

FY23-25 Council on Forestry Budget Requests





DNR Secretary Priority Proposal

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

Governor Forestry Mill Tax

In 2017, when the **Forestry Mill Tax** ended, legislators promised to maintain forestry funding from GPR. **It is imperative to continue this funding.** The current GPR allocation to the Forestry Account within the Conservation Fund supports public safety and forestry related programs including the following **critical functions**:

- Urban forestry grant program
- County forest sustainability and habitat grants
- Forest management activities on public lands
- Wildland fire control operations and support for rural fire departments
- Supporting family forest owners Managed Forest Law
- Forest nurseries, forest health and forest conservation activities
- Forest recreation, campgrounds, trails, and forest facilities
- Support for community tree programs
- Debt service for Knowles-Nelson Stewardship





FY23-25 Governor and Legislature

- **Fund a new one-time appropriation in the Forestry SEG Account of \$775,000 to facilitate the development of a Forest Industry-Wide Strategic Plan and Roadmap.** *This Plan will build on existing projects that support innovation and workforce development and will position Wisconsin to anticipate and drive the demand of our 21st century wood fiber production with sustainable, innovative products to put the state at the top of global wood markets.*
- **Increase spending authority by \$500,000 annually to improve management of private forests through the Wisconsin Forest Landowner Grant Program (WFLGP).** *This critical grant program supports reforestation, storm clean up, and other activities to improve forest health, sustainability, and productivity. Demand for this program exceeds current funding levels and increasing availability is an important strategy to meet Wisconsin's goals to maintain forest health in light of increasing stressors from a changing climate and challenges with current wood markets for low grade fiber. This increase can be made by adjusting annual spending authority within Wis. Stat. 20.370(5)(av) from \$1,147,900 to \$1,647,900.*
- **Increase spending authority by \$300,000 annually to support forest Education and Innovative Curriculum Development to keep pace with an ever-evolving forest industry.** *Of the numerous challenges facing Wisconsin's forest industry, workforce recruitment and training remain among the most pressing. This funding will build upon the well-established programs developed by LEAF and ensure sustainability for the Wisconsin Forestry Center. This increase can be made by adjusting annual spending authority within Wis. Stat. 20.370(2)(cu) from \$350,000 to \$650,000 and modify Wis. Stat. 26.39(2) as needed to allow for this authority to also be used for innovative curriculum development.*

Additional Partners Support Requests to Governor and Legislature

- \$250,000 for Mid-State Technical College (AMETA)
- \$250,000 UWSP's WI Institute for Sustainable Technology (WIST)
- Development and implementation of a **statewide talent attraction marketing** plan for the forest products industry
- Providing **forest product industry employment opportunity information** to high school, technical college and college students through sector apprenticeships and internships
- Creation of a **forest products sector job opportunities website**
- Development of a **wage/salary database** for various sectors of the industry

