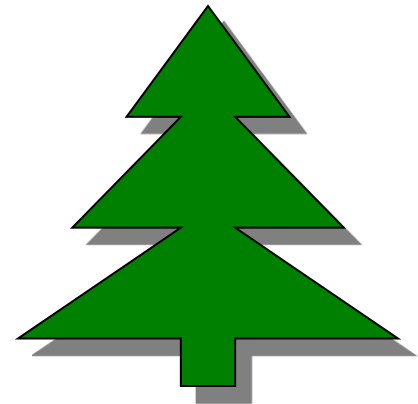


# 2013 Forest Certification Audit & Other County Forest Issues



# Current County Forest Issues

- **County Forest Certification**
  - 2013 Audit Results
  - Other Certification Issues
- **DNR Technical Assistance Status**
- **Time Standards Grant Update**
- **Work Plans & Accomplishment Reports**
- **Sustainable Forestry Grants**
- **Project Loans**
- **Variable Acreage Loans & Admin. Grant**
- **Stewardship Funding**



# Certification Audit August 14-16, 2013

Ashland – SFI & FSC  
Bayfield – SFI & FSC  
Barron – SFI & FSC  
Douglas – SFI & FSC

SFI – Surveillance Audit

FSC – Surveillance Audit  
(next year full recertification)



# Audit Preparation

- Information requests - SFI & FSC
- Audit Prep Meeting
  - Well Attended!
  - Great Discussion and Preparation
- Next Year's Prep
  - MUCH earlier identification of locations & dates
  - Early request for info (similar to this year)
  - General guidance to accompany request

# Review of 2012 SFI Findings

- No Non-conformances in 2012
- OFI – Improve process for monitoring natural regeneration - **CLOSED**
- OFI – Improve efforts to consider cover types, age & size classes, & habitats across landscape –**CLOSED** <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestBusinesses/publications.html>.
- OFI - Ensure that the WDNR Silvicultural Field Trial reporting system is utilized effectively - **Closed**

# Review of 2012 FSC Findings



The mark of  
responsible forestry

- CAR 2012.1 - All County Forest employees and contractors must demonstrate a safe work environment. **-CLOSED**
- Obs 2012.2 – County Forests should be more explicit and/or consistent in presenting desired future conditions in plans. **-CLOSED**
- Obs 2011.3 – Examine plan revision process and determine if the FSC requirement for a full revision of management plans every 10 years will be adequately addressed by 2016. **-CLOSED**

# Review of 2012 FSC Findings Continued –

## Group Response

- Obs 2012.2 – County Forests should be more explicit and/or consistent in presenting desired future conditions in plans.
  - Leg/Cert committee passed a motion (November '12) recommending that County Forest Administrators, with the support of liaisons, will include 2 additional items with the annual work plan:
    - A brief description (couple of sentences) of the desired future conditions of forest composition.
    - WisFIRs report 207 – Past, present, future condition report, or relevant data from that report.



# Forest Structure - Past, Present, Future

Print Date: 11/1/2012

Report 207

## 3800 - MARINETTE COUNTY FOREST

Timber Text	Acres Past	Acres Present	Acres Future
	(1977)	(2012)	
ASPEN	96,169	97,808	96,707
BALSAM FIR	0	493	5,079
BLACK SPRUCE	3,344	4,049	3,537
BOTTOMLAND HARDWOODS	217	262	262
FIR SPRUCE-*OLD CODE, RECODE	5,287	1,635	1,547
HEMLOCK	1,028	1,226	431
JACK PINE	13,300	8,177	8,413
MISCELLANEOUS CONIFEROUS	0	198	141
MISCELLANEOUS DECIDUOUS	0	18	18
NORTHERN HARDWOODS	22,277	23,821	25,374
OAK	11,250	10,332	9,623
RED MAPLE	0	2,244	2,008
RED PINE	11,180	13,656	14,485
SCRUB OAK	4,087	8,314	7,898
SWAMP CONIFER-*OLD CODE, RECODE	6,015	2,561	1,801
SWAMP HARDWOODS	12,419	13,003	12,731
TAMARACK	290	783	760
WHITE BIRCH	3,992	1,390	1,192
WHITE CEDAR	5,899	8,407	5,942
WHITE PINE	0	2,291	2,780
WHITE SPRUCE	0	325	397
<b>Total :</b>	<b>196,754</b>	<b>200,993</b>	<b>201,126</b>
CAMPGROUND	0	31	31
DEVELOPED USE	0	171	170
EMERGENT VEGETATION	0	531	531
HERBACEOUS VEGETATION	527	445	445
LOW - GROWING SHRUBS	501	308	308





