



## State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Jim Doyle, Governor  
Matthew J. Frank, Secretary

101 S. Webster St.  
Box 7921  
Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7921  
Telephone 608-266-2621  
FAX 608-267-3579  
TTY Access via relay - 711

# Forestry BMP Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

June 19, 2008

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### Committee Members Present:

Aaron Caylor – Olson Bros. Enterprises, Lynn Wilson – Plum Creek, Matt Dallman – TNC, Dean Pelkey – PCA, Steve Kariainen – LP, Tim Tollefson – NewPage, Larry Meicher – TU, Theresa Heyer – USDA FS, John DuPlissis – UWSP, Ken Adamovich – WAL, Jane Severt – WCFA, Mike Gehrke – WWOA

### DNR Staff Present:

Darrell Zastrow, Carmen Wagner, Kristen Tomaszewski, Brian Weigel, Paul Kanehl

### Presentations:

All presentations from the meeting are available on the DNR's Forestry BMP website at:  
<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/forestry/Usesof/bmp/advisory/>.

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## Update on BMP Monitoring: Carmen Wagner

Carmen discussed the preparation of NIPF sale population for the 2008 monitoring year, data preparation, and final sample size.

Question: How does this population compare to the state population of sales.

Many landowners do not file a county cutting notice or their MFL cutting report. Or, if they file the MFL report, they often do not file a second county cutting notice. One caveat is that there may be MFL reports that aren't filed yet for 2007.

Jane mentioned that she's interested in the consistency between counties and the way they use their county cutting notices. One idea is to streamline the process of filing the county cutting notices and the MFL reports.

The monitoring workshop is set up in Wisconsin Rapids and planned as a discussion on the first day and field instruction on the second day. The NIPF sale sites are going to be pretty spread out and we've had to plan accordingly. There is a good representation of water quality specialist and loggers on each of the teams as well as people who have done monitoring in previous years.

After assessing eligibility of the sales and soliciting permission from landowners, we'll be doing a site check to confirm eligibility. We'll also be doing our FS BMP monitoring protocol at that time.

Mark Rickenbach, from the UW-Madison, will be doing landowner surveys to assess perceptions of the timber sale and land management decisions. The survey will include questions that we typically ask

landowners. The questions have been reviewed. There is an advisory committee that is giving oversight.

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## **1995-2006 BMP Data Analysis: Kristen Tomaszewski**

The national hierarchical framework of landscape units was used to analyze over 500 timber sales monitored from 1995 – 2006. The goal is to see whether regional there are any trends in BMPs being applied or not applied, or whether there are any trends in the effectiveness of BMPs regionally. This data will help us analyze the BMPs themselves and training needs.

The initial analysis has been completed and we are beginning to draw conclusions from that analysis. Two main questions are:

- When the BMPs are applied correctly, are we still seeing impacts? (Not sufficient?)
- When the BMPs are not applied, are there any impacts? (Not needed?)

A report will be prepared summarizing this information in a manner that is easy to understand

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## **Update on Other Forestry-Related Items: Carmen Wagner**

### **Minnesota Releases Results of 2004-2006 FMG Monitoring**

Minnesota has released the monitoring results of the implementation of timber harvesting and forest management guidelines on public and private forestland from 2004 – 2006. In 2000 – 2002, baseline information was gathered at 315 timber sales. In 2004 – 2006, information was collected at 279 timber sales. The latest round of monitoring under represented nonindustrial private forest lands.

Interesting results included:

- Compliance with RMZ width and basal area requirements decreased from 52% to 46% with most noncompliant sites involving open-water wetlands less than 1 acre or streams less than 3 feet wide.
- Approaches to stream and wetland crossings required erosion control practices 30% of the time and of that 30%, more than 20% had evidence of sediment reaching wetlands or waterbodies.
- More than 30% of the skid trails showed evidence of erosion (up from 2%), but on only 0.5% (0.8% previously) did erosion reach a waterbody.

### **At the Water's Edge**

In May, an update was given on the results and recommendations of the Riparian Technical Science Committee, which was advising MN's Forest Resources Council. Key findings included:

- Scientific literature supports requiring RMZs on lakes, streams, rivers and open water wetlands. Open water wetlands are defined as Cowardin types 3 (shallow marshes), 4 (deep marshes), and 5 (shallow ponds and reservoirs) and seasonal ponds less than one acre.
- Landscape issues related to both hydrology and habitat indicators affect overall watershed conditions and should be considered.
- Existing filter strip recommendations are consistent with national literature on controlling sediment.
- Most shade functions are protected with moderate RMZ widths (50-75 feet) and dense shade or high residual BA.
- Early succession forest should not be created adjacent to cold-water streams where there are beaver problems.

- At low residual BA, most terrestrial habitat indicators may not recover within 10 years, regardless of RMZ width. Potential recovery within 10 years is maximized with high residual BA and wide RMZs (>200 feet)

The meeting also included an opportunity to review current riparian research projects in Minnesota. Minnesota, Wisconsin and Ontario are investigating opportunities to work together on current projects.

#### Development of Biomass Harvesting Guidelines

Working within the context of generally accepted forestry practices, the guidelines will focus on the sustainable harvest of woody biomass from forested areas while protecting soil, water, and biodiversity features that are characteristic of sustainable forest ecosystems. Recommendations will be based on the best available information regarding harvesting effects on forest ecosystems. Although it is always an option not to harvest biomass, these guidelines are intended for cases where biomass harvesting is being planned or considered.

The objective is to provide guidance to forest resource managers, loggers, equipment operators, contractors, and landowners in Wisconsin. The guidelines will facilitate operational analysis and informed decision-making regarding the harvest of woody biomass from forestland. Attention to Minnesota's guidelines will ensure a greater degree of consistency for individuals and institutions that work across the Wisconsin-Minnesota border. The guidelines will provide a tool to enable sustainable forest management.

Specific to water quality concerns, the first draft of the guidelines recommended:

Do not harvest woody biomass (over and above bolewood utilization) on:

- Erosion prone sites
- 35 feet of the bank of a dry wash
- 35 feet of the ordinary high-water mark (OHWM) of non-navigable streams
- 35 feet of the OHWM of navigable intermittent streams
- 100 feet of the OHWM of navigable perennial streams
- 100 feet of the OHWM of navigable lakes
- 100 feet of wetland borders

Exception: Biomass harvesting may be allowed to control invasive or non-native species.

Expert review has been received and a second draft of guidelines and rationale is being developed. The goal is to have proposed guidelines to the Council on Forestry by September for approval. More information is available at: <http://council.wisconsinforestry.org/biomass/>

#### State and Private Forestry Funds Lake Superior Project

Under the Forest Service's new competitive grant process, the Division of Forestry received a grant to fund a project focusing on forest and watershed management concerns in Wisconsin's Lake Superior basin. The project was the highest rated application in the 20-state region. Outcomes of the project include training for foresters and landowners, analysis of conservation options for lands not eligible for the MFL program and updates to satellite imagery identifying "young" forests.