

A photograph of a large stack of cut logs in a forest. The logs are stacked in a neat pile, with the ends of the logs facing the viewer. The background is a blurred green forest. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

MASTER LOGGER CERTIFICATION

Sustainable Forestry Conference
April 17, 2024

About the Master Logger Certification Program

Recognizing Excellence in Sustainable Forestry Practices

The Master Logger Certification Program is a voluntary third-party certification program that recognizes logging companies that meet or exceed the sustainable forest management standards set forth by the American Loggers Council.

Master Logger Certification Program Seven Areas of Responsibility

1. Protection of water quality and soils
2. Compliance with government regulations appropriate to a logging business
3. Conformance with acceptable silviculture and utilization standards
4. Adherence to state-specific logger training standards
5. Application of aesthetic management
6. Implementation of site-specific management plans that are agreed to by the landowner
7. Use of sound business management practices

Master Logger Benefits

What are the benefits of becoming a Master Logger?

While benefits can vary between the Wisconsin and Michigan Master Logger programs, common benefits include:

- Statewide and national recognition
- Enhanced company recognition and marketing opportunities
- Discounts on certain insurance lines
- Increased preference from private landowners and select mills
- Third party certification
- Access to arbitration support for client complaints
- Publicly listed online in the Master Logger directory
- Access to Master Logger newsletter covering industry issues and opportunities
- Access to the SRI FSC® Group Chain of Custody Certificate*
*eligible to companies with less than \$5 million in gross annual forest product sales

Becoming a Master Logger

I am interested...

Who is eligible to become a Master Logger?

Candidate Eligibility Requirements

- Own a logging business (must be a sole proprietorship or other legal business structure that purchases stumpage and controls the on-site timber harvesting operation)
- Be an independent contractor
- Own or operate in-the-woods harvesting equipment

I'm eligible, what are the next steps?

Steps to Certification

- Complete and submit an application and application fee
- Preliminary certification interview
- Field certification audit of three of your timber sales
- Audit review and feedback
- Anonymous Master Logger Board audit review
- Ongoing participation in the recertification process

To learn more:

Contact

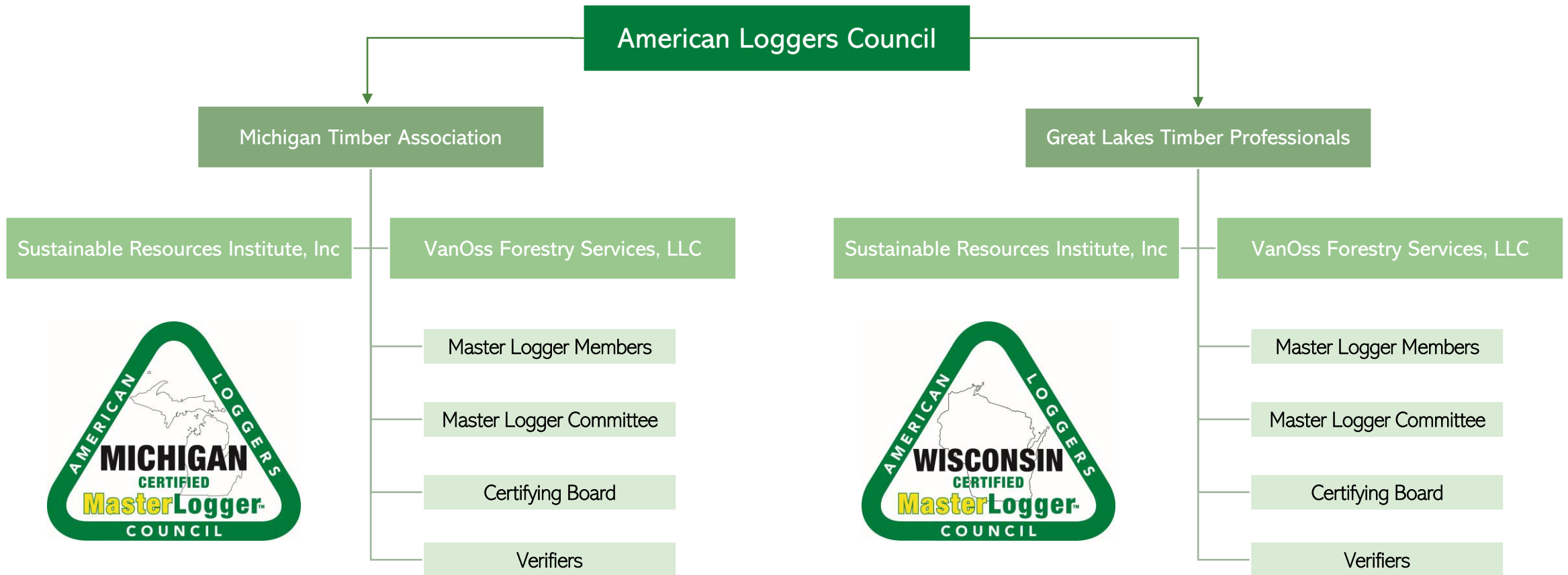
Brock VanOss
MI + WI Program Coordinator
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Visit

