



October 12, 2016

Subject: Brule River State Forest 15-year Master Plan Review and Northern State Forest Land Classification Variance

Dear friend of Wisconsin's Northern State Forests:

The Department of Natural Resources is seeking public comments from interested parties regarding two state forest initiatives. This review process will involve public and partners, local units of government and tribes.

- **Land Management Classifications Variance**

In accordance with 2015 ACT 358, DNR will propose a variance to the master plans of all state forests, except southern state forests and Governor Knowles State Forest, so that 75% of all the land is classified as a forest production area. [See [ch. NR 44.06, Wis. Adm. Code \[exit DNR\]](#).] Affected properties include the Northern Highland-American Legion, Black River, Brule River, and Flambeau River State Forests. Planning will occur simultaneously for all Northern State Forests to gain efficiencies and consistency, and to make engagement and review from interested parties more streamlined.

Currently 66% of the lands are designated as Forest Production land management classification. This process identifies areas to reclassify to Forest Production, representing approximately 40,000 acres. The Coulee Experimental State Forest and Peshtigo River State Forest will not be affected by the land management classification change.

- **Brule River State Forest Master Plan 15-year Review**

The Brule River State Forest's master plan was approved in December, 2002. Administrative Code requires the Department to review property master plans every 15 years and make a recommendation to the Board. The master plan review will include a full review of all plan elements, including land management, recreation, road infrastructure and administrative elements. The Land Class Variance process will be concurrent with the Brule 15-year master plan review.

A public comment period is open October 19 through November 21, 2016.

You can comment online and review assessment details at:

- <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Lands/MasterPlanning/Brule/>
- <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Lands/MasterPlanning/NorthernSF/>

To comment by email or post, or to request print materials contact:

- Bob Dall
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We welcome your attendance at any of the following public involvement events.

OPEN HOUSE

Explore issues with the experts:

Brule River State Forest

Thursday, November 3, 2016, 4-7:00 PM

**Brule Town Hall
5814 S. Maple St.
Brule, Wisconsin**

Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest

Wednesday, November 2, 2016, 4-6:00 PM

**Woodruff Town Hall
1418 1st Ave.
Woodruff, Wisconsin**

OPEN OFFICE

Visit with a state forest superintendent or forester at:

- **Flambeau River State Forest, Thursday, November 3, 11-4:30 PM**
- **Black River State Forests, Wednesday, November 2, 12-4:30 PM**

Your participation in this planning process will help ensure that our Northern State Forests continue to provide significant social, ecological, and economic benefits now and into the future. We appreciate the opportunity to learn your thoughts on these issues and we look forward to hearing from you. Please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

Your Northern State Forest Superintendents

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