


WFPS High Priority Recommendations and Assignments - Silviculture

All recommendations as well as accomplishment reports can be found at <https://councilonforestry.wi.gov/Pages/ForestPracticesStudy/Accomplishments.aspx>

| High Priority Team Recommendations | Assignments | Initial Est. Delivery Date | Revised Est. Delivery Date | Comments |
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| SILVICULTURE Northern Hardwood Management | | | | |
| <p>The WDNR should transition from guidelines and policy based on the order of removal as established in the WDNR Silvicultural Handbook and establish guidance, as opposed to rules, for individual tree selection in northern hardwood stands. Guidance should be adaptable to landowner objectives, consider both biological and economic concerns, and foster development of crop trees while maintaining minimum basal area stocking levels consistent with current northern hardwood silvicultural science.</p> | <p>The Wisconsin Silviculture Guidance Team (SGT) will examine whether the concept of order of removal should be retained and/or revised along with investigating other tree selection options. If retained, it will also explore how to add flexibility within the standard order of removal. SGT will expand current work revising and adding clarity to The WDNR Silviculture Handbook, Chapter 24: Tree Marking and Retention Guidelines and Chapter 21: Natural Regeneration - Single Tree Selection (STS). This work will include additional explanation on the proper application of marking processes within the context of landowner objectives and the resulting silvicultural prescription.</p> | Dec 2018 | June 2019 | <p>SGT has provided comments on the final draft and revisions have been drafted by the Ad Hoc to address SGT's concerns. Following SGT approval, the chapter will be ready for public comment. Currently waiting for new process for soliciting public comment on Guidance per Act 369.</p> |
| | <p>The SGT Northern Hardwood Ad Hoc Team will revise the WDNR Silviculture Handbook, Chapter 40: Northern Hardwood Chapter to add clarity to the single tree selection section, marking guide examples, and explore additional options to the single tree selection method to provide additional flexibility in achieving landowner objectives.</p> | Dec 2018 | June 2019 | |

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| <p>The “crop tree” definition should be revised and expanded to include landowner objectives (economic, ecological, or social). A crop tree, having not yet achieved its maximum economic, ecological, or social potential, may increase in value by a jump in grade or increase in ecological function. The crop tree will exhibit quality with future potential. When the potential for increase in value growth peaks, it should no longer be considered a crop tree and should be eligible for harvest, subject to landowner objectives.</p> | <p>The Wisconsin Silviculture Guidance Team will evaluate and review ongoing work to develop a crop tree definition and complementary Growing Stock Classification System (GSCS) to help foresters evaluate tree quality and potential.</p> | Dec 2018 | June 2019 | <p>SGT has provided comments on the final draft and revisions have been drafted by the Ad Hoc to address SGT’s concerns. Following SGT approval, the chapter will be ready for public comment. Currently waiting for new process for soliciting public comment on Guidance per Act 369.</p> |
| | <p>The Wisconsin Silviculture Guidance Team will work to better define timber, aesthetic, and wildlife crop trees and provide tools for assessing crop trees within the WDNR Silviculture Handbook. In addition, the WDNR Northern Hardwood Ad Hoc Team will add a new economics section and revised stem quality section to the Northern Hardwood Chapter to expand on crop tree assessment.</p> | Dec 2018 | June 2019 | |
| | <p>The Wisconsin Silviculture Guidance Team will expand discussion on crop tree selection in addition to the Growing Stock Classification System in Chapter 24: Marking Guideline</p> | Dec 2018 | June 2019 | |
| <p>Criteria for adherence to forest tax law plans or prescriptions should move from a heavy reliance on uniform basal area and basal area stocking to a focus on the retention and increase of stem quality, along with considerations for landowner objectives, while maintaining minimum basal area stocking levels consistent with current northern hardwood silvicultural science, including accounting for natural regeneration needs and residual stem quality factors.</p> | <p>The SGT Northern Hardwood Ad Hoc Team will review and consider revisions to the Northern Hardwood Chapter, single tree selection section based on best available science. While some USFS Dukes and Argonne Experimental Forest research specific to stand density management is already discussed in the chapter, there is the potential to expand this information. See Assignment 1.2</p> | Dec 2018 | June 2019 | <p>SGT has provided comments on the final draft and revisions have been drafted by the Ad Hoc to address SGT’s concerns. Following SGT approval, the chapter will be ready for public comment. Currently waiting for new process for soliciting public comment on</p> |

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| | | | | Guidance per Act 369. |
| Aspen and Red Pine Rotation Ages | | | | |
| Guiding principles should be developed that allow flexibility in rotation ages depending on site potential and recognize that the timing to rotate a stand can be influenced by unique stand conditions and other considerations such as landowner objectives, operability, markets, economics, social and ecological considerations. | The Wisconsin Silviculture Guidance Team Rotation Ad Hoc Team will continue work to define flexible rotation age guidance for aspen and red pine based on an examination of current research, actual stand data, field experience, and WFPS study results. | Dec 2018 | Completed  | |