



State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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September 8, 2009

Dear Friends and Neighbors of the Flambeau River State Forest,

We wish our sincere thanks to all who participated in our master planning public review period June 12-August 1, 2009. Your thoughtful comments and suggestions on the Preferred Alternative and Options document will help guide us into the next phase of planning.

Enclosed with this letter is a summary of this summer's public involvement and an overview of comments received from our "stakeholders" – those that are interested and affected by the future use and management of the FRSF including people who visit, recreate, work in, or live near the Flambeau River State Forest. This collection of comments reflects a broad range of topics and interests addressed by the public.

Keeping the wild, scenic and remote character of the Flambeau River State Forest is a theme we continue to hear. A point well-taken is that folks highly value the experiences and opportunities they find here. They feel a strong ownership in the river and forest. Our objective is to balance demands placed on the resource while sustaining the social, economic and ecological needs of the forest for future generations.

In the coming months Department staff will work to develop a Draft Master Plan and Environmental Analysis. Comments from the public will be reviewed and considered as we prepare final management proposals. Some proposals from the Preferred Alternative may change as we adopt insights contributed by the public.

Your input is one part of a decision-making process that also considers scientific data and expertise of an interdisciplinary team of land managers, resource specialists and state forest planners. The process is guided by State Statute 28.04 and Wisconsin Administrative Code NR 44.

We will notify you again when the Draft Master Plan is complete. At that time, a public review period will be scheduled so you will have another opportunity to comment.

For your convenience, planning documents and maps are posted on our web site:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/StateForests/SF-Flambeau/>

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Sincerely,

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