

## Council on Forestry - Funding Committee 2025 – 2027 Budget Recommendations

1. Restore from the Forestry SEG account the Division of Forestry's 2023 –'25 biennial budget cut in funding for supplies and services.
  - a. 5% or \$1.35M
2. Increase funding for the UWSP College of Natural Resources LEAF-Wisconsin's K12 Forestry Education Program and the Wisconsin Forestry Center.
  - a. \$616K
  - b. These programs work collaboratively to address a continuum of forestry education and workforce needs in Wisconsin.
  - c. Sustainable funding source needed to leverage other funding sources, such as Jobs in the Woods Act.
3. Increase funding for the Wisconsin Forest Landowner Grant Program (WFLGP).
  - a. \$500K
  - b. Since 2009-20011 budget the budget has been static at \$1.1M.
  - c. Demand exceeds funding; waiting list of applicants; applicants deterred from applying due to limited funding, high level of competition and timeline to receive funds.
  - d. Funding less projects due to inflation (43% based on CPI calculator).
4. Fund a new one-time appropriation in the Forestry SEG Account \$1M 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.
  - a. \$1M
  - b. Support, diversify and develop our industry.
  - c. Foster rural prosperity and maintain this industry's important economic contribution.
5. Support increased funding for the County Forests Association.
  - a. Grants Total \$1.26M
    - i. Forest Administration Grant - \$500K
    - ii. Sustainable Forestry Grant - \$500K
    - iii. Wildlife Habitat Grant – 260K
  - b. Increased DNR staff support by 6000 hours or an estimated 3.5 full time positions  
\$??
6. Increase funding for the Division's information technology (IT) needs and the Wisconsin Forest Inventory and Reporting System (WisFIRS).
  - a. \$??
  - b. Critical business need.
  - c. Significant use with external partners – County, Federal and Certified Plan Writers.
  - d. Needs modernization and support of applications.

7. Support needs related to the Governor's tree planting pledge as part of the Global Trillion Trees Initiative.
  - a. \$??
  - b. Federal funding is short term – 2 years
  - c. Increased nursery capacity is needed.
  
8. Establish and fund dedicated staff and resources for the Wisconsin Council on Forestry operations.
  - a. \$94K for 1 FTE
  - b. \$71 for 1 LTE
  
9. Increase efforts and funding to support issues related to maintaining healthy forests and to mitigate dangers associated with declining forests due to pests and invasive species.
  - a. \$??
  
10. Increase efforts and funding to communicate and educate the public about the importance of Wisconsin's forest industry.
  - a. \$??
  
11. Continued support for the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship debt service.
  - a. \$??
  - b. Forestry Funding Committee supports at the current level.
  
12. Advocate for improvements in transportation infrastructure, including rail, bridge replacements/upgrades and roads.

Priorities previously promoted to the Governor, but not incorporated into items 1 – 12

- A. Urban forestry grant program
- B. Forest management activities on public lands (fall within #9?)
- C. Wildland fire control operations and support for rural fire departments
- D. Supporting family forest owners Managed Forest Law
- E. Forest recreation, campgrounds, trails, and forest facilities

J.Hoppe

WI Council on Forestry, Budget Committee Chair

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