

OFFICIAL NOTICE & AGENDA  
of a Meeting of the County Forest  
Citizens' Advisory Subcommittee of the  
Marathon County Board of Supervisors

COUNTY OF MARATHON  
Wausau, WI 54403

A meeting of the County Forest Citizens' Advisory Subcommittee will be held at 212 River Drive, **Rm. #2**, Wausau, WI, 54403, at **6:00pm** on **DECEMBER 21, 2016.**

Members: Mike Lane (chair), Marcell Wieloch (vice-chair), John Burke, Mark Chickering, Gary Weiland, Susan Haug, Dale Heil, Paul Klocko, Greg Klos, Jeff Lawrence, Carol Mills

A G E N D A

- I. Minutes
  - A. Approve Minutes of the September 21, 2016 Meeting
- II. New Business
  - A. 2017 County Forest and Wildlife Work Plans
  - B. 2016 Fall Timber Bid Opening and Summary
  - C. Wausau Daily Herald Forests Forever Supplement
  - D. 2017 County Conservation Aids Project – Schofield Boat Landing Piers
  - E. Potential Land Acquisition – Town of Hewitt
  - F. Article: DNR Names New Chief State Forester
  - G. County Deer Advisory Council Meeting on Chronic Wasting Disease – Jan. 17, 2017
  - H. Cross Country Ski and Snowshoe Update
  - I. Survey on ATV Trail Mileage in Wisconsin
  - J. Member Items
- III. Old Business
  - A. County Forester Recruitment Update
  - B. Ragnar Trail Relay Running Race Summary
  - C. Division of Forestry Headquarters Final Relocation Proposal
  - D. DNR Hires New Wildlife Biologist
  - E. Wausau 24 Bike Race Participation and Revenues
  - F. Deer Season Harvest and Activity Levels on County Forests
  - G. Big Eau Pleine Vegetation Management Harvest Update
- IV. 2017 Meeting Dates – March 8, June 7, September 21 and December 20, 2017 at 6:00pm.
- V. Adjourn

Any person planning to attend this meeting who needs some type of special accommodation in order to participate should call the County Clerk's Office at 261-1500 or e-mail [infomarathon@mail.co.marathon.wi.us](mailto:infomarathon@mail.co.marathon.wi.us) one business day before the meeting.

ATTN: News Department

THIS NOTICE POSTED AT COURTHOUSE

Daily Herald, City Pages, Marshfield News, Midwest Radio Group &

Faxed by: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Members present: John Burke, Mark Chickering, Susan Haug, Dale Heil, Greg Klos, Mike Lane, Carol Mills, Marcell Wieloch

Excused: Paul Klocko, Jeff Lawrence, Gary Weiland

Wausau and Marathon County Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department staff present: Tom Lovlien - Forest Administrator, Dan Fiorenza – Park and Recreation Manager

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Lane.

## I. Minutes

Lane asked for comments. **Motion** by Wieloch to approve the minutes of June 7th, 2016. Motion **carried**.

## II. New Business

### A. Subcommittee Appointments/Introduction of Members

Lovlien said that Forestry/Recreation Committee had approved all the returning members to the Forest Citizen Advisory Subcommittee. They also appointed Carol Mills to the Subcommittee to represent equestrian interests.

### B. Introduction of Dan Fiorenza – Park and Recreation Manager

Lovlien said Fiorenza has been with the Department running operations for twenty two years and has taken over most of Krueger's duties. The Department looked at how they are providing services and have done some restructuring within the Department hoping to gain some efficiency.

### C. Big Eau Pleine Park Equestrian Trails and Overnight Camping

Fiorenza said that staff had been discussing how much use the trails at the park can handle in general. The Health Department notified staff that horse camping should not be allowed there. The area had been an overflow area for general campers and grew into a camping area for the horse trailers. Staff is recommending a day use area for local residents of Marathon County versus a destination location. Some of the reasons the Health Department cited were that there was not a proper water supply for camping and restrooms. Fiorenza said it was a matter of the Park Department managing the area incorrectly and not any kind of user abuse. Lovlien cited the Health Department requirements for horse camping and said that staff wants to keep the trails open for horseback riding to serve the local users. Mills mentioned that some people that stay overnight have their own water supply, generators, and restrooms in their trailers. Fiorenza said it was because of State Codes. Staff doesn't feel they have the land base to have a destination location it was a decision to avoid the conflicts of having all the users there at the same time because there is not the capacity. Mills asked if there would be any reconsideration if money was available to make these improvements the Health Department wants. Fiorenza said it will revert back to a day use area for local residents.

### D. Remaining Cross Country Running Race Dates at Nine Mile Forest

Lovlien said there are six races at Nine Mile this fall. Five races will occur by the time the mountain bike and horse trails close on October 15<sup>th</sup>. It had been decided that if there was a sectional race within a one week time period after October 15<sup>th</sup> that it would be allowed similar to how they allow the horse and bike trails to open early if it's dry out in the spring. That was a compromise that was worked out. There will be one additional sectional race this year on October 21st at Nine Mile. The inner trails will be used so it shouldn't be too much of a problem with hunting.

### Old Business

#### B. Ragnar Trail Relay Running Race – September 23-24, 2016

Fiorenza said the organization has these types of relay running races all over the country. There will be over 2200 runners from many different states for the event that starts on Friday and ends Saturday at Nine Mile. It's good for the County and staff hopes the event returns. Lovlien said no one will be allowed to park at Nine Mile but will be shuttled in from a different location. Staff has met with the organizers of the event and they seem very well organized.

### New Business

#### E. Big Eau Pleine Park Safety and Sanitation Harvest

Lovlien said a vegetation management harvest has been established east of the main road and within 100 feet of the

trails. Four bids were received and Tigerton Lumber received the sale. Chickering asked if there would be any consideration for single track trails. Lovlien said that would take a lot bigger sale and at some point they may want to look at that. Lovlien said the loggers will be required to remove the tops on the single track trails where they cross the other trails.

**F. County Forester Position Discussion and Recruitment**

Lovlien said that Doug Brown, County Forester has accepted a position of County Forest Specialist with the DNR. The County has approved filling the Forester position and Lovlien hopes to have someone hired by December. The DNR Forest Liaison will be helping the County with more time this fall. Lovlien said the County Forester position is a technical position and he would like to have someone with experience.

**G. 2016 Fall Timber Sale Package**

Lovlien said there are four sales on about 256 acres on this fall bid opening and most of the sales are out of the heavy recreational unit areas. Lovlien summarized each of the sales. He said bids will be opened on October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**H. Article – Deer Seriously Threatening Northwoods Oak Trees**

Lovlien said a deer fence enclosure was installed around several acres in Bayfield County. Inside of the enclosure the red oaks regenerated while outside of the enclosure they didn't. The deer population is so high in some areas that they cannot regenerate oak. The article is eye opening because some of the deer advisory councils in that area were out voted by other CDAC members who want to see more deer. Some areas in Marathon County they cannot get oak to regenerate. At some point if people want oak and other species to regenerate, the deer population will have to be reduced. Discussion followed.

**I. Lake Wausau Drawdown to Complete Repairs to Rothschild Dam**

Lovlien said that the drawdown was supposed to be initiated a week or two ago so the Rothschild dam could be fixed. The drawdown has not started yet. There will be a federal meeting tomorrow so it may happen yet this fall or it could be delayed. The Park Department plans on fixing boat landings and change out piers when the water is drawn down.

**J. Article – 2016 “State of Birds” Report**

Haug reported there are 119 bird species of concern in Wisconsin. That is about fifty percent of birds in decline. Most of it is due to habitat destruction, wetlands being filled, tempered forests being cut down and grasslands being converted to other uses. There was an Audubon study which said that climate change is going to affect 55% of the birds and where they will migrate. The birds will have to go further north to find food and they are not going to be able to line up their migration with food sources. These food sources will bud and hatch out at different times so all that will play a part in bird decline. Lovlien noted that when staff does management activities on county forests and parkland they are required to follow DNR requirements regarding concerned, threatened and endangered species.

**J. Findings of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative Audit**

Lovlien mentioned that the County Forest is certified by the Sustainable Forestry Initiative whereby a third party audits how the County manages its timber sales, recreation, wetland, and wildlife. They come to Wisconsin every year to complete a field certification audit in a few counties. It is a group certification under the County forest system so what they find in some areas affects all the counties. In the last two years the auditors did not find any minor or major non-conformances. This year they found one minor non-conformance and one opportunity for improvement. The minor non-conformance had to do with using an incorrect number on the SFI logo and the opportunity for improvement was for justifying what they doing in aspen clear cut blocks. Lovlien said it is good to have a third party look at how the County is managing to a set of principles and criteria that meets sustainable forestry and wildlife habitat. Heil said the certification is important for the County because it helps market their product.

**K. Michigan Tech Asking for Input on Forest Biomass Survey**

Burke explained that a student from Michigan Tech. contacted him about a survey they are doing on biomass use and public perception on what it does to the forests by some of the user groups. Burke asks that members share with their

constituents if they are interested in filling out the survey in the next couple months. The student is interested in this area because of the local biomass plant. Lovlien mentioned that the plant is running on less biomass right now. He said there are DNR biomass guidelines and because of these guidelines there is more than enough biomass left on sites.

#### L. Member Items

Haug said the Bird Club is going to reprint the bird checklist. They also might produce a map of bird hot spots in Marathon County. She mentioned that a Bird City summit will be held the last weekend of October and there will be a WBCI Wisconsin bird conservation initiative. Events include a tour at the Everest County Forest, Birds and Beer, talks, tour and reception at Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum. Everyone is welcome. She is continuing to work on the feral cat issue.

Lane questioned if Lovlien was receiving comments on logging at Nine Mile. Lovlien said he has not received any calls. He believes this group has done a lot of education and taken information back to their user groups. He said they as foresters have also learned from the user groups about things like snow management along the trails and other techniques to lessen the impact. He believes having a sale at Nine Mile regularly is good to keep the forest healthy and protect the resources. Burke thought it helped they went to irregular clear cuts with some trees left and that people realized that the trees come back and in some cases improved the activity they are doing. It's part of a process of getting used to it and that it's done responsibly.

Lovlien said Chief State Forester Paul De Long has taken a position with the American Forest Foundation. His last day is September 30<sup>th</sup> so there will be a new Chief State Forester for the DNR. Lovlien also noted that Single Track Magazine voted Nine Mile as the most popular bike trail in Wisconsin.

Mills asked about the criteria the Health Department wanted for the camping area and wouldn't they want those amenities for day time use. Lovlien said there is a pit toilet at the parking area but not water. Mills questioned if horse group money could be used to improve day use. Staff agreed.

### III. Old Business

#### A. DNR Considers Northern Forestry Office Update

Lovlien said the final report was submitted to the DNR Secretary. A total of up to 45 positions could be moved to Hayward, Wausau or Rhinelander. The report will be submitted as part of the 2017-2019 State budget. From there the Legislature and Governor will decide whether or not to make it part of the budget. If it makes it through the budget, the Forestry Division will determine potential sites and building areas.

