public recreational opportunities.*

Landowners who have environmentally valuable forestland and are interested in pursuing opportunities to protect their property through the **Forest Legacy Program** are invited to submit a grant application before June 16th. The Forest Legacy Program is a federal land acquisition program that grants funds to States to protect environmentally important forest land from conversion to non-forest uses. Wisconsin uses the funds to protect large blocks of forest land through conservation easements that focus on the sustainable use of forest resources. A focus is to keep forest land producing forest products that are important for Wisconsin's economy. The program also helps provide more public access to forest lands for hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking and other outdoor pursuits.

To be eligible, landowners must be in one of the State's **Forest Legacy Areas** and be willing to obtain a Forest Stewardship Plan for the property. The property must be 75% forested or have additional trees planted to meet this requirement. **Application materials** are available online or contact Forest Easement Specialist **Amy Singh** at 608-266-2388.

## Visit with forestry employees online

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*Online chats provide the chance to pose questions to Division of Forestry specialists.*

The DNR is offering opportunities for you to pose questions to staff as part of the "Ask the experts" online chat series. The April 8th chat will offer ideas for planning an Arbor Day celebration. On April 17th the topic will be tree planting and forest management. The April 24th topic will be "Be Ember Aware" to coincide with the Division's **fire prevention media campaign**. Mark your calendar for June 10th to visit with staff about forestry cost-sharing. The chats are live from noon to 1 p.m. on the dates noted above. If you're not available for the live chat, you can read the transcripts of the questions and answers on the **chat page** where you also find the link to join the live events.

## Former fire chief is a "Friend of Forestry"

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*The Division's final 2014 partnership award recognizes the contributions of a former fire chief.*

The Division of Forestry presented a "Friend of Forestry" award to Larry Mathein on March 25, 2014. In his former role as Little Rice Fire Chief, Mathein worked closely with DNR's incident command system in the Woodruff area and his involvement in training with DNR was instrumental in the partnership effort to protect Wisconsin's natural resources.



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