

STATEWIDE FOREST PLAN 2004-2009 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

INTRODUCTION 3

THEME ONE: CONSERVING WISCONSIN’S BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (1)..... 4

 WISCONSIN’S WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN (1[★]) 4

 OLD-GROWTH AND OLD FORESTS HANDBOOK (1) 4

 MANAGING WISCONSIN’S OLD-GROWTH (1)..... 4

 WISCONSIN KARNER BLUE BUTTERFLY HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN (1) 4

 AN OVERVIEW OF FORESTRY BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR WATER QUALITY PROGRAM (1)..... 5

 SILVICULTURE HANDBOOK (134) 5

 SOIL DISTURBANCE MONITORING ON STATE TIMBER SALES (1)..... 5

 WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON FORESTRY TASK FORCE ON DEER (1)..... 5

 LOWLAND FOREST HABITAT TYPE CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM (134)..... 6

 COMPARING TWO PROTOCOLS FOR MONITORING FORESTRY BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR WATER QUALITY (1) 6

 WISCONSIN STATE FOREST CONTINUOUS INVENTORY (1) 6

 WOODY BIOMASS HARVESTING GUIDELINES (14) 6

 LEARNING, EXPERIENCES & ACTIVITIES IN FORESTRY (LEAF) PROGRAM (15) 7

 ECOLOGICAL FORESTRY WORKSHOP (1)..... 7

THEME TWO: MINIMIZING THE THREAT OF INVASIVE SPECIES TO WISCONSIN’S FORESTS (2) 8

 SUDDEN OAK DEATH SURVEYS (12) 8

 EXOTIC EUROPEAN WOODWASP (*SIREX NOCTILIO*) SURVEY (12)..... 8

 RULE TO PROTECT WISCONSIN FROM INVASIVE INSECTS (12)..... 8

 DIVISION OF FORESTRY ADDRESSES INVASIVE PLANT ISSUES (125) 9

 FOREST INVASIVES LEADERSHIP TEAM CREATES BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR INVASIVE SPECIES (125) 9

 INVASIVE SPECIES RULES (125)..... 10

 EMERALD ASH BORER SURVEYS (125)..... 10

 EMERALD ASH BORER RESPONSE PLAN (125) 10

 EMERALD ASH BORER TOOLKIT FOR WISCONSIN COMMUNITIES (1235) 10

 STATE FOREST INVASIVE INVENTORIES (12) 10

 INVASIVE PLANT MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR WISCONSIN STATE FORESTS (12) 11

THEME THREE: ENHANCING ASSISTANCE TO WISCONSIN’S PRIVATE FOREST OWNERS (3)..... 12

 FIREWISE COMMUNITIES (3) 12

 CERTIFIED PLAN WRITERS ADDED TO MANAGED FOREST LAW (37)..... 12

 10 WAYS TO PROTECT YOUR WOODLAND PROPERTY (1237) 12

 IMPROVING WISCONSIN’S FOREST ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (3)..... 12

 ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR WISCONSIN FOREST LANDOWNER GRANT PROGRAM (347) 13

 TOMORROW’S WOODLAND OWNERS (37)..... 13

 OAK WILT GUIDELINES FOR TIMBER HARVESTING (13)..... 13

 PRIVATE WOODLAND CERTIFICATION (1347) 13

 LEARN ABOUT YOUR LAND SERIES (1234)..... 14

[★] Numbers refer to the multiple themes the accomplishment addresses

THEME FOUR: MAINTAINING WISCONSIN’S FOREST-BASED ECONOMY (4)..... 15

 BIOBASED INDUSTRY INITIATIVE (147) 15

 MASTER LOGGER GRANT PROGRAM RULES DEVELOPED (43) 15

 MARKETPLACE MATTERS (4) 15

 FISTA TRAINING (14) 16

 WOODY BIOMASS TASK FORCE (4) 16

 WOOD ENERGY FOR SCHOOLS (4) 16

 ANNUAL TIMBER HARVEST AND INVENTORY ON STATE FOREST PROPERTIES (4) 16

 WISCONSIN FOREST INVENTORY & REPORTING SYSTEM DEVELOPED (1347) 17

THEME FIVE: ENHANCING WISCONSIN’S URBAN FORESTS (5) 18

 WISCONSIN’S URBAN FORESTS STUDIED (125) 18

 TREE CITY USA (5) 18

 FORESTRY SCIENCE CENTER (5) 18

 WISCONSIN URBAN FORESTRY COUNCIL 2007 REPORT (125) 19

 URBAN FORESTRY BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (125) 19

 URBAN FORESTRY CATASTROPHIC STORM GRANT AND START-UP GRANT (5) 19

THEME SIX: MINIMIZING RECREATIONAL USE CONFLICTS IN WISCONSIN’S FORESTS (6) 20

 RECREATION USE CONFLICTS IN WISCONSIN FORESTS (6) 20

 REAUTHORIZATION OF STEWARDSHIP FUNDS (167) 20

 ATVs ON THE NORTHERN HIGHLAND-AMERICAN LEGION STATE FOREST (16) 20

 USE COMPATIBILITY AS A BASIS FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION PLANNING (6) 20

 PUBLIC ACCESS LAND PURCHASE PROGRAM (67) 21

THEME SEVEN: MANAGING THE IMPACTS OF CHANGES IN WISCONSIN’S LAND USE AND FOREST OWNERSHIP (7) 22

 GROWING FOREST LEGACY AREAS (147) 22

 COUNTY FORESTS ACHIEVE CERTIFICATION (147) 22

 SURVEY OF WILDFIRE PERCEPTIONS (37) 22

 WISCONSIN HEALTHY FOREST PROGRAM (1347) 23

 COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLANS IN WISCONSIN (7) 23

 LAND LEGACY REPORT (17) 23

 COOPERATIVE FOREST FIRE INITIATIVE (7) 23

 AUTOMATED BURNING PERMIT SYSTEM (7) 23

 OUTREACH TO SMART GROWTH COMMUNITIES (1457) 24

 COMMUNITIES AT RISK ASSESSMENT COMPLETED (7) 24

 FOREST SUSTAINABILITY FRAMEWORK (123457) 24

 STATE FORESTS RENEW CERTIFICATION (147) 24

Statewide Forest Plan 2004-2009 Accomplishments Introduction

The DNR is constantly in the process of planning and responding to Wisconsin's changing forest resources. The 2004 Governor's Conference on Forestry discussed the trends and issues identified in the [2000 Millennium Assessment](#) and brought forward themes to address in the 2004 [Statewide Forest Plan](#). The plan developed a common vision for Wisconsin's forest resources and a framework for achieving that vision.