#### C. Schira Property Training Burn and Demolition of Buildings

Lovlien said there was a training burn on the Schira property in July where they burnt the house and garage. All that's left is the foundation, slab, pole shed and some small buildings. Some areas will have to be filled in plus concrete will be removed. Once this is done the land will return to the wild. Lovlien hopes the work will be finished by October 31<sup>st</sup>.

#### D. Marathon County Wildlife Biologist Position Update

Lovlien said a DNR Wildlife Biologist for the Marathon County area could be hired by November 1<sup>st</sup> of this year. The person will be involved with deer hunting right away.

### IV. Remaining 2016 Meeting Date - December 21, 2016 at 6:00 pm.

### V. Adjourn

**Motion** by Burke to adjourn, motion **carried**. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

## Wausau and Marathon County Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department Forestry Division 2017 Work Plan

<b>Personnel:</b>	Forest Administrator	1.00 FTE
	County Forester	0.80 FTE
	Director	0.06 FTE
	Department Clerical Support	0.50 FTE
	Maintenance Specialist (labor)	0.22 FTE
	Maintenance Technician (labor)	0.30 FTE
	Chief Ranger	0.04 FTE
	DNR Cooperative Assistance (State Funded)	0.35 FTE
	 Total	 3.27 FTE

### A. Timber Management:

1. Evaluate a minimum of 5% of the forest (1500 acres) and update compartment reconnaissance.
2. Establish and advertise 575-600 acres of timber for sale. Timber sale acreage and locations are determined using the Wisconsin Forest Inventory and Reporting System (WisFIRS) and proposed harvest maps in chapter 900 of the County Fifteen Year Comprehensive Plan. Specific locations and details about timber harvests scheduled for the coming year can be obtained by contacting the County Parks and Forestry Office.
3. Administer the cutting and scaling of 25 timber sales on 2092 acres established on County Forest Land with an estimated stumpage value of \$1,430,000.00.
4. Allow forest succession to naturally convert some oak and aspen stands to hardwood.
5. Administer the cutting and scaling of a vegetation management harvest at Big Eau Pleine Park on the East side of the park road to remove dead and high risk trees falling on the recreational trails.
6. Administer the cutting and scaling of a timber sale established in 2015 on the Rib Mountain Sewerage District land in the Town of Rib Mountain.
7. Administer the cutting and scaling of a timber sale on 40 acres of land owned by the Village of Kronenwetter.
8. Classify habitat types on a minimum of 1000 acres.
9. Calculate allowable harvest levels out 20 and 30 years to ensure sustainability.
10. Evaluate 32-40 year-old aspen stands to determine feasibility of harvesting stands early to improve age class distribution and stabilize harvest levels.
11. Issue approximately 30 firewood permits.
12. Evaluate release needs for all acres of red pine planted since 2002. Release plantations by mechanical or herbicides as needed.

13. Assist the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources with an oak wilt study to confirm the frill-girdle-herbicide method to stop the disease from spreading through interconnected root systems.
14. Continue the implementation of the policy on annosum root rot disease requiring contractors to spray conifer stumps with fungicide to prevent infection.
15. Establish timber sales on selected park properties as directed.
16. Monitor timber sales for unauthorized timber removal using the video detection system.
17. Monitor, evaluate, and treat oak wilt pockets in Nine Mile and other Forest Units.
18. Monitor, evaluate, and treat invasive species on the forest.
19. Continue to prepare for the arrival of Emerald Ash Borer. Evaluate potential marshalling areas on County Forest.
20. Continue the contract with a private forestry consultant to herbicide along trails in Nine Mile, Kronenwetter and Burma Forest Units to reduce and slow-the-spread of invasive species identified by a UW-Superior survey utilizing a \$25,000 sustainable forestry grant.

**B. Road, Trail, and Facility Construction and Maintenance:**

1. Continue the contract with APHIS for beaver control.
2. Inspect county forest and park boundaries as needed to control encroaching uses from neighboring private land owners.
3. Contract with professional land surveyors to complete surveys where needed to facilitate administration between County Forest and private lands.
4. Build fence as necessary to control illegal or unauthorized use of County Forest Lands.
5. Mow 50 miles of hunter walking trails and associated wildlife openings.
6. Mow all forest road ditches in the County Forest.
7. Maintain pit toilets at Bitzke Nature Trail and Burma Road Forest Unit.
8. Continue to assist law enforcement for illegal tree stands, unauthorized motorized use, and dumping on County Forest property.
9. Continue to assist law enforcement to enforce seasonal closures and ordinance violations at Nine Mile and other Forest Units.
10. Resurface 3 miles of trails in Leather Camp and Nine Mile Forest Units with granite.
11. Maintain 6.48 miles of certified County Forest Roads.
12. Fabricate and install gates where needed.
13. Place granite on roads and trails in Forest Units to patch holes as needed.
14. Check the National Heritage Inventory Database (NHI) and the Wildlife Action Plan for endangered resources on any project that occurs on the County Forest.
15. Complete a County Conservation Aids project at Scholfield Park that replaces two piers.
16. Replace a sign at the Bitzke Nature Trailhead.
17. Replace culverts in Leathercamp, Kronenwetter, Nine Mile, and Burma Forest Units as needed.
18. Continue mitigation of the 2010 flood using FEMA dollars at the Bern Forest Unit.
19. Consider upgrading parking lots at Ranch Road in Ringle and Hansen Road in Harrison-Hewitt Forest Units.

**C. Land and Equipment:**

1. Negotiate the purchase of additional lands to enter as County Forest that will improve blocking and facilitate management.
2. Accept a donation of 80 acres of Park Foundation property in the Town of Easton and enter the property under the County Forest Special Use designation.
3. Maintain all vehicles and equipment.

**D. Developed Recreation (Non-Motorized):**

1. Participate in the planning, administration and approval of all trail construction, expansions, relocations, and maintenance on County Forest Lands.
2. Monitor reconstruction of 2 km of the Nine Mile ski trail to improve trail profile and surface characteristics.
3. Assist park facilities division in administering intensive recreation at Nine Mile.
4. Utilize volunteers to brush up to 20 km of ski trail.
5. Monitor the non-motorized recreation on County Forest Land.

**E. Developed Recreation (Motorized):**

1. Participate in the planning, administration, and approval of all trail construction, expansions, relocations, and maintenance on County Forest Lands.
2. Monitor and approve reconstruction of the Burma Road Forest ATV/UTV trails.
3. The Central Wisconsin Trailblazers ATV/UTV club will maintain 11 miles of ATV/UTV trail in the Burma Road Forest to include brushing, grading, signing, and mowing.
4. Assess all trails and land in the Burma Road Forest to protect the resource from excessive soil erosion and to prevent illegal off-trail use.
5. Volunteers will brush up to 30 miles of snowmobile trail on County Forest Land.
6. Monitor the snowmobile program on County Forest Land.
7. Monitor and enforce ordinances pertaining to the unauthorized motorized use (ATV/UTV) on all County Forest Units.

**F. Wildlife Management: (Grant funded)**

1. Complete work identified in the DNR annual wildlife work plan. (See attached plan).
2. Mow flowage dikes, forest trails and select openings for brush control.
3. Seed select forest trails following timber sales to enhance wildlife habitat and prevent erosion.
4. Improve forest opening condition through mechanical and chemical applications.
5. Cooperate with the DNR on identifying tag alder to shear in the Harrison-Hewitt and Leather Camp Forest Units.

6. Cooperate with the Ruffed Grouse Society and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service on tag alder shearing in Harrison-Hewitt Forest Unit.

**G. Administration and GIS:**

1. Implement the 2006-2020 County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan.
2. Develop and improve the Forestry Division portion on the Department's web page.
3. Continue to work with the Forest Citizen's Advisory Subcommittee for county forests to address issues of concern including use conflicts at Nine Mile during the fall season, the sustainability of mountain biking, equestrian user needs, and the impact of forest management on hunting.
4. Amend the County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan to reflect ordinance, boundary, and policy changes.
5. Continue implementing marking guidelines, Best Management Practices for Invasive Species and Biomass Harvesting guidelines on the County Forest.
6. Attend the Annual DNR integrated planning meeting to evaluate, maintain, and improve the County/DNR partnership.
7. Develop interpretive displays explaining the benefits of sustainable forest management for display at recreation areas.
8. Monitor and administer all road use, land use, and other agreements/leases currently on County Forest Lands. Develop new agreements or leases when appropriate.
9. Implement and monitor third party Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) forest certification on the Marathon County Forest.
10. Coordinate integration of the County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan with the Marathon County Comprehensive Plan.
11. Continue to implement the DNR Wisconsin Forest Inventory Reporting System (WisFIRS).
12. Continue to be part of an administration team working on outcome measurements and program model development for the Department.
13. Follow the Bern Flowage emergency action plan, if required, due to flooding.
14. Review county zoning to ensure alignment with the County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan.
15. Apply for grants and permits that accomplish County Forest and Park land improvements.
16. Work with the new County Forester to ensure a smooth transition into his position.

## **H. Public Outreach/Professional Development:**

1. Participate in school career programs and make at least two classroom presentations on forestry and natural resource management.
2. Participate on the editorial board for the 19th annual Forests Forever supplement and submit articles for publication.
3. Provide information and assistance to Townships to ensure County Comprehensive Planning is consistent with County Forest Planning.
4. Continue to assist the public with insect, disease, and timber management information.
5. Give at least two tours on the County Forest including UW-Stevens Point and the Forestry/Recreation Committee.
6. Attend appropriate professional development training.
7. Maintain membership in the Society of American Foresters.
8. Attend Forest Certification training as required.
9. Continue to work with the Wisconsin County Forests Association by serving as a member of the Legislative/Forest Certification Committee on issues affecting County Forests.
10. Continue progress improving culture within the Department. Forest Administrator will represent the Department as the "Culture Champion".
11. Continue updating maps to be included in new Forest Unit brochures and website for the public.
12. Revise and develop recreational maps for the public including cross country skiing, snowmobiling, equestrian and single track mountain biking for County Park and Forest lands.

## MARATHON COUNTY FOREST 2017 WILDLIFE WORK PLAN

This represents the 2017 Annual Wildlife Work Plan, pursuant to the fifteen-year Comprehensive Plan for the Marathon County Forest.

1. **Flowages** – The winter of 2015/2016 was fairly mild. All the flowage levels in Marathon County were slightly above average in the spring/summer of 2016. Above average rainfall throughout the summer and early fall contributed to 2016 being a pretty wet year. Managers kept a close eye on flowages to keep them at ideal water levels. Waterfowl and shorebird production seemed to be average on Marathon County flowages and at the statewide level.

Muskrat damage continues to be a maintenance issue on many of the dikes throughout the county forest units. Only severe rat holes were patched during the summer of 2016, mostly due to the vacant wildlife biologist position. USDA Wildlife Services was contracted to trap and remove beaver causing damage to flowages and access roads. The DNR assumed some costs in this contract for the first time in 2008 and has continued to do so since. In 2016, beaver were not as big of a problem on the flowages as they were in 2015. A USDA Wildlife Services trapper was able to trap six beaver out of Swamp, Nienow and Lower Nienow flowages in the Harrison-Hewitt (HH) forest unit.

