

**BEFORE THE
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Natural Resources Board Order FR-20-12

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT pursuant to ss. 227.16 and 227.17, Stats, the Department of Natural Resources, hereinafter the Department, will hold a public hearing on amendment of NR 45.045(2)(a) and (b), relating to decreasing the distance from which firewood may be brought onto state lands from 25 to 10 miles and allowing wood from out of state to enter state lands if originating within 10 miles. on the date(s) and at the time(s) and location(s) listed below.

Hearing Information

Date and Time

Oct 29, 7:00 PM

Location

Room DE 227, 702 Langdon St., Madison, WI (Pyle Center, UW Madison campus)

Old Library room 1132, 105 Garfield Ave., Eau Claire, WI (UW EAU campus)

Room 218, 518 S 7th Ave., Wausau, WI (UWC/UW Marathon County campus)

Room IS 1034, 2420 Nicolet Dr., Green Bay, WI (UW Green Bay campus)

Reasonable accommodations, including the provision of informational material in an alternative format, will be provided for qualified individuals with disabilities upon request. Contact Andrea Diss-Torrance, Madison, WI 53707; by E-mail to andrea.disstorrance@wi.gov or by calling (608) 264-9247. A request must include specific information and be received at least 10 days before the date of the scheduled hearing.

Availability of the Proposed Rules and Fiscal Estimate

The proposed rule and supporting documents, including the fiscal estimate, may be viewed and downloaded from the Administrative Rules System Web site which can be accessed through the link <https://health.wisconsin.gov/admrules/public/Home>. If you do not have Internet access, a printed copy of the proposed rule and supporting documents, including the fiscal estimate, may be obtained free of charge by contacting Andrea Diss-Torrance, Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Forest Management, 101 S. Webster St, Madison, WI, 53703, or by calling (608) 264-9247.

Submitting Comments

Comments on the proposed rule must be received on or before Monday November 4, 2013. Written comments may be submitted by U.S. mail, fax, E-mail, or through the Internet and will have the same weight and effect as oral statements presented at the public hearing. Written comments and any questions on the proposed rules should be submitted to:

Andrea Diss-Torrance
Department of Natural Resources
Bureau of Forest Management
101 S Webster St, Madison, WI 53703

Phone: (608) 264-9247

Fax: (608) 266-8576

E-mail: andrea.disstorrance@wi.gov

Internet: Use the Administrative Rules System Web site accessible through the link provided

Analysis Prepared by the Department of Natural Resources

1. Statutes interpreted:

Sections. 23.09(2)(intro), 23.091, 23.11(4), 23.17, 23.175, 23.22(2)(a), 23.28(3), 23.293 27.01(2)(i) and (j), and 28.04(2)Stats.

2. Statutory authority:

Chap 23.09 (intro): Departmental rules; studies; surveys; services; powers; long-range planning. The department may promulgate such rules, inaugurate such studies, investigations and surveys, and establish such services as it deems necessary to carry out the provisions and purposes of this section. The department shall establish long-range plans, projects and priorities for conservation. The department may:

Chap 23.09 (2m) (b): Forest land plans and management. The department shall manage forest land under its jurisdiction in a manner that is consistent with, and that furthers the purpose of, the designation of that forest land as a state forest, southern state forest, state park, state trail, state natural area, state recreation area, or similar designation.

Chap 23.09 (10): Conservation easements and rights in property. Confirming all the powers hereinabove granted to the department and in furtherance thereof, the department may acquire any and all easements in the furtherance of public rights, including the right of access and use of lands and waters for hunting and fishing and the enjoyment of scenic beauty, together with the right to acquire all negative easements, restrictive covenants, covenants running with the land, and all rights for use of property of any nature whatsoever, however denominated, which may be lawfully acquired for the benefit of the public. The department also may grant leases and easements to properties and other lands under its management and control under such covenants as will preserve and protect such properties and lands for the purposes for which they were acquired.

Chap 23.091 (1): Designation. The department may acquire, develop, operate and maintain state recreation areas. State lands and waters may be designated as state recreation areas that are environmentally adaptable to multiple recreational uses, or are so located to provide regional or urban recreational opportunities or for preservation.