Since 2004, the forestry community has done much to address the issues identified in the 2004 Statewide Forest Plan and Governor's Conference. This report, the *Statewide Forest Plan 2004-2009 Accomplishments*, lists major accomplishments, new initiatives, and major research undertaken since the 2004 Statewide Forest Plan—both within the DNR, and by external partners. As we recognize these major accomplishments, we do not overlook the critical day-to-day work that the forestry community and Division employees engage in year round; in an average year, Division staff and partners save roughly 400 structures from fire, over 8,000 family forest owners receive DNR forester assistance, and public land managers work daily with stakeholders to sustainably manage the timber resource and provide for public recreation and enjoyment.

The DNR works closely with a number of government and private sector partners. Accomplishments listed in this report often reflect the work of many parties, both DNR and external. Although we have begun identifying major accomplishments, we need your help to identify more. If you work with a forestry-related organization, government agency, or the private sector and would like to see your accomplishment included in this report, let us know! Our [Accomplishments page](http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/assessment/accomplishments.htm) (dnr.wi.gov/forestry/assessment/accomplishments.htm) contains a link to submit additional accomplishments, which will be added to the report as they are received. It is our hope that the completed *Accomplishments* report will serve as a way to celebrate and highlight the actions of the forestry community over the past five years.

How to Read the *Statewide Forest Plan 2004-2009 Accomplishments*

Accomplishments within this report are organized according to the themes used in the Governor's Conference on Forestry. However, no one issue or accomplishment affects just one component of forestry, and many accomplishments address multiple themes. To illustrate how each accomplishment fits within a broader view of forestry, we have assigned each theme a number. Accomplishments that span multiple themes are tagged with numbers from each of the themes they represent. Most accomplishments include a web link to access additional information

The themes were:

1. Conserving Wisconsin's Biological Diversity
2. Minimizing the Threat of Invasive Species to Wisconsin's Forests
3. Enhancing Assistance to Wisconsin's Private Forest Owners
4. Maintaining Wisconsin's Forest-Based Economy
5. Enhancing Wisconsin's Urban Forest
6. Minimizing Recreational Use Conflicts in Wisconsin's Forests
7. Managing the Impacts of Changes in Wisconsin's Land Use and Forest Ownership

Theme One: Conserving Wisconsin's Biological Diversity (1)

Increasing demands placed on Wisconsin's forests present a challenge to the conservation of biological diversity in the state. Taking measures to conserve biodiversity can protect the functions and values of our forests. A better understanding of the biodiversity of Wisconsin's forests can aid in effectively managing and addressing issues such as old growth forests and Endangered and Threatened species.

Wisconsin's Wildlife Action Plan (1)

In 2005, [*Wisconsin's Wildlife Action Plan*](#) was accepted by the US Fish and Wildlife Service as the state's blueprint for conserving our fish and wildlife Species of Greatest Conservation Need and their habitats. The plan lays out over 1,700 conservation actions that will help secure the future of these species. From this list, the DNR developed a list and maps of priority actions. Maps lay out Wisconsin's Priority Conservation Opportunity Areas for the wildlife species of greatest conservation need by region of the state. The report was developed by the DNR's Bureau of Endangered Resources. *Wisconsin's Wildlife Action Plan* and priority actions are available online: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er/wwap/implementation/>

Old-growth and Old Forests Handbook (1)

This new Handbook released in 2006 provides definition and management guidance for old-growth forests and old forests. Ecological principles and management considerations are included. Forest cover types specifically addressed are northern hardwood and bottomland hardwood; additional cover type guidelines are under development. For more information, contact Joe Kovach, (715) 453-2188.

Managing Wisconsin's Old-growth (1)

Managing Wisconsin's Old-growth, released in 2005, highlights the historical, present, and future condition of old-growth forests in Wisconsin, and showcases several current research projects related to old-growth. This publication is available online at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/wnrmag/html/supps/2004/oct04/intro.htm>. For more information, or to request a printed copy of *Managing Wisconsin's Old-growth*, contact Karl Martin, (608) 224-7138.

Wisconsin Karner Blue Butterfly Habitat Conservation Plan (1)

The [*Wisconsin Karner Blue Butterfly Habitat Conservation Plan \(HCP\)*](#) is a partnership of 40 private and public entities led by the DNR to conserve and sustainably manage land with consideration for the federally endangered Karner blue butterfly. The HCP is founded on the premise that land owners and managers are basically good stewards and given the choice would choose voluntary conservation rather than a conventional regulatory compliance program. In 2006, many HCP processes were redesigned and streamlined. In return for additional regulatory relief, the HCP partners hope to aid the Karner blue recovery effort in achieving recovery goals for Wisconsin populations. This HCP has been nationally recognized and has become a model for collaborative conservation. To learn more about this effort, and see annual reports from each

year of the project, visit <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/karner/> or contact Dave Lentz in the Division of Forestry, (608) 261-6451.

An Overview of Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality Program (1)

In 2006, the Forestry Best Management Practices Advisory Committee developed an overview of the first ten years of the BMP program in Wisconsin. Major program accomplishments include providing BMP information to over 5,200 training participants, evaluating the application and effectiveness of Forestry BMPs at nearly 500 timber sales, and printing three editions of the Forestry BMP manual. To view the full report online, see: [Wisconsin's Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality 1995 - 2005 \(PUB FR-349, PDF, 507KB\)](#).

Silviculture Handbook (1 3 4)

The WDNR's Silviculture and Forest Aesthetics Handbook provides silvicultural guidelines on generally accepted sustainable forestry practices in Wisconsin. From 2005-2009, cover type guidelines in the handbook were updated for Northern Hardwood, Central Hardwood, and Red Pine. Other chapters in the handbook were updated to pursue third-party certification and consider landscape management options. Key updates included, big tree silviculture, marking guidelines (including reserve tree and snag retention), and intermediate treatments. This publication is available online at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/publications/Handbooks/24315/> For more information, contact Joe Kovach, (715) 453-2188.