For the past several years, the Bern flowage has been greatly affected by its growing number of cattails. Several floating masses of cattails have accumulated on the leeward (east) side of the flowage threatening to block the west side of the dam. Contractors have manually removed cattails for several years along the dike and weir with the use of an excavator. This technique has proven to be effective at keeping the cattails under control. There are still multiple acres of cattails to be removed from Bern Flowage.

Wild rice production in 2016 on the Marathon County flowages was better than it has been the last couple of years. Leo flowage in the HH unit was seeded in the fall of 2015. The seeding turned out to be very successful and produced a very nice stand of rice (see photo). Lower Nienow also continued to produce a very nice rice stand. Patches of rice were also seen at Nienow and Swamp in the HH unit, Steinke pond in the Bitzke Waterfowl Refuge and the Nine-Mile East flowage. Wild rice seeding efforts have fluctuated over the past few years as availability of wild rice seed has been inconsistent. In 2016, managers were able to purchase 110lbs of wild rice for seeding of Whiskey flowage. Seed was also dispersed at Nienow and Lower Leo flowages.



(Rice production on Leo Flowage in 2016)

Planned flowage management for 2017 also includes a continuation of the flowage drawdown rotation. All of the flowages will benefit from being drawn down periodically (every 3-5 years). Drawdowns reduce undesirable plant species, allow desirable plant species to germinate and return nutrients to the soil. The drawdown plan for 2016 called for drawdowns on Steinke and Swamp flowages. Steinke and Swamp flowages were not brought down due to early summer beaver problems in front of the structures. Lower Leo was brought down instead, because it was already lowered the previous fall to help with beaver issues. This drawdown was definitely a success. It was brought back up in mid-September once the smartweed was fully developed. In 2017, managers plan to draw down Steinke and Swamp flowages.

Herbicide treatments for invasive forbs (Spotted knapweed, thistles and Common tansy) were accomplished on the dikes and trails at Bitzke Wildlife Refuge as well as the main trail through Leather Camp forest unit. In 2017, flowage management will also continue to focus on invasive species. Tansy is on many of the dikes in the Harrison-Hewitt Forest Unit and will be treated with the Escort or Milestone herbicide. Canada thistle, Bull thistle and Spotted knapweed have also been found along the dikes. Managers will spray thistle and Spotted knapweed with Milestone during the growing season. An extensive Purple loosestrife monitoring project is ongoing and any loosestrife found near county flowages will be removed.

2. **Forests** – Maintaining early successional habitat, such as grass openings, is an important part of Central Wisconsin forest management. In 2016, twenty-four forest openings out of seventy-one (34%) were treated in Marathon County. The openings were treated by hand with brush saws and chainsaws. The openings management was all paid for through turkey stamp dollars. In the original work plan for 2016, thirty-two openings were scheduled to be managed. Several of the scheduled openings were checked with no management needed. The other openings that were not managed will be added to the work plan for 2017.

A GIS management database was set up in early 2010 to ensure that each opening was treated in a timely fashion. The openings are set up to be managed on a 3-4-year rotation. Therefore, there will usually be 18-24 openings treated per year. In 2017, managers plan to manage 4 openings in Harrison-Hewitt, 4 openings in Nine-Mile, 10 openings in Kronenwetter, 3 openings in Leather Camp and 6 in Ringle Forest Units.

Additional forest openings could be created in 2017. Exact locations have not been selected yet, but managers anticipate adding a few more forest openings to the inventory over the summer of 2017.

The early successional alder habitat project was put on hold during the winter of 2015-16. A vacancy, other job duties and poor frost conditions were the main factors for this.

With Drummer Grant funding (from the Ruffed Grouse Society) and Nickel-an-Acre funding in place, alder shearing in the winter of 2016-17 should be productive if the weather cooperates. Multiple sites in Harrison-Hewitt County Forest have been selected for potential alder mowing. We also received additional funding (\$2,500) for alder mowing in the Leather Camp Forest Unit. Managers have set a goal of mowing 10-15 acres of alder in 2017. Meeting these goals will rely on acceptable weather conditions as well as having equipment and an operator available.

3. **Grasslands/ Hoffman Farm** – This project continues to progress with additional phases being completed each year. In previous years, managers have always mowed the Hoffman Farm to knock-back the growth of cool-season grasses and promote the establishment of warm-season grasses and native forbs. In 2016, managers planned to conduct a prescribed burn on Unit 4 of the Hoffman Farm. Due to wet conditions and vacancies, this burn was not accomplished. In the spring of 2017, Unit 4 will

once again be looked at to burn. The firebreak will need to be freshened up beforehand to make sure the burn could be done safely. The rest of the units will be put on a 4-5 year burn rotation instead of a mowing rotation.

4. **Miscellaneous** – Coordination with the County on trail maintenance and other miscellaneous issues will continue to occur in 2017. Trails will likely need to be seeded throughout the forest units in 2017. Each trail is seeded with a grass and clover mixture that prevents erosion and provides valuable wildlife forage. Ruffed grouse have often been observed feeding on trails while deer, turkeys, and rabbits have been proven to benefit from seeded trails as well. Turkey stamp funding has been secured for any spring or early summer trail projects in 2017.

Assistance to the County Forest Administrator and DNR Liaison Forester will be provided in all wildlife matters concerning the County Forest.

5. **2016/2017 Nickel-an-Acre Budget** – The following table lists 2016 project proposals and funds expended. Also listed are funds budgeted in 2017 for continuation of projects, as well as new proposals.

<b>Project Activity</b>	<b>2016 Budgeted</b>	<b>2016 Expended</b>	<b>2017 Budgeted</b>
Flowage Maintenance (dikes, spillways, structures)	\$400	\$395.52	\$400
Flowage Maintenance (brush/cattail removal-dikes)	\$200	\$193.92	\$300
Wildlife Opening Maintenance	\$0	\$0	\$500
Trail Seeding	\$0	\$0.00	\$100
Wild Rice Seeding	\$400	\$395.56	\$400
Alder Management	\$500.00	\$0	\$500
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$1500.00</b>	<b>\$985.00</b>	<b>\$2200</b>

After all expenses are subtracted, the Nickel-an-Acre account balance at the end of 2016 should be \$1,635.00. This will increase to \$3,046.35 after deposit of the 2017 allotment.

Submitted by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brandon Stefanski, DNR Wildlife Biologist, Marathon County

\_\_\_\_\_  
Vacant, DNR Wildlife Technician, Marathon County

Approved by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tom Lovlien, Marathon County Forest Administrator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Arnold Schlei, Chairperson, Marathon County Forestry/Recreation Committee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chad Keranen, DNR Forestry Liaison, Wausau

## MARATHON COUNTY FOREST FALL 2016 BID OPENING RESULTS

SPECIES	TONS	HIGH BID	LOW BID	Weighted Average of All Bids	Weighted Average of High Bids	Wt. Av. High Bids Spring 2016	Wt. Av. High Bids Fall 2015	Wt. Av. High Bids Spring 2015	
ASPEN	5470	\$16.10	\$10.21	\$12.95	\$15.27	\$17.47	10.21	26.44	
MIXED HWD	5320	\$20.00	\$11.63	\$15.35	\$18.36	\$22.24	\$18.34	\$29.17	
OAK	200	\$11.15	\$4.00	\$7.28	\$11.15	\$13.50	xxxx	\$16.39	
BASSWOOD	250	\$2.00	\$0.50	\$1.30	\$2.00	\$9.73	\$2.50	\$16.39	
BALSAM FIR	25	\$6.00	\$1.00	\$3.50	\$6.00	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	
RED PINE	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	\$24.93	xxxx	\$41.77	
<b>MBF</b>									
RED OAK	15	\$445.00	\$200.00	\$319.00	\$445.00	\$479.50	xxxx	\$420.00	
RED MAPLE	94	\$370.00	\$150.00	\$236.16	\$297.55	\$328.72	\$353.25	\$420.00	
ASH	34	\$220.00	\$100.00	\$161.23	\$220.00	\$290.94	\$150.00	xxxx	
BASSWOOD	9	\$200.00	\$95.00	\$134.00	\$200.00	\$284.29	xxxx	xxxx	
SUGAR MAPLE	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	\$500.00	xxxx	xxxx	
<b>BIOMASS</b>									
All Species	2930	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.96	\$1.00	xxxx	
Number of sales sold						4/4	6/6	4/4	3/4
Acres sold						262	404	379	215
Value of sales sold						\$211,829.50	\$276,513.50	\$287,685.50	\$243,734.55
Appraised value of sales						\$183,770.25	\$196,760.50	\$202,500.00	\$141,690.70
\$/ acre sold						\$808.51	\$684.44	\$759.00	\$1,133.65
Ton eq. sold						12,035	9,520	16,350	6,967
\$/ ton ave.						\$17.60	\$29.04	\$17.60	\$34.98
Cord eq. sold						5232	4140	7110	3030
\$/ cord ave.						\$40.49	\$66.80	\$40.46	\$80.44

This bid opening was for four county forest sales that are predominately frozen ground.

Received 14 bids from 5 different contractors.

Considering markets and the frozen ground restrictions, overall happy with the bidding interest and prices.

One new contractor was successful in getting 3 of the 4 sales.

One contractor bid on the tops on all four sales.

Wisconsin  
**FOREST FOREVER**  
2016-2017



**WAUSAU DAILY HERALD**  
PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Wisconsin  
**FOREST FOREVER**  
2016-2017

Sustainable Forestry in Wisconsin receives national recognition . . . 2

New Smokey Bear campaign targets lesser known wildfire causes . . . 3

State-Federal partnership to implement national forest plans . . . 4

Cut your own Christmas tree in a Wisconsin state forest . . . . . 5

Wisconsin County Forests Association, National Forest Products Week. 6

Emerald ash borer and oak wilt – help prevent the spread. . . . . 8

Fire can be good when used as a forest management tool. . . . . 10

Rules to prune by! . . . . . 12

Local communities invest in urban forest, earn national recognition . 14

**WISCONSIN FOREST FOREVER** is published by the Wausau Daily Herald. Contents of the section are for Wausau Daily Herald. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without prior consent of Wausau Daily Herald. For information, contact Tara Mondloch at 715-898-7004 or email SHEHIR@Wausau.Gannett.com.

General Manager / **Laurie Bolle**  
Multi-Media Advertising Manager / **Tara Mondloch**  
Graphic Artist / **James Hoslet**

**WAUSAU DAILY HERALD**

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

800 Scott Street, Wausau, WI 54403 | 715-842-2101 | 800-477-4838  
wausaudailyherald.com

# Sustainable forestry in Wisconsin receives national recognition

Forest certification initiatives in Wisconsin received national attention earlier this month when the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) presented a 2016 FSC Leadership Award to Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources during the national Greenbuild conference. FSC is an independent nonprofit organization created in 1993 to help consumers and businesses identify products from well-managed forests.

