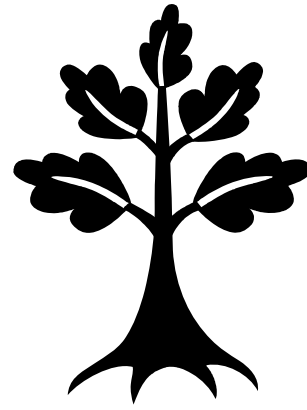


**Wisconsin's Forest Sustainability Framework  
Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes  
May 23, 2007**



Forest Products Lab  
Room 501  
One Gifford Pinchot Drive  
Madison, WI 53726  
8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

**In attendance:**

Bill Klase, Vern Everson, Gene Francisco, Darrell Zastrow, Mike Prouty, Gordy Mouw, Mark Heyde, Mark Rickenbach, Amy Peterson, Gene Roark, Mike Grimm for Nick Miller, Rich Hauer, John Duplissis, Eunice Padley, Rebecca Gass

**Technical Advisors:**

Vern Everson—DNR, Eunice Padley—DNR

**Absent:**

Jane Severt, Stefan Bergmann, Lynn Wilson, Jonathan Gilbert, Nick Miller

**Welcome**

Meeting was brought together at 9:00am by Bill Klase, facilitator. Peterson asked that people write down suggestions for expert reviewers as the sheet is passed around. She also handed out a short Tribal summary of the recent meetings that took place.

Chair Rickenbach presented a brief overview of the project to bring people to the same place and then the group jumped into the review of the three draft criterion frameworks from the April meeting.

**Review**

**DRAFT Criterion Two (C2):Maintenance of Productive Capacity of Forest**

**Ecosystems**

- 5: Area of timberland (B5)
  - 5.1 Amount of timberland (B5.1)
- 6: Annual removal of merchantable wood volume compared with net growth (B6)
  - 6.1 Net growth and removals (B6.1)
  - 6.2 Type of removals (B6.2)
  - 6.3 Total growing stock of both merchantable timber and non-merchantable tree species on forest land available for timber production (M11)
  - 6.4 Annual removal of non-timber forest products (M14)

In the C2 review the committee discussed how well 6.4 fits with the Tribal comments on the importance of medicinal plants. Heyde stated that he hopes they will comment on it during the review and he wished that Jonathan were there to provide his views. He also mentioned that the Tribes are working on a plant database and there may be the potential for sharing that information, but we're not sure to what extent yet. Building a relationship and gathering information from the Tribes will take time. It was noted that both 6.3 and 6.4 were both additional metrics to this criterion.

>>>VOTE:

All green.

**DRAFT Criterion Four (C4): Conservation and Maintenance of Soil and Water Resources**

- 8: Soil Quality on Forest Land (B8)
  - 8.1 Area and percent of forest whose designation or land management focus includes protection of soil resources (new)
  - 8.2 Proportion of forest management activities that meet soil management guidelines to protect soil resources (new)
  - 8.3 Total soil carbon (B8.2)
  - 8.4 Estimated bare soil (B8.3)
  - 8.5 Bulk density (B8.4)
  - 8.6 Calcium-aluminum ratio (B8.5)
- 9: Area of forest land adjacent to surface water, and forest land by watershed (B9)
  - 9.1 Forested riparian area (B9.1)
  - 9.2 Forest land by watershed (B9.2)
- 10: Water quality in forested areas (B10)
  - 10.1 Area and percent of forest whose designation or land management focus includes protection of water resources (e.g. national forest, state lands, county forests, MFL participants) (new)
  - 10.2 Proportion of forest management activities that meet BMP's to protect water quality (new)
  - 10.3 Master logger reports (new)
  - 10.4 Stream miles impaired by percentage of watershed forested (B10.2)

There was no additional discussion on C4.

>>>VOTE:

All green.

