

Development of a Committee to Evaluate Proposals to Access Wisconsin's Continuous Forest Inventory Plot Locations

Committee Charge and Make-up

Background - Wisconsin's Continuous Forest Inventory (WisCFI) is designed to collect unbiased biotic and abiotic information across Wisconsin's State Forests. This data includes both spatial and temporal characteristics utilizing permanent stratified random points that are resampled at five year intervals. Maintaining these plots in their 'natural' form without biasing on-the-ground management at plot locations is critical to collect quality, unbiased information now and into the future. Avoiding destructive sampling, reducing trampling and excess visitation to sites, reducing the risk of exact location data being widely distributed, and avoiding special treatment of plot locations are key factors that need to be considered before allowing additional data collection (separate from WisCFI data collection) at CFI plots or access from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to exact plot locations.

Committee Charge - The Continuous Forest Inventory Access Committee is charged with evaluating research, monitoring, and other data collection proposals that request access to WisCFI plots or information on the exact WisCFI plot locations. The committee's decision will be used to either allow or reject the distribution of exact plot locations for the purpose of data analysis or access to the plot locations in the field. Criteria for evaluating requests include:

- Potential impact of the proposed activity on the integrity of the plot characteristics (abiotic and biotic)
- Scientific rigor of the proposed project
- Contribution of the project to our understanding of Wisconsin's forest systems
- Risk of the plot locations being released to unapproved parties

Committee Make-up

- Section Chief of DNR's Public Lands and Conservation Services Section – Currently Jim Warren (Chair)
- UW-Madison Forestry and Wildlife Department Chair or designee – Currently Bill Karasov
- DNR Division of Forestry Resource Analyst – Currently Andy Stoltman
- DNR Division of Forestry State Forest Specialist – Currently Teague Prichard
- DNR Wildlife and Forestry Research Section Chief – Currently Karl Martin