“The FSC Leadership Awards recognize organizations and people who distinguish themselves in efforts to promote responsible forest management,” said Corey Brinkema, president of the Forest Stewardship Council US. “The FSC leaders show that with a bit of creativity and dedication, it’s possible to make a big difference for our forests, wildlife and communities.”

He added that “award winners show we can conserve forests, even as we use forest products in our daily lives.”

“An important role of the state forestry program is to evaluate various certification efforts targeting sustainable forestry practices that contribute to the state’s economy as well as providing a variety of ecological and social benefits,” stated Darrell Zastrow, acting Forestry Division Administrator with Wisconsin DNR. “We’re honored to receive this national award recognizing the agency’s leadership in sustainable forestry.”

According to FSC, the award recognizes Wisconsin DNR for long-term dedication to responsible forest management on state forest lands, and for managing the world’s largest group certificate under the Managed Forest Law program.

More than 6.5 million acres of forest land in Wisconsin are third-party certified as sustainably managed under one or more of the three major forest certification systems used in the United States. Wisconsin DNR lands



Forest Stewardship Council US President Corey Brinkema (left) presents the 2016 FSC Leadership Award to Mark Heyde, coordinator of forest certification programs at Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

(1,551,440 acres) and Wisconsin county forest lands (2,371,898 acres in 27 counties) are dual certified under the Forest Stewardship Council and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative standards. Forest landowners enrolled in the state’s Managed Forest Law program (38,474 private landowners holding 2,595,142 forested acres) participate in the American Tree Farm System and Forest Stewardship Council group certification programs.

“Each of these three systems provides assurance to the public that Wisconsin forests are being cared for responsibly to promote environmentally sound, socially beneficial and economically prosperous practices,” Zastrow said. “This award really recognizes the partnership work of all forest landowners to implement sustainable forestry practices on the 17.1 million acres of forestland in Wisconsin.”

For more information, visit the DNR website at [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov), keyword “forest certification.”

# New Smokey Bear campaign targets lesser known wildfire causes

Catherine Koele, Wildfire Prevention Specialist

In honor of Smokey Bear's 72nd birthday on August 9, 2016, the Ad Council, the U.S. Forest Service, and the National Association of State Foresters launched a new series of public service advertisements that aim to help prevent wildfires nationwide by increasing awareness about less commonly known ways that wildfires can start. The new "Rise from the Ashes" campaign uses ashes from an actual wildfire as an artistic way to illustrate the devastation caused by wildfires and highlight less obvious wildfire causes.

As more people live in and alongside forests and other natural areas, Smokey Bear's message of personal responsibility remains a critical tool to help reduce risk. The new PSAs help teach those who live and play in the forests about wildfire causes that many of us may have never thought were risky.

Many Americans believe that lightning starts most wildfires when, on average, nearly 9 out of 10 wildfires nationwide today are caused by people. In Wisconsin, the number one cause of wildfires is related to debris burning.

The new ads show how lesser-known wildfire starts such as unattended barbeque coals, metal chains dragging from a moving vehicle, and parking over tall, dry grass can spark a wildfire. The scenarios in the television spots play out in reverse with the ashes rising up and Smokey Bear stepping in to help show the correct preventative action to avoid igniting a wildfire.

Smokey Bear has been a recognized symbol of protection of America's forests since August 9, 1944, making him part of the longest running PSA campaign in U.S. history. Although progress has been made, human-caused wildfires continue to remain one of the most critical environmental and public safety issues affecting U.S. communities. Visit [SmokeyBear.com](http://SmokeyBear.com) to learn more about wildfire prevention and visit [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov), keyword "burn permit" to get a free DNR burning permit. Be Smokey's helper and learn how to burn safely. And remember, only YOU can prevent wildfires.





**JAMES GREZENSKI  
FOREST PRODUCTS  
INC.**

**GREZENSKI  
FOREST PRODUCTS INC.**

3158 County Road X North  
Stevens Point WI 54482  
715-344-0878 | 1-866-344-0878  
Fax: 715-344-1470  
Email: [bgrezenski@grezenskiforestproducts.com](mailto:bgrezenski@grezenskiforestproducts.com)  
Web: [grezenskiforestproducts.com](http://grezenskiforestproducts.com)

**For your forestry needs,  
helping create a better tomorrow - TODAY!**

- M.F.L. Timber Harvesting
- Selective Harvesting
- Wildlife Management
- Forest Health Improvement
- Certified Foresters



**columbia**  
FOREST PRODUCTS  
Innovating Responsibly.

**BRANDON STEVENS**  
(906) 370-7275

**JOE PIKKA**  
(906) 285-2910

**MIKE IHRCKE**  
(715) 681-0954

**DWAIN TIGHE**  
(705) 497-4314

Purchasers of  
Hard Maple, Red Oak,  
Yellow and White Birch and  
Basswood Veneer Logs



**MELLEN DIVISION**  
(715) 274-4800

**KYLE ROGERS**  
(889) 590-0966

**DWAYNE MUSCLOW**  
(705) 497-4221



## State-Federal partnership to implement national forest plans

*Rebecca Diebel, DNR Administrative Policy Coordinator and Amy Luebke, Wildland Urban Interface Specialist*

Wisconsin DNR has entered into a Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) agreement with the only national forest located in Wisconsin, the 1.5-million-acre Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest (CNNF). Good Neighbor Authority allows the Forest Service to enter into agreements or contracts with states for the performance of forest, rangeland and watershed restoration services on National Forest System lands.

As a result of Wisconsin's state-federal partnership, Wisconsin DNR and partners are helping to implement CNNF's Forest Land

Management Plan by assisting with 5,700 acres of timber harvests in six Wisconsin counties this year (Oconto, Forest, Vilas, Bayfield, Sawyer, Price, and Ashland).

In addition to making more wood available to Wisconsin's important forest products industry — an industry that supports nearly 60,000 jobs and provides \$3.7 billion in annual payroll — the agreement will help create and maintain healthy forests. A portion of the receipts from the timber sales will reimburse the state for its costs to do the work, with remaining funds available for use

in conducting additional forest restoration activities in the future. Future projects will include not only timber sales, but other conservation projects such as wildlife habitat improvement and invasive species management.

To learn more about the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest and its Forest Plan and activities, visit [fs.usda.gov/main/cnnf/home](http://fs.usda.gov/main/cnnf/home) and navigate to "Land & Resource Management." More information about forest management in Wisconsin can be found on DNR's website, [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov), keyword "forestry."

# Cut your own Christmas tree in a Wisconsin state forest

Wisconsin's northern state forests offer excellent recreational opportunities throughout the year, but an additional reason to visit one of these properties during the next couple of months might be to cut a Christmas tree for your home. The Northern state forests generally allow

people to harvest small amounts of Christmas trees and boughs if available on the property. The property superintendent has the discretion to allow this activity and determine where it would take place.

These properties include:

- Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest near the communities of Woodruff and Minocqua; (715-356-3668)
- Brule River State Forest in eastern Douglas County (NW Wisconsin); (715-372-5678)

● Flambeau River State Forest located in Sawyer, Price and Rusk Counties; (715-332-5271)

● Governor Knowles State Forest on the northwestern edge of the state; (715-463-2898)

● Peshtigo River State Forest on the northeastern edge of the state; (715-757-3965) and

● Black River State Forest near the community of Black River Falls. (715-284-4103)

If you are interested in cutting a Christmas tree or boughs to decorate your home for the holidays,

contact the property where you are interested in harvesting the tree or boughs to find out exact regulations. You need to complete the Forest Products Permit form located at [dnr.wi.gov/files/PDF/forms/2400/2460-008.pdf](http://dnr.wi.gov/files/PDF/forms/2400/2460-008.pdf), print the form and take it with you to the forest headquarters office (find the exact locations on the DNR website [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov), keyword "state forest"). Permits are issued at the property office for nominal fee, generally \$5 per tree.



Trees cannot be cut near roads, trails or lakes or within designated recreation areas, cannot exceed 30 feet in height, are only for personal use, cannot be resold, and must be cut at ground level. Tree boughs collected under this permit must be for personal use only. Contact one of the forests listed above for full details.

**KERSTEN LUMBER CO., INC.**

Lumber • Standing Timber  
Saw Logs • Veneer Logs  
Hardwood Flooring  
Landscaping Mulch/Chips

715-449-2518  
Fax: 715-449-2967

P.O. Box 245 • 295 Hwy 45 • Birnamwood, WI 54414

Best Prices for Your Standing Timber & Saw Logs  
Contact Us for All Your Forestry Needs

**BIEWER LUMBER™**

Offering top prices for quality Red Pine Stumpage and Log Products  
Biewer Wisconsin Sawmill — Prentice, WI  
715-428-2762

Travis Zydzik  
Andrew Flynn  
Andy Ihn  
Will Kruse  
Kevin Ponsler

- Accepting wood from Wisconsin, Minnesota, and the Western U.P.
- Buying Red Pine and White Pine 12'4" & 16'4" logs and 8' bolts
- Also buying Spruce, 12'4" & 16'4" logs
- Jack Pine and Spruce Bolts

Also featuring our landowner assistance program:  
"The Biewer Tree Farm Family"  
Technical forestry assistance in all aspects of timber stand management

# Wisconsin County Forests Association celebrates National Forest Products Week

RHINELANDER, WIS. – In recognition of National Forest Products Week (October 16–22), Wisconsin County Forests Association (WCFA) is celebrating the sustainable benefits of wood materials and their important role in the U.S. economy. The wood products and forestry industry supports more than 575,000 direct jobs and contributes nearly \$1 billion in state and local taxes annually. And with the global marketplace for green building materials expected to reach \$529 billion by 2020, support is growing for the use of wood in construction.

“National Forest Products Week is a time for us to celebrate and discuss the economic role of wood products in our country, as well as the function of sustainable forestry in maintaining our quality of life. WCFA welcomes the recognition National Forest Products Week gives the vast array of wood products essential to our daily lives,” said Jane Severt, WCFA Executive Director.

