

WFPS Seasonality Accomplishment Report

Update 3: June 1 – October 16, 2018

Previous accomplishment reports can be found at:

<https://councilonforestry.wi.gov/Pages/ForestPracticesStudy/Accomplishments.aspx>

Topic: Oak Wilt

Accomplishments during the Reporting Cycle:

Refer to the Prescription Writing Topic Area for accomplishments.

Next Steps:

Refer to the Prescription Writing Topic Area for next steps.

Topic: Rutting

Accomplishments during the Reporting Cycle:

Refer to the Prescription Writing Topic Area for accomplishments.

Next Steps:

Refer to the Prescription Writing Topic Area for next steps on training.

Topic: Prescription Writing

Accomplishments during the Reporting Cycle:

A small group of DNR and UWEX staff met on June 29th and August 2nd to discuss the WFPS seasonality assignments for all topics areas. Based on the WFPS recommendations and assignments, the group developed the following outcomes for public land foresters, that they will:

- Understand timber sale set-up, marketability, operability, and administration considerations
- Understand guidelines as well as science and rationale behind them
- Apply guidelines appropriately to site
- Communicate why guidelines are or are not applicable to site
- Optimize use of flexibilities applicable to sale
- Establish and administer timber sales that reflect sustainable forest management with consideration of economic factors for the public land manager, logger, and wood purchaser

To achieve these outcomes, per the WFPS recommendations and assignments, the group recommended forming three work groups to work on (1) communication, (2) training, and (3) monitoring/reporting.

At the end of September, an update on the WFPS seasonality assignments was given to the WCFA Legislation/Certification Committee and an update on the WFPS seasonality and silviculture assignments was given at the fall WCFA meeting. Volunteers were requested from WCFA to help with the three workgroups.

Next Steps:

The three work groups will be meeting to confirm and refine the work already done by the small group previously. For communication work group, the primary task will be to develop a communications plan to communicate the leadership intent regarding direction from the WFPS. This work group is being led by Carmen Hardin. For the training work group, they are developing a survey for recently hired foresters to evaluate existing and identify needs and revising existing training programs. The initial focus is updating the public lands timber set-up class. This workgroup is being led by Doug Brown. The monitoring/reporting work group will be developing a pre/post sale evaluation process (similar to the report card process referenced in the WFPS recommendations and assignments), creating a process to quantify volumes of seasonally restricted wood from timber sales on public lands, and investigating an audit and feedback process for foresters for timber sales they set-up and administer. The lead for this work group is Mark Heyde.

Topic: Natural Heritage Inventory

Accomplishments during the Reporting Cycle:

Refer to the Prescription Topic for accomplishments.

Next Steps:

Refer to the Prescription Writing Topic Area for next steps.

Topic: EAB (Assignments Completed)

Accomplishments during the Reporting Cycle:

At March 2018 Council on Forestry meeting, the Council agreed no further action was needed on this topic. DATCP issued a statewide EAB quarantine effective March 30, 2018.

The USDA is currently accepting comments on their proposal to remove the federal quarantine on emerald ash borer. The proposed rule is available in the Federal Register and open for comment through November 19, 2018.

Next Steps:

The Division of Forestry, while not a specific assignment, will incorporate into its 2019-2021 Research Agenda the research needs identified in this topic area. The Division's Research Agenda is presented to the Council on the Forestry for their feedback. The timeline for development of the Division's Research Agenda is pending Department guidance.