# Bayfield County



# Ashland County





# BARRON COUNTY

*Wisconsin*

- Oak & northern hardwood management
- Ice Age Trail facilities
- TSI & site prep for Oak
- Active timber sale – loggers trained, knowledgeable, and safe

# Douglas County



# Closing Meeting – as seen through a sea of green Douglas County Forestry shirts



**GREAT AUDIT – – THANKS TO ALL!!!**

# 2013 SFI Findings

- Final Report Received. No Non-conformances in 2013 – 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row 😊
- OFI – Opportunity to improve by more consistently determining and recording the Habitat Classification Types on timber sale notice and cutting report forms (2460).
  - Foresters should determine & document on 2460 and in WisFIRS. If exact type can't be established (seasonality), a best estimation should be recorded – which can always be updated later.

# 2013 FSC Findings



- Draft Report Received. No Non-conformances in 2013 – First Time 😊
- OBS – Consider measures to ensure documentation of Habitat Classification Types on timber sale notice and cutting report forms (2460).
  - Foresters should determine & document on 2460 and in WisFIRS. If exact type can't be established (seasonality), a best estimation should be recorded – which can always be updated later.
- OBS – Consider developing strategies to use if increases in deer populations impact forest regeneration.
  - WCFA and County Forest Administrators will continue to engage in deer mgt. discussions & monitor forest regeneration trends.

# 2013 FSC Findings - continued



The mark of  
responsible forestry

- At the exit meeting FSC Auditor indicated 2 more potential issues:
  - Tribal Consultation (based on MFL recertification Audit stakeholder feedback)
    - Additional request from CF administrators
    - No additional feedback from concerned stakeholder – **No finding issued**
  - Contract Safety Language (based on OSHA application to sole proprietor - independent contractors)
    - Decided **not to issue finding** based on low risk (small number of contractors this would apply to) and based on WCFA, DNR, & County support of other aspects promoting safety.



# Thanks to everyone that participated in the 2013 Audit

- SFI – County forests received several commendations for exceeding the standards including:
  - 1. Management efforts towards sustaining forest health;
  - 2. Minimizing clear-cut size;
  - 3. Recreation - Balancing road use & public access;
  - 4. Local participation in forest planning.
- FSC – The FSC auditors commended the county forests for being so well prepared for the audit and for the exceptional level of public involvement opportunities in county forest management.

# Next Year's Audit

- SFI – Surveillance
- FSC – Full Recertification Audit
- Dates: Week of August 11-15<sup>th</sup>
- Locations: TBD – this fall/winter we will identify the likely counties (West Central focus probably)

# County Forest Certification Audits - History

08/14/2013

County	2014 proposed (Full FSC)	2013	2012 (Full SFI)	2011	2010	2009 (Full audit)	2008	2007	2006	2004/5 (Full audit)	2004 (Scoping)	Total # of Audits
Ashland		X			X				X			3
Barron		X		X				X				3
Bayfield		X					X		X			3
Burnett				X				X				2
Chippewa					X	X						2
Clark	?					X				X		2
Douglas		X					X			X		3
Eau Claire	?					X					X	2
Florence					X		X					2
Forest					X		X					2
Iron				X	X		X		X	X		5
Jackson	?					X						1
Juneau	?					X						1
Langlade			X				X					2
Lincoln			X				X				X	3
Marathon	?					X						1
Marinette					X					X		2
Monroe												0
Oconto					X					X		2
Oneida					X					X		2
Polk	???							X				1
Price			X			X			X			3
Rusk				X				X				2
Sawyer				X				X				2
Taylor			X			X				X		3
Vernon												0
Vilas			X				X					2
Washburn				X				X			X	3
Wood			X			X				X		3

6

4

6

6

8

9

8

6

4

8

3

Dual Certified

SFI - Only

FSC- Only

Not Certified

# Other Certification Topics

- HCVF review of table & monitoring efforts
- FSC – Multiple FMU Certificate
  - Status of decision, certificate number, other implications.
- FSC Product Claim – FSC-100%
- Tree seed available from state nursery
- FSC International Generic Indicators (IGI)
- SFI Standard Revision – Barkley collected & submitted comments.
- FSC Online Claims Processing
- Council on Forestry – Forest Certification Review – likely will tie into forestry study

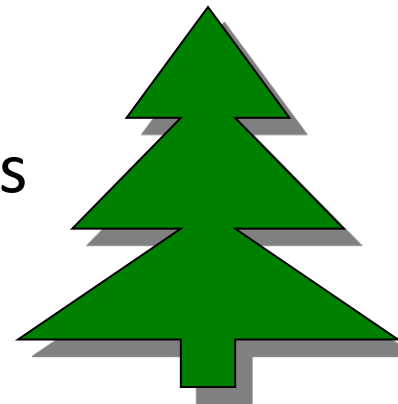
# Other County Forest Issues

A scenic view of a forest landscape. In the foreground, there are bare, dark tree branches. The middle ground shows a winding stream flowing through a field of tall, dry grasses. In the background, a calm lake is visible, surrounded by a dense forest of evergreen and deciduous trees under a clear blue sky.

