

Wisconsin State Forest Continuous Forest Inventory (CFI) Plot Location Request

Form 2400-140 (5/09)

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Notice: Under Wisconsin's public records law, Wis. Stat. s. 19.35, the Department of Natural Resources (the Department) has determined that the public policy interests favoring nondisclosure of WisCFI exact plot locations outweigh the public policy interests favoring disclosure. *Hempfen v. City of Baraboo*, 2005 WI 120, ¶ 63, 284 Wis. 2d 162, ¶ 63, 699 N.W.2d 551, ¶ 63.

The WisCFI exact plot locations are kept confidential for the following reasons:

To protect the integrity of the plots. All plot visits involve risk of impacting the elements of the plot (e.g. cutting or damaging trees, compacting soils, trampling vegetation, etc.). This could result in biased estimates if our permanent plot system becomes unrepresentative of the sample population of interest.

To provide unbiased information. If plot locations are commonly known, specifically by land managers and researchers, there may be accusations that land managers are manipulating the results of the inventory by management practices, e.g. by not harvesting forest contained on sample plots or treating the plot differently in some way.

The outcome of both situations would be to the detriment of the public as a whole, since the information that is being generated would no longer be able to be relied upon for any credible research or conclusions. This potential loss to the public outweighs the public benefits favoring disclosure. As a result, the Department has established policies to be followed for accessing plots.

Applicant Information

Name		Date	
Agency			
Address		City	State ZIP Code
Phone Number		Email	

Project Information

The exact plot locations will be used for the purposes of: (select all that apply) Data analysis (no field visit)
 Collecting information on plots (field visit)

Briefly describe the objectives of your project

Explain the reason why the exact plot locations are needed and how they will be used (be specific)

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Describe how your research will benefit our understanding of Wisconsin's forest ecosystems

Describe how you will keep the plot locations secure

Identify the property(ies) where plot locations will be needed (select all that apply)

- All State Forests
- Specific State Forest(s):
 - Black River State Forest
 - Brule River State Forest
 - Coulee Experimental State Forest
 - Flambeau River State Forest
 - Governor Knowles State Forest
 - Northern Highland American Legion State Forest
 - Peshtigo River State Forest
 - Point Beach State Forest
 - Kettle Moraine State Forest – Northern Unit
 - Kettle Moraine State Forest – Southern Unit

Date after which exact plot locations will no longer be needed ("sunset date") _____
MM / DD / YYYY

Approval Process

This application will be reviewed by the WDNR Division of Forestry within 60 days.
Approved projects will require a Memorandum of Understanding and a more detailed project proposal.
