



State of Wisconsin  
2011 – 2012 LEGISLATURE



LRBs0257/1  
MGG/RNK/JK:jld/wlj/kjf:rs

**ASSEMBLY SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT 1,  
TO 2011 ASSEMBLY BILL 402**

January 3, 2012 – Offered by Representative CLARK.

1     **AN ACT** *to repeal* 77.81 (5); *to renumber and amend* 77.82 (4) and 77.86 (1);  
2           *to amend* 74.25 (1) (a) 6., 74.25 (1) (a) 8., 77.82 (4) (title), 77.82 (4g) (title), 77.82  
3           (4g) (a), 77.82 (4g) (b), 77.82 (8), 77.83 (4) (b), 77.84 (2) (am), 77.84 (2) (bm), 77.86  
4           (3), 77.86 (5) (a), 77.88 (5) (a) 1. and 2. and (b) 1. and 2., 77.89 (2) (a) and 77.89  
5           (2) (b); *to repeal and recreate* 77.83 (2) (am); and *to create* 15.345 (7), 20.370  
6           (1) (cw), 74.25 (1) (a) 6m., 74.25 (1) (a) 8m., 77.81 (5m), 77.81 (7), 77.82 (3e),  
7           77.82 (3m), 77.82 (3r), 77.82 (4) (b), 77.84 (2) (d) and (e), 77.86 (1g), 77.865, 77.89  
8           (2) (c) and 77.896 of the statutes; **relating to:** creating forest enterprise areas;  
9           the creation of a managed forest land board of review; review of certain  
10          decisions of the Department of Natural Resources regarding forestry practices  
11          on managed forest land; annual allowable timber harvests; management plans  
12          for large ownerships of managed forest land and for group enrollments;  
13          designation of additional managed forest land; leasing of managed forest land;

- 1 the taxation of managed forest land; granting rule-making authority;  
2 requiring the exercise of rule-making authority; and making an appropriation.
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***Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau***

This substitute amendment is explained in the NOTES provided by the Joint Legislative Council in the substitute amendment.

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

JOINT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PREFATORY NOTE: This substitute amendment was prepared for the Joint Legislative Council's Special Committee on Review of the Managed Forest Land (MFL) Program.

**FOREST ENTERPRISE AREAS**

This substitute amendment directs the department of natural resources (DNR) to designate forest enterprise areas in administrative rule. The DNR may designate forest enterprise areas with a combined area of no more than 200,000 acres. However, before January 1, 2013, the DNR may only designate up to 10 forest enterprise areas with a combined area of not more than 75,000 acres of land. The minimum size of a forest enterprise area must be 5,000 acres. In designating forest enterprise areas, the DNR must give preference to areas that include at least 1,000 acres of land enrolled in the MFL program.

In order to create a forest enterprise area, a town or county must apply to the DNR for designation of a forest enterprise area. The proposed forest enterprise area must be consistent with the town or county forest preservation or development plan if one exists. The DNR is required to promulgate rules as to what information must be included in an application.

A town within a forest enterprise area will receive, from revenues collected by the state from the forestry mill tax, an annual payment of \$1 for each acre of the town designated as MFL that is included in a forest enterprise area. A county within a forest enterprise area will receive, from the forestry mill-tax revenues, an annual payment of 50 cents for each acre of the county designated as MFL that is included in a forest enterprise area. The DNR may not include an acre of land in more than one enterprise area.

A town or county must use these funds for sustainable forestry and forest-based economic development within the town or county, including educating landowners about the benefits of participating in a forest enterprise area, and contracting with a private forestry consultant to assist landowners in preparing MFL applications or MFL owners in preparing management plans.

**REVIEW OF SOUND FORESTRY PRACTICES BY MANAGED FOREST LAND REVIEW BOARD**

Under current law, an applicant for participation in the MFL program or an owner of managed forest land who is adversely affected by a decision of the DNR is entitled to a contested case hearing under ch. 227, stats.

This substitute amendment creates an optional procedure for MFL owners who are dissatisfied with a DNR decision regarding the practice of sound forestry. Under this procedure, an MFL owner who is dissatisfied with a DNR decision regarding the practice

of sound forestry may request review of the decision by the MFL Board. The board members are appointed by the DNR secretary for 3-year terms. The board consists of 7 members: one DNR regional forester; one private consulting forester, one forester who represents the Society of American Foresters; one forestry academic; one county forest administrator; one member of a nonprofit conservation organization; and one private nonindustrial owner of a woodland enrolled in the MFL program.

The board must review and decide the issues included in the MFL owner's request within a reasonable time. Upon conclusion of the review process, the board must issue an opinion for review by the chief state forester, who must then determine whether to accept the opinion of the board. All decisions of the chief state forester must be in writing and include sufficient facts in order to substantiate the decision.

The DNR must promulgate rules establishing the procedures and timeline for filing, review, and decision of the issues that come before the board for its review and action.

An MFL owner who receives a decision of the chief state forester retains the right to a contested case hearing under s. 227.42, stats., on the issues decided by the chief state forester.