Soil Disturbance Monitoring on State Timber Sales (1)

During the Division's 2004 state forest certification audit, auditors found that the Division needed to develop written, quantitative guidelines for rutting on roads and trails on state properties. Division staff developed guidelines and final guidelines were incorporated into timber sale contracts starting in May, 2006. Before final guidelines were in place, the Division began a monitoring study on 30 completed or in-process timber sales to determine to what extent rutting and soil compaction were occurring. Monitoring found minimal rutting, and determined that most timber sales were already following soil disturbance guidelines. For more information, contact Carmen Wagner, (608) 266-1667.

Wisconsin Council on Forestry Task Force on Deer (1)

The Wisconsin Council on Forestry's Task Force on Deer sent a position paper, *Deer Herbivory in Wisconsin Forests*, to the Governor and Legislature. The paper communicated the Council's support of the Department of Natural Resources' management efforts to bring deer numbers down. The Council expressed their concern that deer herbivory is a serious problem that, if not addressed, will negatively affect the sustainability of forestry in Wisconsin. They proposed that the DNR gather together existing research and statistical data relative to the impact of deer on trees and organize it to identify where information is available and where it is lacking. See the [Council Webpage](#) for additional information.

Lowland Forest Habitat Type Classification System (1 3 4)

The Forest Habitat Type Classification System provides a tool to classify site and community types, and assess variability, ecological potentials, and silvicultural alternatives. In 2009, the classification system for Wisconsin was expanded to include forested wetlands. This refinement has been completed for north-central Wisconsin, and sampling is in progress in northeastern and northwestern Wisconsin. For more information, contact Joe Kovach, (715) 453-2188. Forest habitat type publications (for forest uplands) are available from the University of Wisconsin-Madison [Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology](#).

Comparing Two Protocols for Monitoring Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality (1)

In 2006, the Wisconsin DNR initiated a project to compare two methods for monitoring Forestry Best Management Practices (BMPs) for water quality. The effort compared the method that has traditionally been used in Wisconsin with a new method developed by the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry. This project compared results obtained from both methods to determine what the best approach is for monitoring BMPs in Wisconsin. The final report, *Comparing Two Protocols for Monitoring Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality* is available online: <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/publications/pdf/FR-401.pdf>

Wisconsin State Forest Continuous Inventory (1)

The Wisconsin State Forest Continuous Forest Inventory (WisCFI) gathers a wide range of information on Wisconsin's state forests. The immediate goal of the inventory is to report on the condition of each state forest on an annual basis; beginning in 2008, information will also help ensure that state forests are managed under sustainable forestry principles. Data from the inventory will contribute to the master planning process for state forests, and will provide information needed to make the best possible management decisions. Information from the WisCFI project is currently in the development stages and will be available online once the report is completed. Contact Teague Prichard, (608) 264-8883 for more information.

Woody Biomass Harvesting Guidelines (1 4)

In September 2007, the Wisconsin Council on Forestry decided to develop guidelines for the harvest of woody biomass in Wisconsin's forestlands, and requested that the WDNR Division of Forestry provide staff support toward this effort. Guidelines are intended to educate forest resource managers, loggers, equipment operators, contractors, and landowners on the sustainable harvesting of biomass in Wisconsin. The [5th draft of Wisconsin's Forestland Woody Biomass Harvesting Guidelines](#) was approved by the Council on Forestry in December 2008, and an implementation plan was approved in March 2009. For more information on the guidelines and implementation plan, see the Council's web page: <http://council.wisconsinforestry.org/biomass/>

Learning, Experiences & Activities in Forestry (LEAF) Program (15)

The Learning, Experiences & Activities in Forestry (LEAF) Program was created in 2002 to help promote forestry education in Wisconsin. It is a partnership between WDNR- Division of Forestry and the Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education, UW-Stevens Point. In 2007, curriculum units were developed for wildland fire. Urban forestry units were developed in 2007.

See LEAF's website for services they currently provide:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/education/leaf.htm>

Ecological Forestry Workshop (1)

The Forest Guild, in cooperation with the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point, the U.S. Forest Service Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest and the Northern Research Station, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and Conservation Forestry co-hosted an Ecological Forestry Workshop in 2008. Over 50 forestry professionals representing government, industry, and private enterprises from three states came to Wisconsin to learn how to apply the concepts of Ecological Forestry to sustainable forest management systems. For more information on Ecological Forestry Workshops, see: <http://www.forestguild.org/>

Theme Two: Minimizing the Threat of Invasive Species to Wisconsin's Forests (2)

Invasive non-native species present what may be the greatest threat to the long-term health and sustainability of Wisconsin's forests. Human activities such as trading of goods, travel, gardening, and recreation have resulted in the introduction of many non-native plant and animal species to the state. Once established, populations of some invasive insects and diseases quickly increase because natural control agents are absent or ineffective. As a result, invasive pests have changed, and will continue to change entire ecosystems by displacing native flora and fauna.

Sudden Oak Death Surveys (1 2)

Oaks are an important component of Wisconsin's forest diversity, and our cultural heritage as a state. From 2004-2007, a variety of monitoring was done to assess the presence of sudden oak death in the state. Nurseries were inspected by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources examined oak stands located within 0.25 miles of nurseries that received plant material from an infected nursery in California and general oak stands throughout the state. Monitoring from 2004-2007 yielded no positive results for sudden oak death. Latest updates regarding symptoms, control, and distribution are available through the USDA Forest Service's web site for Forest Health Monitoring:

<http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/pestal/sodeast/sodeast.pdf>

Exotic European Woodwasp (*Sirex noctilio*) Survey (1 2)

