

FY15-17 Budget Process
Wisconsin Governor's Council on Forestry

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Background:

The Department is beginning its process for identifying budget initiatives for consideration by the Secretary for inclusion in the Department's 2015-17 biennial budget request. Although the Department will not receive official guidance from the Department of Administration until after the New Year, the Division initiates discussion at this time in order to allow adequate time to generate and evaluate budget proposals. The Division then adapts our process to be consistent with direction we receive as this process moves forward. However, we do anticipate that our opportunity to request new funding will be limited.

We are encouraging staff and partners to strategize ways the Division of Forestry can most effectively help accomplish the priorities set forth by Secretary Stepp and the Governor's Office. These priorities include:

- Job creation,
- Streamlining,
- Accountability and
- Being responsive to the public (customer service) while protecting and enhancing the environment.

The Forestry Leadership Team (FLT) is seeking to assess initiatives that are consistent with facilitating implementation of the Division's Strategic Direction as well as emerging issues and/or business changes that have occurred since Strategic Direction implementation.

As we move forward with this process, the budget initiatives that will be advanced are those that most efficiently and effectively improve the capacity of the Division and our partners to protect and sustainably manage Wisconsin's forests to produce the full array of public benefits to the people of Wisconsin.

Department Budget Process:

The initial timeline and deadline dates for the identification of Forestry's 2015/17 budget and statutory issues are listed below.

Between November and first week of January, 2014 – Division managers will prepare budget and statutory proposals.

Prior to mid-January, 2014 – FLT representatives will evaluate the requests and forward the issue briefs they support to the division's budget coordinator.

Mid February, 2014 – The FLT will meet to evaluate, discuss, select, consolidate, and prioritize the budget issues that they agree to advance.

End of February, 2014 – Paul DeLong forwards the approved budget issues to the Secretary and the Bureau of Management and Budget. The Secretary will determine which of the initiatives should be developed into Department budget requests.

April-June: Divisions fully develop approved proposals.

July-August: Final discussions with Department Leadership Tam and budget impact analysis done for Secretary

September: NRB approves agency budget

October: Agency budget submitted to DOA

October-December: DOA prepares State Budget for all agencies

February: Governor delivers his budget

April-May: Joint Committee on Finance reviews and approves to forward all agencies budgets

June: Senate and Assembly take up JCF budget/ reconcile differences

June 30: Governor signs state budget act

Council Engagement in Budget Process

The council has two avenues for engaging in the budget process.

1. If Council members want to offer suggestions or provide input to budget initiatives related to the topic areas discussed above, prior to January 15, 2014 they can contact **Allison Hellman (608 712-7450 or Allison.Hellman@wisconsin.gov**. The Forestry Leadership Team will evaluate all proposals received by January 15, 2014 for consideration for inclusion in the Division's budget submission to the Secretary.
2. The Council may also engage directly with the DNR Secretary, Legislature and/or Governor to propose budget initiatives which further the Council's priorities. The timing for engagement varies – see above timeline.