#### MANAGED FOREST LAND MANAGEMENT PLANS AND TIMBER HARVESTS

Under current law, s. NR 46.18 (4), Wis. Adm. Code, permits the DNR to modify the requirements of management plans under the MFL program for ownerships exceeding 1,000 acres. Management plans may be modified after consideration of the following:

- Other land of the owner entered as MFL or forest crop land.
- The number of counties in which lands proposed for entry or renewal or the owner's existing MFL and forest crop land lie.
- The existence and availability for review of a management plan prepared by or for the owner and acceptable to the DNR.
- Submission of a written commitment from an owner to provide, upon DNR 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 substitute amendment shifts the contents of s. NR 46.18 (4), Wis. Adm. Code, to the managed forest land subchapter of ch. 77, stats. Additionally, the substitute amendment directs 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 substitute amendment directs the DNR 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 substitute amendment.

Under current law, s. 28.025, stats., directs DNR to establish annual allowable timber harvests for forested property owned by this state and forest property under the jurisdiction of DNR from which timber is harvested.

This substitute amendment requires modified management plans for ownerships that exceed 1,000 acres to include the establishment of an annual allowable harvest. This requirement would not apply to ownerships exceeding 1,000 acres whose lands are certified by an independent third party. The substitute amendment directs DNR to promulgate rules to establish annual allowable timber harvests in modified management plans.

Finally, this substitute amendment specifies that, if the DNR requires an owner of MFL to harvest particular timber from the land within a specified time period, the time period may not be less than three years.

#### DESIGNATION OF ADDITIONAL MANAGED FOREST LAND

Under the MFL program, an owner of land designated as MFL under an order that takes effect on or after April 28, 2004, may apply to the DNR to designate an additional parcel of land as MFL if the additional parcel is at least 3 acres and is contiguous to any of the owner's designated land. The application must include a nonrefundable \$20 application recording fee unless a different amount is established by the DNR by rule at an amount equal to the average expense to the DNR of recording a managed forest land order. The fee must be deposited in the conservation fund. An application must be submitted on a DNR form and must contain any additional information required by DNR. [s. 77.82 (4), stats.]

If an owner of land that is designated as MFL under an order that takes effect before April 28, 2004, wishes to have designated as MFL an additional parcel of land that is at least 3 acres in size, that does not satisfy the MFL program eligibility requirements, but is contiguous to any of the owner's designated land, the owner may withdraw the designated land from the original order and may file an application with the DNR for a new order covering both the withdrawn land and the additional land. The withdrawal tax and the withdrawal fee do not apply under these circumstances. [s. 77.82 (4g), stats.] However, the filing of the new order has the effect of applying the current requirements of the MFL program, including a higher rate of taxation to both the additional parcel and the designated land from the original order.

This substitute amendment sunsets current law as it applies to owners of land designated as MFL under orders that take effect before April 28, 2004. Instead, under the substitute amendment, the land owner would be able to designate an additional parcel of land as MFL in, generally, the same manner as an owner of land designated as MFL under an order that takes effect on or after April 28, 2004.

Under the substitute amendment, only the additional parcel of land designated as MFL would be subject to the taxes in effect when the application for addition of the parcel is filed.

#### LEASING OF MANAGED FOREST LAND

Under current law, for land designated as MFL under an order that takes effect on or after October 27, 2007, no person may enter into a lease or other agreement for consideration if the purpose of the lease or agreement is to permit persons to engage in a recreational activity. Any lease or other agreement for consideration that permits persons to engage in a recreational activity was voided effective January 1, 2008.

The managed forest law defines recreational activities to include hunting, fishing, hiking, sight-seeing, cross-country skiing, horseback riding, and staying in cabins.

This substitute amendment repeals the prohibition on leasing of MFL. Instead, the substitute amendment permits the leasing of MFL, including leases and other agreements for consideration, that permit persons to engage in a recreational activity, if the use does not conflict with sound forestry practices or any forest management objective contained in the management plan for the land. The substitute amendment also specifies that any person who enters into a lease shall be subject to a forfeiture if the lease presents a conflict with sound forestry practices or the forest management objectives contained in the management plan.

#### TAXATION OF MANAGED FOREST LAND

Except as provided under the MFL program, no tax may be levied on MFL, except that any building on the land is subject to taxation as personal property under ch. 70, stats.

#### MFL Orders Effective Prior to April 28, 2004

Each owner of MFL must pay to the municipal treasurer an acreage share on or before January 31. Originally, this acreage share was \$.74 per acre. In addition to this amount, each owner was required to pay \$1 for each acre that is designated as closed under s. 77.83, stats.

Beginning in 1992 and in each 5th year thereafter, the department of revenue (DOR) adjusts the amounts of tax by multiplying the original acreage shares specified by a ratio using as the denominator the DOR's estimate of the average statewide tax per acre of property classes under s. 70.32 (2) (b) 4., 5., and 6., 1993 stats. (agricultural, swamp, or waste and productive forest land), for 1986 and, as the numerator, the DOR estimate of the average tax per acre for the same classes of property for the year in which the adjustment is made. Based on this adjustment, the current acreage share is \$.67 per acre of open land and \$1.57 per acre of closed land. [s. 77.84 (2) (c), stats.]

**MFL Orders Effective on or After April 28, 2004**

For MFL orders that take effect on or after April 28, 2004, each owner of MFL must pay to each municipal treasurer, on or before January 31, an amount equal to 5% of the average statewide property tax per acre of property classified as productive forest land under s. 70.32 (2) (a) 6., stats., for each acre of MFL.