Pine makes up 9% of Wisconsin's forest and is an economically important lumber and pulpwood species. *Sirex noctilio*, a non-native wasp, has caused significant economic damage to pine plantations where it has been inadvertently introduced. The extent of the *S. noctilio* infestation in the U.S. needed to be determined because all pine trees in North America are considered to be at risk. From 2006-2008, The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources partnered to survey potential *S. noctilio* infestations in the state. Traps were installed in regions closest to known infestations and in mature red pine stands with evidence of stress. Fortunately, monitoring so far has detected no *S. noctilio* in Wisconsin. More information about *S. noctilio* is available at:

<http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/animals/sirexwasp.shtml>

For more information on the study, see:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/Fh/pdf/AnnualReport2007.pdf>

Rule to Protect Wisconsin from Invasive Insects (1 2)

An emergency rule was approved in 2006 by the state Natural Resources Board to address the growing threat of the emerald ash borer (EAB) and other harmful forest pests and diseases. The rule prohibited people visiting Wisconsin state parks, forests, and other DNR-managed properties where campfires are permitted from bringing out-of-state firewood onto those properties. Since that time, DNR rule NR 45.04 (1) (g) was passed, which prohibits bringing

firewood onto any state properties from more than 50 miles away or from outside Wisconsin. Visit <http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/firewood/> for more information, or contact Andrea Diss-Torrance at 608-264-9247.

Division of Forestry Addresses Invasive Plant Issues (125)

The Invasive Plant Program Feasibility Study was commissioned by the DNR Forestry Leadership Team and Forestry Operations Team early in 2005 to address the spread of non-native, invasive plants in Wisconsin. The Wisconsin Council on Forestry and the Wisconsin Council on Invasive Species also supported this study. The completed report lays out the Division's invasive plant program and may be read online: [Feasibility Study – Invasive Plants in Forests](#). The creation of an invasive plants coordinator position was also created as a result of the study.

Forest Invasives Leadership Team Creates Best Management Practices for Invasive Species (125)

The Council on Forestry, with a grant from the USFS, agreed to sponsor the development of Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Invasive Species for Forestry in June 2005. The Forest Invasives Leadership Team, a subcommittee of the Council on Forestry, guides this project. Wisconsin has the distinction of being the first state to consider the development of forest invasive species BMPs to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive terrestrial plants, insects, and diseases.

BMPs for invasive species break down into four separate processes, or "tracks" representing different segments of the forest resource and different groups of stakeholders that need to be reached. Each track has its own advisory committee;

- **Track 1 - Forestry BMPs for Invasive Species:** The fourteen member advisory committee for Track 1 has developed a field manual that is available online here: <http://council.wisconsinforestry.org/invasives/forestry.php>
- **Track 2 - Recreational Forest User BMPs for Invasive Species:** In December 2006, an advisory committee for Track 2 was formed. They will develop a broadly accepted set of voluntary conventions that guide the activities of outdoor enthusiasts (including hikers, hunters, anglers, birders, bikers, horseback and motorized vehicle riders, and recreation land managers), and influence the behavior of forest users.
- **Track 3 - Urban Forestry BMPs for Invasive Species:** In February 2006, the Urban Forestry Council endorsed sponsoring Track 3. This track is intended to reach nursery, landscape, and arboriculture communities, among just a few.
- **Track 4 - Utility and Transportation Right-of-Way BMPs for Invasive Species:** This track is still developing BMPs for utility and transportation corridors, including pipelines; electrical rights-of-way; and town, county, and state highways.

For more information on BMPs for invasive species, see the Council on Forestry's webpage: <http://council.wisconsinforestry.org/invasives/>

Invasive Species Rules (125)

The Department of Natural Resources and the Wisconsin Council on Invasive Species have worked since 2005 to develop rules to classify and regulate invasive species. The purpose of these rules is to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species in the state.

For more information on this process or the species involved, contact Tom Boos, (608) 266-9276. For more information on the proposed rule, and up-to-date information on the rule's progress, see the website: <http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/classification/>

Emerald Ash Borer Surveys (125)

Based on communications with partners and other states in the region, Wisconsin initiated surveys to locate the arrival of EAB. Since 2004, the DNR has completed visual and tree surveys for emerald ash borer across the state. For more information on this effort, visit the webpage: <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/fh/ash/eab-surveys.htm>

Emerald Ash Borer Response Plan (125)

The Emerald Ash Borer was found for the first time in Wisconsin in August 2008. Because the EAB is an insect that could affect the whole state, DNR and DATCP developed a response plan to address the whole state, rather than isolated infestation points. *The Wisconsin Emerald Ash Borer Response Plan* was released in July, 2008 and will be updated annually. More information can be found at: <http://www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov/index.jsp>

The DNR has also developed management guidelines to assist landowners in managing their ash trees. Guidelines are available online at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/fh/PDF/EABWIManagementGuidelines.pdf>

Emerald Ash Borer Toolkit for Wisconsin Communities (1235)

The Emerald Ash Borer Toolkit for Wisconsin Communities (2007), developed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry Urban Forestry Program, is designed for municipal tree managers and urban forestry consultants and contains more than 120 documents covering pre-planning, public awareness, first response, control measures, long-term management, and much more. The toolkit is available in hard copy, on cd, and electronically at <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/uf/eab/>. For more information on the toolkit, contact Don Kissinger, (715) 359-5793.

State Forest Invasive Inventories (12)

In 2006 and 2007, priority areas (campsites, trails, etc.) within the northern State Forests (Black, Brule, Flambeau, Governor Knowles, Northern Highlands-American Legion, and Peshtigo) were

surveyed for invasive plant species. The Kettle Moraine State Forest was surveyed in a separate effort. The objectives of the inventory were to:

- Collect information on the ecology of invasive plants, including the location and area of infestations, spread patterns, new and common invaders, and, if possible, the source of infestations.
- Establish a baseline database to aid in the development of invasive plant management goals and objectives, and to measure the progress of future management programs.

The survey generated a GIS layer for each forest which can be found here:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/GIS/Data%5FMaps/data%5Fdownload/#available>

Invasive Plant Management Plans for Wisconsin State Forests (12)

Since the State Forest Invasive Inventories were completed, the Division has worked to complete Invasive Plant Management Plans for each of the State Forests. The plans are meant to help forest staff continue survey efforts, monitor invasive plant infestations within the forest, and plan and prioritize control and management activities. Draft plans have been written for each of the state forests and will be finalized following field visits in the summer of 2009.