MI Master Logger: mimlc.com
WI Master Logger: wimlc.com

A Program For Loggers, By Loggers

The Master Logger Certification Program template was created and is maintained by the American Loggers Council (ALC). State-specific programs can utilize the Master Logger Certification Program template and be approved by the ALC. Each Master Logger Program standards and procedures are overseen by a Master Logger Committee, consisting of elected Master Logger members.



Sample Audit Form



MICHIGAN MASTER LOGGER FIELD AUDIT FORM - CERTIFICATION

(Three Sales)
Updated: April 3, 2024

Applicant's I.D. #:		Date Audited:
Field Verifier's I.D. #:	Acres:	Site I.D.:

The purpose of this form is to document an applicant's field compliance and conformance with standards and practices that have been adopted for the Master Logger Certification program in Michigan. Fill out a separate checklist for each site audited. A minimum of one active job is required. Standards are evaluated as of current on active jobs. For technical information, refer to the Michigan BMP Practices handbook, and the Wisconsin Forest Management Guidelines handbook. Silvicultural information is available in the Wisconsin DNR Silviculture and Aesthetics Handbook, Form 2431.5.

Job Overview	
Job Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Active <input type="checkbox"/> Inactive <input type="checkbox"/> Complete	Ownership: <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> QF <input type="checkbox"/> Tree Farm <input type="checkbox"/> Landowner <input type="checkbox"/> Industry <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> USFS <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Explain):

Type of Harvest/Species: <input type="checkbox"/> Uneven <input type="checkbox"/> Even ➤ Shelterwood <input type="checkbox"/> ➤ Clearcut <input type="checkbox"/> ➤ Seed Tree <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use Change <input type="checkbox"/> Type Conversion Explanation (if necessary)	Visual Sensitivity <input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input type="checkbox"/> High
Water & Soil Conditions: <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> RMZ <input type="checkbox"/> Wetland <input type="checkbox"/> Stream Crossing <input type="checkbox"/> Rock Outcrops <input type="checkbox"/> Soil Condition (please Describe)	Cutting Method: <input type="checkbox"/> Hand <input type="checkbox"/> Hand Felling Review Sheet completed for this sale <input type="checkbox"/> Machine-CTL <input type="checkbox"/> Machine-Tree Length <input type="checkbox"/> Machine Specifics Review Sheet completed for this sale

Topography: <input type="checkbox"/> Steep Slopes <input type="checkbox"/> Rolling <input type="checkbox"/> Level	Type of Sale: <input type="checkbox"/> Forester Marked Sale <input type="checkbox"/> Forester Unmarked Prescription Sale <input type="checkbox"/> Logger's Choice Sale <input type="checkbox"/> Logger's Forester Marked Sale	Roads: <input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-existing (Used As Is) <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-existing (Upgraded) <input type="checkbox"/> No Roads (Skidding Only)
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Harvesting Activities Conducted By: <input type="checkbox"/> Applicant <input type="checkbox"/> Employee(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Independent Contractor(s)	Goal and Future Desired Condition of the Timber Sale Area:
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SITE INSPECTION INSTRUCTIONS:

Using the following code, respond to each standard:

CE* Consistently Exceeds	IM* Inconsistently Meets	NL Not Logger's Responsibility
PE* Periodically Exceeds	NM* Does not meet	NV Not Observed/Viewed
M Meets	NA Not Applicable/Logger not evaluated on standard	

1. SOIL AND WATER	
A.	ROADS
B.	LANDINGS
C.	SKIDDING/FORWARDING
D.	STREAMS AND STREAM CROSSINGS
E.	RMZs AND WETLANDS
F.	SPILLS

2. MANAGEMENT PRACTICES	
2.A.	TIMBER SALE CONTRACT
2.B.	HARVEST PLAN
2.C.	SILVICULTURAL GUIDELINES
2.D.	UTILIZATION
2.E.	OPERATION
2.F.	AESTHETICS AND OTHER MANAGEMENT CONCERNS
2.G.	WILDLIFE/BIODIVERSITY
2.H.	WOODY BIOMASS HARVESTING

3.A. SAFETY

Hand Felling Operation (One Column Per Feller)

S1	S2	S3		
			Adequate Notch Opening	M, NM, NV
			Notch Cuts Match	M, NM, NV
			Adequate Hinge	M, NM, NV
			Feller is Safely Away from Tree as it is Falling	M, NM, NV

S1	S2	S3		
			Chainsaw has Proper Safety Features	M, NM, NV
			First Aid Kit Availability	M, NM, NV
			Starting Technique	M, NM, NV
			Safe Delimiting (Operating on Opposite Side of Tree or with Feet Planted)	M, NM, NV

Machine (One Per Machine)

State the type of Machine referred to in each column: M1: _____ M2: _____ M3: _____

M1	M2	M3		
			Seat Belts Installed	M, NM, NV
			Seat Belts Used	M, NM, NV
			Blade, grapple, or cutting head is on Ground when Machine is Parked	M, NM, NV
			All Stored Energy is Released on Parked Machines (Lockout)	M, NM, NV

M1	M2	M3		
			Spill Kit	M, NM, NV
			Hydraulic Hose Maintenance	M, NM, NV
			Fire Extinguisher on Machine was Properly Charged	M, NM, NV
			No Debris on Machine (Fire Hazard)	M, NM, NV
			First Aid Kit Availability	M, NM, NV
			Hard Hats PPE	

Michigan Master Logger Projects

Landscape Scale Restoration

This project will provide financial incentives for installation of select BMPs, support field audits and training on BMPs for soil and water quality

- Trainings and financial incentives will be provided for restorative BMPs including trail armoring, installation of native seed on abandoned landings and closed roads, and silt fence.
- Trainings focused on BMPs that reduce sedimentation to water resources and improve water quality.

Forest to Mi Faucet in the Lower Great Lakes

This project helps support programming, promotion of Master Loggers, and is seeking to expand the MI Master Logger Program below the 43 parallel.



Michigan Portable Bridge Program

Portable Bridges for Michigan

Project Objectives

Provide temporary bridges to MI Master Loggers for use on private lands. Currently MI DNR has portable bridges which are available for use on public lands.

Advisory Team Members

Michigan Association of Timbermen

- Justin Knepper

Sustainable Resources Institute, Inc.

- Kari Divine
- Paul Irving

VanOss Forestry Services, LLC

- Brock VanOss

Michigan Department of Natural Resources

- Mike Smalligan
- Jennifer Burnham

Michigan Master Loggers

- TBD



Portable Bridge Project Details

Project Objectives

- Purchase portable bridges for Michigan Master Loggers to use on private forests
- Train Master Loggers on how to transport, install, and remove portable bridges

Project Budget

Breakdown of the FY 22 Federal Funds

The MI DNR and Sustainable Resources Institute, Inc. are under contract for the 2022 federal funding of \$175,000 for the portable bridge program. Anticipated funding for 2023 is \$300,000, and possible funding of \$600,000 for 2024.