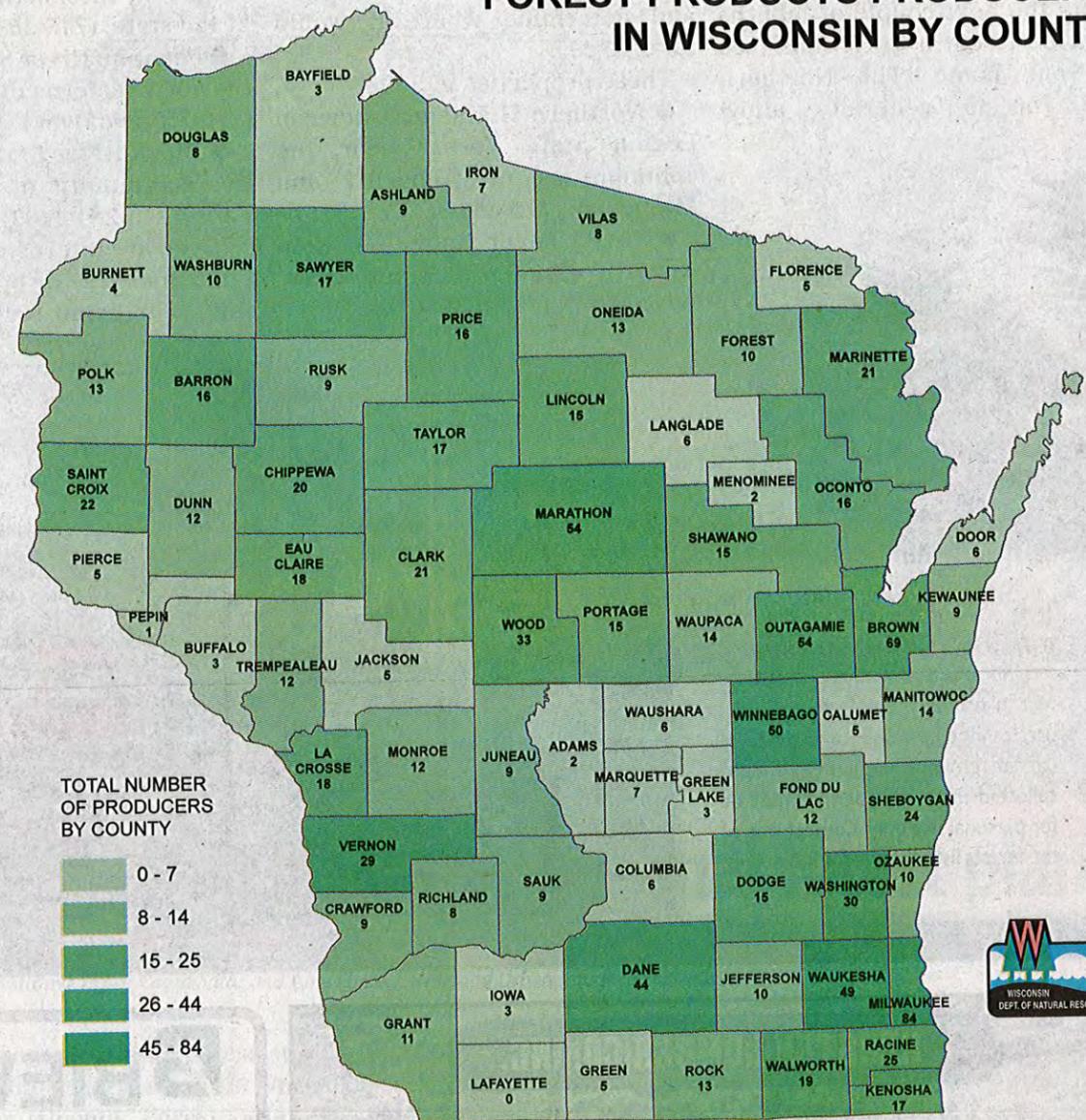
Collectively, the 29 county forests in Wisconsin represent the largest public landholding in the state covering 2.4 million acres. These lands contribute significantly to Wisconsin’s \$24 billion per year forest industry employing over 60,000 full-time workers.

The focus of the Wisconsin County Forests is to insure the long-term health and sustainability of forest ecosystems while providing benefits to the public. Primary objectives of these forests include resource and timber management, recreational opportunities, wildlife habitat improvement and watershed protection. The Wisconsin’s County Forest system provides more than 6,000 miles of snowmobile, ATV, skiing/hiking trails and forest roads along with a wealth of outdoor recreation opportunities for visitors.

“As a testament to the importance of innovative wood products, the halls of Washington, D.C., have been echoing with support for wood as a building material with the introduction in both the House and Senate of the Timber Innovation Act. This encouragement, coupled

*continued on page 7*

## FOREST PRODUCTS PRODUCERS IN WISCONSIN BY COUNTY



## THERE ARE OVER 1,170 FOREST PRODUCTS PRODUCERS IN WISCONSIN

### PRODUCT PRODUCERS INCLUDE:

Sawmills, veneer mills, pulp mills, composite panel/engineered wood product mills, industrial fuelwood/biomass/energy plants, house/cabin log mills, piling mills, pole and post mills, manufacturers of custom architectural woodwork and millwork, manufactured homes, furniture, prefabricated wood buildings, reconstituted wood products, wood containers and pallets, kitchen cabinets and countertops, wood windows and doors, and other millwork (including flooring) and miscellaneous wood product manufacturing. It also includes paper manufacturing, cut stock, resawing lumber, planing, and wood preservation.

Data sources: 2013 US Forest Service Timber Products Output survey and 2014 Impact Analysis for Planning data.

Date: 07/18/2016

from page 6

with the growing green construction trend, illustrates the importance and recognition of the inherent benefits of wood in building construction," said American Wood Council (AWC) President and CEO Robert Glowinski. "Made from renewable resources and easily recycled, the products our members make are a true environmental success story."

*The Wisconsin County Forests Association provides leadership uniting the interests of the world's largest county forest program while ensuring long-term forest health and sustainability.*

*Information on the Wisconsin County Forests Association can be found at wisconsincountyforests.com.*

*Additional information on the role of wood products in North America, environmental advantages and environmental product declarations (EPDs) are available from AWC at awc.org.*

## Did you know?

### Wisconsin

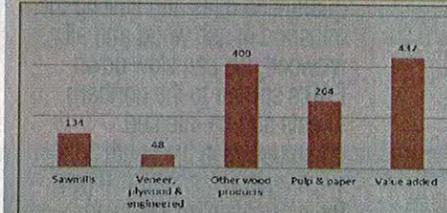
- Is the **#1** state in paper production
- Is **#1** in furniture manufacturing in terms of employment
- Forest industry is significant (#2 in state's manufacturing sector)
- Has over **1,170** forest products companies
- Forest industry provides more than **64,000** jobs
- Forest industry has an **output** \* of **\$24.7** billion

*The good news continues at the county level where forestry is*

- The **#1** employer in ten counties
- The top **10** employers in 26 counties
- The **#1** in output in 14 counties



### Wisconsin Forest Industry at a Glance



Wisconsin has **17.01** million acres of forestland. **48%** of the state's area is covered with forest land

\*Output is the total value of the industry in the local economy



Wisconsin County Forests Association  
3243 Golf Course Rd. Rhinelander, Wis. 54501  
715-282-5951 • wcf@frontier.com  
wisconsincountyforests.com

## A few products made from trees



## WAUSAU & MARATHON COUNTY

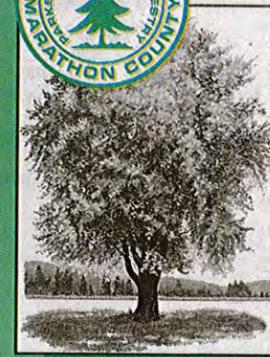
### Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department

*Sustainable Forestry means managing the 29,937 acres of Marathon County Forest so everyone enjoys the benefits.*

*Protecting and managing county forests for the needs of present and future generations.*



MARATHON COUNTY FOREST UNITS



- Producing sustainable wood products
  - Improving & restoring wildlife & fish habitat
  - Protecting endangered species
  - Saving & restoring wetlands
  - Leading educational tours
  - Planting trees
  - Protecting forests from insects & disease
  - Providing recreation: snowmobiling, ATVing, horse back riding, hiking, hunting, fishing, cross country skiing, bird watching, mountain biking, snowshoeing, berry picking, nature study, photography and solitude.
- 715/261-1550**  
parks@mail.co.marathon.wi.us

*Marathon County Forest Units include over 29,937 acres of land and almost 200 miles of recreation trails available for public use.*

# Emerald ash borer and oak wilt – help prevent the spread

Emerald ash borer and oak wilt continue to spread across Wisconsin. Remember – most of the state is still free of these notorious pests/pathogens. You can help prevent further spread of these tree killers.



Enlarged photo of an Emerald Ash Borer. Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources-Forestry, bugwood.org

Mike Hillstrom (DNR Forest Health Specialist) and Colleen Robinson (DNR Forest Health Educator)

## EMERALD ASH BORER (EAB)

Wisconsin has 42 of 72 counties quarantined for EAB as of September 20, 2016. Although EAB is found in many counties, only five southeast counties have known EAB infestations in every township. To help prevent further spread:

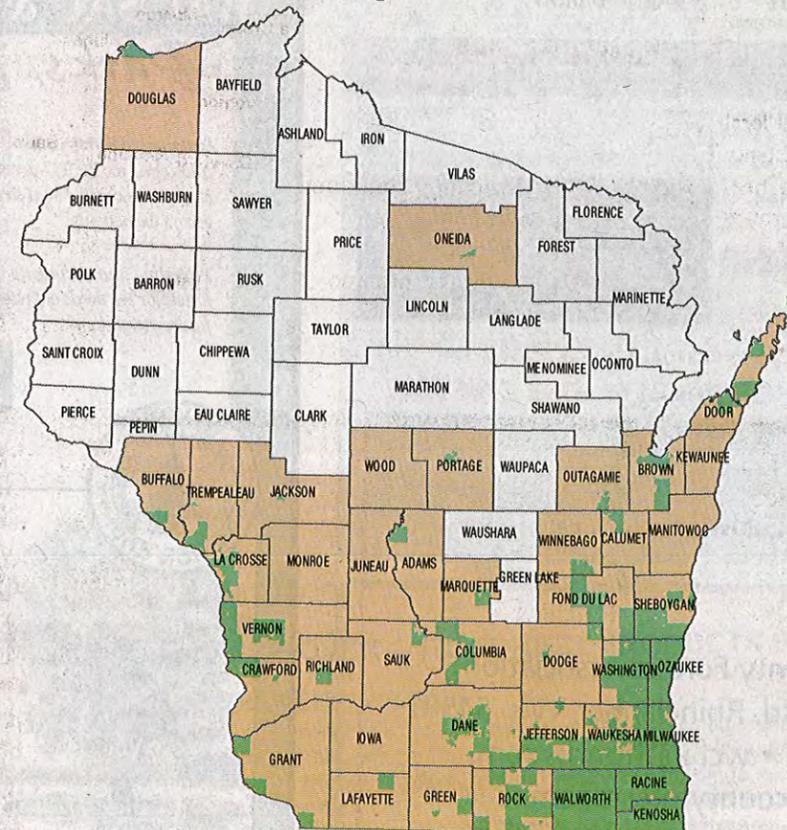
Property owners in quarantined counties are not allowed to move hardwood firewood into non-quarantined counties.

Logs and other timber products are also quarantined. They can be moved only if a compliance agreement is obtained from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP). The agreement includes procedures to ensure a low risk of spread.

You can help prevent further spread of EAB by using local (from within 10 miles) or certified firewood for all your firewood needs.

Landowners with ash trees should learn about management strategies for yard trees and forests. Insecticides are an effective option for healthy ash yard trees near known infestations. In forests, EAB management relies on proper timber management to promote other tree species. Search 'Wisconsin emerald ash borer' online to get more information on the DATCP and DNR websites.