Theme Three: Enhancing Assistance to Wisconsin's Private Forest Owners (3)

Forestland ownership strongly influences the condition of forests in Wisconsin. Non-industrial private landowners own 57% of Wisconsin's forestland, and the number of private forest landowners continues to increase. Between 1996 and 2006, the number of Wisconsin's non-industrial private owners increased by 40% to about 360,000 statewide. As a result, it has become increasingly challenging to provide professional forest management assistance to these private owners. Currently, less than 30% of landowners have a management plan or receive professional assistance when managing their forest. Forest sustainability can be enhanced if more forest landowners are given the assistance and knowledge they need to sustainably manage their woodlots in conjunction with a sustainable forest management plan.

Firewise Communities (3)

The Firewise Communities USA recognition program is a nationwide initiative that recognizes smaller communities (such as homeowner associations) for the steps they have taken together to lower their collective wildfire risk. Wisconsin's first Firewise Community was recognized in 2004. As of 2008, there are 16 recognized Firewise Communities in Wisconsin. For more information on the program, see: <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/fire/prevention/firewise/>

Certified Plan Writers Added to Managed Forest Law (3 7)

The Certified Plan Writer program was created to provide another source of professional forestry assistance to private landowners interested in participating in the MFL program. A certified plan writer is a private consultant or industrial forester certified by the DNR to write Managed Forest Law plans—a required component for entry into the Managed Forest Law program. Certified plan writers receive specialized training in the preparation of Managed Forest Law plans, attend annual training sessions, maintain [cooperating forester](#) status with the DNR, and agree to comply with the guidelines and directives of the Department. A list of Certified Plan Writers is available on the DNR website: <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/forestry/ftax/cpw.htm>

10 Ways to Protect Your Woodland Property (1 2 3 7)

The publication, *10 Ways to Protect Your Woodland Property* (2005), gives landowners and relevant companies (i.e. insurance agencies, realtors) information and assistance on promoting sustainable forestry with new woodland owners. The full PDF of the report is available online at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/Publications/ProtectTrees/toc.htm>.

Improving Wisconsin's Forest Assistance Program (3)

The Division of Forestry's Private Forest Lands Team released *Recommendations for Wisconsin's Private Forestry Assistance Program* in 2005. The report is based on an assessment of the Division's private forest lands program, completed in 1999, and provides an overview of major trends in private forestry.

Additional funds for Wisconsin Forest Landowner Grant Program (3 4 7)

The Wisconsin Forest Landowner Grant Program received a one-time increase in funding to help with the increased pressure on the program resulting from changes to the Managed Forest Law program in the 2005-2007 budget bill. The Legislature approved an additional \$400,000 for 2006, and an additional \$400,000 for 2007. This grant program previously had a waiting list of 350 forest landowners. Additional funding will help alleviate that backlog of landowners and help them implement needed sustainable forestry practices. For additional information about the program, contact Nicole Potvin, (608) 266-2388, or visit: <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/Private/financial/>

Tomorrow's Woodland Owners (3 7)

A 2007 cooperative study by the DNR, the Pinchot Institute for Conservation, and the Forest Service surveyed the adult children of Wisconsin private non-industrial forestland owners on the value of family forestlands. Understanding the attitudes of the next generation of forestland owners plays a key role in formulating the kind of sound public policy needed to sustain Wisconsin's forests. The complete report is available online: <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/private/tomorrow/index.htm>

Oak Wilt Guidelines for Timber Harvesting (1 3)

DNR forest health specialists, working with scientists from the USDA Forest Service, partners representing forest industry, county forests, master loggers, woodland owners, and private forestry consultants developed a new guide for minimizing the risk of introducing and spreading oak wilt. The guide leads landowners through a series of questions about their forest, then provides them with the level of risk of introducing oak wilt, as well as the level of impact oak wilt could cause, and overall risk to their forest from oak wilt. The guide also provides recommendations as to the best time of year to conduct harvest activities. The guide is available both online and in a format that may be downloaded.

<http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/fh/oakWilt/guidelines.asp>

For more information, contact Jane Cummings Carlson, (608) 275-3273.

Private Woodland Certification (1 3 4 7)

In June 2005, the American Tree Farm System (ATFS) recognized Wisconsin's Managed Forest Law (MFL) as the largest group of certified private woodland owners in North America. Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification, offered by SmartWood-Rain Forest Alliance, was awarded in December 2008. MFL covers about 2 million acres of mostly family-owned forests and another 1 million acres of industrial forestland. Formation of the MFL-ATFS and FSC Certified Group and other DNR certification projects has helped Wisconsin forest products companies maintain the state's position as the largest paper producer in the country. The certifications help Wisconsin remain competitive in global markets and opens new market options as publishers, building contractors, and other manufacturers increasingly demand certified wood products. For more information about MFL certification, see:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/certification/MFL.html>

Contact DNR Forest Certification Coordinator Paul Pingrey, (608) 267-7595 for additional information.

Learn About Your Land Series (1 2 3 4)

2008

The Learn About Your Land Series was developed in 2008 and offers classes hosted by the University of Wisconsin–Extension and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). Classes are designed to help woodland owners better understand and manage their woodlands and are available in both online and classroom formats across the state. Classes are taught by experts in woodland ecology, forest health and management, timber harvesting, and related topics. For more information, see:

<http://basineducation.uwex.edu/woodland/conference/LAYL/Webinar/LAYLwebcast.html>

Theme Four: Maintaining Wisconsin's Forest-Based Economy (4)

Wisconsin's forests are important in local, state, and global economies. They support employment opportunities, investment in forest improvement practices, and strong revenues for landowners. Forestry also plays a significant role in the ecological and social benefits derived from the existence of a healthy and diverse forest-based economy. More than 1,356 wood using companies support over 68,846 jobs, with wages contributing about \$3.06 billion per year in wages to our state economy (source: Wisconsin Economic Development Institute). In addition, more people than ever are using Wisconsin's forests for a wide array of recreational and tourism activities. Wisconsin households spend over \$5.5 billion per year on goods and services associated with forest-based recreation. Of this total spending, roughly \$2.5 billion are spent in local areas within close proximity of recreational sites. This provides a significant portion of the receipts of tourism-sensitive sectors in Wisconsin. Emerging issues, including forest certification, sustainable energy, and environmental standards, need attention to maintain healthy communities. Strategies and investments to maintain Wisconsin's strong forest-based economy will be required as the globalization of the economy increases.