Rental Program

No cost rental program, bridges will be owned by the Sustainable Resources Institute, Inc.

Bridges to be stored on Master Logger property in the Upper Peninsula and Northern Lower Peninsula

Category	Federal Funds
Personnel	
Fringe Benefits	
Travel	
Equipment – Purchase Portable Bridges	\$145,000
Supplies (Up to 10% for maintenance of bridges and up to 10% for training)	\$10,000
Contractual (Up to 10% for administration)	\$17,500
Construction	
Other	
Total Direct Charges	\$172,500
Indirect Charges of 10% (administration)	\$2,500
Totals	\$175,000

Portable Bridge Project Timeline

Spring/Summer 2024

- Identifying what kind of bridge(s) are needed by loggers – take our survey @ <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VKFHQYR>
- Request for Proposals for design & construction

Fall/Winter 2024/25

- Design & construction of bridges
- Development of rental agreement terms
- Identification of storage locations
- Development of training

Spring/Summer 2025

- Bridges are available to Master Loggers with training

Wisconsin Temporary Bridge Program

Federally Funded Temporary Bridge Program

As of December 21, 2022, the following were the only states which applied for funding;

The states that applied were AL, IN, ME, MD/DE, MA, MI, NC, OH, SC, SD, TX and WI



Current WDNR Program for State Properties

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) has an active temporary bridge program for loggers with timber mats and pole fords available at several of our state properties. We will be expanding this program by adding longer and heavier duty bridges to be utilized on public lands, with a priority for state forests and other DNR properties. This program will continue to be administered as it has been historically – a no-cost rental program for loggers.