**DRAFT Criterion Five (C5): Maintenance of Forest Contributions to Global Carbon Cycles**

- 11: Forest ecosystem biomass and forest carbon pools (B11)
  - 11.1 Forest ecosystem biomass (B11.1)
  - 11.2 Forest carbon pools (B11.2)

- 11.3 Forest carbon by forest type (B11.3)
- 11.4 Change in forest carbon (B11.4)
- ???? Contribution of forest products to the global carbon budget (M28)

Last month it was debated whether Contribution of forest products to the global carbon budget (M28) should be added to the framework or the wish list. Everson looked into the metric and there just isn't good data yet. Data will most likely become more available in 5-6 years. Questions from the group included: Can we at this point qualitatively suggest where we may be in the carbon cycle? Will we have a trackable number overtime? On a statewide scale? Is this something that will be monitored over time to show trends? Who's collecting this type of data? We know Stora Enso is...maybe Plum Creek? What is the current data availability in WI statewide and how much area is covered? The group decided to hold this metric until the next meeting. Between now and then we'll find out what data is available now in the state, and then come back to it next month.

>>>ACTION ITEM:

Mouw and Rickenbach will find out for the next meeting who has data for this, what does it look like, and how often is it reported out.

Rickenbach will also circulate a ranking system the committee can review and use at the July meeting for ranking the wish list.

>>>VOTE: 11.1-11.4

All green.

**BREAK**

**Criterion One**

Padley provided overview of criterion one based on the fact sheet she and her colleagues provide the group.

**Indicator 1:**

Metric 1.1 Good metric to use as is, but it doesn't tell us anything about forest structure or age. Not a great metric for biodiversity, but others under this indicator will round it out.

Metric 1.2 This is based on 1992 national land cover data and there is more recent data. Padley recommends that we wait for USDA to put out a finer resolution data map that is in the works and should be available in 6-9 months.

Metric 1.3 This metric is not really helpful in looking at biological diversity. This is census data, and biological diversity can be more affected by people outside of the state or second housing in the state. Is there a better data set that leads us to fragmentation? Maybe road density or housing density? Road network data would be good, but a qualitative reference would need to be made. Would this data help if it were in a map format to show where the population is moving? Yes, it needs to be spatial. But land per

person is what this is getting at, and that's not what we need. This might be better if we were at a regional scale. Building density would help more than this one. It just misses the second cabin owners, and people from out of state. Eliminate this metric? It doesn't link to biodiversity. Move it to C6? Yes. Potentially under indicator 15.

Metric 1.4. There is 1.25 % reserved land in WI, relatively little compared to other states. Error is 7% at statewide level; it gets worse as you get to a smaller scale. But there is lots of land in the National Forest that is not reserved by definition, but is not being managed. How can we track those areas? This is a place where FIA is not enough. The FIA definition is that reserved land is legally set aside. We need to add those other areas like wetlands, those with limited access, etc. that aren't being managed. DNR has talked about creating a data set like this; it's on their wish list. Some lands are hard to categorize and some data is hard to get. So this is a difficult set to get at. The data is there for public land. We need to separate out the two classes of lands that are not developable vs. reserved lands, and there may be more categories like extended rotation or old growth, or wetlands. What about easements and development rights, where do those fall? One classification should be land protected from conversion, and the second should be a use category where the land will stay as forest but may or may not be managed. One category could be land that can't be managed due to legal and administrative, planning policy. The ideal may be diversity of management type. A spatial map that shows management type would get too fine of scale. Spatially that would be great to overlay ecosystem types.

Add a new one under 3.6 that speaks to the legal status of land that will remain in forest, and may or may not be managed. Refer to criterion 6, indicator 15, as it may have overlap. Keep 1.4 as legally or administratively reserved forest land where reserved connotes a sense of no or limited management (e.g., old-growth management areas, roadless designation, etc.). "Administratively" means that it is designated reserved by the management plan for the life of the plan.

