



April 1, 2016

Dear Chief State Forester Paul DeLong:

WCF would like to thank the DNR for requesting our input regarding the proposed MFL Workflow. Our membership has many questions regarding the process and implementation of this concept, but understand that at this point it is conceptual and focus our comments in that manner.

We would like to first outline some concerns that we have regarding this concept. The MFL Forestry Specialist (MFS) appears to have a heavy administrative workload. There is concern these individuals will be out of touch with local silvicultural applications. This could result in conflict in the plan development phase between the CPW and MFS. WCF recommends the DNR place emphasis on hiring MFL Forestry Specialists with rich, on the ground experience in MFL, and advise those Specialists be assigned regions of their expertise.

In addition, in considering the concept as presented, WCF is concerned that the MFS will be assigned a large geographical region. Considering the diversity of cover types in Wisconsin, we recommend that the Specialist coverage area be tailored by lumping work areas with similar timber.

WCF supports action that would increase efficiencies within the MFL program and cutting notice development process. We feel that as a concept, the development of the MFL Forestry Specialist (MFS) role will aid in increasing efficiency and consistency across the State. On paper, it appears that the MFS will be highly educated in the MFL program, WISFIRS, and the program application process. This knowledge will aid in the MFS having the ability to communicate the details of the program to the landowner accurately, to review and audit MFL applications and plans efficiently, and to process these plans in a timely manner.

WCF also feels that if the reallocation of responsibilities results in the ability of the Integrated Field Foresters (IFF) to verify all mandatory practices prior to the distribution of the mandatory practices, then this is a very positive step in the right direction.

As with any program or new process, implementation will determine the success or failure of the concept. WCF is offering our Executive Committee to serve in an advisory role as this concept is developed and implemented. We thank you for your consideration of our comments and recommendations.

Sincerely,

Donald Peterson, Chair  
Wisconsin Consulting Foresters (WCF)