## Emerald ash borer detections and quarantined counties in Wisconsin.



Most of Wisconsin is EAB-free, including most of the northern half and the yellow areas in all quarantined counties. EAB has been confirmed only in those cities, villages and townships colored dark green. By following quarantine rules and limiting the transport of ash wood and all firewood, we can slow down EAB's spread to the northern forests and un-infested communities in the south. Visit [www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov](http://www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov) for information on what you can do.

- Non-Quarantined County, No EAB Detections
- Quarantined County
- EAB Confirmed Area in a Quarantined County

Map last updated 4/29/2016

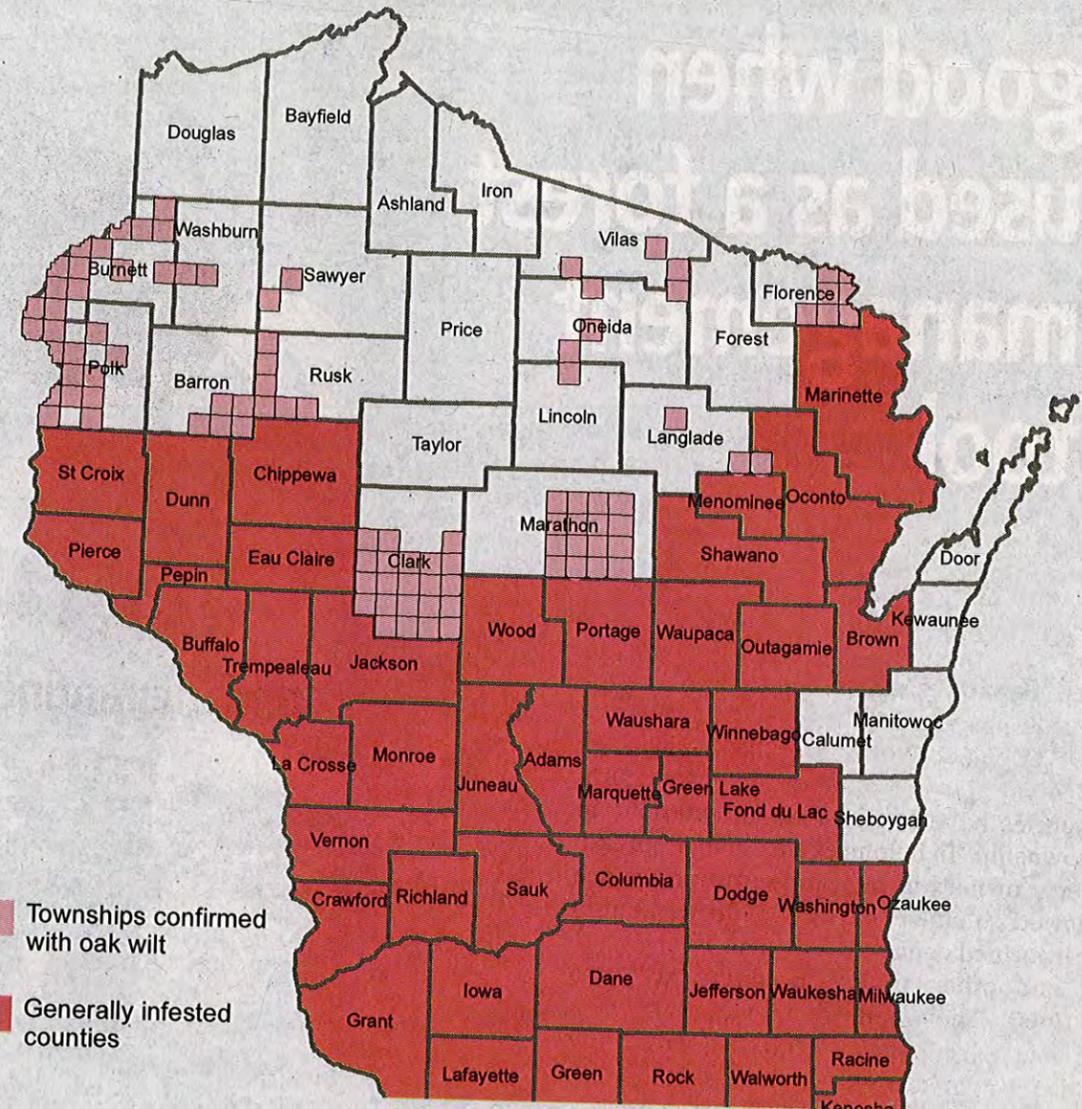
**OAK WILT**

Oak wilt is a fungal disease that kills oak trees. Although it is not common in northern Wisconsin, it continues to be discovered in new areas of the northwoods, likely due to movement of infected firewood and storm damage. Once oak trees are infected and die, management is difficult because the fungus spreads through connected roots belowground. Watch your oaks carefully for signs of infection during the growing season. Trees infected with oak wilt will lose all their leaves in a 2-3 week period. Leaves that fall off will look bronze or water soaked.

To prevent oak wilt, avoid damaging, harvesting, and pruning oaks from April until mid-July. If you need to prune your oaks from April to July you should apply a wound dressing, or pruning paint, to the wound immediately. If you're conducting a timber sale, contact a forester to discuss oak wilt concerns. Recently revised oak harvesting guidelines and other information about oak wilt can be found at [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov), keywords 'oak wilt'.

**Distribution of oak wilt in Wisconsin**

*Oak wilt is found throughout generally infested counties.*



**Need help?**  
 If you need help with your forest, contact your local forester: [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov), keywords 'forestry assistance locator' or 'forest health specialist'. For yard trees contact your local UW-Extension office or a certified arborist: [waa-isa.org](http://waa-isa.org).

**Creating Tomorrow's Woodlands Today**

**Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association**

Educating Wisconsin's private woodland owners since 1979.

Find your **FREE** copy of a *My Land Handbook* on our website and share your passion for sustainable forest management with us today!

[wisconsinwoodlands.org](http://wisconsinwoodlands.org)  
715-346-4798

WI-5002962127

**SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY**  
 IS JUST ONE COMPONENT OF "MULTIPLE USE"  
*The Forests are for all to use.*

**STETSON HARDWOODS**

Contact Bob Bernklau  
 152 N. Cedar Street P.O. Box 159  
 Stetsonville, Wisconsin 54480 Phone: (715) 678-2400 • Fax: (715) 678-2430

WI-500052326

# Fire can be good when used as a forest management tool



*Jolene Ackerman, Wisconsin DNR*

Historically, many of Wisconsin's natural communities were shaped by periodic fires and depend on fire disturbance to regenerate and remain vigorous. Before the age of modern fire suppression, fires would burn across large swaths of the landscape at varying degrees of intensity, creating or maintaining areas of open prairie, savannas, barrens and oak-dominated

forests. In addition to fire occurring naturally through lightning strikes, indigenous communities would also utilize fire to control biting insects, attract game animals and clear areas for settlement.

Today, modern land managers work to mimic the benefits of naturally occurring fires through the use of prescribed burns. Prescribed burns mimic historic, naturally occurring fires by reducing leaf litter and dead grass (thatch)

buildup, redistributing nutrients, controlling exotic or invasive species and setting back woody vegetation growth. The benefits to our native plant species are significant, providing increased germination, flowering, fruiting and seed production rates, and a general increase in biomass. Prescribed fires also encourage the growth of fire-dependent trees such as oak and jack pine by creating ideal seed bed conditions for the species to regenerate.

Prescribed burns also provide countless benefits to wildlife living in fire-adapted systems through the reinvigoration of the vegetation community. As the thatch layer is removed, prairie grass and wildflower growth is stimulated, improving nesting and brood-rearing habitat for upland game birds, songbirds and waterfowl. Wildlife in these fire-driven landscapes are dependent upon the open nature of these areas, and often-times thrive following a fire. In wetlands, prescribed burns create pockets of open water for waterfowl amidst cattails. Prescribed burns are also used to create and/or maintain the openness of rare oak savanna communities to the benefit of species like wild turkeys and red-headed woodpeckers. Pine barrens regenerating from a recent prescribed burn provide sharp-tailed grouse, badgers, and numerous species of conservation need with the open habitat they require. Prescribed burns not only benefit rare and declining species; many more common wildlife species also benefit from the post-fire flush of new growth, including white-tailed deer.

Prescribed fire differs from wildfire in many ways; most importantly, care is taken to extensively plan the event so that it occurs during a specific combination of weather conditions, leading to more manageable fire behavior. Comparatively, wildfires often occur during a combination of weather extremes such as low humidity, high temperatures and high wind speeds, creating more intense and unpredictable fire behavior. Due to the absence of naturally occurring smaller fires and a historic policy of fire suppression throughout the country, ground vegetation (fuel) can

build up and tree density can be higher than what would naturally occur. Higher fuel loads, coupled with extreme fire weather, provide the perfect combination for a fire to occur with the intensity and rate of spread past the point of control. Because prescribed burns reduce dead fuel buildup, they also provide the benefit of reduced wildfire risk.

While the vast amount of prescribed burning in Wisconsin typically occurs during the spring (March through May), fall burns do also occur, after hard frosts cure the above-ground vegetation. Recent research on prescribed fire seasonality points to some evidence that Native

American-set fires occurred mostly in the fall and were primarily attributed to fall hunting practices. In fact, many have suggested that the term "Indian Summer" stems from a warm, dry spell after a killing frost in fall when fires burned extensively. When researchers looked at potential burn windows throughout recent years, results indicated that there may actually be more opportunities to burn in the fall than previously thought. The fall season often provides more days with suitable combinations of precipitation, temperature, wind speed and relative humidity compared to the spring.

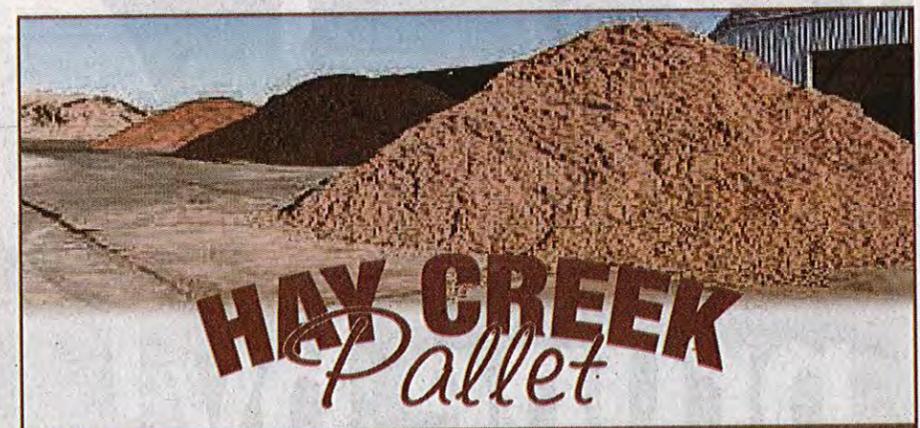
Prescribed burn practitioners have been expanding their view even further, by conducting prescribed burns during the winter months! For example, frozen marshes allow land managers the opportunity to burn off thick swaths of invasive reed canary grass and Phragmites. The removal of this thick layer of vegetation gives native marsh grasses an opportunity to emerge

in the spring.