Metric 1.5 Urban forests provide seasonal habitat for migrating species and environmental benefits that might not be related to biodiversity. Most urban forests would not be collected or acknowledged as forest under FIA. FIA will not measure within municipalities. 2002 pilot project picked up where FIA left off in urban settings, this will most likely be expanded in the future. But just having urban forest listed here in 1.5 misses some of the urban forest impacts. Urban forests should be integrated into more criterion than just biodiversity. Urban forest data will be coming in the next 5-10 years. So do we blend the data sets after this data comes on board or integrate now and wait for the data?

>>>ACTION ITEM:

Add an urban expert reviewer.

Ensure definition in report includes urban forest and expresses the gap that we currently have and how we can incorporate it more in future iterations of the framework.

Rich will take a half hour at the next meeting to suggest wish list items for this metric.

## LUNCH

### **Indicator 2**

Metric 2.1 There is reliable data on the species level on a statewide level. Splitting out jack pine, for example, would show specific habitat types that would benefit. There is support for species level data and the DNR does this already when an issue arises. Industry uses this information right now. Our concern is that some species may not have good statistical data, like hemlock. LIDAR could help could help here, and we already talked that this should be on the wish list. Landsat uses 2001 data and is more relevant than the data used. If WISCLand is updated it would be even better.

Metric 2.2 This is based on FIA definitions of size classes. Without species attached to this size data it is fairly meaningless. Are these useful categories we would want to see? Different animal species would have different preferences, even throughout their lifetime. Would be more meaningful if it were broken down by forest type and then size class. Could even take out the categories and report out in 2 inch size classes, but that relates more to species, not forest type. In forest type you can only get these classes they've reported out on. Want this data reported out by size class and forest type.

Metric 2.3 Break this data out by forest type also.

### **Indicator 3**

Metric 3.1 We could use Wiscland or NLCD as data for this metric. It would require the analysis though, and we would want to ensure the data was updated every 10 years or so. This is wish list item, as there is not a national standard for doing this, so we would need to develop protocol to complete it.

Metric 3.2 This is regional data and there isn't enough points for us to use on a statewide scale. National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) can provide more information for us. It shows agricultural and forest land that is sold, converted, or stays in the same use. Data comes from Department of Revenue. Use NASS data.

Metric 3.3 Essentially this is derived from 1.1. But keep this metric here because it rounds out indicator 3.

Metric 3.4 This is derived from 3.2 and 3.3. We've changed 3.2 to use the NASS data, so this metric will need some new analysis. The NASS data is easy to work with so this doesn't pose a problem.

Metric 3.5 This data set is imperfect, but it does show us trends over time, which is what we're looking for. It shows the size and scale of the potential management of properties in the future. For example, those species that depend on larger areas and are affected by parcelization, this metric will help us see those trends. Does this fit better under criterion 7? Check in with this when we look at 7 next month.

Metric 3.6 NEW –Legally protected lands. Metric accounts for those lands that are protected from conversion to non-forest uses (e.g., development) and can include public lands and those under conservation easements. These lands can be either managed or unmanaged.

Metric 3.7 NEW—Road density.

>>>ACTION ITEM:

Peterson will investigate what data is available for a roads layer.

Metric 3.8 NEW—Housing density. Could look to fire and WUI data. There is historic census data, but will Radeloff's analysis be done periodically into the future?

>>>ACTION ITEM:

Rickenbach will talk with Radeloff about this.

Padley brought up impervious surface data that is on the NLCD. This could substitute for road density if needed. Impervious surface would fit better under the water quality section. Add it as a new metric under water quality on forested areas....10.5. Will need to vote on this at the next meeting.

## **BREAK**

Everyone please make note of the **July 11<sup>th</sup> meeting** if you haven't already. We'll vote on the previous month's framework, tie up loose ends, and then prioritize the wish list.

