



WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON FORESTRY

Tony Evers, Governor

councilonforestry.wi.gov

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August 5, 2022

Tom Hittle
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Matt Dallman
Vice-Chair

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Dr. Adena Rissman

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Henry Schienebeck

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Jason Sjostrom

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Jordan Skiff

▪

Jim Gries

(Acting USFS Representative)

▪

Dr. William Van Lopik

Secretary Preston Cole
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
PO Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707-7921

RE: Wisconsin Council on Forestry FY2023-25 Budget Priorities

Dear Secretary Cole:

The Wisconsin Council on Forestry is appreciative of the opportunity to discuss forestry related budgetary items important to Wisconsin's forestry community with you and your staff on August 11th.

Appointed by the Governor, the Wisconsin Council on Forestry is a diverse group of leaders in the forestry community who direct Wisconsin's efforts to achieve sustainable forestry. The Council was created by State Statute in 2002 to advise the governor, legislature, Department of Natural Resources, Department of Commerce, and other state agencies on a host of forestry issues. The Council has routinely weighed in with the administration and legislators during past biennial budget efforts.

Forests in Wisconsin are one of our most powerful economic drivers and one of our best environmental assets. Funding for forestry programs is an investment that supports vigorous and resilient forests throughout our rural and urban communities across the state.

The following list was generated by the members of the Wisconsin Council on Forestry, and committee invitees that represent the broader forestry community. For purposes of this letter the list that follows was intentionally kept at a high level, details will be discussed when we meet in August. The list is organized in the following manner: suggestions for new budgetary considerations; priority topics for you and your staff to consider as you develop your budget; programmatic areas where the members felt there should be increased investment and, lastly; programs to at least maintain current funding levels.

We look forward to the chance to speak with you in more detail regarding the following areas:

Budget Discussion Topics

New

- Funding to support Council on Forestry functions
- Forest Industry Support
- Good Neighbor Authority
- Climate and Resilient Forests

Priority topics for the forestry community (awareness)

- Maintain GPR funding as funded by Mill tax
- Transportation
- Fire Management
- Alternative forest values
- Oak forests and savannahs

Increase

- Forest Landowner Grants
- Urban and Community Forest
- County Forests
- Support reforestation/tree planting

Maintain

- Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program
- Forestry Education

On behalf of the Wisconsin Council on Forestry we would like to thank you and your staff for your efforts to protect and maintain our forests and the many environmental, social, and economic benefits they provide for Wisconsin citizens. As a result of long-term investments in critical functions such as fire control, reforestation, and forest product technical support and training, Wisconsin residents have enjoyed consistently high levels of productivity, environmental benefits, and economic output from our forests.

Please feel free to reach out to us for additional information or further details on any of the topics we have discussed here.

Sincerely,



Thomas Hittle
Council Chair



Matt Dallman
Council Vice Chair