

Proposed MFL Changes and Their Implications for Landowners & Communities

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MFL - Scope and Purpose (77.80)

...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, development of wildlife habitat and accessibility of private property to the public for recreational purposes.

Committee Charge

...Review...to ensure the long-term management and sustainability of private forest lands and to increase participation in the program...

- the scope and statutory purposes of the MFL program;
- ways to increase public access on MFL lands;
- the relationship between local zoning and the entry of parcels in the MFL program;
- the impact of MFL enrollment on local and county revenues;
- trends in forest ownership and trends in forest product markets including biofuels.

WHAT'S IN THE BILL(S)?



✓ Forest Enterprise Areas

- Towns or Counties can designate Forest Enterprise Areas targeted for sustainable forestry and forest-based economic development.
- State will provide additional revenue to towns (\$1) and counties (\$.50) for each acre of MFL land within a Forest Enterprise Area.

✓ Group Enrollments

- Permit the management plans of groups of owners to be modified in the same manner as permitted for large ownerships

✓ Recreational Leasing

- SECTION 1. 77.83 (2) (am) of the statutes is repealed and recreated to read:

*77.83 (2) (am) Each owner of managed forest land **may enter into a lease or other agreement for consideration**, including a lease or agreement that permits persons to engage in a recreational activity.*

✓ Annual Allowable Harvest

- Modified management plans for large block or group enrollments shall include the establishment of an annual allowable timber harvest.

✓ MFL Board of Review

- Any enrollee dissatisfied with a DNR decision regarding sound forestry practices may request a review.
- Board reviews and makes recommendation to State Forester.
- State forester makes decision.
- Board is broadly represents forestry, includes landowner.

✓ MFL Additions

- Repeals current law for enrollments designated before 2004.
- Instead owners can designate an additional parcel of MFL land in the same manner as enrollments after 2004 and only the additional parcel will be subject to new taxation rates in effect when the addition is made.

✓ Taxation, slide 1

- New and renewing closed land orders would pay the greater of the following:
 - Current law = \$8.34 (25% of statewide average property tax for forest land)
 - or-**
 - 25% of the actual taxes that would apply to the parcel based on current assessments and local tax rates.

✓ Taxation, slide 2

	Current			Proposed		
	DNR	Town	County	DNR	Town	County
Open (\$1.67)		80%	20%		80%	20%
Closed (≥ \$6.67)*	100%			20%	32%	48%**
State (20¢)		80%	20%		80%	20%
Yield tax (5%)		80%	20%		80%	20%
Non-comp		80%	20%		80%	20%
Withdrawal fee	100%			100%		
Withdrawal tax		80%	20%		80%	20%

*Actual landowner payment = open + closed
 **5/6 for public recreation

I'm just a bill...well, two actually



- AB402 in Assembly Forestry Committee (Mursau, Crivitz)
- SB161 in Senate Agriculture, Forestry, & Higher Education Committee (Schultz, Richland Center)



THANK YOU!
<http://notcountingtrees.org>
<http://notcountingtrees.wisc.edu>

Source: UPI