

Division of Forestry Outcomes: FY23-27

Council on Forestry May 2026

The Division uses outcome statements to describe what we are trying to achieve during a strategic direction period. Outcome statements do not describe all program work, but instead highlight new or long-term strategies, important stretch goals, and critical areas of maintenance. You can think of outcome statements as priority focus areas for the Division. Annually, Division leadership reviews metrics developed to monitor each outcome as a way to both celebrate successes and determine where shifts may be needed.

Below you will find a list of outcome statements relevant to external partners.

Applied Forestry Bureau

Forest Economics and Ecology

- Science-based silviculture and forest ecology information is provided to staff and partners effectively, efficiently, and through a variety of methods.
- Sustainable forestry continues to protect water quality through the proper implementation of BMPs. This will be achieved by providing guidance, information, teachings, manuals, monitoring, field visits, and regulations that facilitate and reward the use of BMPs.
- Research is being conducted, compiled and communicated in a variety of ways to effectively inform policy and management decision making.
- The Wisconsin forest genetics program is reinvigorated with internal investments and external partnerships, with the relationship of genetics and forest resilience, forest health, tree improvement, silviculture and ecology being the main areas of focus.

Forest Health

- New forest health management tools are explored and developed with researchers and shared with forest managers to increase forest health management options.
- Management and preventative recommendations and techniques are available and being used by landowners and land managers.
- The division has increased involvement in the development and utilization of technology for detection and monitoring for forest health issues with partners.
- New and existing invasive plant location information is used to inform and support statewide forest management.

- The division has increased engagement with K-12 and underserved communities on forest health issues.
- The state's forest health network and our ability to effectively serve the public are enhanced through strengthened partnerships.

Forest Product Services

- The division provides professional technical assistance to expand understanding of forest products markets, processing and supply chains.
- The division supports new and existing businesses by providing information on emerging markets.
- The division makes rural and urban inventory data and trends available so the public and private sector can use this information to make informed decisions.
- The division uses Forest Regeneration Monitoring data and trends to understand regeneration successes and challenges and to inform management strategies.

Reforestation

- State nursery facilities scale production of high quality, genetically diverse stock of known seed sources for conservation purposes, in relation to private sector capacity and changing seedling demand, balancing flexibility with cost of production.
- Tree plantings and natural regeneration efforts are fully stocked with established seedlings that are free to grow according to planting plan or silvicultural prescription.
- Customers and partners have the resources they need to successfully establish tree plantings.
- The division maximizes the use of existing orchards and nursery production, when economically feasible.

Urban Forestry

- Urban forestry staff provide grant recipients with high quality customer service.
- The Urban Forestry Team provides resources, education, and tools to partners to increase their capacity to best manage their resource.
- The division makes rural and urban inventory data and trends available so the public and private sector can use this information to make informed decisions
- The Urban Forestry Team facilitates and tracks partner tree inventories, an important component of sustainable urban forestry programs.

Forestry Business Services Bureau

Aeronautics

- Across the state, all detection and suppression requests are met, and pilots provide safe and consistent aerial fire services and phraseology to ground personnel through division endorsed standardized pilot fire training.
- The aeronautics program serves a growing and diverse customer base inside and outside the DNR with an updated fleet of Cessna 182's and modern drones, and a cost-effective flight rate structure.

Budgets and Grants

- Division supervisors are supported through all phases of the budget process.
- Supervisors and grant managers, including relevant staff and partners, understand the pitfalls and processes around grant applications and management, ensuring the agreements are logical and successful.

Division Effectiveness

- The division uses effective and audience specific modes of communication to further support for sustainable forestry in Wisconsin.
- The division maintains a low vacancy rate by supporting efficient and equitable hiring processes through broad recruitment efforts that include diverse and underrepresented audiences.

Equipment Research and Development

- The division and partners benefit from a reliable communication system and dedicated customer service as needs arise.
- The LeMay equipment center continually improves by researching, designing, testing and incorporating new technologies into all supplied wildfire fighting equipment.

Forestry Field Operations Bureau

Forest Protection

- Wildfire suppression capacity in local fire departments is maintained.
- The division works statewide in partnership to prevent, detect, and rapidly suppress wildland fires in areas of the state that have the greatest potential for significant loss of property and natural resources.

- The division provides clear communication to the public and our partners to ensure awareness of the current fire danger.
- The number of wildfire reduction projects is maintained and there is an increase the number of Firewise sites in the highest hazard landscapes.
- State-wide capacity for prescribed burning has increased, through engagement with and support of partners.

Forest Tax Law

- Sound forest management and adherence to program requirements are ensured through facilitation of landowner engagement, enhanced partnerships, staff expertise and collaboration.
- The division supports building program expertise across Tax Law Specialists and Certified Plan Writers with a shared understanding of roles and responsibilities.
- Tax Law webpage is more frequently utilized by customers and stakeholders as a valued source for program information and guidance.

Private Forestry

- Conversion of forests to non-forest uses and parcelization is reduced through the increased use of conservation easements, further benefitting Wisconsin's economic, social, and environmental well-being.
- There is an increase in the number of landowners who are guided by a plan, connected to resource professionals, and are actively engaged in making informed decisions about the management of their woodland.
- More landowners are receiving financial assistance for the first time to implement forest management activities on their properties.
- Across the state, private forest landowners are able to obtain forestry assistance by well-qualified, highly skilled forestry professionals.

Public Lands

- The division provides resources to strategically meet the needs of county forests.
- The division establishes and administers timber sales and conducts restoration projects on the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest (CNNF) utilizing division, County, Tribal, non-profit, and private consulting forester resources.
- Long-term annual average allowable harvest goals on DNR managed lands are met.
- Harvested stands are adequately regenerated and non-forested stands with a scheduled planting treatment are evaluated for regeneration needs.
- The division remains committed to continuous improvement and maintains third-party certifications for State Lands, County Forest and Managed Forest Law.