

## Wisconsin Forest Practices Studies: High Priority Assignments

Topic	Recommendation	Assigned Party	Assignment #	Assignment	Estimated Delivery Date	WFPS Advisory Team Priority
Northern Hardwood Mgmt.	The WDNR should transition from guidelines and policy based on the order of removal as established in the WDNR Silvicultural Handbook and establish guidance, as opposed to rules, for individual tree selection in northern hardwood stands. Guidance should be adaptable to landowner objectives, consider both biological and economic concerns, and foster development of crop trees while maintaining minimum basal area stocking levels consistent with current northern hardwood silvicultural science.	Wisconsin Silviculture Guidance Team (SGT)	1.1	The Wisconsin Silviculture Guidance Team (SGT) will examine whether the concept of order of removal should be retained and/or revised along with investigating other tree selection options. If retained, it will also explore how to add flexibility within the standard order of removal. SGT will expand current work revising and adding clarity to The WDNR Silviculture Handbook, Chapter 24: Tree Marking and Retention Guidelines and Chapter 21: Natural Regeneration - Single Tree Selection (STS). This work will include additional explanation on the proper application of marking processes within the context of landowner objectives and the resulting silvicultural prescription.	December-2018	High
		Wisconsin Silviculture Guidance Team (SGT), Northern Hardwood Ad Hoc Team	1.2	The SGT Northern Hardwood Ad Hoc Team will revise the WDNR Silviculture Handbook, Chapter 40: Northern Hardwood Chapter to add clarity to the single tree selection section, marking guide examples, and explore additional options to the single tree selection method to provide additional flexibility in achieving landowner objectives.	December-2018	High
Northern Hardwood Mgmt.	The definition for the term "crop tree" should be revised and expanded to include various elements that incorporate landowner objectives whether they are economic, ecological, or social. A crop tree will have the potential to increase in value by a jump in grade or increase in ecological function; having not yet achieved its maximum economic, ecological, or social potential. The tree will exhibit quality with future potential. When the potential for increase in value growth peaks, it should no longer be considered a crop tree and should be eligible for harvest, subject to landowner objectives.	Wisconsin Silviculture Guidance Team (SGT)	2.1	The Wisconsin Silviculture Guidance Team will evaluate and review ongoing work to develop a crop tree definition and complementary Growing Stock Classification System (GSCS) to help foresters evaluate tree quality and potential.	December-2018	High
		Wisconsin Silviculture Guidance Team (SGT), Northern Hardwood Ad Hoc Team	2.2	The Wisconsin Silviculture Guidance Team will work to better define timber, aesthetic, and wildlife crop trees and provide tools for assessing crop trees within the WDNR Silviculture Handbook. In addition, The WDNR Northern Hardwood Ad Hoc Team will add a new economics section and revised stem quality section to the Northern Hardwood Chapter to expand on crop tree assessment.	December-2018	High
		Wisconsin Silviculture Guidance Team (SGT)	2.3	The Wisconsin Silviculture Guidance Team will expand discussion on crop tree selection in addition to the Growing Stock Classification System in Chapter 24: Marking Guidelines.	December-2018	High
Northern Hardwood Mgmt.	Move away from the heavy reliance on uniform basal area and basal area stocking as criteria for adherence to forest tax law plans or prescriptions. Rather, the focus should be on retention and increase of stem quality, along with considerations for landowner objectives, while maintaining minimum basal area stocking levels consistent with current northern hardwood silvicultural science including accounting for natural regeneration needs and residual stem quality factors.	Wisconsin Silviculture Guidance Team (SGT), Northern Hardwood Ad Hoc Team	6.1	The SGT Northern Hardwood Ad Hoc Team will review and consider revisions to the Northern Hardwood Chapter, single tree selection section based on best available science. While some USFS Dukes and Argonne Experimental Forest research specific to stand density management is already discussed in the chapter, there is the potential to expand this information. See Assignment 1.2	December-2018	High
Aspen & Red Pine Rotation Ages	Establish guiding principles that allows flexibility in rotation ages depending on site potential. Guiding principles should recognize that the timing to rotate a particular stand can be influenced by unique stand conditions and other considerations such as land owner objectives, operability, markets, economics, social and ecological considerations.	Wisconsin Silviculture Guidance Team (SGT), Aspen and Red Pine Rotation Age Ad Hoc Team	7.1	The Wisconsin Silviculture Guidance Team Rotation Ad Hoc Team will continue work to define flexible rotation age guidance for aspen and red pine based an examination of current research, actual stand data, field experience, and WFPS study results.	December-2018	High
Oak Wilt Restrictions	Request that the DNR provide training to all DNR foresters, by January 1, 2018, on the changes to the Oak Wilt restrictions and support their implementation. DNR also to make training available to Cooperating Foresters.	WDNR Forest Health Team, UW-Extension	8.1	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.	December-2018	High
Oak Wilt Restrictions	Request that FISTA and WAAA provide similar training for Loggers and Landowners.	WDNR Forest Health Team, UW-Extension	8.2	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.	December-2018	High

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Prescription Writing	Review (DNR ?) the resources that are most commonly used when writing timber harvest prescriptions and Revise them where appropriate to align with most current guidelines and science - AS WELL AS modify them to avoid being too specific. (i.e. – must make sure these documents do not dictate ‘frozen’ ground – when ‘firm’ or ‘dry’ would also be suitable). It is very important to modify these resources – otherwise – it will be very difficult to drive change.	WDNR Public Lands Specialist Team	10.1	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	High
Prescription Writing	Similar to ‘Oak Wilt’ recommendation - after the Review/Revise from step 1 is complete – then re-train DNR, County and Cooperating Foresters on the changes and the need for flexibility in prescription writing.	WDNR Silviculture Program	10.2	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	High
NHI Restrictions	Again – an education (training/communication) is needed on the procedures for compliance in regard to NHI (i.e.. if hit exists – still have option to determine if ‘hit’ exists and then have additional option to determine if harvest will impact ‘hit’). We did not specifically ID who provides this training but most likely similar to ‘Oak Wilt’ where it is combination of State, County and FISTA.	WDNR Natural Heritage Conservation Forestry Liaison	11.1	The WDNR Natural Heritage Conservation Program will review NHI Assessment as a part of WDNR forestry classes. These classes will also be 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	High
NHI Restrictions	Request new legislation that mandates a review and update of the NHI & Archeological database. (purpose here was to remove outdated items. Example at the meeting was the ‘glass lizard’ that was seen almost 100 years ago – therefore NHI hit still exists - is that really warranted?)	Wisconsin Council on Forestry, WDNR Natural Heritage Conservation Forestry Liaison, WDNR Tax Law NHI Subcommittee	11.2	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	High
Forester Economic Training		WDNR Forest Products Marketing and Utilization	17.1	Continue and build upon recent forest industry training efforts to develop additional multi-stakeholder field training sessions on economics and operations. These trainings will review current economics software/tools (economic outcome/analysis). See 20.1	March-2019	High
Forester Economic Training	In planning future events, engage WFPS investigators to ensure training content includes their findings, thus maximizing the translation of research into practice. It would be particularly useful to have investigators participate in trainings when possible.	Wisconsin Council on Forestry	18.1	The Wisconsin Council on Forestry will create a summarized report of main contact leads for WFPS authors.	March-2018	High