

BRULE RIVER STATE FOREST 15-year Master Plan Review



October/November 2016

Public review period:
October 19 - November 21, 2016

Comment online at
[http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Lands/Master
Planning/Brule/](http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Lands/MasterPlanning/Brule/)

To email or mail your comments
or to request printed material:

Attn: Bob Dall
Wisconsin DNR
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Rhineland, WI 54501
Robert.dall@wisconsin.gov

**Additional Information
and Supporting Documents:**
[http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Lands/Master
Planning/Brule/](http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Lands/MasterPlanning/Brule/)

Questions?

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Why are we revising the master plan?

The Brule River State Forest is nearing the end of its 15-year management plan. Administrative code requires the Department to review each master plan (approved after 1996) every 15 years to determine if any changes should be made. Your participation will help us better manage this public property.

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

Brule River State Forest 15-year Master Plan Review

The Wisconsin Natural Resources Board (NRB), at their February 2016 board meeting, approved a review of the Brule River State Forest Master Plan. Every 15 years each state forest master plan undergoes a thorough analysis to determine if master plan objectives are adequate or in need of revision. This process involves public and partner stakeholders, and local and tribal governments. We invite you to share your insights for the future management of the Brule River State Forest (see “Brule River State Forest Master Plan Review Assessment” at <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Lands/MasterPlanning/Brule/>).

As part of the 15-year master plan review one legislative initiative, a variance to land management classifications is included. The variance complies with the 2015 ACT 358 which directs the department to designate 75% of State Forest lands combined, (including Northern Highland-American Legion, Black River, Brule River, Flambeau River, Peshtigo River and Coulee Experimental State Forests) in the Forest Production land management classification (see “Wisconsin Northern State Forests Review of Master Plan Land Management Classifications assessment, DNR PUB FR xxx at <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Lands/MasterPlanning/NorthernSF/>).

Your Connection to the Brule River State Forest

1. If you are representing a business or organization what is the name of your group?

2. Optional – Please enter your address:

Name

Address

City/State

Zip

If you prefer electronic correspondence enter your email address:

3. How often do you visit Brule River State Forest?

- 0-5 times in each year
- 6-10
- 11-25
- More than 25

4. What is your relationship with the Brule River State Forest?

- I'm a neighboring landowner
- I visit /recreate in the forest
- I'm a recreation vendor providing services in and around the forest
- I do business with the forest, e.g. timber contractor
- I represent a local unit of government
- Other:

ISSUES CONSIDERATION

The following are key topics identified in the Brule River State Forest Master Plan Review Assessment. Italicized text drawn from the assessment is included for clarification.

RECREATION MANAGEMENT

Please share your thoughts and suggestions about these recreation topics:

5. **Making renovations to provide a separate campsite for larger groups at Bois Brule Campground**

6. **Developing several secluded walk-in sites at Copper Range Campground**

7. **Developing mountain bike trails at Brule River State Forest**
"...a growing sport, and fits well within the properties silent sports niche. A possible location would incorporate bike trails within the footprint of the already developed Afterhours ski trail area."

8. **Providing camper cabins in the ski trail area**
*"An area of the ski trail would be well suited to the development of one or two camper cabins."
"This would serve as an indoor group camp...which has proven to be popular on other properties."*

9. **Designating a ski-joring trail**
"...in an area adjacent to the existing ski trail, which would allow those who prefer to ski with their dogs a place to do so."

10. **Expanding angler parking at high use areas**
"Hwy 13 canoe landing overflow parking on the north side of Hwy 13."

11. Installing electric hook-ups at Copper Range Campground

"This campground is highly sought after both during early spring as well as for late fall camping, mostly associated with the Brule's fishing season.

12. Adding an additional loop to the popular After-hours Ski Trail

13. Developing several campsites to accommodate travelers on the Lake Superior Water Trail

"The miles of public ownership associated with the Brule River State Forest was identified as a potential location for designated campsites to be noted on water trail maps."

14. Developing a walk-in canoe landing access across state property to Big Lake

"Currently, the only public access to this area is through privately owned land."

15. Please share any other recreational considerations that you might have.

MOTORIZED ACCESS

16. Please describe your preferences for public motorized access into the Brule River State Forest.

"Motorized vehicle access to the BRSF is currently through a network of town and county roads, as well as 3 state highways. ...low maintenance roads and logging trails on state forest property provide further access into the interior of the property. ... Some road networks have been designated and maintained as hunter walking trails...There are occasional requests do come in for access into clay soil areas of the forest by primarily hunters wanting to access areas using ATV's.

Recreational motorized access is provided on 32 miles of snowmobile/winter ATV trail system that runs through the forest. Most town road systems within the state forest are designated as ATV routes, and provide opportunities for access into and through the forest. The possibility could exist for a trail route to connect an existing Bayfield Count route to the town of Brule through an existing snowmobile trail. Some challenging wetland areas..."

FORESTRY AND LAND MANAGEMENT

17. Please provide your feedback on proposed adjustments to land management classifications described in “Wisconsin Northern State Forests Review of Master Plan Land Management Classifications assessment: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Lands/MasterPlanning/NorthernSF/>

18. Please share any other comments you might have about forestry or land management.

FISHERIES AND WATER MANAGEMENT

19. Please describe your interests and suggestions related to management of water resources at Brule River State Forest. The 2003 Master Plan’s description of fisheries and water resources management are still relevant today (Note – Fisheries regulations are determined on a statewide basis and are not within the scope of the master plan).

LAND ACQUISITION AND PROJECT BOUNDARY

20. Currently, no boundary expansion options are being considered as significant lands within the current project boundary have been purchased with Forest Legacy and other conservation easements. There may be opportunities to contract the project boundary in the areas where large contiguous blocks of the Forest Legacy area have been purchased for public access. Please share any thoughts you might have about land acquisition at BRSF.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

21. Please share any remaining questions, concerns or suggestions that you have about future management of the Brule River State Forest.

***Thank you for sharing your thoughts about public land management.
Your participation helps us better manage your public lands.***