

## MANAGED FOREST LANDS STEWARDSHIP FORESTRY PLAN

Name(s) and Address of Landowner(s):

[REDACTED]

Order Length: 25 years

Starting January 1, 2012 and ending December 31, 2036

County: Dane

Municipality Name: Berry

Town: 08 N; Range: 07 E; Section(s) 7 and 18

Total Plan Acreage: 28

Attached maps show the location of Managed Forest Lands and the areas open or closed to public access.

### Purpose and Expectations of the MFL Program:

The purpose of the Managed Forest Land Law is to encourage the management of private forest lands for the production of future forest crops for commercial use through sound forestry practices, recognizing the objectives of individual property owners, compatible recreational uses, watershed protection, and development of wildlife habitat and accessibility of private property to the public for recreational purposes. Under the law "*sound forestry practices*" means timber cutting, transporting and forest cultural methods recommended or approved by the department for the effective propagation and improvement of the various timber types common to Wisconsin along with the management of forest resources other than trees including wildlife habitat, watersheds, aesthetics and endangered and threatened plant and animal species. The law prohibits the use of Managed Forest Lands for commercial recreation (including leasing or receiving consideration for recreational activities), industry, human residence, grazing of domestic livestock or other uses the Department deems incompatible with the practice of forestry.

This plan is just one component of Wisconsin's strategy to promote, support and monitor sustainable forestry practices. Management plans under the MFL program are adaptive and will need amendments over time. Changing stand conditions and current science will dictate the forestry practices needed at the time a scheduled management practice becomes due. Management plans can also be changed due to changing land management goals. All changes in management must be consistent with generally accepted silvicultural practices and site capabilities.

Monitoring of management plan will be done throughout the length of the MFL order period. DNR Foresters will work with you to implement management practices and to insure that your lands continue to qualify for the benefits of the MFL program. You will be sent periodic correspondence when management practices are due. Please work diligently to implement the practices that are prescribed for your property. Also, please inform your local DNR Forester of changes in address, land sales and other information regarding your MFL lands.

### Landowner Goals or Objectives:

- Create wildlife habitat and select harvesting when needed.



## Regional Landscape Overview:

Wisconsin DNR's Division of Forestry uses a variety of tools to classify lands to distinguish land areas that differ from one another in ecological characteristics. A combination of physical and biological factors, such as climate, geology, topography, soils, water, and vegetation, are used to differentiate areas. These factors are known to control or influence biotic composition and ecological processes. Together, they provide a useful approximation of ecosystem potentials. Land areas identified and mapped in this manner are known as ecological units. Maps of ecological units can be developed at many spatial scales, depending on the needs of the user. The maps, along with information about the ecological units, convey information about land characteristics and capability. Your management plan was prepared after consultation with the National Hierarchical Framework of Ecological Units (NHFEU) in order to prescribe the best available information on management practices. For more information please visit <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/ecolandclass/index.htm>.

## General Property Overview:

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) also divides and classifies lands into 22 different Geographical Management Units (GMUs). This classification system identifies the watershed (river, stream, lake) in which surface water will drain. The classification system also identifies the general property characteristics of that watershed, including the amount of agricultural, forest, wetland, urban and other land uses. Information on the GMU also breaks down the amount of forest land into the common timber and habitat types. This information was used to develop management practices for your property.

Your land lies in the Lower Wisconsin GMU. For more information on GMUs and their characteristics, please visit <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/gmu/index.htm>

## Concurrence with Statewide Management Objectives:

Wisconsin forests are quite diverse; they encompass and influence many issues and concerns. The Department of Natural Resources has set statewide objectives to maximize the environmental, social and economic benefits of sustainable forest management. These objectives are found at this website <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/assessment/>.

When you follow your stewardship forestry plan, you make significant contributions to the sustainability and health of Wisconsin forests in the following ways:

- Manage for healthy, vigorous forests that are more tolerant of insect outbreaks and disease and of human-related impacts.
- Protect threatened and endangered species.
- Conserve, protect, and manage for biological diversity.

