

WFPS High Priority Recommendations and Assignments - Seasonality

All recommendations as well as accomplishment reports can be found at <https://councilonforestry.wi.gov/Pages/ForestPracticesStudy/Accomplishments.aspx>

High Priority Team Recommendations	Assignments	Initial Est. Delivery Date	Revised Est. Delivery Date	Comments
SEASONALITY Oak Wilt Restrictions				
Request that the DNR provide training to all DNR foresters on changes to the oak wilt restrictions and support their implementation. This training should also be available to Cooperating Foresters.	The WDNR Forest Health Team in partnership with the UW-Extension will develop an oak wilt guidelines training program which reviews current guidelines and changes since the previous recommendations. This training should also aid conversations about risks associated with management. It will be open to WDNR Foresters (required), consulting & industrial foresters, and County forestry staff.	Dec 2018	Completed 	While a specific “training program” was not developed with UWEX, over 65 trainings were offered to WDNR foresters, consulting & industrial foresters, county forestry staff, loggers, and landowners between 2015 and 2018. For FISTA, 2 trainings specific to oak wilt were held in 2018 and another planned in 2019.
The Forest Industry Safety Training Alliance (FISTA) and the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association (WOAA) should provide similar training for loggers and forest landowners.	The WDNR Forest Health Team in partnership with the UW-Extension will develop an oak wilt guidelines training program which reviews current guidelines and changes since the previous recommendations. This training should also aid landowner understanding of risks associated with management. It should be open to any attendees.	Dec 2018	Completed 	Providing training on oak wilt guidelines and other forest health issues is an on-going work

				objective of the Forest Health Team and improvements to trainings are regularly implemented.
Prescription Writing				
The WDNR should review the resources most commonly used when writing timber harvest prescriptions and revise them where appropriate to align with most current guidelines and science. The resources should be modified as appropriate to avoid being overly specific (i.e. documents do not dictate 'frozen' ground when 'firm' or 'dry' would also be suitable). It will be very difficult to drive change without the review and revision of these documents.	The WDNR Public Lands Specialist Team will review what resources foresters use to determine seasonal restrictions (ex. frozen ground only). The Team will also review the concept of outcome-based specifications in order to enhance harvesting flexibility while protecting site productivity.	March 2018	December 2019 (TS HB) December 2020 (PL HB)	The Timber Sale Handbook is currently under a full review and revision including contract provisions and addendums. The Public Lands Handbook will be under a full review and revision in 2020. In addition, guidelines are regularly reviewed and revised as new research and other applicable information becomes available. The next guidelines with expected new research to garner review are the

				biomass harvesting guidelines.
Following the revision of these documents, foresters (DNR, county and cooperators) need to be trained on the changes and the need for flexibility in prescription writing.	The WDNR Silviculture Program will review and revise prescription writing as a part of silvicultural training classes. As necessary, WDNR staff will amend training to review the impact of cumulative restrictions on forest management. If possible, it should be offered as a stand-alone class or open to WDNR Foresters, consulting & industrial foresters, and County forestry staff.	June 2018	Completed 	Changes are currently being implemented to the Division of Forestry's new forester training on this topic, including timber sale set-up and administration. Upcoming trainings and presentations include the Spring Cooperating Forester meeting, Spring WCFA meeting, and in the Summer 2020, a Northern Hardwood Symposium is being planned in northern WI with support from multiple agencies which will be open to forestry professionals in the Northeast US.
Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) Restrictions				
Training and communication with foresters is needed on the procedures for NHI compliance.	The WDNR Natural Heritage Conservation Program will review NHI Assessment as a part of WDNR forestry classes. These classes will also be	March 2018	Completed	Drew Feldkirchner from WDNR NHC presented at the

	provided to County forestry staff and consulting foresters. As necessary, WDNR staff will alter training to review how to assess hits using the public portal as well as strategies to mitigate hits, in addition to recognizing the impact of cumulative restrictions on forest management.			March 2018 CoF meeting on the current state of NHI, the database, and access.
Legislation mandating a review and update of the NHI & Archeological database to remove outdated items is needed.	The WDNR Tax Law NHI Subcommittee will assess options for improving access to The NHI database, what reviews of NHI data have occurred or are occurring, and what role the WI Forestry Community has and should play in this. The review will identify components of the current NHI review process that impact the ability to update and maintain the database and limit user access. If necessary, The WI Council on Forestry, with this review in hand, can assess advocating legislation to address desired efficiencies.	June 2018	Completed 	Training are an on-going work objective of NHC staff and improvements to trainings are regularly implemented.