In addition to this amount, each owner must pay to each municipal treasurer, on or before January 31, an amount equal to 20% of the average statewide property tax per acre of property classified as productive forest land under s. 70.32 (2) (a) 6., stats., for each closed acre of MFL.

In 2004, 2007, and each 5th year thereafter, DOR is required to determine the average statewide tax per acre of productive forest land by multiplying the average equalized value of productive forest land by the average tax rate determined under s. 76.126, stats. Based on this determination, the current acreage share is \$1.67 per acre of open land and \$8.34 per acre of closed land. [s. 77.84 (2) (cm), stats.]

This substitute amendment specifies new calculations for the closed land acreage shares for MFL orders that take effect on or after the effective date of the substitute amendment. Under the substitute amendment, owners of closed land under new MFL orders would pay the greater of the following:

- The acreage share applicable to MFL orders that take effect on or after April 28, 2004.
- A total of 25% of the assessed value of the closed MFL times the full value effective rate of taxation applicable to general property in the same taxation district as the closed managed forest land.

**DISTRIBUTION OF MONEYS RECEIVED BY DNR**

No later than June 30 of each year, the DNR must pay 100% of each payment received under s. 77.84 (3) (b) (delinquency payments), 77.87 (3) (yield tax), or 77.88 (7), stats. (withdrawal tax), to the treasurer of the municipality in which the land is located. [s. 77.89 (1), stats.]

Additionally, the DNR must pay before June 30 annually the municipal treasurer, from the appropriation under s. 20.370 (5) (bv), stats., \$.20 for each acre of land in the municipality that is designated as MFL and for each acre of tribal land in the municipality that has been withdrawn from the MFL program under s. 77.885, stats., but for which payments under s. 77.84 (2), stats., are being made. [s. 77.85, stats.]

Each municipal treasurer must pay 20% of each payment received from the DNR or directly under ss. 77.84 (2) (a) and (am) (payment for closed land), 77.85 (state contribution for MFL acreage), and 77.876, stats. (noncompliance assessments), to the county treasurer and must deposit the remainder in the municipal treasury. The payment to the county treasurer for money received before November 1 of any year must be made on or before November 15 after its receipt. For money received on or after November 1 of any year, the payment to the county treasurer must be made on or before November 15 of the following year. [s. 77.89 (2) (a), stats.]

The municipal treasurer also must pay to the county treasurer all amounts received under s. 77.84 (2) (b) and (bm), stats. (payment for closed land). The county treasurer must, by June 30 of each year, pay all amounts received under this provision to the DNR. All amounts received from the DNR must be credited to the conservation

fund and reserved for land acquisition, resource management activities, and grants for land acquisition for outdoor activities. [s. 77.89 (2) (b), stats.]

This substitute amendment modifies the distribution of moneys received by local units of government in connection with the MFL program. Under the substitute amendment, 20% of MFL payments for closed acreage received by a municipal treasurer would be paid to the DNR. Forty-eight percent of the closed acreage MFL payments received by a municipal treasurer (equivalent to 60% of the amount remaining after payment to the DNR) would be paid to the county. From the closed acreage payments received by a county, the county must spend at least five-sixths of the amount received to acquire by purchase, lease, easement, or other agreement land that will be open to the public for hunting and certain other recreational activities, unless at least 40% of the county's lands are open to the public. If the county meets the 40% threshold, the county may elect to expend some or all of the amount on activities to improve resource management, including forest growth, forest health, fish habitat, wildlife habitat, and watershed protection.

1           **SECTION 1.** 15.345 (7) of the statutes is created to read:

2           **15.345 (7) MANAGED FOREST LAND REVIEW BOARD.** There is created in the  
3 department of natural resources a managed forest land review board consisting of  
4 the following members appointed for 3-year terms:

5           (a) One member who is a regional forester employed by the department.

6           (b) One member who is a forester who provides consultation services on forestry  
7 issues.

8           (c) One member who is a forester who represents the Society of American  
9 Foresters.

10           (d) One member who represents the interests of schools of forestry within the  
11 state that have curricula in the management of forest resources that are accredited  
12 by the Society of American Foresters.

13           (e) One member who is a county forest administrator.

14           (f) One member who is a member of a nonprofit conservation organization as  
15 defined in s. 23.0955 (1).

16           (g) One member who is a private, nonindustrial owner of a woodland that is  
17 enrolled in the managed forest land program under s. 77.82.

18           **SECTION 2.** 20.370 (1) (cw) of the statutes is created to read:

1           20.370 (1) (cw) *Forestry — enterprise areas*. From the revenues collected under  
2 s. 70.58, a sum sufficient to make the payments under s. 77.896 (2) (a) and (b).

3           **SECTION 3.** 74.25 (1) (a) 6. of the statutes is amended to read:

4           74.25 (1) (a) 6. Pay to the county treasurer ~~20%~~ 20 percent of collections of  
5 occupational taxes on coal docks, ~~20%~~ 20 percent of collections of the taxes imposed  
6 under ss. 77.04 and 77.84 (2) (a) ~~and, (am), (d), and (e) 1. a. and 2. a., and all 48 percent~~  
7 of collections of payments for closed lands under s. 77.84 (2) (b) ~~and, (bm), and (e) 1.~~  
8 b. and 2. b.