## **Indicator 4**

Metric 4.1 Can use endangered resources DNR data, NHI inventory. Bureau of Endangered Resources (BER) does not have funding to go back to monitored sites, so it's hard to use this in a monitoring function and see trends over long term. We should pull in the Wildlife Action Plan that lists the species of greatest need. It would be great if there were more information by community type. It should reflect global and state rankings. BER does modify their priorities, although it's not necessarily a systematic data collection, there is enough information to show us trends.

Metric 4.2 Again, work with BER to pull associated animal species, rank those and name them. Add same scenario for rare plant species and link them to forest type.

Metric 4.3 Can get more useful information from 4.1 and 4.2. These are globally ranked and they don't really tell us much. Remove this from the framework.

Metric 4.4 We do have bird population surveys. Ideally select birds or groups of birds that are associated with forest types. Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) data, doesn't adequately capture interior forest species, nocturnal spp., hawks, owls, or woodpeckers. Guilds relate more to habitats than BBS data, but it would take protocol and regularity of assembling data to use it. It's a wish list item. Check species of greatest conservation need list. Birds can be misleading because they're highly mobile. One species may be declining because of wintering grounds. Could we monitor the resident WI species that are more affected within state boundaries? We need to know which species are being followed in the data, as that is the link back to the forest. We could use Wildlife Action Plan to pick species, then use BBS and pull the data, BUT this needs quite a bit of packaging and work to output. Put guild to forest types on wish list.

>>>ACTION ITEM:

Padley will talk with Andy Paulios to see if there is anything we can monitor now, be it imperfect? And what are the items potentially for the wish list?

.....Table this metric till the next meeting.....

ADDITIONS?

Do we want to add other animal species on the wish list? Furbearers? How far do we want to go down that road into wildlife? Are they monitoring bobcat? What wildlife is being monitored that we could easily add? Adding this data would be able to show that our forest management is sustaining wildlife populations.

>>>ACTION ITEM:

Padley will talk with Gerry Bartelt to see what is being monitored in the hunting and trapping arena.

Stand structure. We have size class and age class structure, so how can we analyze the data to say more about stand structure than it already says? Or is anyone already doing this? How do you link that information back to biological diversity? We want to monitor change, and then ask why it's changing. Has this been done in FIA?

>>>ACTION ITEM:

Rickenbach will talk to some people and see what he can find out. Everson will do the same on the FIA front.

**DRAFT Criterion One (C1): Conservation of Biological Diversity**

1. Area of total land, forest land, and reserved forest land (B1)
  - 1.1 Forest and total land area (B1.1)
  - 1.2 Forest density (B1.2)
  - 1.3 Legally and administratively reserved forest land (B1.4 & new)
  - 1.4 Urban forest (B1.5)
2. Forest type, size class, age class, and successional stage (B2)
  - 2.1 Forest cover type groups [report out by species] (B2.1)
  - 2.2 Size class [report out by size class and forest type] (B2.2)
  - 2.3 Age group [report out by forest type] (B2.3)
3. Extent of forest land conversion, fragmentation, and parcelization (B3)
  - 3.1 Forest land developed [use NASS data] (B3.2)
  - 3.2 Net change in forest land (B3.3)
  - 3.3 Additions to and conversions from forest land (B3.4)
  - 3.4 Forest parcel size (B3.5)
  - 3.5 Legal status of land that may or may not be managed (new)
  - 3.6 Road density (new)
  - 3.7 Housing density (new)
4. Status of forest/woodland communities and associated species of concern (B4)
  - 4.1 Forest & woodland communities [use BER; link to forest type] (B4.1)
  - 4.2 Forest-associated & all species [use BER; link to forest type] (B4.2)
  - ??4.3 Bird populations (B4.3)
  - ??4.4 Furbearer populations (new)

**Wrap Up**

Rickenbach wrapped up by stating the next meeting date is June 20<sup>th</sup>. One public comment from Marathon County was briefly discussed. If you are providing information for the June meeting, please get it to Peterson by June 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.**