

1       **AN ACT** *to create* 77.82 (3g) and 77.82 (3r) of the statutes; **relating to:** modification  
 2           of management plans for large ownerships of managed forest land and group  
 3           enrollments, and requiring the exercise of rule-making authority.

*The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:*

**JOINT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PREFATORY NOTE:** This draft was prepared for the Joint Legislative Council’s Special Committee on Review of the Managed Forest Land Program.

Under current law, s. NR 46.18 (4), Wis. adm. code, permits the department of natural resources (DNR) to modify the requirements of management plans under the managed forest land program for ownerships exceeding 1,000 acres. Management plans may be modified after consideration of the following:

- Other land of the owner entered as managed forest land, forest crop land and woodland tax law land.
- The number of counties in which lands proposed for entry or renewal or the owner’s existing managed forest land and forest crop land and woodland tax law lands lie.
- The existence and availability for review of a management plan prepared by or for the owner and acceptable to the department.
- Submission of a written commitment from an owner to provide, upon department request, information from the management plan for review or audit. The commitment shall describe the management plan and outline the procedure used to update and amend the management plan.
- An owner’s demonstrated consistent accessibility to competent technical forest management assistance through staff or consultant services.

This draft shifts the contents of the s. NR 46.18 (4), Wis. adm. code, to the managed forest land subchapter of ch. 77, stats. Additionally, the draft directs the DNR to promulgate rules to permit the management plans of groups of owners of managed forest land to be modified in the same manner as permitted for large ownerships. The draft directs the

department to submit its proposed rules on this topic to the administrative rules clearinghouse no later than the first day of the 12th month after the effective date of the draft.

1       **SECTION 1.** 77.82 (3g) of the statutes is created to read:

2       77.82 **(3g)** LARGE OWNERSHIPS. The requirements of this section for management plans  
3 may be modified by the department for ownerships exceeding 1,000 acres after consideration  
4 of the following:

5       (a) Other land of the owner entered as managed forest land, forest crop land and  
6 woodland tax law land.

7       (b) The number of counties in which lands proposed for entry or renewal or the owner's  
8 existing managed forest land and forest crop land and woodland tax law lands lie.

9       (c) The existence and availability for review of a management plan prepared by or for  
10 the owner and acceptable to the department.

11       (d) Submission of a written commitment from an owner to provide, upon department  
12 request, information from the management plan for review or audit. The commitment shall  
13 describe the management plan and outline the procedure used to update and amend the  
14 management plan.

15       (e) An owner's demonstrated consistent accessibility to competent technical forest  
16 management assistance through staff or consultant services.

**NOTE:** This SECTION shifts the contents of s. NR 46.18 (4), Wis. adm. code, to the managed forest land subchapter of ch. 77, stats.

17       **SECTION 2.** 77.82 (3r) of the statutes is created to read:

18       77.82 **(3r)** GROUP ENROLLMENTS. The department shall promulgate rules to permit the  
19 management plans of groups of owners of land that is designated as managed forest land to  
20 be modified in a manner substantially similar to the modifications permitted under sub. (3g.)

1 if the aggregate group ownership of land designated as managed forest land exceeds 1,000  
2 acres.

3 **SECTION 3. Nonstatutory provisions.**

4 (1) **RULE-MAKING.** The department of natural resources shall submit in proposed form  
5 the rules required under section 77.82 (3r) of the statutes, as created by this act, to the  
6 legislative council staff under section 227.15 (1) of the statutes no later than the first day of  
7 the 12th month beginning after the effective date of this subsection.

**NOTE:** This SECTION requires the DNR to submit proposed rules regarding the modification of management plans for group enrollments no later than the first day of the 12th month beginning after the effective date of the draft.

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(END)