## Resource Protection:

Wisconsin Foresters consult special reports, records and inventories to make sure your forest management prescriptions benefit important natural, historical or archeological resources. Prior to starting management practices, these reports, records, and inventories will again be consulted. If new records are found, management prescriptions will be evaluated and, if necessary, modified to protect the resource from disturbance. Land management decisions balance the needs of the resource with landowner goals, MFL program requirements and legal status. Resources used to evaluate stand conditions and determine management practices can be found at these websites:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er/WWAP/> (Wildlife Action Plan)  
<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er/wwap/explore/profiles.asp> (Species Profiles)  
<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er/communities/> (Natural Communities - Habitats)  
<http://dnr.wi.gov/landscapes/> (Ecological Landscapes)  
<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er/wwap/explore/tool.asp> (Ecological Priorities Tool, which links the preceding items)  
<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/wildlife/> (Wildlife Management)

Your lands lie within a landscape known as Western Coulee and Ridges Landscape. An overview of the landscape, species of greatest conservation need, management opportunities and much more can be found at this website: <http://dnr.wi.gov/landscapes/>

Natural Heritage Inventory searches are made to determine if endangered, threatened, or special concern animals, plants or plant communities exist.

The Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) lists the following within your property:

- One Plant of Special Concern

This same NHI review listed the following resources within an area surrounding your property:

- One Federally Endangered Animal
- Two Federally Endangered Plants
- Three State Threatened Plants
- One Animal of Special Concern
- Five Plants of Special Concern
- One Special Concern Natural Community

For additional information on rare plants, animals and natural plant communities, visit <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er>.

The Archaeological Resources Inventory lists no archaeological resources within this MFL property.

The Historical Resources Inventory lists no historical resources within this MFL property.

Contact your local DNR Forester for additional information on archaeological and historical sites.

**Your plan defines similar vegetative groupings or areas of land that can be combined for management purposes. Foresters call such areas "stands."** Prescriptions (also called "practices") are scheduled for each stand according to its age, condition and characteristic plant species.

**Mandatory Practices:**

You must complete or establish mandatory practices in the manner prescribed by the end of the year listed below; if not, the department may be required to issue a non-compliance fee or withdraw your property from the MFL program. **If withdrawn, your property may be subject to substantial property taxes and a withdrawal fee.**

**You must file two cutting notices at least 30 days before you may cut or harvest timber.** You must file a Wisconsin Cutting Notice and Report (Form 2450-32) Additionally, you must file a separate county cutting notice with the County Clerk prior to any harvest. The cutting prescriptions must be within the guidelines of the Department of Natural Resources Silviculture Handbook at <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/Publications/Handbooks/24315/> and the Forest Management Guidelines at <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/Publications/Guidelines/>.

<b>Mandatory Practices Summary</b>				
YEAR	STAND(S)	ACRES	TIMBER TYPE	PRACTICE
2025	1	21	Oak Large Sawtimber	PATCH SELECTION HARVEST FOREST ROADS
2025	1	21	Oak Large Sawtimber	TIMBER HARVESTING
2025	1	21	Oak Large Sawtimber	TIMBER HARVESTING
2025	2	7	Central Hardwood Small Sawtimber	GROUP SELECTION HARVEST FOREST ROADS
2025	2	7	Central Hardwood Small Sawtimber	TIMBER HARVESTING
2025	2	7	Central Hardwood Small Sawtimber	TIMBER HARVESTING

**Non-mandatory Practices:**

Non-mandatory practices are optional, however, to get the maximum benefit from your Managed Forest Law-Stewardship Forestry Plan, it is important that you set aside time and money to complete your non-mandatory practices. These practices will enhance the growth rate and species composition of your forest; improve wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities.

Many non-mandatory practices are eligible for cost-share assistance under the Wisconsin Forest Landowner Grant Program.

<b>Non- Mandatory Practices Summary</b>				
YEAR	STAND(S)	ACRES	PRIMARY TYPE	PRACTICE
2017 and 2032	1	21	Oak Large Sawtimber	<u>INVASIVE PLANT CONTROL</u>
2020	1	21	Oak Large Sawtimber	<u>FOOD SOURCES</u>
2020	1	21	Oak Large Sawtimber	<u>COARSE WOODY DEBRIS</u>
2019 and 2032	1	7	Central Hardwood Small Sawtimber	<u>INVASIVE PLANT CONTROL</u>
2021	1	7	Central Hardwood Small Sawtimber	<u>FOOD SOURCES</u>
2021	1	7	Central Hardwood Small Sawtimber	<u>COARSE WOODY DEBRIS</u>

**Contact your local DNR Forester for information about:**

- ✓ Requirements of the Managed Forest Law.
- ✓ The sale or transfer of Managed Forest Law lands to other owners.

