

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Forest Certification Work Instruction

DRAFT FINAL

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Work Area Group: 5 - Research

Work Instruction Title: 5.1 Coordinated Natural Resource Management Research

Purpose:

Coordinate the conduct and management of natural resource management research for DNR

Work Instruction:

1. The research coordinators from each Division or Bureau must compile a list of research projects, a list of on-line links or contact persons for research projects completed during the previous fiscal year, and a summary of internal and external research expenditures during the previous year. This information will be used for preparation of an annual Research Summary to be published by June 1 of each year and for preparation of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative Annual Report.

The annual Research Summary will include:

- a. A list of in-house, collaborative and contracted research (defined as research using DNR staff time on a project, Department Funding and/or permits issued for research related access to DNR land) that advances the concept of sustainable forestry. The summary will consider research within forested landscapes related to, but not limited to:
 - 1) Ecological health, productivity, processes and dynamics;
 - 2) Human uses, values, preferences and dynamics;
 - 3) New markets for forest products;
 - 4) Socioeconomic trends;
 - 5) Chemical efficiency, chemical use rate, and integrated pest management;
 - 6) Characteristics and dynamics of water budgets, hydrologic routing, sediment dynamics and water quality;
 - 7) Ecological dynamics at the riparian, land-water interface;
 - 8) Effectiveness of timber management at multiple scales: management area, ecoregion, state.
 - 9) Effectiveness of wildlife management at multiple scales; landscape, forest stand, etc.;
 - 10) Effectiveness of fisheries management at multiple scales; watershed, segment, lake, etc.;
 - 11) Conservation of biological diversity (at multiple scales); and
 - 12) Effectiveness of Best (land) Management Practices for conservation, rehabilitation and enhancement of ecosystem functions and components;
 - 13) Interactions among forest, wildlife and fisheries management activities.
 - b. A list of research projects completed in the previous year, with identification of a contact person and a link to a web site if possible.
2. The SFI Annual Report requires reporting of Internal and External Research Funding. This is defined as the amount of funding the DNR provided in the previous year for forest-related research within the organization (internal) and outside the organization (external) through grants, in-kind assistance, cooperatives, etc. Internal research funding includes salaries for forest-related research staff. While it is difficult in many instances to identify to which category research funding should be allocated, use best judgment as to the primary intent of the given research project. If you find it impossible to allocate funding to the categories listed in the SFI Annual Report, list the total funding you provided in the "other" category and note as such.

3. The Department Research Coordinators (for FRD, PRD, WD and FD) will meet on an annual basis to jointly review the summaries and discuss DNR research needs, opportunities, and implementation. The FRD Forest Certification Planner will facilitate the review and timely update of the Research Summary by June 1st of each year and will make the summary available to all DNR staff by posting on the DNR intranet. The Department Research Coordinators for each division will provide required funding information to the FRD Forest Health, Inventory, and Monitoring Unit Manager by March 1 of each year who will incorporate data into the SFI Annual Report.

Scope: (All State Forest Land and Affected Divisions): State Forest Land Other: _____
 DNR – FRD DNR – Wildlife DNR – Fish DNR – Law DNR – Parks

Responsibility and Role:

Job Title/Division	Role
Research Coordinator/Wildlife	Conduct annual review of division research needs and activities
Research Coordinator/FRD	Conduct annual review of division research needs and activities
Research Coordinator/Fisheries	Conduct annual review of division research needs and activities
Research Coordinator/Parks	Conduct annual review of division research needs and activities
FRD Forest Certification Planner	Facilitate updating of the research summary
FRD Forest Certification Coordinator	Prepares and submits the SFI Annual Report to SFI
DNR Field Staff	Report newly discovered or permitted research to the Land Administering Division Research Coordinator

Note: FRD Research Coordinator is delegated by the Forest Resources Section Leader as either the Forest Health, Inventory and Monitoring Unit Leader or the Planning & Operations Unit Leader.

Training/Skills: (Those required to accomplish work instruction)

Item	Brief Description of Skill or Course	Exists/ New
Maintenance of proficiency	Familiarity with sciences supporting natural resource management (physical sciences, forestry, wildlife and fisheries sciences, human dimensions)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> N
Participation in budgeting process	Familiarity with DNR budgeting process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> N
Compilation and summary of Division research efforts and participation in annual summary of DNR research	Familiarity with all DNR research efforts: in-house, university, collaborative efforts with other agencies/entities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> N

References:

- NRC Policy 2002 – Environmental Protection and Economic Development (3-11-1993)
- Wildlife Division, Research Project Proposal and Review Process.
- Michigan Statewide Wildlife Research Program, Application for Federal Assistance, W-147-R, Amendment 3, October 1 2004.
- Wildlife Division, Federal Aid to Wildlife Restoration Study Performance Reports and Final Reports
- Fisheries Division, Draft Policy and Procedure for Research Project Proposal and Review Process.
- Fisheries Division, Early Drafts Research Agenda for each major theme area (e.g., Inland Lakes Theme, Rivers and Streams theme).

- Fisheries Division, Research Section Calendar.
 - Fisheries Division, Federal Aid to Sportfish Restoration Research Grants; Five-year Project Proposals; and Annual Research Study Proposals and Revisions, and Study Final and Performance Reports.
 - Fisheries Division, Policy and Procedure for Publication of Technical Documents.
 - SFI-4.2.2.Indicator Assessment Form (for FRD)
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Monitoring:

- A review of the research coordination process will occur as part of the annual management review process.
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Records:

- Annual report of DNR research activities.
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