Biobased Industry Initiative (147)

In June 2005, Governor Doyle convened the Consortium on Biobased Industry (<http://bioeconomy.wi.gov/>) to strengthen Wisconsin's role in the bioeconomy. The Consortium brought together representatives from various sectors to prepare a roadmap and recommendations on how best to support the development of renewable fuels and energy and bio-based products in Wisconsin. The work of the consortium will help develop and implement policies and legislation that enable state businesses to maximize the value that Wisconsin receives from its renewable forest and agricultural resources while protecting the environment.

The consortium convened on June 27, 2005 and presented their recommendations to the Governor in May 2006. A list of members is on the Governor's Website at:

http://www.wisgov.state.wi.us/journal_media_detail.asp?prid=1186

Master Logger Grant Program Rules Developed (43)

2005 Wis. Act 25 (2005-2007 budget) directed the DNR to establish criteria for a scholarship grant program to assist individuals who are seeking Master Logger certification. The Master Logger Certification program is a performance-based program copyrighted and sanctioned by the American Loggers Council that establishes national standards of performance for the logging profession. Wisconsin's Master Logger program is currently being administered through the [Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association](#) (GLTPA). For more information on the Master Logger program, see: <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/forestry/Private/assist/otrassis.htm#7>

Marketplace Matters (4)

The December 2005 issue of the Wisconsin Natural Resources magazine included *Marketplace Matters*, an eight-page supplement exploring the economic value of Wisconsin forests and their

influences on the global marketplace. The report is available online:

<http://www.wnrmag.com/supps/2005/dec05/intro.htm>

If you would like to share copies of this publication with your employees or clients, contact Kirsten Held, (608) 264-6036.

FISTA Training (14)

FISTA training became a requirement for bidding on State Forest timber sales in 2006. Fista training, which covers both BMPs for water quality and safety training, ensures sound management of our water resources and a higher level of safety standards on all state forest timber sales.

Woody Biomass Task Force (4)

The Woody Biomass Task Force was convened in 2006 by the Wisconsin Council on Forestry to develop a comprehensive piece of legislation for the production and utilization of woody biomass. The Task Force sent a letter to the Chair of the Assembly Committee on Forestry, Department of Administration Secretary, and others to recommend that the State of Wisconsin undertake a concerted and deliberate effort to determine which state facilities are best suited for utilizing wood for energy and issue a request for proposals to develop wood energy at those state facilities. For more information on the task force, as well as a list of their publications, see:

<http://council.wisconsinforestry.org/biomass/>

Wood Energy for Schools (4)

A 2008 online publication by Focus on Energy studied the feasibility of heating Wisconsin's schools with woody biomass. Researchers collected data on four schools currently heating with biomass and developed case studies on each. The study found that 200-300 Wisconsin schools now heating with natural gas may find biomass heating more economical at current fuel prices. These systems will often receive positive cash flow in the first year of installation. The report may be read online:

http://focusonenergy.com/files/Document_Management_System/Renewables/FeasibilityStudy_HeatingwithBiomass.pdf

Annual Timber Harvest and Inventory on State Forest Properties (4)

Wisconsin Act 166 (2005) requires the DNR to maintain a current inventory of State forest lands, specifying the condition of forest resources. It also requires establishment of annual allowable timber harvests for each property and reporting to the legislature and Council on Forestry on management of these lands. From 2006-2008 over 358,000 acres of inventory was accomplished, completing the inventory on over 840 properties / 1.5 million acres of State land. This information, coupled with the development of the Wisconsin Forest Inventory and Reporting System (WisFIRS), allowed for determination of the annual allowable timber harvest goals. A 69% increase in timber sale establishment followed, benefitting both Wisconsin's forest industry and State revenues. This accomplishment was the result of a 44% increase in hours devoted to

State land management by State foresters. For more information, contact Teague Prichard: (608) 264-8883.

Wisconsin Forest Inventory & Reporting System Developed (1347)

WisFIRS (Wisconsin Forest Inventory & Reporting System) is currently being developed. Once completed, the project will enable foresters to store data collected in the field, plan for and track completed practices (e.g. timber sales), report accomplishments, calculate the financial aspects of the programs (e.g. millions of dollars collected and dispersed to towns and counties), and track MFL lands open to hunting and recreation. The application will assist both public and private forest management in Wisconsin, serving hundreds of DNR staff as well as our partners (county forests and cooperating (consulting) foresters). WisFIRS is designed to integrate three existing programs foresters use, and will increase efficiency, allow for easier reporting, and increase access to data. Contact Janel Pike, (608) 266-2050 for more information.

Theme Five: Enhancing Wisconsin's Urban Forests (5)

The majority (81%) of Wisconsin's population lives in urban areas, and forests in these urban settings strongly influence the local environment, quality of life, and economy. Pressures placed on urban forests increase as the state's population increases, highlighting the need to understand the extent of urban forests in the state and, in turn, ensure their long-term health and viability. Invasive and exotic species, the social and economic benefits of forests to communities, and the long-term management of such forests are at the forefront of Wisconsin's urban forestry issues.

Wisconsin's Urban Forests Studied (125)

Wisconsin's urban forest is generally healthy, but a concerted effort needs to be made to maintain this valuable resource. *The Urban Forest Inventory and Assessment Pilot Study* (<http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/UF/FIA.htm>) published by the USDA Forest Service in 2007 provides information on the composition, condition, and benefits (social, economic, and environmental) provided by Wisconsin's urban forest. Several significant findings of the study are:

- Wisconsin's urban tree canopy cover is 14%, well below the target of 40% for this part of the country.
- Approximately 20% of Wisconsin's urban forest trees are ash. These trees are vulnerable as emerald ash borer (EAB) continues to spread across the state.
- Wisconsin urban trees store \$42 million worth of carbon and sequester an additional \$2.4 million worth of carbon annually.
- Trees reduce heating and cooling expenses by \$24.3 million annually, with an additional \$1 million worth of carbon production avoided because of reduced energy demand.

