

Gathering the Information for the Archaeological, Historical, Cultural Prescription

To help you understand how to fill out this part of the Cutting Notice Form, we'll explore the answers to the following two questions:

- Why this information is needed on the form, and
- How you can obtain this information

There are three main reasons we need this information for private forest lands enrolled in MFL:

First, state law requires this information be reviewed. Specifically, Section 44.40, Wisconsin statute, requires state agencies—including the Department of Natural Resources—to develop an historic preservation program in cooperation with the Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS). DNR created such a program and procedures to implement it.

Additionally, DNR must comply with federal historic preservation laws in order to receive federal funds. The program and procedures described in MC 1810.1 help comply with these laws.

Last, MFL lands that are certified under the MFL Certified Group—ATFS and FSC—must comply with protection of archaeological and historical resources to remain part of the ATFS and FSC certification requirements.

However, lands not certified under these two groups still need to comply with protecting these sites because MFL is part of the USDA Forester Service Forest Stewardship Program.

So, you need this information, but who has it and how do you get it?

Let's explore who has this information first. The WHS maintains the inventory of RECORDED archaeological and other historical resources.

Through a partnership with the WHS, DNR Foresters can use an internal website to identify the generalized (40 acre resolution) locations of RECORDED resources.

Be aware that this database contains ONLY recorded resources, and that burial sites are protected regardless of whether they are in the database.

Now you know who has the information, but how do you get it?

There are five basic steps to obtaining this information and filling-out the cutting notice form:

1. Request this information from your local DNR forester.
2. The DNR forester reviews the data to determine if the MFL land has a RECORDED site or other historic property.
3. If there is a recorded historic property, the DNR forester will request more information from a DNR archaeologist.
4. The DNR archaeologist reviews the request and reports back to the DNR forester regarding the type of resource identified and provides recommendations for avoidance.
5. The DNR forester reports back on the results of the search.

Now, let's explore each step in more detail.

You should contact your DNR forester and request this information before you submit the cutting notice form. Include the following information with your request:

- State that you are requesting information for an MFL cutting notice.
- Provide a full legal description and acres (town, range, section).

Need help finding a local DNR forester?

Go to the DNR website, and on the home page within the “Search or keywords” box enter the keyword “Forestry Assistance Locator.” Just start typing; the website will find the phrase, let you select it and take you to the right page.

You can search for your local DNR forester in two ways:

- (1) By selecting a county on the map, or
- (2) By the county dropdown control

For example, let’s find the DNR private forester for Blue Mounds in Dane County, Start with the county by either clicking the map or finding the county in the dropdown control. We’ll try the map first.

Or, you can select Dane County from the dropdown control and click the “Go” button.

DNR private foresters always appear at the top of the page. Simply scroll through the list of names and find the forester who serves the MFL land in question. Here, we can see that Cory Secher serves Blue Mounds, so we’ve found the right forester to contact.

After you have contacted your local DNR forester, they will review the data for the MFL land you identified in the request.

The DNR forester will view this information on a website shared between the DNR and WHS.

On the map, purple shaded areas are general locations of recorded archaeological sites, while red hatched areas are general locations of recorded historic structures.

Remember: This map cannot be duplicated or shared with anyone!

If the DNR forester indicates that there were no resources identified, this fact will be communicated to you.

On the cutting notice form, you should indicate the date the search was completed and that no recorded resources were identified on that parcel in the archaeological or historical resource database.

If there is a recorded archaeological or historic structure recorded, then the DNR forester must request more information from a DNR archaeologist.

This request should include the original information the DNR received to complete the request, a full legal description and acres (town/range/section) and a USGS topo map of the project area with a clearly delineated parcel footprint.

The DNR archaeologist then reviews the request and provides additional information to the DNR forester on the type of resource identified and provides recommendations for avoidance.

The email from the DNR archaeologist will include:

- If there is a reported archaeological site or historical structure; and
- If there is a reported data point.

The report will also include a map showing the location of the archaeological site or historical structure, identifying number to include in the cutting report, and the protection and management options to be taken during harvest to protect the archaeological site or historical structure.

Once the DNR forester has this information, they will share the results with the requester. This will include general information about the resource as well as protections and management for the identified resource.

This information should be included on the cutting notice form. In particular, you should list:

- The resources identified
- The protections and management options to be taken
- Date of resource search

To summarize:

Providing archaeological and historic details on the Cutting Notice form is required by historical preservation laws and by ATFS and FSC certification requirements.

The Wisconsin Historical Society maintains this inventory of recorded archaeological and historical resources which DNR foresters can use to identify general locations of recorded resources.

A five step process exists to obtain information on resources from the DNR to include on the Cutting Notice form. This request should be made prior to submitting the complete form for review.