STAND NUMBER #1 Information & Prescriptions	
<b>Oak Large Sawtimber – Medium Low Stocking (O 15 + <sup>2</sup>) over Central Hardwood Poletimber – Low Stocking (CH 05 – 11<sup>1</sup>) over Central Hardwood Seedling/Saplings – Medium Low Stocking (CH 00 – 05<sup>2</sup>)</b>	<b>Acreage: 21 Acres</b>

This area of land is an Oak Forest. Oak Forests are composed of over 50% oak. In Wisconsin, common kinds of oak trees are red oak, black oak, pin oak, white oak, bur oak. Trees commonly growing in oak forests can be aspen, red maple, hickory, white pine, white birch, basswood, black cherry, sugar maple, elm, or jack pine

Oak forests are abundant, occurring throughout the state and growing on most soil types. Composition of oak forests varies depending on their location within Wisconsin and on site quality. On nutrient-poor, dry sites, oak forests may include black oak, white oak, northern pin oak, and bur oak. Trees commonly growing with oak on dry sites can be hickories, black cherry, aspen, red maple, and paper birch. In northern Wisconsin, pines may also occur with dry oak forests. Sites with a better nutrient and moisture supply may support mixtures of red and white oak, or may be dominantly red oak. On sites with more nutrients, trees growing with oak may be basswood, hickories, ironwood, black cherry, elms, red maple, or white pine. On the richest sites, sugar maple or white ash may also occur. While oaks are still very common trees in Wisconsin, the abundance of high-quality red and white oaks on nutrient-rich sites has declined considerably due to forest succession and failed regeneration.

In general, oaks grow best on well drained loamy soils. All oaks require drastic disturbance of the forest, both overstory and understory, in order to regenerate. On richer sites, oak forests are particularly difficult to regenerate and competition control is essential. Fire is one tool that facilitates the regeneration and maintenance of oak forests. Mechanical and chemical techniques are commonly utilized to mimic the effects of fire to regenerate oak.

These trees make up an even age stand that originated about 1925. Tree ages in even-aged stands may vary slightly, but the trees began growing in relatively the same period of time.

The most abundant tree species in this stand include: red oak (41% of entire stand), black locust (11% of entire stand), bur oak (9% of entire stand), and shagbark hickory (8% of entire stand).

Soil type, moisture and nutrient availability affect site quality, which limits the kind of tree species that will grow on a site, as well as the growth rate and quality of individual trees. Soil productivity also determines the amount of timber harvesting that can be sustained over time. It also affects other forest attributes, such as wildlife habitat and biodiversity.

This stand has a loam soil. Loam soils are made up of a mixture of sand, silt and clay particles. Loam soils are 23% to 52% sand, 28% to 50% silt, and 48% to 78% clay. Silt loam or silt soils have relatively higher amounts of silt particles. Loam soils typically have an abundance of moisture and nutrients to sustain excellent growth rates for many tree species. Care must be taken to prevent compaction and rutting when using equipment on these soils.

### Invasive Plants

During the forest inventory process invasive plants were discovered in this stand. The most abundant invasive plant species found stand were honeysuckle, buckthorn, and black locust.

### Stand Conditions, Special Features or Characteristics

This stand is moderately stocked with oak large sawtimber with a diverse mixture of lower size class species. The sawtimber size class had approximately 3,153 board feet per acre. This includes 2,058 board feet per acre of red oak, 121 board feet per acre of white oak, 350 board feet per acre of bur oak, 46 board feet per acre of red maple, 46 board feet per acre of shagbark hickory, 254 board feet per acre of basswood, 154 board feet per acre of black cherry, 57 board feet per acre of elm, and 66 board feet per acre of black locust.