- **DNR Technical Assistance Status**
- **Time Standards Grant Update**
- **Work Plans & Accomplishment Reports**
- **Sustainable Forestry Grants**
- **Project Loans**
- **Variable Acreage Loans & Admin. Grant**
- **Stewardship Funding**

# Technical Assistance Status

- FY14 Time Standards - currently: 9,795/46,000 hrs - 21%
- 25/29 liaison positions are filled
  - Vacancies Recently Filled
    - Burnett – Bob Hauser
    - Sawyer – Andy Noth
  - Current Vacancies
    - Jackson, Monroe, Oconto, Forest (Laterals-Oconto & Forest)
- Recent recruitment efforts
- Strategic Direction Implementation - measures
  - Satisfaction survey
  - Increased support efforts (IT, GIS, FH, FPS)



# Time Standards Grant – Administrative Rule Development

- Result of Strategic Direction
- Offer flexibility for Counties to decide the best mix of services from DNR
- Will allow trading of time for grant money
- March – CF Admins reaffirmed desire for grant
- Team worked over summer to develop draft
  - Jane Severt, Joe Schwantes, Joe Vairus (Iron), Rick Dailey (Clark), Jim Zahasky (Jackson), Bill Groth (DNR), Steve Edge (DNR), and Chris Martin (DNR).

# Time Standards Grant – Administrative Rule Development - continued

- Draft shared with CF Administrators, Liaisons, and the Division of Forestry Leadership and Operations Teams for comment
- Legislative & Certification Committee - 9/26/13
- Division of Forestry Leadership Team - 10/1/13
- 2013-2014 - Continue through rule making process – Division Admin, NRB, public input, Governor, legislative committees, Joint Committee for Review of Admin. Rules, DNR Secretary, publication.



# Time Standards Grant – Administrative Rule Development – continued

Some Key elements in draft include:

- Allows swapping of time standards time for grant money, to accomplish time standards activities (up to 25% of calculated time commitment).
- Equipment/supplies are not eligible expenses.
- Conversion rate = 75% of avg. forester + 25% of avg. technician salary & fringe.
- Grant period would cover four years (2 state budgets).
- Applications due 18 months prior to grant period (allow budget request development).
- May be utilized at other times if circumstances warrant.
- Payment provided by Sept 30<sup>th</sup> of the first year of each biennium.

# Time Standards Grant – Administrative Rule Development – continued

Some Key elements in draft include:

- Documentation of satisfactory completion due by Jan 31<sup>st</sup> following each biennium.
- Funds not spent by Jan 31<sup>st</sup> following each biennium shall be returned, unless otherwise authorized.
- The option to select additional time, in exchange for reduced grant access, was not included in this draft.
- The funding to be incorporated into the existing administration & sustainable forestry grant appropriation.
- Time standards calculation/allocation timeframe would likely need to be revised from once every 5 years to every 4 years.

# Annual Work Plans and Accomplishment Reports

- Annual Work Plan - **28.11 (5) Wisconsin Statutes**: Requires an annual **work plan and budget** based upon the comprehensive plan to be prepared & submitted to the county board for approval at the November meeting and then approved by DNR.
  - Annual Work plans shall be incorporated in Forest Comprehensive Land Use (15-year) Plans – **Section 2100**.
- Annual Accomplishment Report - **Section 3100 (15-year plan)**: **An** annual accomplishment report shall be prepared and provided to members of the County Board and to official copyholders of this Plan for inclusion into this chapter.
- WCFA Leg/Cert. Committee passed motion recommending that all county forests complete accomplishment reports and submit to plan holders.
- I will send follow up summary & include some samples.