9           **SECTION 4.** 74.25 (1) (a) 6m. of the statutes is created to read:

10          74.25 (1) (a) 6m. Pay to the department of natural resources 20 percent of  
11 collections of payments for closed lands under s. 77.84 (2) (b), (bm), and (e) 1. b. and  
12 2. b.

13          **SECTION 5.** 74.25 (1) (a) 8. of the statutes is amended to read:

14          74.25 (1) (a) 8. Retain for the taxation district all woodland tax law collections  
15 under s. 77.16 and 80% of collections of the taxes imposed under ss. 77.04 and 77.84  
16 (2) (a) ~~and, (am), (d), and (e) 1. a. and 2. a.~~

17          **SECTION 6.** 74.25 (1) (a) 8m. of the statutes is created to read:

18          74.25 (1) (a) 8m. Retain for the taxation district 32 percent of collections of  
19 payments for closed lands under s. 77.84 (2) (b), (bm), and (e) 1. b. and 2. b.

20          **SECTION 7.** 77.81 (5) of the statutes is repealed.

21          **SECTION 8.** 77.81 (5m) of the statutes is created to read:

22          77.81 (5m) “Public access land” means any of the following:

23          (a) Department land, as defined in s. 23.0917 (1) (c).

24          (b) Federal land managed by the U.S. Forest Service.

25          (c) Land owned by a county that is open to the public.

1 (d) Land that is open under s. 77.83 (2).

2 **SECTION 9.** 77.81 (7) of the statutes is created to read:

3 **77.81 (7)** “Taxation district” has the meaning given under s. 70.114 (1) (e).

NOTE: Under s. 70.114 (1) (e), “taxation district” means a city, village or town, except that, if a city or village lies in more than one county, the portions of that city or village that lie within each county are separate taxation districts.

4 **SECTION 10.** 77.82 (3e) of the statutes is created to read:

5 **77.82 (3e)** LARGE OWNERSHIPS. (a) Notwithstanding the requirements for a  
6 proposed management plan under sub. (3), upon the request of an owner of managed  
7 forest land, the department may modify the requirements under sub. (3) (c) 4. to 7.  
8 for the owner’s proposed managed forest plan if the owner’s application for the  
9 designation of managed forest land under sub. (2) covers parcels of land totaling  
10 more than 1,000 acres and if the department considers all of the following:

11 1. Whether the owner of the land covered by the application owns other land  
12 designated as managed forest land or owns other land entered as forest crop land.

13 2. The number of counties in which the land covered by the application and any  
14 other land described in subd. 1. are located.

15 3. Whether the owner of the land covered by the application has made the  
16 proposed management plan available to the department for review.

17 4. Whether, if requested by the department, the owner of the land covered by  
18 the application has agreed in writing to provide information from the proposed  
19 management plan, a description of the proposed management plan, and an outline  
20 of a procedure for updating and amending the proposed management plan, to the  
21 department for review or audit.

22 5. Whether the owner of the land covered by the application has demonstrated  
23 to the department that he or she has consistently been receptive to competent



1 technical assistance from the department or from a technical advisor designated by  
2 the department.

3 (b) 1. The department may not approve a proposed management plan as  
4 described under par. (a) unless the proposed management plan specifies an annual  
5 allowable timber harvest for the land covered by the proposed management plan.  
6 This paragraph does not apply to the approval of a proposed management plan that  
7 covers land that is prepared by an independent 3rd party who is certified by a  
8 recognized forestry organization that has expertise in the use of sustainable forestry  
9 practices.

10 2. The department shall promulgate rules that establish an annual allowable  
11 timber harvest for managed forest land covered by a management plan approved by  
12 the department under this subsection.

NOTE: This SECTION shifts the contents of s. NR 46.18 (4), Wis. Adm. Code, relating to modification of management plans, to the managed forest land subchapter of ch. 77, stats. The SECTION also requires modified management plans to include the establishment of an annual allowable harvest unless the lands are certified by an independent third party.

13 **SECTION 11.** 77.82 (3m) of the statutes is created to read:

14 77.82 (3m) GROUP MANAGED FOREST PLANS. Notwithstanding the requirements  
15 for management plans under sub. (3), the department may, upon request, authorize  
16 2 or more owners of managed forest land to designate land to be covered by a group  
17 management plan if the total designated land proposed to be covered by the group  
18 management plan exceeds 1,000 acres. The department shall promulgate rules that  
19 establish criteria, substantially similar to the criteria under sub. (3e) (a) 1. to 5., that  
20 the department must consider before approving group management plans under this  
21 subsection.

22 **SECTION 12.** 77.82 (3r) of the statutes is created to read:

1           77.82 (3r) TIMBER HARVESTS. If the department requires an owner of managed  
2 forest land covered by a management plan under sub. (3) or (3e), or requires owners  
3 of managed forest land covered by a group management plan under sub. (3m), to  
4 harvest particular timber from the land within a specified time period, the specified  
5 time period may not be a period of less than 3 years.

6           **SECTION 13.** 77.82 (4) (title) of the statutes is amended to read:

7           77.82 (4) (title) ~~ADDITIONS~~ ADDITIONAL DESIGNATIONS TO MANAGED FOREST LAND.

