

BEFORE THE
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
FR-12-08

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to s. 227.11(2)(a), Stats., interpreting s. 28.11(5m)(am), Stats., the Department of Natural Resources will hold a public hearing on the revision of s. NR 47.70, Wis. Adm. Code, relating to the county forest administration grant program. The amendment of s. 28.11(5m), Stats., in the recent budget necessitates changes to s. NR 47.70, Wis. Adm. Code, to implement the statutory change to the county forest administration grant program. The change makes eligible for cost-sharing a county's dues to a non-profit organization that represents the collective interests of counties in the county forest program and that serves as a liaison to the Department of Natural Resources. Previously known as the County Forest Administrator Grant, this grant program provides encouragement to counties to hire professional forestry staff to manage their county forests. The previous version of this grant provided 50% cost-sharing of the salary and benefits for a professional forester in the position of county forest administrator or assistant county forest administrator. Those payments would continue under the new version of the program along with cost-sharing of the non-profit organization dues. The maximum payment for the dues portion of this grant for all participating county forests combined is \$50,000 annually.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that pursuant to s. 227.114, Stats., it is not anticipated that the proposed rule will have an economic impact on small businesses. The Department's Small Business Regulatory Coordinator may be contacted at SmallBusiness@dnr.state.wi.us or by calling (608) 266-1959.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that the Department has made a preliminary determination that this action does not involve significant adverse environmental effects and does not need an environmental analysis under ch. NR 150, Wis. Adm. Code. However, based on the comments received, the Department may prepare an environmental analysis before proceeding with the proposal. This environmental review document would summarize the Department's consideration of the impacts of the proposal and reasonable alternatives.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that the hearing will be held on:

June 16, 2008 **Video conference participation** will be available at:
Monday Room 139, State Office Building, 718 W. Clairemont Ave., Eau Claire
10:00 a.m. Room 8F, State Office Building, 101 E. Wilson Street, Madison
 Conference Room 3, DNR Regional Hdqrs., 107 Sutliff Ave., Rhinelander

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, reasonable accommodations, including the provision of informational material in an alternative format, will be provided for qualified individuals with disabilities upon request. Please call Jeff Barkley at (608) 264-9217 with specific information on your request at least 10 days before the date of the scheduled hearing.

The proposed rule and fiscal estimate may be reviewed and comments electronically submitted at the following Internet site: <http://adminrules.wisconsin.gov>. Written comments on the proposed rule may be submitted via U.S. mail to Mr. Jeff Barkley, Bureau of Forest Management, P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707. Comments may be submitted until June 17, 2008. Written comments whether submitted electronically or by U.S. mail will have the same weight and effect as oral statements presented at the public hearings. A personal copy of the proposed rule and fiscal estimate may be obtained from Mr. Barkley.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin _____

STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

By _____
Matthew J. Frank, Secretary