



# School Forest Needs Assessment

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

Position or subjects taught: \_\_\_\_\_

## School Forest Use

1. Do you know that the school district has a school forest? \_\_\_yes \_\_\_no
2. Have you ever taken students to the school forest? \_\_\_yes \_\_\_no  
*If NO, what hinders you from using the school forest?*
3. Do you intend to use the school forest this school year? \_\_\_yes \_\_\_no  
*If YES, how many times will you take students to the school forest this year?*
4. Did you ever encounter problems that prevented your use of the school forest? \_\_\_yes \_\_\_no  
*If YES, what were the problems?*
5. If you aren't currently using the school forest, do you have an interest in doing so? \_\_\_yes \_\_\_no
6. How might you use the school forest to enhance your classroom instruction or other school-related activities?

## School Forest Facilities

7. Are the current facilities at the school forest adequate? \_\_\_yes \_\_\_no
8. The following is a list of potential improvements to the school forest. Check all of the improvements that will enhance your use of the school forest.

- \_\_\_ Improve existing trails (clear and make accessible)
- \_\_\_ Develop new
- \_\_\_ Build/repair stream crossings
- \_\_\_ Build pond access
- \_\_\_ Prepare map of school forest (and directions to get there)
- \_\_\_ Improve parking lot
- \_\_\_ Build a fire pit

- \_\_\_ Have bench seating areas
- \_\_\_ Build restrooms
- \_\_\_ Build an education shelter
- \_\_\_ Develop a challenge course
- \_\_\_ Develop a ski trail
- \_\_\_ Pursue timber sales and harvesting practices



\_\_\_ **Others – Please list:**

## School Forest Logistics



9. *What areas do you feel need to be improved to better utilize the school forest?*

\_\_\_ Transportation to and from the school forests.

**Transportation Suggestions:**

\_\_\_ Scheduling of classes at the school forest

- a. Do you need help developing lesson ideas to use with your classes at the school forest? \_\_\_yes \_\_\_no
- b. If there was more time available, would you be better able (or willing) to take students to the school forest? \_\_\_ yes \_\_\_ no

**Scheduling Suggestions:**

\_\_\_ Safety considerations while at the school forests

- a. What safety equipment should be required on field trips to the school forest?

**Safety Suggestions:**

\_\_\_ **Others – Please list:**

## School Forest Equipment and Materials



10. Please list materials and equipment that would enhance your activities at the school forest:



## Professional Development

11. Do you feel you have enough knowledge of natural resources and environmental education (forestry, soils, wildlife, water, etc.) to effectively utilize the school forest? \_\_\_yes \_\_\_no

12. What topics would you like to learn more about that would enhance your school forest lessons?

- \_\_\_ wildlife tracking
- \_\_\_ tree identification
- \_\_\_ wildflower identification
- \_\_\_ wildlife in general
- \_\_\_ forest industry
- \_\_\_ insects

- \_\_\_ nature writing
- \_\_\_ geology of area
- \_\_\_ environmental music ideas

***Other ideas: (please list)***

13. Which professional development opportunities would be most valuable to you (select as many as you wish)?

- \_\_\_ Content (background information on forests, wildlife, water, soils, etc.)
- \_\_\_ Environmental Education (background information on EE, how can it be used, state EE standards)
- \_\_\_ Environmental education curriculum (Select specifics you are interested in below...)
  - \_\_\_ LEAF (WI's K-12 Forestry Education Curriculum... LEAF connects formal and non-formal educators in Wisconsin with quality forestry education materials.)
  - \_\_\_ PLT (Project Learning Tree.... Is a multi-disciplinary environmental education program for educators and students in PreK-12. PLT is a program of the American Forest Foundation.)
  - \_\_\_ WET (The mission of Project WET is to reach children, parents, educators and communities of the world with water education.)
  - \_\_\_ WILD (A wildlife focused conservation education program for K-12 students)
  - \_\_\_ Flying WILD (Introduces students to bird conservation through standards-based classroom activities and environmental stewardship projects)
  - \_\_\_ KEEP (The Wisconsin K-12 Energy Education Program (KEEP) was created to promote energy education in Wisconsin.)
  - \_\_\_ Pollinator LIVE (Educational materials sponsored by the US Forest Service that focus on pollinators. Includes lessons, grants, and teacher opportunities.)
- \_\_\_ Forest management
- \_\_\_ School forest development and administration

***Other Professional Development Ideas – Please list:***

## Administration of the School Forest

14. Are you interested in serving on an advisory committee for the school forest? \_\_\_yes \_\_\_no

15. Are you interested in helping write the school district's school forest education plan (a stipend may be available)? \_\_\_yes \_\_\_no

**THANK YOU!**