The poletimber size class is dominated by central hardwood species. Oak is only a minor component of this size class. There is approximately 8 cords per acre of poletimber, which includes, 1.3 cords per acre of red oak, 0.2 cords per acre of white oak, 0.3 cords per acre of black oak, 0.1 cords per acre of bur oak, 0.7 cords per acre of red maple, 1.2 cords per acre of shagbark hickory, 0.2 cords per acre of basswood, 0.2 cords per acre of black cherry, 1.2 cords per acre of elm, 0.2 cords per acre of hackberry, 2 cords per acre of black locust, and 0.1 cord per acre of red cedar.

The natural regeneration is also comprised of central hardwood species. There is approximately 31 red cedar saplings per acre, 8 red oak saplings per acre, 8 black oak saplings per acre, 8 bur oak saplings per acre, 85 shagbark hickory saplings per acre, 15 bitternut hickory saplings per acre, 54 black cherry saplings per acre, 54 aspen saplings per acre, 8 white birch saplings per acre, 85 elm saplings per acre, and 8 black locust saplings per acre.

The overall tree quality is fair to average quality. The stand is fairly healthy and vigorous, but the trees have approached their rotation age and will begin to decline in vigor and health. Portions of this stand are marked for a harvest, focusing mainly on the red oak.

The terrain is fairly steep with a north, east, and west slope. The north and east slopes are typically cooler and moister than a west slope, which is hotter and drier. The north and east slopes trees tend to be better quality due to growing conditions.

Along with the invasive species mentioned above (buckthorn, honeysuckle, and black locust); prickly ash, which is extremely dense throughout the stand, and box elder are also present. The prickly ash and box elder should be controlled along with the invasive species. It is recommended from a forest management standpoint that the invasive and undesirable species are controlled. If they are not controlled, they will continue to perpetuate while other more desirable species are displaced by their aggressive nature.

For best results, these species should be cut down and stumps treated with the appropriate herbicide (Garlon 4 mixed with mineral oil or diesel fuel) to avoid re-sprouting.

A basal bark treatment can also be used to control these species instead of cutting and treating the stump. A 12 to 18 inch band of herbicide can be sprayed around the entire trunk of the tree to control these species. Read label instructions for application and mixing rate.

### **Silvicultural System**

This stand will be managed and regenerated within generally accepted silvicultural guidelines for the timber type according to the following management system:

**NATURAL CONVERSION** This stand will naturally convert to central hardwood after harvesting or completing your prescribed management treatments. Natural conversion is expected because these tree species are already present as younger trees or will be able to seed in and become established once the proper seedbed, light and crown canopy conditions exist. Periodic thinning will be applied throughout the life of the stand to improve quality and vigor. Regeneration cutting will remove the old stand to provide the necessary open conditions and sunlight to naturally convert your stand.

Year Scheduled	Mandatory Practice
2025	<p><b>PATCH SELECTION HARVEST.</b> Naturally regenerate this stand using the patch selection regeneration method. This involves harvesting to create even-aged patches from ½ to 2 acres in size. This system is most appropriate for the management of species mid-tolerant of shade, but can also be applied to manage shade intolerant and tolerant tree species. Sources of regeneration may include any of: well-established advanced regeneration, vegetative sprouts, or seed. If depending on seed, time regeneration practices, including site preparation, to take advantage of good seed years. In most stands, thin the remainder of the stand to reduce stocking and concentrate growth on more desirable trees by following the order of removal and tree retention guidelines.</p> <p>Harvest all merchantable black locust</p> <p><b>Retain an oak seed source near the openings the patch selection harvest creates. This may allow oak to regenerate within these openings.</b></p>
2025	<p><b>FOREST ROADS.</b> Design and maintain all forest roads to prevent erosion and provide adequate drainage and long-term stability. Install drainage structures to keep road surfaces dry. Stabilize any exposed soil with seed and mulch to prevent erosion.</p>
2025	<p><b>TIMBER HARVESTING.</b> Harvest timber when the ground is frozen or dry to prevent soil compaction and rutting. Prevent rutting deeper than six inches by moving equipment to drier, more stable locations, by using techniques such as slash mats or low ground pressure equipment, or by halting the operations until weather conditions improve.</p>