8           **SECTION 14.** 77.82 (4) of the statutes is renumbered 77.82 (4) (a) and amended  
9 to read:

10           77.82 (4) (a) Orders on or after April 28, 2004. An owner of land that is  
11 designated as managed forest land under an order that takes effect on or after April  
12 28, 2004, may file an application with the department to designate as managed forest  
13 land an additional parcel of land if the additional parcel is at least 3 acres in size and  
14 is contiguous to any of that designated land. ~~The, and complies with the other~~  
15 requirements in sub. (1).

16           (c) Fee: additional information. An application under par. (a) or (b) shall be  
17 accompanied by a nonrefundable \$20 application recording fee unless a different  
18 amount for the fee is established by the department by rule at an amount equal to  
19 the average expense to the department of recording an order issued under this  
20 subchapter. The fee shall be deposited in the conservation fund and credited to the  
21 appropriation under s. 20.370 (1) (cr). The application shall be filed on a department  
22 form and shall contain any additional information required by the department.

23           **SECTION 15.** 77.82 (4) (b) of the statutes is created to read:

24           77.82 (4) (b) *Orders before April 28, 2004.* Beginning on the day after the  
25 effective date of this paragraph .... [LRB inserts date], an owner of land that is

1 designated as managed forest land under an order that takes effect before April 28,  
2 2004, may file an application with the department to designate as managed forest  
3 land an additional parcel of land if the additional parcel is at least 3 acres in size, is  
4 contiguous to any of that designated land, and complies with the other requirements  
5 in sub. (1). An additional parcel of land that is designated as managed forest land  
6 under this paragraph shall be subject to the taxes imposed under s. 77.84 (2) (am)  
7 and (bm).

8 **SECTION 16.** 77.82 (4g) (title) of the statutes is amended to read:

9 77.82 **(4g)** (title) ~~DESIGNATION~~ GRANDFATHERED DESIGNATIONS OF ADDITIONAL  
10 MANAGED FOREST LAND ~~FOR CERTAIN OWNERS.~~

11 **SECTION 17.** 77.82 (4g) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

12 77.82 **(4g)** (a) If an owner of land that is designated as managed forest land  
13 under an order that takes effect before April 28, 2004, wishes to have an additional  
14 parcel of land that is at least 10 acres in size and that satisfies the other requirements  
15 in sub. (1) designated as managed forest land, the owner may file an application with  
16 the department under sub. (2) for a new order covering the additional land. An  
17 application may not be filed pursuant to this paragraph after the effective date of this  
18 paragraph .... [LRB inserts date].

19 **SECTION 18.** 77.82 (4g) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

20 77.82 **(4g)** (b) If an owner of land that is designated as managed forest land  
21 under an order that takes effect before April 28, 2004, wishes to have designated as  
22 managed forest land an additional parcel of land that is at least 3 acres in size, that  
23 does not satisfy the requirements in sub. (1), and that is contiguous to any of that  
24 designated land, the owner may withdraw the designated land from the original  
25 order and may file an application with the department under sub. (2) for a new order

1 covering both the withdrawn land and the additional land. The withdrawal tax and  
2 the withdrawal fee under s. 77.88 (5) and (5m) do not apply to a withdrawal under  
3 this paragraph. An application may not be filed pursuant to this paragraph after the  
4 effective date of this paragraph .... [LRB inserts date].

5 **SECTION 19.** 77.82 (8) of the statutes is amended to read:

6 77.82 **(8)** ORDER. If an application under sub. (2), (4m), or (12) is approved, the  
7 department shall issue an order designating the land as managed forest land for the  
8 time period specified in the application. If an application under sub. (4) (a) or (b) is  
9 approved, the department shall amend the original order to include the additional  
10 parcel. The department shall provide the applicant with a copy of the order or  
11 amended order and shall also file a copy with the department of revenue, the  
12 supervisor of assessments, and the clerk of each municipality in which the land is  
13 located, and shall record the order with the register of deeds in each county in which  
14 the land is located.

15 **SECTION 20.** 77.83 (2) (am) of the statutes is repealed and recreated to read:

16 77.83 **(2)** (am) Each owner of managed forest land may enter into a lease, or  
17 other agreement for consideration, to allow the land to be used for any purpose,  
18 including engaging in one or more recreational activities on the land, if the use does  
19 not conflict with any forest management objective contained in the management  
20 plan for the land and does not conflict with any sound forestry practice.

21 **SECTION 21.** 77.83 (4) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

22 77.83 **(4)** (b) Any person who enters into a lease or agreement under sub. (2)  
23 (am) that fails to comply with sub. (2) (am) shall forfeit an amount equal to the total  
24 amount of consideration received by the person as a result of violating sub. (2) (am)  
25 or \$500, whichever is greater.

1           **SECTION 22.** 77.84 (2) (am) of the statutes is amended to read:

2           77.84 (2) (am) For managed forest land orders that take effect on or after April  
3 28, 2004, and before the effective date of this paragraph .... [LRB inserts date], each  
4 owner of managed forest land shall pay to each municipal treasurer, on or before  
5 January 31, an amount that is equal to 5 percent of the average statewide property  
6 tax per acre of property classified under s. 70.32 (2) (a) 6., as determined under par.  
7 (cm), for each acre of managed forest land.