Tree City USA (5)

In 2005, Wisconsin ranked third in the nation in the number of Tree Cities USA, a program created by the National Arbor Day Foundation to help communities enhance and promote their urban forests. Wisconsin's share of Tree Cities USA has grown to 158, from just five when the program began in 1976. In 2004, 24 Wisconsin cities, villages, and towns were given a Tree City "Growth Award," which recognizes achievement above and beyond Tree City requirements. To see the list of Wisconsin communities, see:

<http://www.arborday.org/programs/treeCityUSA/map.cfm>. For more information about the national program, visit:

<http://www.arborday.org/programs/treecityusa.cfm> (2005). Note: As of 2008, Wisconsin has 173 Tree Cities USAs and continues to rank third in the nation.

Forestry Science Center (5)

In 2006, the DNR purchased 68 acres of land in Milwaukee County (of which 47 acres are forested) to build a forestry science center in the midst of Wisconsin's largest urban population. With 250 schools and over 150,000 students—many of whom have never "experienced" a forest—within a 50-mile radius of the site in Wauwatosa, the 47-acre forest provides a unique

opportunity to showcase the economic, ecological, social, and cultural benefits of Wisconsin's forest resource to learners of all ages. Although the property belongs to the state, this project will be a partnership effort. A Founding Board of Directors has begun the strategic planning process for the project. For more information, contact Kirsten Held, (608) 266-8576.

Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council 2007 Report (125)

The Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council 2007 Report outlines recommendations on how to best ensure the sustainability of Wisconsin's urban forest resource. Urban trees impact about 80% of the state's population daily but the benefits associated with this resource will only be realized with conscientious urban forest management over time, the report concludes. Access the Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council 2007 Report online at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/UF/council/> or request print copies from Laura Wyatt at laura.wyatt@wi.gov.

Urban Forestry Best Management Practices (125)

Wisconsin's urban forests are particularly vulnerable to invasive species due to heavy use and close proximity to sources of invasives (ornamental plantings and ports of entry). Wisconsin's urban forestry community has responded to this threat by supporting the Council on Forestry's development of Urban Forestry Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Invasive Species in Wisconsin. These will be voluntary standards of practice to aid in the management and control of invasive plants, invertebrates, and diseases in and around Wisconsin's "built environments." The report is expected to be completed in September 2009. For more information, see: <http://council.wisconsinforestry.org/invasives/>.

Urban Forestry Catastrophic Storm Grant and Start-up Grant (5)

Wisconsin's urban forests have a variety of management challenges. Two of them—catastrophic storm response and small community management capacity—have been addressed proactively by changes in the urban forestry grant program. The inability of the DNR to respond quickly to catastrophic storm damage in communities prompted 2007 Act 13. This act authorizes the DNR to provide rapid response and match-free grants to communities for tree removal, repair, and replacement in the event of a declared state of emergency. The urban grant program was redesigned to provide "start-up" grants to small communities who have few resources for management. These grants focus on funding the basic building blocks of a management program such as tree planting, inventories, tree advocacy group development, and management plans. For more information, see: <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/UF/grants/>.

Theme Six: Minimizing Recreational Use Conflicts in Wisconsin's Forests (6)

More people than ever before are using Wisconsin's forests for a wide array of recreational activities, leading to increased conflicts among forest users. With the increase in popularity of motorized forms of recreation, such as off-highway vehicles (ATVs, snowmobiles, etc.), conflict with non-motorized forest uses has increased, as has concern over safety and environmental impacts. Careful planning will be critical to meet these diverse and often competing needs and to minimize conflicts among forest users.

Recreation Use Conflicts in Wisconsin Forests (6)

The *2005-2010 Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)* contains a chapter addressing Wisconsin outdoor recreation conflicts. The chapter examines which activities produce the most conflict when interacting, and offers potential management strategies for reducing conflict. To read more about the SCORP, see:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/planning/scorp/>

Reauthorization of Stewardship Funds (167)

In 2007, the State Stewardship Fund was approved for a ten-year extension. The Stewardship Fund helps acquire land for recreation, wildlife habitat, natural areas, and water quality in Wisconsin. Stewardship money has protected more than 475,000 acres across the state. For more information on the reauthorization, see: http://www.gatheringwaters.org/policy_stewardshipfund.

ATVs on the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest (16)

The master plan for the Northern Highland-American Legion (NHAL) State Forest (approved in 2005) included a directive to evaluate whether, and if so where, one or more ATV trails might be established on the NHAL. From 2006-2008, DNR worked with a citizen's stakeholder group to assess where, if anywhere, ATV trails would be well suited for the property, considering their ecological, economic, and social impacts. The group's work was completed in June of 2007 when they delivered a report to the Department titled, *The Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest Sustainable ATV Trail Alternative*. The ATV citizen stakeholders' report was followed by extensive public comment and an in-depth Department of Natural Resources feasibility study. The Natural Resources Board reviewed the study and made a final decision to not pursue the development of either trail alternative due to ecological and economic considerations. This decision was in line with the Secretary's recommendation. For more information, see: http://dnr.wi.gov/master_planning/nhal/

Use Compatibility as a Basis for Outdoor Recreation Planning (6)

DNR is working in collaboration with UW on research aimed at recreation conflicts. *Outdoor Recreation Planning: A Comprehensive Approach to Understanding Use Interaction* was published in CAB Reviews: Perspectives in Agriculture, Veterinary Science, Nutrition and

Natural Resources in 2008 and is available to read here:

<http://www.cababstractsplus.org/cabReviews/Reviews.asp?action=display&openMenu=relatedItems&ReviewID=92888&SubjectID=75>. An additional paper will be published in the Journal of Leisure Research in 2010.