# Sustainable Forestry Grants FY13 Summary

- Funded 24 projects total
- 19 different counties & WCFA
- \$467,872 total project funds
- Funded ~10 projects for ~\$220,000 with unused Administration Grant funding

# Sustainable Forestry Grants FY14

Ashland	Penn Sedge Herbicide & Mech site prep for N. Hardwoods	\$7,500.00
Burnett	Reforestation - S.P., seedlings & planting - 2011 blowdown	\$38,500.00
Douglas	Reforestation - site prep & planting - 2011 blowdown	\$61,675.00
Eau Claire	Oak Project - LTE and Evaluation, release and site prep	\$43,043.16
Washburn	Reforestation - seedlings & planting - 2011 blowdown	\$24,000.00
<hr/>		
Total		\$174,718.16

- 2 projects not funded in first round (Florence & Clark)
- Dec 1<sup>st</sup> – Second round of applications due

# Project Loans – FY13

- Forest County – Land Acquisition - \$500,000
  - Monroe County – Land Acquisition - \$109,000
  - Juneau County – Land Acquisition - \$702,800
  - Jackson County – Land Acquisition - \$141,000
  - Forest County – Land Acquisition - \$500,000
- \$1,952,800**

# Project Loans – FY14

- Burnett County – Land Acquisition - \$166,300
  - Forest County – Land Acquisition - \$357,500
- \$523,800**

- Dec 1st – Second round of applications due

# Variable Acreage Loans

- Up to \$.50 /acre for the purchase, development, preservation and maintenance of the county forest lands.
- County Board resolution by Dec 31<sup>st</sup>.

# Administration Grants

- Materials due by January 31, 2013.
  - Work Plan, County Board approval of work plan, salary & benefits details.



# Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grants



- Applications can be submitted continuously
- Deadline of **May 1** – to be considered for **FY 2015** funds (available July 1).
- October 15<sup>th</sup> – Mid-year assessment. If any funds are available will re-rank new parcels along with previous batch.
  - If any “gems” are submitted may reassess spending plan.
- After Oct 15<sup>th</sup> – projects to be ranked and funded if funds are available and time frame allows.

# Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grants

- MOA Status –
  - required in order to apply –
  - no obligation to participate
- 24 signed & returned
- 5 remaining



# Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grants - Changes



FY 2014-2015 State Budget made several significant changes to the Stewardship Program

- DNR acquisition allotment was reduced to \$20 million
  - Up to 1/3 (\$6.6 million) can be used for DNR fee title acquisition
  - The remaining 2/3 (\$14.4 million) can be used for County Forest acquisitions and DNR easements
- Non-Profit Conservation Organization funding (\$12 million total allotment) that is not spent during FY, may carry over to be used exclusively for County Forest acquisitions

# Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grants - Changes



Based on funding changes the following will (or may) need to be updated:

- MOA – this will need updating
- Ranking committee make-up
- Ranking criteria & weighting
  
- Application form to reflect any changes above and to address some deficiencies

# Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Funding -- FY14



Lands & Forestry Division Administrators consulted with DNR real estate & WCFA and initially allocated \$6 million to county forest projects

- 6 applications submitted
- 5 grants tentatively awarded - **\$4,333,972** (5 Counties)
- Acres Pending:
  - 4947 new acres
  - 675 match acres
- 1 additional application submitted for Oct 15<sup>th</sup> batch.
  - Any other interest/ expected applications

# Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Funding -- FY11 & FY12

- FY11
  - Grants awarded - \$1,432,540
  - Acres purchased - 1908
  - 9 out of 9 county projects funded (5 Counties)
  
- FY12
  - Grants awarded - \$1,167,081
  - Acres purchased - 1293
  - 1 Grant ranked but not approved for funding - \$381,842
  - 5 out of 6 county projects funded (5 Counties)



# Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Funding -- FY13



- FY13
- Grants awarded - \$1,874,865
- Acres purchased or pending:
  - 2835 new acres
  - 38 match acres
- 9 out of 12 county projects awarded funding in FY13 (5 Counties)
  - 1 approved project fell through, 2 weren't awarded.
- 876 acre (\$700k) project in Juneau Cty - funded by NCO Stewardship grant

## Totals FY11-14 to date (excluding NCO grants)

\$8,808,458

25 Projects

10,983 New Acres, 713 Match Acres

# Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grant

## – Reminders –



## • Signage Requirements

- Posted at "major access points" to property
- Must give notice that Stew. Funds were used
- Signs shall list either the primary activities restricted or prohibited or the primary activities permitted
- Signs must be "of a durable material" & > 108 square inches in size
- Contact info or a website address of the property manager (property > 10 ac)
  - \*\*\*I will likely request a photo and coordinates of signage.



# Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grant

## – Reminders –

- Mapping Requirements
  - Send shape file of acquisition to me (previous & new acquisitions)
  - Statutory requirement to map properties
- Match Property
  - Owned >1 year – can utilize 50% of appraised value
  - Owned < 1 year – can utilize 100% of appraised value
  - Current application form does not clearly reflect match property values owned < 1 year
  - Must be eligible for enrollment as “regular use”
  - Must be eligible for Stew & is encumbered by Stew contract



# Happy Autumn!!



## Questions?