8           **SECTION 23.** 77.84 (2) (bm) of the statutes is amended to read:

9           77.84 (2) (bm) For managed forest land orders that take effect on or after April  
10 28, 2004, and before the effective date of this paragraph .... [LRB inserts date], in  
11 addition to the payment under par. (am), each owner of managed forest land shall  
12 pay to each municipal treasurer, on or before January 31, an amount that is equal  
13 to 20 percent of the average statewide property tax per acre of property classified  
14 under s. 70.32 (2) (a) 6., as determined under par. (cm), for each acre that is  
15 designated as closed under s. 77.83.

16           **SECTION 24.** 77.84 (2) (d) and (e) of the statutes are created to read:

17           77.84 (2) (d) Except as provided in par. (e), for managed forest land orders that  
18 take effect on or after the effective date of this paragraph .... [LRB inserts date], each  
19 owner of managed forest land shall pay to each municipal treasurer on or before  
20 January 31, an amount equal to the amount calculated under par. (am).

21           (e) For managed forest land orders that take effect on or after the effective date  
22 of this paragraph .... [LRB inserts date], each owner of managed forest land that is  
23 closed under s. 77.83 shall pay to each municipal treasurer on or before January 31,  
24 an amount equal to the greater of the following:

25           1. The amount calculated under both of the following:

1 a. Paragraph (am).

2 b. Paragraph (bm).

3 2. The sum of the following:

4 a. An amount equal to 5 percent of the assessed value of the managed forest  
5 land that is closed under s. 77.83, multiplied by the full value effective rate of  
6 taxation applicable to general property in the same taxation district as the managed  
7 forest land.

8 b. An amount equal to 20 percent of the assessed value of the managed forest  
9 land that is closed under s. 77.83, multiplied by the full value effective rate of  
10 taxation applicable to general property in the same taxation district as the managed  
11 forest land.

NOTE: This SECTION modifies the calculation of acreage shares for closed acreage under new managed forest land orders. Acreage that is open under new managed forest land orders would remain subject to the same acreage shares that apply to orders that take effect after April 28, 2004.

12 **SECTION 25.** 77.86 (1) of the statutes is renumbered 77.86 (1m), and 77.86 (1m)  
13 (c), as renumbered, is amended to read:

14 77.86 (1m) (c) If the proposed cutting conforms to the management plan and  
15 is consistent with sound forestry practices, the department shall approve the  
16 request. In determining whether a proposed cutting is consistent with sound forestry  
17 practices, the department may also consider, if consistent with the objectives of the  
18 owner, the effect of the proposed cutting on the management of forest resources, other  
19 than trees, including wildlife habitat, watersheds, aesthetics, and endangered and  
20 threatened plant and animal species.

21 **SECTION 26.** 77.86 (1g) of the statutes is created to read:

22 77.86 (1g) In this section:

23 (a) “Board” means the managed forest land review board.

1           (b) “Sound forestry practices” means forest cultural methods, including  
2 methods for timber cutting and for transporting timber, that the department  
3 determines are effective in propagating and improving the various timber types that  
4 are common in this state.

5           **SECTION 27.** 77.86 (3) of the statutes is amended to read:

6           **77.86 (3) TIME LIMIT.** All cutting specified in the notice under sub. ~~(1)~~ (1m) (b)  
7 shall be commenced within one year after the date the proposed cutting is approved.  
8 The owner shall report to the department the date on which the cutting is  
9 commenced.

10          **SECTION 28.** 77.86 (5) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

11          **77.86 (5) (a)** Any person who fails to file the notice required under sub. ~~(1)~~ (1m)  
12 (b), who fails to file a report as required under sub. (4), or who files a false report  
13 under sub. (4) shall forfeit not more than \$1,000.

14          **SECTION 29.** 77.865 of the statutes is created to read:

15          **77.865 Review. (1)** In this section:

16          (a) “Board” means the managed forest land review board.

17          (b) “Sound forestry practices” has the meaning given in s. 77.86 (1g) (b).

18          **(2)** If the department decides that an owner of managed forest land is  
19 managing the land in a manner that the department determines is inconsistent with  
20 sound forestry practices, the owner may challenge that decision by requesting that  
21 the board review the decision.

22          **(3)** An owner who requests review of a department decision under sub. (2) shall  
23 submit a written request to the board within 30 days after the date on which the  
24 owner receives notice of the department’s decision.

1           **(4)** Upon receiving a request from an owner under sub. (3), the board shall,  
2 within a reasonable time, review the department’s decision, render an opinion on  
3 whether or not the owner’s management of the managed forest land is consistent  
4 with sound forestry practices, and forward its opinion to the chief state forester. The  
5 chief state forester shall review the board’s opinion and issue a decision, in writing,  
6 that states whether or not he or she concurs with the board’s opinion. The chief state  
7 forester shall include in his or her decision sufficient facts to support the decision.

8           **(5)** If the chief state forester decides, after considering the board’s opinion  
9 under sub. (4), that the owner’s management of the managed forest land is consistent  
10 with sound forestry practices, the department shall adopt the decision of the chief  
11 state forester as the department’s decision on the issue.

12           **(6)** An owner adversely affected by the decision of the chief state forester under  
13 sub. (5) shall have the right to a contested case hearing under s. 227.42 on the issues  
14 decided by the chief state forester.

