

Press Release

For Immediate Release

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Talk on Proposed MFL Changes 4 April

The Wisconsin DNR's Managed Forest Law (MFL) program is under legislative review, and UW-Madison Forestry professor Mark Rickenbach will present a summary of the proposed changes when he speaks at the Kickapoo Valley Reserve on Monday, April 4, 2011 at 7:00 pm. The Wisconsin state legislature has made a number of small changes to the program over the years, some with unintended consequences. The legislative council chose to take up the MFL program for review in order to get the program working harmoniously together and redirected toward accomplishing its goals for landowners and the state. Rickenbach served on the committee that reviewed the program for the legislative council and proposed seven changes. A few of the proposals include one to allow leasing of MFL properties for recreational uses; a change in the way fees on closed lands are calculated, which would likely increase those fees; and an increase in the amount of money from the program that goes back to local governments. The full report is available on Rickenbach's website, <http://notcountingtrees.org>. The proposed changes will probably not be discussed by lawmakers before the biennial budget and will need to go through committees first. They are expected to come before the legislature in late April. This talk will give landowners an opportunity to understand the proposed changes and provide guidance to legislators on how this will affect their districts.

To find the Kickapoo Reserve Visitor Center, take highway 131 north out of La Farge about one mile or so, and look for the Reserve on the left, fire number S 3661. The program is co-sponsored by Kickapoo Woods Cooperative, Kickapoo Valley Reserve, and the Bad Axe Chapter of Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association. Coffee and light refreshments will be available.