Year Scheduled	Non-Mandatory Practice
2017 and 2032	<p><b>INVASIVE PLANT CONTROL:</b> Take specific measures to manage plant or tree species whose aggressive growth or reproductive patterns threaten the health or regeneration of the stand. Get the latest information on control measures from your local DNR office or DNR Website.</p>
2020	<p><b>FOOD SOURCES.</b> Maintain or enhance wildlife food sources through preservation or management of mast producing trees (oaks, hickories), creation or maintenance of grass-forb opening and trails, fruit and berry plantings, wildlife food patches, and protection of snag trees.</p>
2020	<p><b>COARSE WOODY DEBRIS.</b> Retain or enhance the amount of coarse woody debris in a stand to food, cover, habitat structure, and growing sites for numerous plants and animals.</p>

<b>STAND NUMBER #2 Information &amp; Prescriptions</b>	
<b>Central Hardwood Small Sawtimber – Medium Stocking (CH 11 – 15<sup>2</sup>) over Red Maple Poletimber – Medium Low Stocking (MR 05 – 11<sup>2</sup>) over Central Hardwood Seedling/Saplings -- Low Stocking (CH 00 – 05<sup>1</sup>)</b>	<b>Acreage: 7 Acres</b>

This area of land is a Central Hardwood Forest. Central Hardwood Forests consist of mixtures of upland hardwood species, predominantly oaks, hickory, elms, black cherry, red maple, ash, basswood, hackberry, or sugar maple. Depending upon site conditions and history, the relative abundance of these tree species can vary greatly, but these stands are not dominated by oak or maple. Many central hardwood forests are in the process of succession from oak forests.

Central hardwoods grow best on well drained loamy soils

These trees make up an even age stand that originated about 1938. Tree ages in even-aged stands may vary slightly, but the trees began growing in relatively the same period of time.

The most abundant tree species in this stand include; red maple (53% of entire stand), white oak (14% of entire stand), shagbark hickory (12% of entire stand), and red oak (7% of entire stand).

Soil type, moisture and nutrient availability affect site quality, which limits the kind of tree species that will grow on a site, as well as the growth rate and quality of individual trees. Soil productivity also determines the amount of timber harvesting that can be sustained over time. It also affects other forest attributes, such as wildlife habitat and biodiversity.

This stand has a loam soil. Loam soils are made up of a mixture of sand, silt and clay particles. Loam soils are 23% to 52% sand, 28% to 50% silt, and 48% to 78% clay. Silt loam or silt soils have relatively higher amounts of silt particles. Loam soils typically have an abundance of moisture and nutrients to sustain excellent growth rates for many tree species. Care must be taken to prevent compaction and rutting when using equipment on these soils.

### **Invasive Plants**

During the forest inventory process invasive plants were discovered in this stand. The most abundant invasive plant species found stand were buckthorn and honeysuckle.

### **Stand Conditions, Special Features or Characteristics**

This stand is well stocked with central hardwood small sawtimber species. There is approximately 3,023 board feet per acre of small sawtimber found within this stand. This includes 779 board feet per acre of red oak, 593 board feet per acre of white oak, 902 board feet per acre of red maple, 392 board feet per acre of shagbark hickory, and 357 board feet per acre of black cherry.

The poletimber size class is dominated by red maple. There is approximately 16 cords per acre within this stand including; 0.7 cords per acre of white oak, 11 cords per acre of red maple, 2.2 cords per acre of shagbark hickory, 0.2 cords per acre of black cherry, 1 cord per acre of elm, and 0.85 cords per acre of butternut.

The natural regeneration is understocked with central hardwood species. The natural regeneration found within this stand is 75 red maple saplings per acre, 25 shagbark hickory saplings per acre, and 125 elm saplings per acre.

The overall tree quality is fair to average quality. The stand is fairly healthy and vigorous. It has converted to the central hardwood species with oak only be a minor component of the entire stand. This stand is also marked for a harvest following the same marking guidelines that was discussed in stand #1.

Along with the invasive species mentioned above (buckthorn and honeysuckle); prickly ash, not nearly as dense as in stand #1, and box elder are present throughout the stand. The prickly ash and box elder should be controlled along with the invasive species following the guidelines discussed in stand #1.