Public Access Land Purchase Program (67)

Wisconsin Act 20 established a program that uses MFL closed acreage land funds to purchase new lands. Funding for this program was eliminated in 2009 due to budget cuts. The authorizing statute remains in place, but administrative rules have not been created. To read Act 20 online, see: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/2007/data/acts/07Act20.pdf>

Theme Seven: Managing the Impacts of Changes in Wisconsin's Land Use and Forest Ownership (7)

Patterns of land use and forest ownership directly influence the long-term management of Wisconsin's forests and the many economic, social, and ecological benefits that those forests provide. Growing suburbs, second homes, and other land uses increasingly convert contiguous forested areas into smaller patches of forest and non-forest. These land use changes in the forest have significant impacts on a broad range of concerns, including: fire control and protection of life, property and resources in the wildland-urban interface; habitat fragmentation and loss of biodiversity; the ability to successfully manage forests for sustainability and productivity; costs of community services; and the health of local and state economies. Our ability to preserve the many benefits of our forests depends on how we plan to prevent and manage the impacts of the increasing changes in land use and forest ownership.

Growing Forest Legacy Areas (147)

Since 2004, the Forest Legacy Program has added 411.8 acres to the Baraboo Hills Area in Sauk County, 18,511 acres to the Wolf River Area in Langlade County, and three properties totaling 198 acres to the Holy Hills Forest Legacy Project. For more information on the Forest Legacy Program in Wisconsin, see: <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/legacy/state.html>

County Forests Achieve Certification (147)

Twenty-seven Wisconsin County Forests achieved certification through the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) and Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). These forests cover approximately 2.3 million acres of land. The FSC and SFI standards involve social, economic, and environmental criteria established by regional and international experts. County Forest Assessment Reports are available online at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/certification/county.html>
For more information contact Jeff Barkley at 608-264-9217.

Survey of Wildfire Perceptions (37)

After the Cottonville Fire in May 2005, the Division of Forestry asked the USDA Forest Service to assemble a team of wildfire experts to investigate the fire in greater detail. The incident assessment looked at outreach, preparedness, and mitigation activities in the county prior to the fire, and the details of what happened during the fire. A post-fire assessment of structure survivability, defensible space, and property hazards was also completed. To further investigate wildfire perceptions in Adams County, DNR forestry staff partnered with the Forest Service to conduct a countywide survey of property owners. Results of the survey will help improve our wildfire education and awareness efforts. For more information, contact Jolene Ackerman, (608) 267-7677. For more background on the Cottonville Fire, see: <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/fire/prevention/wui/cottonville.htm>

Wisconsin Healthy Forest Program (1347)

The Wisconsin Healthy Forest Program (WHFP) was a successful community-based, pilot project intended to increase the number of private landowners with forest management plans and the number of privately owned forest acres under responsible management. WHFP was initiated in September 2005 and ended in September 2008. To read the program's final report, see:

http://www.wisaf.org/2008_Next_Two_Million_Acre_WHFP_Report_final.pdf

Community Wildfire Protection Plans in Wisconsin (7)

With the passing of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act in 2003, fire-prone communities have been encouraged to develop and implement wildfire preparedness and hazardous fuels reduction projects by developing Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP). The towns of Barnes and Drummond in Bayfield County were the first communities in Wisconsin to develop a CWPP in 2005. Currently, six CWPPs have been created, 3 are in progress, and more are in the planning stage. For more information, see: <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/fire/prevention/wui/>

Land Legacy Report (17)

In an effort to put potential future conservation needs into context, the Natural Resources Board directed the DNR to identify places critical to meet Wisconsin's conservation and outdoor recreation needs over the next 50 years. The DNR Bureau of Facilities and Lands developed *Wisconsin's Land Legacy Report*, which identifies 229 Legacy Places identified as critical to meeting Wisconsin's conservation and outdoor recreation needs. The 2006 report also identifies eight Statewide Needs and Resources. For more information, or to read the report, see:

http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/Master_Planning/land_legacy/overview.html

Cooperative Forest Fire Initiative (7)

A recent survey showed that local cooperative area fire departments are responding to 3,430 forest fires burning 24,557 acres annually. To begin to meet the needs of cooperative area fire departments, the Division of Forestry initiated a forest fire training program in January 2005. To date, this program has trained 7,310 firefighters from 251 cooperative area fire departments in the basics of safety, organization and suppression of forest fires. Learn more at:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/fire/firedept.htm>

Automated Burning Permit System (7)

All counties under DNR fire protection officially adopted an automated burning permit system in 2008. The new system offers customers a one-time annual written burning permit with the option to check daily burn restrictions either over the phone or on the internet. In 2008 alone, nearly 60,000 burning permits were issued, 300,000 phone calls were made, and tens of thousands of web hits occurred. For additional information on burning permits and fire restrictions, visit:

http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/fire/fire_danger/Wis_Burn/StateCounties.asp

Outreach to Smart Growth Communities (1 4 5 7)

The Smart Forestry for Smart Growth Toolbox was developed in response to the 2000 Statewide Comprehensive Planning Law. Information in the toolbox provides local communities, planners, and resource professionals with the tools and support they need to develop comprehensive plans that sustain the ecological, social, and economic benefits of Wisconsin's forests. The toolbox was updated in 2008 and is available online at:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/SmartForestry/>

Communities At Risk Assessment Completed (7)

In an effort to identify which Wisconsin communities are at greatest risk from wildfire, the Division of Forestry conducted a statewide assessment in 2007. This study involved a GIS model that incorporated level of hazard, proximity to wildland urban interface, and ignition risk. The Division will use this assessment to prioritize education, preparedness, and fuels reduction projects, Firewise Communities, and the development of Community Wildfire Protection Plans. For more information, see:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/fire/prevention/wui/>

Forest Sustainability Framework (1 2 3 4 5 7)

The Wisconsin Council on Forestry approved Wisconsin's Forest Sustainability Framework in 2007. The Framework establishes a system of criteria and indicators to describe the health and sustainability of all Wisconsin forests. The Framework also provides a structure to track forest trends and issues over time, evaluates the effectiveness of current conservation efforts, and creates a common language to discuss sustainability. The final report may be viewed online at

<http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/assessment/framework.htm>

State Forests Renew Certification (1 4 7)

In 2004, State Forests achieved dual Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and Sustainable Forest Initiative (SFI) certification. A second five-year recertification began in January 2009. Both state forests and one-million acres of other state-owned lands are certified. For more information, or to view audit reports from certification assessments, see:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/certification/state.html>