



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2005 Wisconsin Act 48
[2005 Assembly Bill 316]

County Forest Plans

A county that owns forest land that it has designated as county forest is required to prepare a comprehensive county forest plan, which includes various types of information specified by statute. The county is allowed to revise the plan as changing conditions required, and is required to revise the plan upon its expiration. Under prior law, the plan was for a 10-year period.

2005 Wisconsin Act 48 specifies that a county forest plan be for a 15-year period. It further specifies that, if a county does not adopt a revised plan before the expiration of the existing plan, the existing plan will remain in effect until the county adopts a revised plan. The Act requires counties to prepare an initial 15-year plan by December 31, 2005.

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) makes grants to counties to: (1) partially fund a professional forester in the position of county forest administrator or assistant county forest administrator; and (2) fund the cost of activities designed to improve sustainable forestry on county forest lands. The Act provides that the DNR may withhold these grants from a county that is more than one year delinquent in adopting a revised county forest plan.

Effective Date: The Act takes effect on October 28, 2005.

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This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/>.