Chap. 23.11 (1): General powers. In addition to the powers and duties heretofore conferred and imposed upon said department by this chapter it shall have and take the general care, protection and supervision of all state parks, of all state fish hatcheries and lands used therewith, of all state forests, and of all lands owned by the state or in which it has any interests, except lands the care and supervision of which are vested in some other officer, body or board; and said department is granted such further powers as may be necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise the functions and perform the duties required of it by this chapter and by other provisions of law. But it may not perform any act upon state lands held for sale that will diminish their salable value.

Chap 23.11 (4): The department shall have police supervision over all state-owned lands and property under its supervision, management and control, and its duly appointed agents or representatives may arrest, with or without warrant, any person within such area, committing an offense against the laws of this state or in violation of any rule of the department in force in such area, and deliver such person to the proper court of the county wherein such offense has been committed and make and execute a complaint charging such person with the offense committed. The district attorney of the county wherein such offense has been committed shall appear and prosecute all actions arising under this subsection.

Chap 26.30 (2): Powers. The department is vested with authority and jurisdiction in all matters relating to the prevention, detection and control of forest pests on the forest lands of the state, and to do all things necessary in the exercise of such authority and jurisdiction, except that this shall not be construed to grant any powers or authority to the department for the silvicultural control of forest pests on any land. This section shall apply only to the detection and control of forest pests on forest lands and does not affect the authority of the department of agriculture, trade and consumer protection under chs. [93](#) and [94](#). The action of the department under sub. (4) shall be coordinated with the department of agriculture, trade and consumer protection in accordance with s. [20.901](#). The secretaries of natural resources and agriculture, trade and consumer protection shall execute annually a memorandum of agreement to enable the coordination of pest control work of their departments.

Chap 27.01(2)(i): Establish and operate in state parks such services and conveniences and install such facilities as will render such parks more attractive for public use and make reasonable charges for the use thereof.

Chap 27.01 (2) (j): Promulgate rules necessary to govern the conduct of state park visitors, and for the protection of state park property, or the use of facilities, including the use of boats and other watercraft on lakes or rivers within the limits of a state park, and the use of roads, trails or bridle paths.

Chap 28.04 (2) (a) The department shall manage the state forests to benefit the present and future generations of residents of this state, recognizing that the state forests contribute to local and statewide economies and to a healthy natural environment. The department shall assure the practice of sustainable forestry and use it to assure that state forests can provide a full range of benefits for present and future generations. The department shall also assure that the management of state forests is consistent with the ecological capability of the state forest land and with the long-term maintenance of sustainable forest communities and ecosystems. These benefits include soil protection, public hunting, protection of water quality, production of recurring forest products, outdoor recreation, native biological diversity, aquatic and terrestrial wildlife, and aesthetics. The range of benefits provided by the department in each state forest shall reflect its unique character and position in the regional landscape.

Chap 28.04 (2) (c): In managing the state forests, the department shall recognize that management may consist of both active and passive techniques.

Chap 227.11 (2) (a): Rule-making authority is expressly conferred as follows: Each agency may promulgate rules interpreting the provisions of any statute enforced or administered by the agency, if the agency considers it necessary to effectuate the purpose of the statute, but a rule is not valid if the rule exceeds the bounds of correct interpretation. All of the following apply to the promulgation of a rule interpreting the provisions of a statute enforced or administered by an agency:

3. Explanation of agency authority:

Section 23.11 (1), Stats., states that the department shall have and take general care, protection and supervision of all state parks, of all state fish hatcheries and lands used therewith, of all state forests, and of all lands owned by the state or in which it has any interests, except lands where the care and supervision of which are vested in some other officer, body or board; said department is granted such further powers as may be necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise the functions and perform the duties required of it by this chapter and by other provisions of the law. Sections 23.09 (2) (intro), 23.091, 23.28 (3), and 27.01 (2) (j), Stats., describe department responsibilities on specific types of properties covered in s. 23.11 (1), Stats.. The department interprets s. 23.22 (2) (a), Stats., to require the department to establish a statewide program to control invasive species in this state. Rules to control the spread of emerald ash borer, and invasive species, are a part of that program. Finally, s. 227.11 (2) (a), Stats., expressly confers rulemaking authority on the department to promulgate rules interpreting any statute enforced or administered by it, if the agency considers it necessary to effectuate the purpose of the statute.