Safety is of top concern when it comes to prescribed burns. During the planning stages, land managers look at each individual burn unit and consider a variety of factors: what is the management objective, what type of vegetation exists "downwind," what hazards are present in or near the burn unit and which wind direction would be ideal for smoke management. In addition, land managers understand how live and dead vegetation ("fuel") moisture, wind speed, temperature and relative humidity will affect fire behavior. By examining the characteristics of the burn unit, understanding the management objectives for the land, and determining the desired fire behavior to achieve these objectives, a specific "prescrip-

tion" is created for that burn unit.

DNR staff receives significant training for both the planning and implementation of prescribed fire, and use specialized equipment to safely conduct prescribed burns. Planning for prescribed burns on larger and/or more complex units often starts months before the burn takes place. Before the decision is made on the day of the burn, a number of criteria must also be met (weather, staffing, equipment, etc.) before the burn can proceed. Finally, after careful planning, dozens of hours of training and significant effort dedicated to understanding fire effects and weather, DNR staff use the tool of prescribed fire to safely achieve the desired management objectives in Wisconsin's fire-dependent landscape. ♦



WOOD FUEL PELLETS, PALLETS, LANDSCAPE MULCH AND ANIMAL BEDDING

## Hay Creek Pallet is growing by helping make our environment cleaner

We take wood waste and recycle it into other usable products. Providing businesses in the food, paper and a variety of other industries, with reconditioned, remanufactured and new pallets. As by-product utilization, the company also manufactures landscape mulches, animal bedding, and wood fuel pellets.

5094 2nd Ave  
Pittsville, WI 54466  
Phone: (715) 884-2930

haycreekpallet.com • tom@haycreekpallet.com



# Rules to prune by!

*LEAF (Wisconsin's K-12 Forestry Education Program)*

What is a piece of advice for teachers who want to incorporate pruning in their classroom? Bruce Maatta, high school science teacher at Wausau East High School, says the

key is to have quality, well-maintained tools like pruning snips, bypass pruners, and long-handled loppers.

Maatta teaches a horticulture course that provides students with the opportunity to regularly monitor and prune trees on the

Wausau East school grounds. Students learn to prune trees through an enhanced curriculum which includes interactive web quests, presentations, and modeled pruning techniques. Students are required to identify and execute pruning cuts on trees that surround

the high school. The school grounds provide a great outdoor laboratory for hands-on experience and look great when the students are done.

Here are some other rules for pruning, along with the information about why they matter to the tree. Any of these could be used to encourage students to ask another question. "What impact does this have on my life and my community?"

**Do keep pruning cuts outside of the branch collar and branch bark ridge; don't flush cut.**

Why? The tree puts up physical and chemical barriers at specific places to slow or prevent the spread of decay. One of those barriers is at the place where the branches and trunk meet. If you cut into that barrier, the tree will be more susceptible to decay.

**Do restrict the amount of crown you remove at once; don't take more than 50 percent of a**

### Learn more

If you are interested in forestry education resources, visit LEAF's website at [leafprogram.org](http://leafprogram.org)

Wisconsin DNR offers a tree pruning brochure online at [dnr.wi.gov/topic/forestmanagement/documents/pub/FR-256.pdf](http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/forestmanagement/documents/pub/FR-256.pdf)

water to work with to be able to recover from the pruning cut. It can cover over the wound from the pruning cut faster this time of year. A late summer pruning could encourage the tree to hurry and put growth on to replace what was cut (remember it wants those leaves for energy production) creating a flush of unwanted growth and wasting resources.

**Do learn what insects and diseases could impact your tree.**

Why? You might follow all the latest guidelines for pruning, but one pesky insect could make all those rules wrong. For instance, the "right" time to prune trees because they are actively growing is also when the beetle that spreads oak wilt is active. To avoid the beetle finding your tree, prune oaks when they are dormant. For more information on insects and diseases found in Wisconsin trees go to the DNR website at [dnr.wi.gov/topic/foresthealth/](http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/foresthealth/) ♦

**young tree, 25 percent of a middle age tree, 10 percent of an old tree.**

Why? Trees use leaves in the process of photosynthesis to create sugars to fuel growth. If you remove too many, the tree has less energy to grow more leaves, roots, and fruit and to resist disease and insect damage.

**Do prune when the tree is actively growing; avoid pruning in late summer or early fall.**

Why? A tree that is actively growing (late spring and early summer) has lots of sun and

**BESSE**  
FOREST PRODUCTS GROUP

**PROMPT PAYMENT FOR QUALITY LOGS!**

Year round buyers paying competitive prices. Always in the market for:  
**Hardwood • Veneer Logs • Sawlogs • Standing Timber**

Contact a Regional Procurement Manager for a quote of professional forestry advice!  
**906-428-3113**

Craig Schallock - Crandon, WI - Regional Procurement Manager  
906.280.3154 • [cshallock@bessegroup.com](mailto:cshallock@bessegroup.com)

Joe Rademacher - Armstrong Creek, WI - Director of Standing Timber  
906.280.4109 • [jrademacher@bessegroup.com](mailto:jrademacher@bessegroup.com)

Jeff Derkos - Bark River, MI - Regional Procurement Manager  
906.280.4103 • [jderkos@bessegroup.com](mailto:jderkos@bessegroup.com)

Dana Gustke - Waupaca, WI - Regional Procurement Manager  
906.280.3137 • [dgustke@bessegroup.com](mailto:dgustke@bessegroup.com)

Baraga Lumber Division | Besse Lumber Co. | Birchwood Manufacturing  
Escanaba Lumber Co. | Goodman Veneer & Lumber Co. | Wisconsin Veneer & Plywood Inc.  
**[www.bessegroup.com](http://www.bessegroup.com) • P.O. Box 352, Gladstone, MI 49837**

# Local communities invest in urban forest, earn national recognition

## Cities of Merrill and Wausau, Villages of Rothschild and Weston, receive Tree City USA honors

Ellen Clark, DNR Urban Forestry Communications Specialist

Fall is marked by the starting of school, the change in temperature, the crisp in the air and the beauty of the multitude of colors of leaves. Trees cover the rolling bluffs and line the streets of Wisconsin. The grandeur of these colors, the golden yellows, rustic oranges and ruby reds, and the changing leaves have not eluded the City of Wausau, and many others in Wisconsin, thanks, in part, to programs like Tree City USA.

Tree City USA is a program sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters, and implemented by DNR Forest Services. It focuses on greening communities across the country. The Arbor Day Foundation describes Tree City USA as a great opportunity to celebrate the importance of an urban tree canopy and improve care of these vital city trees. The program gives recognition to communities committed to managing and augmenting their urban tree canopy. The beauty and abundance of trees provides the citizens of Tree City USA communities a general splendor unrivaled by anything else, as well as many other benefits.

"Trees bring shade to our homes and beauty

to our neighborhoods, along with numerous economic, social and environmental benefits," states Matt Harris, Chief Executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. Trees are an asset to a community, when properly planted and maintained. They help to improve the visual appeal of a neighborhood, increase property values, reduce home cooling costs, remove air pollutants and provide wildlife habitat, among many other benefits.

Jeff Roe, Program Leader for the Urban Forestry team at the Wisconsin DNR, Division of Forestry, states, "The Tree City USA program is not only an amazing recognition program, but a great leveraging tool for starting urban forestry programs." Roe also noted the long-term benefits involving local elected officials, community pride and stature.

To become a Tree City USA recognized community there are four standards that must be met. Each community must have a tree board or department, a tree care ordinance, a community forestry program with an annual budget of at least \$2 per capita, and an Arbor Day proclamation and observance. For more information on becoming a Tree City USA community visit [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) keywords "Tree City USA."

The Tree City USA program came to fruition in 1976, 40 years ago, with 16 pioneer communities. Now, there are more than 3,400 communities involved in the program across all 50 states. Wausau has been involved in the Tree City USA program for 35 years, making it one of the longest running Tree City USA communities. Today more than 137 million Americans make their homes in Tree City USA communities, like Wausau.

The beauty and benefits of Wisconsin native trees, such as maple, oak and spruce, can be seen throughout the state. Wisconsin has 195 communities enrolled in the Tree City USA program. In Wisconsin alone, 58.8 percent of residents live in a Tree City USA community. As a state, Wisconsin ranks second in the nation for most Tree City

*continued on page 15*





## TREE CITY USA<sup>®</sup> Arbor Day Foundation

from page 14

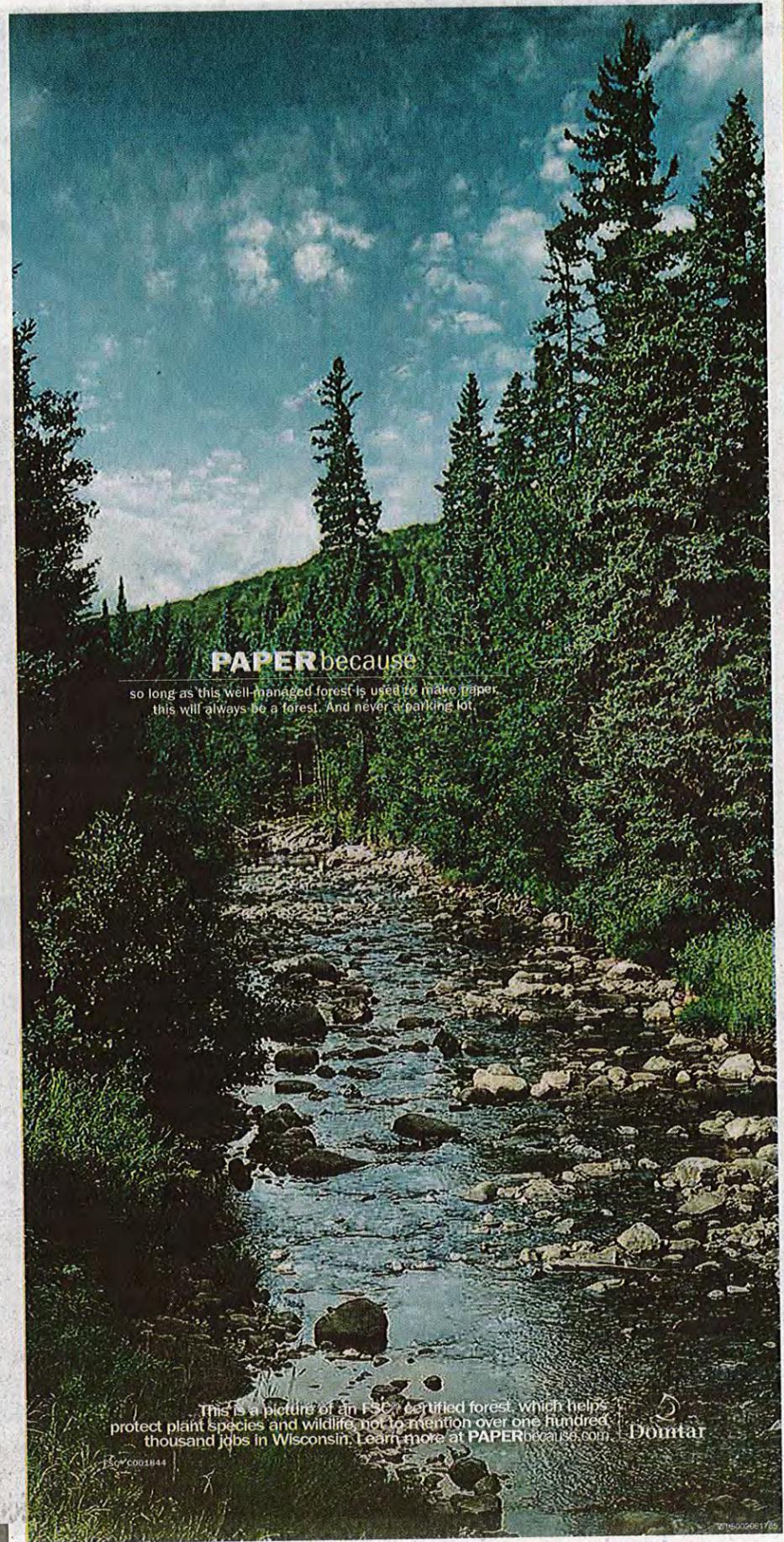
USA communities and most Tree City USA growth awards.

