



May 14, 2012

Dear Forestry Partners;

Attached is a proposed guide for the fungicide treatment to prevent Annosum root rot in Wisconsin. The proposal is the product of the annosum root rot committee and is an effort to balance the future health of the pine resource with our ability to harvest the existing resource efficiently. As the next step, the WI DNR Division of Forestry would like to solicit your input/feedback on the proposed guide to make sure that the guide is scientifically-sound, based on currently available scientific information, and also operationally-practical in the field.

Annosum root rot is caused by the fungus *Heterobasidion Irregulare*. The pathogen attacks the cambium of the host trees and kills them as well as causing wood decay. First confirmed in Wisconsin in 1993, the disease has been found in 23 Wisconsin counties, including Adams, Buffalo, Columbia, Dunn, Green, Iowa, Jefferson, Juneau, La Crosse, Marinette, Marquette, Oconto, Portage, Richland, Sauk, Shawano, Taylor, Trempealeau, Walworth, Waukesha, Waupaca, Waushara, and Wood Counties.

A fungicide application has been proven to be effective to prevent establishment and growth of the pathogen on fresh cut stumps that are not yet infected. Application of registered products can be made either manually or through an attachment to a processor. Though it is an effective tool to protect the health of the pine resources, implementation of fungicide treatments at a local level has created operational complexities and additional burdens to logging industries. It is essential to implement a scientifically-sound and operationally-practical guide in order to protect Wisconsin's natural resources, ensure a steady supply of wood resources, and maintain an economy that relies on healthy logging and paper industries.

The proposed guide is designed to help landowners/property managers determine whether the fungicide treatment should be considered to reduce the risk of the introduction of annosum root rot on a particular stand. A user will obtain information about whether a fungicide treatment is recommended based on current scientific knowledge and observations in Wisconsin, by simply answering a series of questions. Once finalized, the guide can be used also by foresters and loggers to help communicate with landowners/property managers about the fungicide treatment option.

A timeline for the development of the proposed guidelines and opportunities to engage is also attached. Written comments can be sent to Kyoko Scanlon at Kyoko.Scanlon@Wisconsin.gov by **July 20, 2012**. I hope you will participate in this process and give us your feedback.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Paul DeLong'.

Paul DeLong
Chief State Forester