Statewide Forest Action Plan: 2025 Highlights Report and 5-Year Review

Lenny Betker & Abby Widell DNR Division of Forestry May 20th, 2025

Agenda

What is the SFAP Highlights Review?

What is the Process for Developing the 2025 Highlights Review?

Timeline and Next Steps

What is the SFAP?

- SFAP is a 10-year strategic plan guiding Wisconsin's Forestry community
 - Resource to articulate data and trends
 - Identifies emerging priorities
 - Provides strategies for resource investment by forestry community
 - Necessary for federal funding qualification



What is the SFAP Highlights Report?

- DNR is required to develop a 5-year highlights report to share SFAP implementation success stories
- Should relate to one of the three national priorities
 - 1. Conserve and manage working forest landscapes
 - 2. Protect forests from harm
 - 3. Enhance public benefits from trees and forests
- Should help us show where we stand out on a national level

What is an Accomplishment Highlight?

It Is...

- Broad reaching and/or has geographic significance
 - e.g., reaches more than one county, multiple sectors impacted
- Collaborative among multiple partners
- Employs innovative approaches
 - e.g., utilizes new information, tools, technology

It is Not...

- An individual operational performance metric
- Data point or widget that doesn't tell a story

Gathering Input

- Partners will have an opportunity to share their accomplishment highlights for inclusion in the 5-Year Highlights Report
- Partners will share accomplishments in a survey-style form
- When considering highlights, focus submissions on stories from your own organization/stakeholder group

Utilizing the Input Form

- 1. Select at least one of the following national priorities that align with this accomplishment (checkbox)
 - a. NP1: Conserve and manage working forest landscapes
 - b. NP2: Protect forests from harm
 - c. NP3: Enhance public benefits from trees and forests
- 2. Select at least one of the following criteria that this accomplishment meets (checkbox)
 - a. Broad reach and/or geographically significant
 - b. Collaborative among multiple partners
 - c. Employ innovative approaches
- 3. Short description of the accomplishment highlight. Please limit responses to a maximum of 3-5 sentences.
- 4. Date of the project/initiative
- Partners involved
- 6. Impact (e.g., number of landowners, number of acres, etc., if known)
- 7. If applicable, please provide a website link to more information on this highlight
- 8. If applicable, please upload a photo that will help us tell your story

- 1. Select at least one of the following national priorities that align with this accomplishment (checkbox)
 - (a.) NP1: Conserve and manage working forest landscapes
 - b. NP2: Protect forests from harm
 - (c) NP3: Enhance public benefits from trees and forests
- 2. Select at least one of the following criteria that this accomplishment meets (checkbox)
 - a. Broad reach and/or geographically significant
 - b.) Collaborative among multiple partners
 - c.) Employ innovative approaches

3. Short description of the accomplishment highlighted. Please limit responses to a maximum of 3-5 sentences.

The Forest Operations Immersion Training Program prepares participants for forestry operations and equipment maintenance careers. During this six-week, 240-hour experiential certificate program, participants gain experience with forestry practices while operating and maintaining equipment used for tree felling, merchandising, and forest road construction. Participants also receive 5 college credits from UW-Stevens Point that can be applied toward a future forestry degree.

4. Date of the project/initiative

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1<sup>st</sup> Offering: October 7<sup>th</sup> – November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024
2<sup>nd</sup> Offering: March 30<sup>th</sup> – May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025
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5. Partners involved

This project involved 29 partners including local schools, governments, and businesses

6. Impact (e.g., number of landowners, number of acres, etc., if known)

We successfully graduated six participants in our first immersion training and three more graduated from the second offering on May 9. Two of the participants in the first training were offered full-time jobs and 1 participant was given a wage increase as a result of completing the course.

7. If applicable, please provide a website link to more information on this highlight

<u>Forest Operations Immersion Training Program - University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point</u>

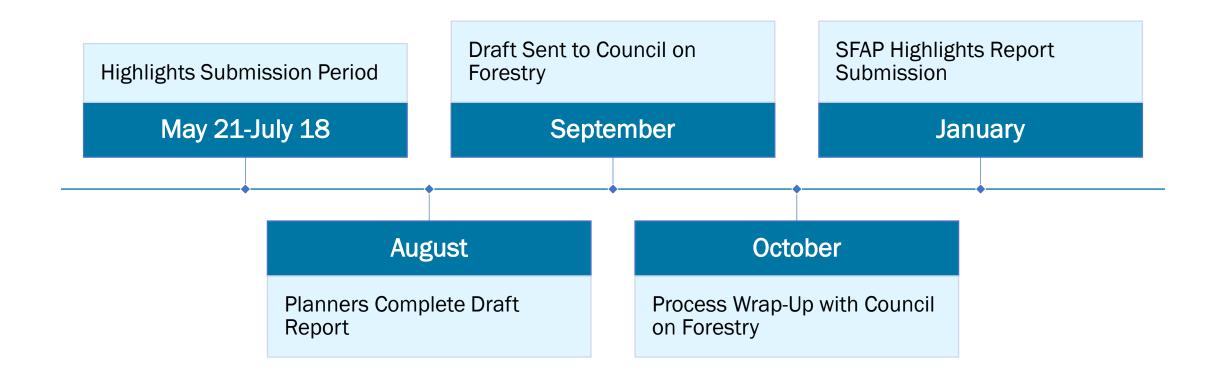
6. If applicable, please upload a photo that will help us tell your story

7. If applicable, please provide a caption detailing the photo provided,

"Forest operations trainings give students hands on experience with equipment being used by the forestry industry in Wisconsin."



Timeline



Next Steps

- May 21st: DNR will send out the input form
- May 21st- July 18th: Accomplishment reporting period open
- September: Draft Sent to Council on Forestry
- October 1st-2nd: Discuss report and wrap up process at the Council on Forestry Meeting

Thank you!

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Questions?