4. Related statutes or rules:

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) ch. ATCP 21 regulates import and movement of firewood and other host material of the emerald ash borer, Asian longhorn beetle, hemlock woolly adelgid and sudden oak death. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources ch. NR 40 prohibits the movement of materials carrying specific invasive species, such as firewood with emerald ash borer (EAB) or asian longhorned beetle. This rule supports ch. ATCP 21 and NR 40.

5. Plain language analysis:

DNR currently limits firewood entering state lands to that wood originating from within 25 miles and within the state or from dealers that are certified by the state as treating their wood to prevent transmission of pests or diseases. In response to concerns from the public, we propose to reduce the allowable distance to 10 miles. A model of the changing risk of introduction of an invasive pest with decreasing allowable distance shows a significant reduction in level of risk between 25 and 10 miles and that difference in reduction in risk is greater with increasing numbers of infestations in WI. With the establishment of emerald ash borer and beech bark disease at several sites in Wisconsin and the new threat of thousand cankers disease of walnut, reducing the allowable distance for wood brought onto state lands seems to be a prudent step to take.

If the allowable distance is reduced to 10 miles, the prohibition of out-of-state wood will no longer provide the additional protection it once contributed. If a pest is established within 10 miles, it will be a short time

before it can spread on its own onto the property. In this situation, the out-of-state prohibition doesn't provide additional protection. Regulation that doesn't provide a benefit should be dropped. We also expect a long term benefit of simplifying the message that safe wood is local or treated and avoiding the appearance of blaming other states for invasive pests.

6. Summary and comparison with existing and proposed federal regulations.

The Apostle Islands National Park has prohibited all firewood into the park since 2006. The Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest prohibits firewood from south of Route 29 or from outside Wisconsin. The Huron-Manistee National Forest in Michigan prohibits bringing ash firewood onto the forest. The Army Corps of Engineers regulates firewood they allow onto their lands in Wisconsin.

7. Comparison of similar rules in adjacent states:

Michigan prohibits movement of ash products including firewood from quarantined counties from entering state properties in un-quarantined areas. Campers from quarantined areas entering Michigan parks are questioned if they brought firewood from the quarantined area and if so confiscation of firewood and fines could result. Minnesota state parks allow wood from DNR approved vendors: wood must not include ash, be from within Minnesota and from within 50 miles of the destination park or be certified by MN Department of Agriculture as being treated to EAB standards. Firewood from EAB quarantined counties is not allowed into parks outside the quarantined area. Iowa state parks prohibit wood from EAB or gypsy moth quarantined areas unless carrying a USDA certificate stamp indicating the wood has been treated to prevent transmission of the pest. Illinois prohibits the movement of ash wood out of counties quarantined by the state for EAB, individual parks may have firewood regulations. Indiana prohibits all wood except from certified vendors.

8. Summary of factual data and analytical methodologies:

These changes are being made in response to requests from the public to do more to protect state lands, increasing threat from highly damaging invasive pests moving on firewood and a model of risk of introduction of invasive pests on firewood.

9. Analysis and supporting documents used to determine effect on small business or in preparation of an economic impact analysis:

We are directly contacting firewood dealers who could be affected by these changes to solicit their input in the development of the EIA: those who sell wood close to state campgrounds and those who are certified by WI DATCP as treating their wood to kill infesting organisms.

10. Effect on small business:

The changes proposed to this rule would affect firewood vendors. Those within 10 miles of state properties and those that are certified as treating their wood to kill infesting organisms would be benefited by these changes. Those vendors getting their wood from less than 25 miles but more than 10 miles and who are not certified would lose sales to campers going to the state campground.

The Small Business Regulatory Coordinator may be contacted at SmallBusiness@dnr.state.wi.us, or by calling (608) 266-1959.

Environmental Analysis

The Department has made a preliminary determination that adoption of the proposed rules would not involve significant adverse environmental effects and would not need an environmental analysis under ch. NR 150, Wis. Adm. Code. However, based on comments received, an environmental analysis may be prepared before proceeding. This analysis would summarize the Department's consideration of the impacts of the proposal and any reasonable alternatives.

Fiscal Estimate Summary

No fiscal effect of these changes is expected on state or local government. The effect on the private sector is anticipated to be insignificant as the change would negatively affect only those firewood vendors selling to campers on state lands and getting their wood from less than 25 miles but more than 10 miles and who are not certified.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin _____

STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

By _____
Cathy Stepp, Secretary