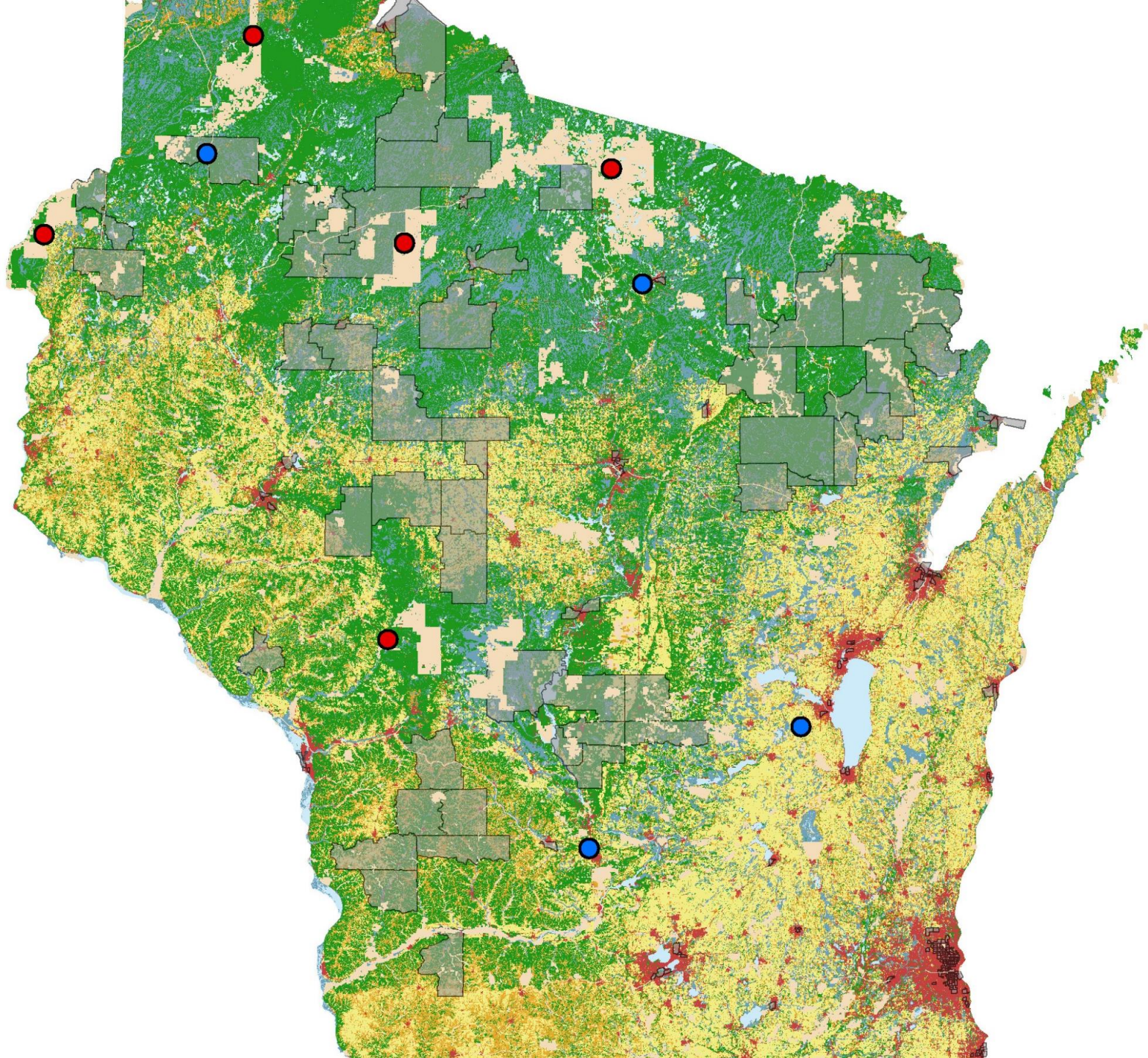


Program Expansion

WDNR will be partnering with the Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association (GLTPA) and the Forest Industry Safety and Training Alliance (FISTA) to develop a new complementary temporary bridge program for loggers on private lands.

No rental rate will be charged for the bridges used on either program.

- Bridge storage/pickup sites have been identified for both the state forest and private land programs.
- For the state forest program, the bridges will be stored at the same locations as where the current timber mats are kept. Those location and expected bridges for those locations are:
 - At Flambeau River State Forest: one 30ft trucking bridge, and eight of the 24ft mats.
 - At Brule River State Forest: three of the 24ft mats
 - At Black River State Forest: three of the 24ft mats
 - At Governor Knowles State Forest: six of the 24ft mats.
 - At Northern Highlands American Legion State Forest: one 30ft trucking bridge and eight of the 24ft mats.
- For the private land program, four locations: Rhinelander, Minong, Oshkosh, and Baraboo will each receive twenty of the 8" thick 18ft mats, and four each of the 1-foot-thick mats, 18ft and 24ft long.



Bridge Locations

- Private
- State Forest
- DNR Properties
- Underserved Communities
- Urban/Developed
- Agriculture
- Grassland
- Forest
- Open Water
- Wetland
- Barren

Tracking and Damage



- Users of the bridges will not be responsible for normal wear and tear maintenance costs. For the state forest program, any damage resulting in negligence on behalf of a contractor or logger can come out of a timber sale performance bond or may be billed directly for the replacement cost.
- For the state forest program, the bridges will be inventoried by the state property manager or supervisor using timber sale file folders and excel spreadsheets, which will be shared with the DNR Forest Hydrologist. For the private lands program, the timber mat bridges will also get inventoried by GLTPA and FISTA staff into an excel spreadsheet and shared with the DNR Forest Hydrologist.

Cost and Size

State Properties include:

28 large timber mats 4' x 12" x 24' for 1458.00 each. \$40,824 total

Total for State properties is \$40,824.00

Private Properties Include:

80 small timber mats 4' x 8" x 18' for 559.70 each. \$44,776 total

16 medium timber mats 4' x 12" x 18' for 1029 each. \$16,464 total

16 large timber mats 4' x 12" x 24' for 1458 each. \$total \$23,328 total

Total for private properties is \$84,568

Total supplies for both properties is \$125,392.00

Cost for these mats includes shipping to the end destination.

Total Direct charges \$167,892.00 for the Grant Application

Conclusion and Questions

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Paul Irving (SRI): 906-399-2626, paul@renewableresourcesolutions.com

Survey



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VKFHQYR>