Wausau is a continuously growing community, but despite the growth and urbanization a constant effort has been made by the community and its leaders to maintain a tree canopy. This effort does not go unnoticed. Visitors from around the state have mentioned admiration for the downtown historic area. They mention the beauty of buildings, the cleanliness of the streets, but they also never fail to mention the beauty of the trees that seems to be constantly around them, despite the increased urban population and development. One visitor said, "It makes the neighborhood more inviting, it is one of the most vibrant pedestrian neighborhoods." In 2015, Wausau planted 504 trees, and in the summer of 2016 they developed an ash management plan to occur over the next 7 years.

Wausau is not the only community in the area to receive recog-

nition from the Tree City USA program. The City of Merrill has been a Tree City for 30 years. Recently Merrill held a wonderful Arbor Day celebration where firefighters helped students plant a half-dozen varied tree species. The Village of Rothschild has been a Tree City for 14 years. In 2015 Rothschild managed to plant 68 trees, prune 844 and remove 378, exhibiting excellent tree management. The newest member to the Tree City USA program is the Village of Weston, which has only been a Tree City for five years. Recently Weston has applied for grants to help re-inventory its tree population and help provide community members educational materials on urban forestry.

As the sea of autumnal colors fall from the trees, hopefully the majesty and splendor of the tree-lined cities of Wausau and Merrill and the villages of Rothschild and Weston will encourage others to seek the benefits of an urban canopy and recognition through the Tree City USA program. ♦



### PAPER because

so long as this well-managed forest is used to make paper, this will always be a forest. And never a parking lot.

This is a picture of an FSC<sup>®</sup> certified forest, which helps protect plant species and wildlife, not to mention over one hundred thousand jobs in Wisconsin. Learn more at [PAPERbecause.com](http://PAPERbecause.com).





# HARVESTING ON STEEP SLOPES



**PONSSE NORTH AMERICA INC**  
4400 International Lane  
Rhineland, WI 54501  
Office: 715-369-4833

**Wisconsin**  
Pekka Ruuskanen 715-360-0064  
Sam Heikola 715-499-1272  
John Holmes 715-367-2612

**Upper Michigan**  
Jim Charlier 906-201-0343

**Lower Michigan**  
Bruce Broden 989-370-6501

**Minnesota**  
Paul Estabrooks 218-244-2559

**PONSSE OFFERS THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE** and versatile selection of the best forestry technology in the market – for all challenges in harvesting.

**PONSSE SCORPION** raises productivity and ergonomics in harvesting to a whole new level and sets a new standard for the driver's working environment. Built without compromises, the harvester is all about the driver.

**OFFERING A FULLY OPEN CABIN VIEW**, and unbeatable stability and power, the machine operates bearing the environment in mind and with minimum surface pressure. The revolutionary triple-frame structure ensures a low axis point for levelling, thus making the machine extremely stable and comfortable. Economy and comfort have also been considered in positioning service points.

**PONSSE SCORPION** excels at diverse logging operations across North America.

A logger's best friend  
[www.ponsse.com](http://www.ponsse.com)

# Hewitt-Harrison County Forest

County Forest

Mill Road

Acquisition Parcel

County Forest Road

Rocky Road



## **DNR names new Chief State Forester**

**Contact(s):** Jim Dick, DNR spokesperson, 608-267-2773

MADISON -- Fred Souba Jr. has been appointed Chief State Forester by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The 40 year forest industry veteran will also serve as administrator for the [DNR Division of Forestry](#).

Currently the owner and Senior Consultant of ProVision Forestry LLC, Souba brings a vast and unique set of skills and forestry experience to the position. Souba has been the chair of the [Wisconsin Council on Forestry](#) (exit DNR) for seven years. He has served as Vice President of Wood Supply and Sustainability for NewPage Corporation, which operated pulp and paper mills in Kentucky, Nova Scotia, Maryland, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin and he brings an international perspective to the position having been the Vice President of Wood Supply U.S. for Stora Enso North America.

"We are fortunate to have found someone with Fred's diverse forestry background and dedication to sustaining one of the state's great resources," said DNR Secretary Cathy Stepp. "The citizens of Wisconsin can rest assured that our 16 million acres of forestland will be in good hands. Fred's experience will help guide the management of these acres to keep them sustainable and economically viable."

In addition, to his leadership on the Council on Forestry, Souba has served in a variety of leadership positions in forest management, forest product manufacturing operations, and administration. He has also been a recipient of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources 'Friend of Forestry' Award and University of Wisconsin Stevens Point College of Natural Resources Paper Industry Leadership Award. Souba begins his new position the week of Nov.14, 2016.

"It is a privilege to be appointed as Chief State Forester and to have the opportunity to continue to strengthen and improve the Division of Forestry." Souba said. "I am looking forward to working with DNR staff to listen and learn about the forestry programs and engaging stakeholders on their perspectives about forestry in Wisconsin." he concluded.

Souba was born in Minnesota and moved to Wisconsin shortly after graduating from the University of Minnesota with a B.S. degree in Forest Management and Administration. He and his wife Connie reside in Wisconsin Rapids. They have two married children and eight grandchildren.

###

## ATV Trail Mileage on County Forests

As an effort to analyze the importance of the County Forests to the statewide ATV trail system, we are collecting data to determine what percentage of the total trail miles in the state are either on County Forest or controlled by County Forest programs.

Marathon County      Reported by: Jon Daniels, Chief Ranger/Motorized Recreation Administrator

- 1) How many total funded summer or year round ATV miles (including Troutes) are administrated by your Department or County? (include only funded trail miles, not road routes) This figure should match your annual ATV maintenance contract. **21** miles (round to nearest mile)

Of these miles, how many are:

- 1) On lands designated as County Forest **11** miles
- 2) On State Forest, USFS, or **other public lands** AND managed by the County **10** miles
- 3) On State Trail corridors owned by DNR and managed by the County under easement or other agreement **NONE** miles
- 4) On private lands under easement or land use agreement **NONE** miles
- 5) Other – please describe **NONE** miles

Thank you for your assistance. Information should be returned by December 13th to Gary Zimmer at [wcfa2@frontier.com](mailto:wcfa2@frontier.com) .

## Tom Lovlien

---

**From:** Keranen, Chad M - DNR <Chad.Keranen@wisconsin.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 16, 2016 9:20 AM  
**To:** Tom Lovlien  
**Subject:** FW: Update on the final proposal for the potential relocation of the FR HQ  
**Attachments:** FRHQ\_Final\_Proposal\_090616.pdf

---

**From:** Diebel, Rebecca J - DNR **On Behalf Of** DeLong, Paul J - DNR  
**Sent:** Friday, September 16, 2016 9:12 AM  
**To:** DNR DL FR Forestry All  
**Subject:** Update on the final proposal for the potential relocation of the FR HQ

Dear Forestry Division,

As we shared in the September 2 edition of the ForesTREEporter, we have completed the final proposal for the potential relocation of the Division of Forestry headquarters (FR HQ). This email is to share with you the final proposal (attached) that has been sent to the Natural Resources Board – the first step in the budget process.

Under WI Act 55, the DNR was required to analyze the potential relocation of the FR HQ to a northern location. In July, the Division shared a draft with partners and staff and asked for feedback on the draft. The department was responsible for submitting a proposal, which the Secretary has done as part of the agency's budget submission to the Board. The resulting proposal will go to Gov. Scott Walker and the Legislature for consideration as part of the 2017-2019 biennial budget, a process that will begin during the winter and spring of 2017.

The Division received 44 comments in response to the July 14, 2016 release of the draft proposal for the relocation of the FR HQ to a northern location. Comments were varied in their support for or concern about the proposal. Many commenters expressed merits of a specific city but did not provide opinions on the proposal itself; there was particular support among commenters for moving the HQ to Rhinelander with some letters of support for Wausau as well. No suggestions were made to change the draft proposal. The only revisions made to the draft proposal were to include the costs of relocation and the timeline.

Please contact your FLT representative if you have questions on the plan. If you receive a media inquiry, direct those to Rebecca Diebel (608-266-9261).

Thanks.  
Paul

**We are committed to service excellence.**

Visit our survey at <http://dnr.wi.gov/customersurvey> to evaluate how I did.

**Paul DeLong**

Administrator - Forestry Division

Chief State Forester

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Phone: (608) 264-9224

Cell Phone: (608) 575-3770

[paul.delong@wisconsin.gov](mailto:paul.delong@wisconsin.gov)

I was born and raised in Antigo where I spent most of my childhood hunting, trout fishing, trapping and playing sports. I currently reside in Marshfield with my wife (Elisha) and two boys (Connor and Charlie). When I'm not working, I am usually hunting, fishing, trapping or watching sporting events. I also spend a lot of summer weekends camping throughout Wisconsin with my family.

I graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point in 2004 with a degree in Wildlife-Ecology & Management and minors in Biology and Soil Science. My first DNR job was as a LTE/intern at Crex Meadows while I was still in college. Once I graduated, I worked one year for Schalow's Nursery in Marshfield as a Landscape Foreman. In 2006, I was hired by the US Fish and Wildlife Service out of the Leopold office in Portage as a Range/Fire Technician. In the fall of 2006, I was hired as a Wildlife Technician LTE with the DNR in Wisconsin Rapids. I also worked a short stint as a Forestry Technician LTE out of the same office during that time. In 2008, I was hired in Wisconsin Rapids as a permanent Wildlife Technician working in Wood, Portage and Marathon Counties. This is where I have been up until now. I look forward to representing the DNR in my new role as Wildlife Biologist for Marathon County.