**Silvicultural System**

This stand will be managed and regenerated within generally accepted silvicultural guidelines for the timber type according to the following management system:

NATURAL UNEVEN-AGED REGENERATION OF TIMBER TYPE – UNEVEN-AGED. The tree species present in your forest will be managed and regenerated following generally accepted silvicultural guidelines for the timber type. The stand will be managed to develop and maintain three or more age classes of trees. Uneven-aged management is an option primarily applied to shade tolerant tree species or forest types.

Year Scheduled	Mandatory Practice
2025	<u>GROUP SELECTION HARVEST.</u> Naturally regenerate this stand using the group selection regeneration method. This involves harvesting to create canopy group openings from 75 feet (1/10 acre) to 160 feet (1/2 acre) in diameter. Smaller openings will benefit more shade tolerant species, and larger openings encourage more mid-tolerant species. Site preparation may be required. Thin the remainder of the stand to reduce stocking and concentrate growth on more desirable trees by following the order of removal and tree retention guidelines.
2025	<u>FOREST ROADS.</u> Design and maintain all forest roads to prevent erosion and provide adequate drainage and long-term stability. Install drainage structures to keep road surfaces dry. Stabilize any exposed soil with seed and mulch to prevent erosion.
2025	<u>TIMBER HARVESTING.</u> Harvest timber when the ground is frozen or dry to prevent soil compaction and rutting. Prevent rutting deeper than six inches by moving equipment to drier, more stable locations, by using techniques such as slash mats or low ground pressure equipment, or by halting the operations until weather conditions improve.

Year Scheduled	Non-Mandatory Practice
2019 and 2032	<u>INVASIVE PLANT CONTROL:</u> Take specific measures to manage plant or tree species whose aggressive growth or reproductive patterns threaten the health or regeneration of the stand. Get the latest information on control measures from your local DNR office or DNR Website.
2021	<u>FOOD SOURCES.</u> Maintain or enhance wildlife food sources through preservation or management of mast producing trees (oaks, hickories), creation or maintenance of grass-forb opening and trails, fruit and berry plantings, wildlife food patches, and protection of snag trees.
2021	<u>COARSE WOODY DEBRIS.</u> Retain or enhance the amount of coarse woody debris in a stand to food, cover, habitat structure, and growing sites for numerous plants and animals.

## IMPORTANT PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES COMMON FOR THE ENTIRE PROPERTY

### Best Management Practices for Water Quality (BMPs)

To protect the water quality in Wisconsin's lakes, streams and wetlands *Wisconsin's Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality* must be employed during property management such as road building or timber harvest. To see these BMPs, go to <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/Usesof/bmp/bmpfieldmanual.htm>.

### Forest Health

Forest health problems may develop from time to time. These problems may include, but are not limited to, insect damage, diseases, windstorms, fire, flooding, and drought. Forest health issues may alter generally accepted forest management guidelines. Please contact your local DNR Forester or Cooperating Forester if you are concerned about Forest Health or contact the DNR Website at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/Fh/>

### Cost Share on Forest Management or Tree Planting

Learn if you qualify for forest management or tree planting cost share; go to <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/private/financial/>. Seedlings can be purchased through the state nursery program. Get tree order information or create your own tree planting plan at <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/nursery/>.

### Timber Harvesting Contracts

It is very important that a landowner and logging contractor have a written and signed contract to guide the harvesting process before any harvesting is started. For more information on timber sale contracts please visit <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/private/harvest/>.

### Natural Disturbances

Wind, ice, snow, insects, diseases, forest fire or other acts of nature can significantly impact forest stands. You may be able to take remedial steps to help your woodland recover and reduce your financial loss. For example, you may be able to:

1. Salvage commercially merchantable timber;
2. Release seedlings and saplings from damaged overstory timber;
3. Harvest damaged timber for sanitation purposes;
4. Re-establish tree seedlings through artificial or natural regeneration and follow-up treatments.

If your property has such damage, please contact your local DNR Forester at <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/ftax/county.asp>.

### Invasive Plant Species

Invasive plants may decrease productivity, regeneration, habitat, recreational value and quality of your property. Identifying and controlling small populations of invasive plants is essential to minimize the spread of these unwanted plants. For additional information on invasive plant control, follow the management practices as recommended in *Wisconsin's Forestry Best Management Practices for Invasive Species* booklet. This booklet is available at any DNR Forestry office or at the DNR Website at <http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/index.htm>.

