

Council on Forestry Research Subcommittee

Draft Research Direction

16 August 2013

Research shall be conducted that makes the most meaningful contribution(s) toward answering this umbrella research question: ***How does Wisconsin continue to provide sustainably grown wood fiber to support competitive wood using industries into the future?***

Council members and others have suggested several different directions the research might take or feel are important (see below); however, a key task for the research team will be to conduct relevant reviews of past research and initial preliminary data collection and analyses that justify more in-depth study. The focus of that subsequent study may address the directions posited by the Council and/or different ones, so long as those they are regarded as key to answering the umbrella research question above.

The Council on Forestry, through the Research Subcommittee, will work with the Research Team in vetting the overall project design and directions for in-depth analysis.

Potential research directions

- What is the availability¹ of wood fiber in the state – by broad product categories, region, and ownership – now and in the future?
- How have land ownership changes, experienced over the last 15 years, affected the supply of wood fiber? [*Note: have policies affected land ownership patterns, such as easements, more land being put into MFL, etc.?*]
- What are the positive and negative impacts² of regulations and voluntary guidelines (e.g., best management practices, silvicultural guidelines, etc.) on the supply of wood fiber?
- What are the positive and negative impacts of forest certification programs on both the supply and the demand for wood fiber? [*Note: possible cost/benefit analysis opportunity*]
- What is capacity³ and demand of wood using industries to utilize Wisconsin's wood fiber resource?
- What portion of wood supply is currently being used by existing industries and how much wood fiber would be available for industry growth?
- Are there changes or bottlenecks across the supply chain from stump to mills that affect supply or present opportunities?
- Identify and explore other substantive factors that might prohibit Wisconsin from remaining competitive into the future.
- Question to be developed concerning, managing fire risk in Wisconsin.

¹ Timber "availability" is typically defined as that which is biologically available (i.e., growth – mortality). Timber "supply" refers to what markets, landowner objectives, and policy allow.

² Impacts include ecological, economic, and social. To the extent possible, impacts will reflect spatial distributions.

³ Capacity refers to maximum production without concern for input (e.g., labor, fiber) or outputs (e.g., buyers), while demand reflects what consumers are willing to purchase.