15           **(7)** The department shall promulgate rules that establish additional  
16 procedures, including filing, review, and decision deadlines, with regard to an  
17 owner’s challenge of a department decision under this section.

NOTE: SECTION 1 creates the managed forest land review board in DNR and specifies the membership of the board. SECTION 29 creates an optional procedure for MFL owners who are dissatisfied with a DNR decision regarding the practice of sound forestry to request review of the decision by the board. The board must review and decide upon the issues in the request and issue an opinion for review by the chief state forester. The chief state forester then determines whether to accept the board’s recommendation and must issue a decision in writing. DNR is required to promulgate rules regarding the procedures for the board’s review. An MFL owner retains the right to a contested case hearing on the issues decided under this procedure by the chief state forester.

18           **SECTION 30.** 77.88 (5) (a) 1. and 2. and (b) 1. and 2. of the statutes are amended  
19 to read:



1           77.88 (5) (a) 1. An amount equal to the past tax liability multiplied by the  
2           number of years the land was designated as managed forest land, less any amounts  
3           paid by the owner under ss. 77.84 (2) (a) ~~and, (am), (d), and (e) 1. a. or 2. a.,~~ and 77.87.

4           2. Five percent of the stumpage value of the merchantable timber on the land,  
5           less any amounts paid by the owner under ss. 77.84 (2) (a) ~~and, (am), (d), and (e) 1.~~  
6           a. or 2. a., and 77.87.

7           (b) 1. An amount equal to the past tax liability multiplied by the number of  
8           years since the renewal, less any amounts paid by the owner under ss. 77.84 (2) (a)  
9           ~~and, (am), (d), and (e) 1. a. or 2. a.,~~ and 77.87.

10          2. Five percent of the stumpage value of the merchantable timber on the land,  
11          less any amounts paid by the owner under ss. 77.84 (2) (a) ~~and, (am), (d), and (e) 1.~~  
12          a. or 2. a., and 77.87.

NOTE: This SECTION updates cross-references used in the calculation of  
withdrawal taxes.

13          **SECTION 31.** 77.89 (2) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

14          77.89 (2) (a) Each municipal treasurer shall pay 20% of each payment received  
15          under sub. (1) and under ss. 77.84 (2) (a) ~~and, (am), (d), and (e) 1. a. and 2. a.,~~ 77.85,  
16          and 77.876 to the county treasurer and shall deposit the remainder in the municipal  
17          treasury. The payment to the county treasurer for money received before November  
18          1 of any year shall be made on or before the November 15 after its receipt. For money  
19          received on or after November 1 of any year, the payment to the county treasurer  
20          shall be made on or before November 15 of the following year.

21          **SECTION 32.** 77.89 (2) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

22          77.89 (2) (b) The municipal treasurer shall pay ~~all~~ 48 percent of the amounts  
23          received under s. 77.84 (2) (b) ~~and, (bm), and (e) 1. b. and 2. b.~~ to the county treasurer,

1 as provided under ss. 74.25 and 74.30. The county municipal treasurer shall, by June  
2 30 of each year, pay all 20 percent of the amounts received under this paragraph s.  
3 77.84 (2) (b), (bm), and (e) 1. b. and 2. b. to the department. ~~All amounts received by~~  
4 ~~the department shall be credited to the conservation fund and shall be reserved for~~  
5 ~~land acquisition, resource management activities, and grants under s. 77.895~~ The  
6 municipal treasurer shall deposit the remainder in the municipal treasury.

NOTE: The percentages specified in this paragraph have the effect of sending 20% of the total amounts received under s. 77.89 (2) (b), stats. (generally, closed acreage shares for managed forest land), to the department and sending 60% of the amount remaining to the counties. Directives on the use of the funds by the county are described below in par. (c).

7 **SECTION 33.** 77.89 (2) (c) of the statutes is created to read:

8 77.89 (2) (c) 1. Except as provided in subd. 2., from the amounts received by a  
9 county under par. (b), at least five–sixths of the amounts shall be expended by the  
10 county to acquire by purchase, lease, easement, or other agreement land that will be  
11 open to the public for hunting, fishing, hiking, sight–seeing, and cross–country  
12 skiing.

13 2. A county with at least 40 percent of its total area consisting of public access  
14 lands shall spend at least five–sixth of the amounts received under par. (b) for  
15 acquisitions as described in subd. 1. or for activities to improve resource  
16 management, or any combination thereof. Resource management activities may  
17 include forest growth, forest health, fish habitat, wildlife habitat, or watershed  
18 protection.

NOTE: This paragraph specifies that at least five–sixths of the amount a county receives under s. 77.89 (2) (b), stats. (generally, the county portion of the closed acreage shares), shall be expended to acquire by purchase, lease, easement, or other agreement land that will be open to the public for hunting and certain other recreational activities, unless the county meets a 40% threshold for ownership of public access lands, as defined above. If the county meets the 40% public access threshold, the county shall spend this “closed acreage share” amount for these types of acquisitions or for activities to improve resource management. These activities include forest growth, forest health, fish habitat, wildlife habitat, and watershed protection.

