

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES Fiscal Estimate & Economic Impact Analysis

1. Type of Estimate and Analysis

Original Updated Corrected

2. Administrative Rule Chapter, Title and Number

NR47.65 (new) County Forest Time Standards Grant

3. Subject

County forest time standards grant. Grant that would allow additional flexibility for County Forests to select the optimal combination of resources provided to each by the Department.

4. Fund Sources Affected

GPR FED PRO PRS SEG SEG-S

5. Chapter 20, Stats. Appropriations Affected

20.370(5)(bw)

6. Fiscal Effect of Implementing the Rule

No Fiscal Effect Increase Existing Revenues Increase Costs
 Indeterminate Decrease Existing Revenues Could Absorb Within Agency's Budget
 Decrease Cost

7. The Rule Will Impact the Following (Check All That Apply)

State's Economy Specific Businesses/Sectors
 Local Government Units Public Utility Rate Payers
 Small Businesses (if checked, complete Attachment A)

8. Would Implementation and Compliance Costs Be Greater Than \$20 million?

Yes No

9. Policy Problem Addressed by the Rule

This proposed rule would create a new grant program, which would allow additional flexibility for County Forests to select the optimal combination of resources provided to each by the Department. Presently the DNR Division of Forestry (DOF) provides assistance to County Forests, aligning workload with the statutory role of the DNR in oversight of the County Forest program. The DOF's Strategic Direction process in 2011-12 realigned forest resources to better accomplish the DOF's mission in Wisconsin's Statewide Forest Plan. As part of that process, each County Forest was given the opportunity to request a modification of the allocation of resources provided by the Department among a suite of grants and the hours of technical assistance the DOF provides to best meet their individual needs. Several counties desire to reduce their assistance from DNR in exchange for funding that would allow them to hire contractors or seasonal staff to accomplish similar forestry work. The thought is that some of the forestry tasks may be done adequately using potentially lesser paid seasonal or contracted staff, with the end result being the ability to get more work done with the same amount of resources. The proposed grant program is structured to focus on accomplishing tasks already identified in the time standards agreement for each county, which guides what activities have typically been accomplished by DOF staff. This funding would provide for implementation of on-the-ground sustainable forestry practices.

10. Summary of the businesses, business sectors, associations representing business, local governmental units, and individuals that may be affected by the proposed rule that were contacted for comments.

County Forestry Administrators (29 individuals), which is the group that would be the most affected by this rule.

11. Identify the local governmental units that participated in the development of this EIA.

County Forestry Administrators (29 individuals), which is the group that would be the most affected by this rule.

12. Summary of Rule's Economic and Fiscal Impact on Specific Businesses, Business Sectors, Public Utility Rate Payers, Local Governmental Units and the State's Economy as a Whole (Include Implementation and Compliance Costs Expected to be Incurred)

Minimal impacts are expected. Depending on the level of grant funding utilized by County Forests under this grant program and whether grant funds are utilized to hire temporary employees or independent forestry contractors, there

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could potentially be a small positive impact on the forestry consultant business sector.

13. Benefits of Implementing the Rule and Alternative(s) to Implementing the Rule

This proposed rule would allow additional flexibility for County Forests to select the optimal combination of resources provided to each by the Department. Each County Forest would periodically be given the opportunity to request a modification of the allocation of resources provided by the Department among a suite of grants and the hours of technical assistance the DOF provides to best meet their individual needs. The shift to additional grant funds would allow them to hire contractors or seasonal staff to accomplish similar forestry work. The thought is that some of the forestry tasks may be done adequately using potentially lesser paid seasonal or contracted staff, with the end result being the ability to get more work done with the same amount of resources.

The alternative to implementing the rule would be to continue offering County Forests the current suite of technical assistance and grant funding that is provided, without offering additional flexibility to customize the resources provided.

14. Long Range Implications of Implementing the Rule

The long range fiscal implications of implementing the rule are minimal, as the rule would simply allow the same funding to be utilized for a wider range of grant programs and would not necessarily increase or decrease actual financial resources dedicated to the suite of grants for County Forests.

15. Compare With Approaches Being Used by Federal Government

Not applicable.

16. Compare With Approaches Being Used by Neighboring States (Illinois, Iowa, Michigan and Minnesota)

Not applicable. Neighboring states do not have similar county forest programs, which have the unique relationship between the state and county forest programs that exists in Wisconsin.

17. Contact Name

Joe Schwantes

18. Contact Phone Number

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ADMINISTRATIVE RULES
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ATTACHMENT A

1. Summary of Rule's Economic and Fiscal Impact on Small Businesses (Separately for each Small Business Sector, Include Implementation and Compliance Costs Expected to be Incurred)

2. Summary of the data sources used to measure the Rule's impact on Small Businesses

3. Did the agency consider the following methods to reduce the impact of the Rule on Small Businesses?

- Less Stringent Compliance or Reporting Requirements
- Less Stringent Schedules or Deadlines for Compliance or Reporting
- Consolidation or Simplification of Reporting Requirements
- Establishment of performance standards in lieu of Design or Operational Standards
- Exemption of Small Businesses from some or all requirements
- Other, describe:

4. Describe the methods incorporated into the Rule that will reduce its impact on Small Businesses

5. Describe the Rule's Enforcement Provisions

6. Did the Agency prepare a Cost Benefit Analysis (if Yes, attach to form)

- Yes No
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