### Wildlife Habitat and Recreation Management

Wildlife habitat and recreation can be managed along with timber management. Most of these practices can be done throughout your entire property and can include seeding and mowing of trails and openings, and maintaining snags, den trees, and "wolf" trees. To learn more wildlife friendly ideas, visit <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/wildlife/>

### Non-Timber Forest Products

Non-timber products, including but not limited to mushrooms, berries, ferns, evergreen boughs, cones, nuts, seeds, maple sap, bark, twigs, moss, and edible and/or medicinal plants may be harvested. Some of these non-timber products, such as ginseng, may be regulated by Wisconsin statutes. Others may be protected as threatened or endangered species. All applicable laws must be followed when harvesting non-timber products. Care must also be taken to prevent over-harvesting and reducing biological diversity and ecosystem functions. For additional information on how harvesting of non-timber forest products will affect management of your forest land please contact your local DNR Forester at <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/ftax/county.asp>.

### Forest Certification

Lands entered into the MFL program are automatically included in the MFL Group Certification unless landowners choose not to be certified. The MFL program is certified under the American Tree Farm System (ATFS) and the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). As more and more wood-using industries and consumers demand proof they are buying wood from sustainably managed woodlands, MFL landowners benefit from this certification.

Being certified by a third party is beneficial in many ways; some of which are the ability to sell to the certified marketplace, future ability to participate in carbon markets, and an opportunity to educate the public about the importance of well managed private forests.

Specific group member duties include:

1. Petitioning for MFL designation
2. Agreeing to follow a DNR-approved forest management plan
3. Conforming to MFL statutes and regulations
4. Conforming to ATFS and FSC certification standards, including any measures that might go beyond those stipulated in MFL statutes or administrative rules or other state, federal or local laws. Some features that are emphasized in the ATFS or FSC standards include:
  - a. Allowing access for MFL Group forest certification field audits
  - b. Using pesticides (when needed) that are not prohibited by FSC. A list of FSC prohibited pesticides can be found at [http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/certification/pdf/FSC\\_prohibited\\_pesticides\\_WIDNR07.pdf](http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/certification/pdf/FSC_prohibited_pesticides_WIDNR07.pdf). Landowners should self report pesticide use on their lands. A reporting system is available at <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/certification/pesticideUse.htm>.
  - c. Not planting Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO)1 in the forest
  - d. Keeping forest products harvested from MFL Group land separate from products harvested from non-MFL Group land during commercial harvest operations
  - e. Endeavoring to adhere to Wisconsin Forestry Best Management Practices
  - f. Striving to consider appropriate liability insurance and safety requirements in timber sales and other contracts
  - g. Using the ATFS and FSC logos in conformance with their trademark policies

This certification is *voluntary*. If you wish to depart from certification you must file the appropriate departure request form. Departure from the forest certification does not affect your MFL designation. If you depart, you will not be able to market forest products as third party certified under the auspices of the MFL program. If your land is not yet third party certified, you may become certified by filing the appropriate application. For forest certification information, visit <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/certification/MFL.html>

#### **Wildfire Prevention and Planning**

Every year in Wisconsin, thousands of wildfires occur, destroying dozens of structures and threatening to burn hundreds more. An increasing number of people living and recreating in Wisconsin's wildland-urban interface is creating a growing need for fire prevention and planning for fires that will inevitably occur.

Because of their proximity to forested lands, there is the potential for homes and property to be at significant risk of damage or destruction in the event of a wildfire. As part of the landscape planning process, it is important to determine the level of danger to properties and how to mitigate those dangers.

There are actions that can be taken that will reduce your home or property's exposure to fire such as using fire resistant building materials, incorporating fuel breaks in the landscape, and simply knowing the local burning restrictions.

*For more information on fire danger and burning permit restrictions, visit: <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/fire> and click on "View Burning Permit Restrictions." For more information on making your home and property more survivable in the event of a wildfire, visit: <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/fire/prevention/wui>*

#### **Forest Carbon**

Forests are a significant piece of the global carbon cycle because of their ability to absorb and sequester carbon dioxide. Learn how your forest adds to the global carbon balance and be aware of the rules impacting your participation in forest carbon markets at <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/ecosystemservices/carbon/> [Exit DNR].