1           **SECTION 34.** 77.896 of the statutes is created to read:

2           77.896 (1) DESIGNATION. (a) 1. The department shall promulgate rules under  
3           which the department may designate forest enterprise areas targeted for  
4           sustainable forestry and forest-based economic development. The department shall  
5           promulgate rules to establish criteria for determining eligibility and approval of a  
6           proposed forest enterprise area and the modification or termination of the  
7           designation of a forest enterprise area.

8           2. A town or county that proposes to create a forest enterprise area shall apply  
9           to the department. If a town submits an application to the department, the proposed  
10          forest enterprise area shall be consistent with the town plan for forest preservation  
11          and development if the town has a plan for forest preservation and development. If  
12          a county submits an application to the department, the proposed forest enterprise  
13          area shall be consistent with the county plan for forest preservation and  
14          development if the county has a plan for forest preservation and development.

15          3. The department shall promulgate rules that set forth the information that  
16          is required to be included in an application submitted under subd. 2.

17          (b) The department may not designate an area as a forest enterprise area  
18          unless the department receives an application requesting the designation and the  
19          application complies with par. (a).

20          (c) Subject to par. (d), the department may designate forest enterprise areas  
21          with a combined area of not more than 200,000 acres of land.

22          (d) Before January 1, 2013, the department may designate not more than 10  
23          forest enterprise areas with a combined area of not more than 75,000 acres of land.

24          (e) The minimum size of a forest enterprise area designated under this  
25          subsection shall be 5,000 acres of land.

1 (f) In designating forest enterprise areas under this subsection, the department  
2 shall give preference to areas that include at least 1,000 acres of land designated as  
3 managed forest land under s. 77.82.

4 (g) In designating forest enterprise areas under this subsection, the  
5 department may not include an acre of land in more than one enterprise area.

6 **(2) EFFECT OF DESIGNATION.** (a) A town, for which a forest enterprise area has  
7 been designated under sub. (1), shall receive, from the appropriation account under  
8 s. 20.370 (1) (cw), an annual payment of \$1 for each acre in the town that is  
9 designated as managed forest land under s. 77.82 and that is included in a forest  
10 enterprise area.

11 (b) A county, for which a forest enterprise area has been designated under sub.  
12 (1), shall receive, from the appropriation account under s. 20.370 (1) (cw), an annual  
13 payment of 50 cents for each acre in the county that is designated as managed forest  
14 land under s. 77.82 and that is included in a forest enterprise area.

15 (c) A town or county that receives a payment under par. (a) or (b) shall use the  
16 funds for sustainable forestry and forest-based economic development within the  
17 town or county, including educating landowners about the benefits of participating  
18 in a forest enterprise area, and contracting with a forester who engages in the  
19 practice of providing consultation services on forestry issues to assist landowners in  
20 preparing applications under s. 77.82 (2) or owners of managed forest land in  
21 preparing management plans under s. 77.82 (3).

NOTE: This SECTION requires the DNR to designate forest enterprise areas in administrative rule. The DNR may designate forest enterprise areas with a combined area of up to 200,000 acres. However, before 2013, DNR may only designate up to 10 forest enterprise areas with a combined area of up to 75,000 acres. When designating forest enterprise areas, the DNR must give preference to areas that include at least 1,000 acres of MFL land. A town within a forest enterprise area is eligible to receive an annual payment of \$1 for each acre of MFL land in the forest enterprise area. A county within a forest enterprise area is eligible to receive an annual payment of 50 cents for each acre

of MFL land in the forest enterprise area. These payments for towns and counties come from the forestry mill tax revenues. The payments must be used for sustainable forestry and forest-based economic development within the town or county.

1           **SECTION 35. Nonstatutory provisions.**

2           (1) **RULES.** The department of natural resources shall submit in proposed form  
3 the rules required under section 77.82 (3e) (b) 2. and (3m) of the statutes, as created  
4 by this act, to the legislative council staff under section 227.15 (1) of the statutes no  
5 later than the first day of the 12th month beginning after the effective date of this  
6 subsection.

NOTE: This SECTION requires DNR to submit proposed rules regarding the modification of management plans for group enrollments and for annual allowable timber harvests no later than the first day of the 12th month beginning after the effective date of the substitute amendment.

7           (2) **BOARD.** The initial members of the managed forest land review board under  
8 section 15.345 (7) (a) to (g) of the statutes, as created by this act, shall be appointed  
9 for the following terms:

10           (a) Three members for a term that expires on July 1, 2014.

11           (b) Two members for a term that expires on July 1, 2015.

12           (c) Two members for a term that expires on July 1, 2016.

13           (3) The department of natural resources shall submit in proposed form the  
14 rules required under section 77.865 (7) of the statutes, as created by this act, to the  
15 legislative council staff under section 227.15 (1) of the statutes no later than the first  
16 day of the 6th month beginning after the effective date of this subsection.

17           **SECTION 36. Initial applicability.**

18           (1) The treatment of section 77.82 (4g) (title), (a), and (b) and (8) of the statutes,  
19 the renumbering and amendment of section 77.82 (4) of the statutes, the amendment  
20 of section 77.82 (4) (title) of the statutes, and the creation of section 77.82 (4) (b) of  
21 the statutes first apply to applications to designate additional land as managed

1 forest land that are filed with the department of natural resources on the effective  
2 date of this subsection.

3 (END)