



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!

